



# The Patriot

Summer 2019 - August

Kells - Grennie Post # 316  
PO Box 10096  
Staten Island, New York 10309-0096  
718-351-9233

The Patriot is published quarterly. The next edition will be for October - December. Any information you would like published is due no later than September 16, 2019.

Patriot Editor ..... William Baumwoll



## Important Phone Numbers

VA Benefits	1-800-827-1000
VA Out Patient Clinic	1-718-761-2973
SI VA Vet Center	1-718-816-4499
Social Security	1-800-772-1213
Medicare-A	1-800-433-9592
Medicare-B	1-800-333-7586
NYC Health Line	1-800-521-9574
Poison Control Center	1-800-222-1222

## AMERICAN LEGION WEBSITE LINKS

Post 316 - <http://www.alegion316.org/>

Face book - Amer Legion Edmund Kells Richd Grennie  
County <http://www.alegion316.org/richmond-county-american-legion.html>

NY State - <https://nylegion.net/>

**To Receive this newsletter by E-mail. Send  
your E-mail address to:  
post316newsletter@yahoo.com**

## Post Officers

Commander.....	Carmine Vacirca
Vice Commanders.....	William Baumwoll
.....	Allen Palazzo
.....	Leo Milham
.....	Gasper LaRosa
Treasurer.....	Carmine Vacirca
Adjutant.....	Lester Modelowitz
Chaplain.....	William Baumwoll
Sgt-at-Arms.....	Gasper LaRosa
Judge Advocate.....	Robert Mahoney
Historian and Webmaster.....	Lester Modelowitz

## Committees

Americanism.....	Charles Goffredo
Boys State.....	William Baumwoll
Children & Youth.....	William Baumwoll
Houseman.....	David Curran/Bill Knapp
Membership.....	John Vivolo /Allen Palazzo
S.A.L.....	David Curran
Service & Welfare.....	Joseph Toronto
Fire Warden .....	Richard Burdge

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It is with a heavy heart that I have to inform you that two weeks ago our former Post building was demolished and leveled by its current owner.

It was a home for the Legionnaires of Post 316 since 1939. 2016 was the last year our Post met there. Thanks to Lester Modelowitz, Arc street next to the Post, was renamed Kells-Grennie Way as a tribute to its many years of serving our Post.

So we say goodbye to the past and venture into the future. Our membership is still growing. Thank you Vice Commander John Vivolo, our new membership chairman, for your efforts in adding several new members. A number of Post members have joined our meetings have come out to attend meetings in our headquarters at the Moravian church

Parish Hall. We also thank Vice Commander Leo Milham for managing the Post Corporation finances by insuring the integrity of our transactions and protecting our investments.

Our Post participation in the Boys and Girls State programs has been in good hands with Vice Commander William Baumwoll. Boys State under the Richmond County American Legion and Girls state under the American Legion Auxiliary are model programs that help educate our youth.

In closing I want to say that we are not defined by a building but by the strength of our members. Active members must continue to carry out their roles to make our Post successful.

I want to thank all members for electing me as Post commander for the 2019-2020 term. I want to thank my staff as we go forward past our 100th anniversary.

May God Bless you and May God bless the United States.

*For God and Country, Faithfully  
Yours  
Carmine J. Vacirca,*



### Post Meetings

Held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month at 7:30 P.M. at the New Dorp Moravian Church. The Post will provide a ride to anyone who needs transportation to a Post meeting or event. Please call the Post number **718-351-9233** to make arrangements.

**Need A Notary?** - Contact Post Member Charles Goffredo at **718-440-4330**



## Post 316 Holds Memorial Day Ceremony

On Saturday May 25, 2019 Kells Gennie Post 316 honored those service men and women who died in defense of our country. It was a sunny day at Moravian Cemetery as 3500 flags were placed on veteran's graves.

The Post was assisted by over 115 helpers from several volunteer groups including:  
High Schools Students were volunteers through

The Kiwanis Key Club  
Tottenville High School ( 24 )  
New Dorp High School ( 7 )  
Staten Island Technical High School ( 17 )  
St Josephs By the Sea ( 2 )  
Monsignor Farrell High School ( 1 )  
Susan Wagner High School ( 6 )  
Gaynor Mccoun High School ( 2 )

Students from the NYPD Explorers from the 123rd and 120th Precincts ( 14 )

Other Organizations  
Steven Siller Tunnel to Towers  
Northfield Bank

After the flags were placed, the Post conducted a ceremony honoring the fallen veterans. The Post Commander and members thanked the many organizations for their participation in this event, despite the weather and invited them to help next year and in the future.

The Post provided a bagels breakfast and supplied lunch to the hard working volunteers. David Curran (Spider) and Bill Knapp took care of refreshments and the post hall.

Post members present at Moravian included: Commander Carmine Vacirca, Vice Commanders Leo Milham, Lester Modelowitz, Charlie Geffredo, Allen Pallazzo John Vivolo, William Baumwoll and Members John Vivolo, Gus LaRosa, Richard Hall and Richie Burdge. Charles Geffredo's grand son was very helpful in assisting the Post.





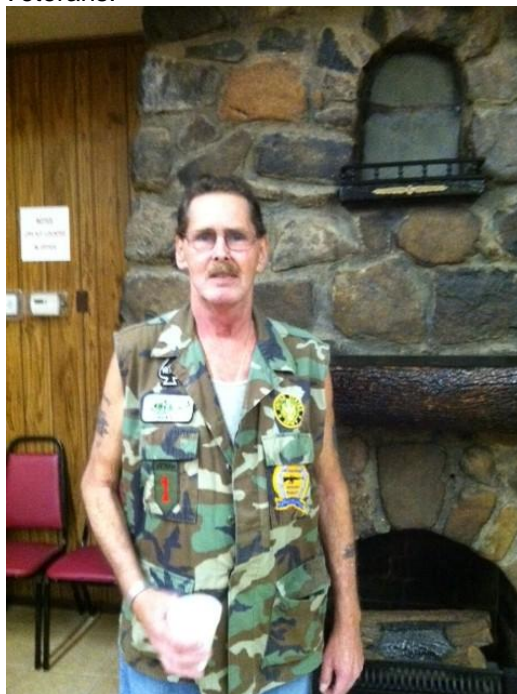
## Dennis Rosenwald Passes



Dennis Rosenwald former Post Commander died on June 21, 2019 after a long bout with cancer.

He was born in the Brownsville section of Brooklyn June 26, 1946, Dennis joined the U.S. Army in 1965. He received basic training at Fort Dix, New Jersey and then artillery training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. From 1965-1966, Dennis was stationed in Germany with the 3rd Armored Cavalry of the 7th Army. Later in 1966 he was sent to Vietnam to serve with the 1st infantry division and then the 2nd 33rd artillery division until 1967 when Dennis completed his service and was discharged as a Spec4. Commander Rosenwald holds the following medals: Vietnam Service, National Defense, Good Conduct and the Army Commendation Medal with a "V".

Dennis was married and lived with his wife and two children in Bulls Head. In addition to his membership in the American Legion, he was also a lifetime member of the Vietnam Veterans Association and Disabled American Veterans.



### Funerals

The Post has been called upon more often to honor our Post members who have passed away. We believe these veteran's who are our comrades deserve respect and patriotism for what they have done and what they have stood for. Please join us when you can to perform this ceremony for our Post members when they leave us.... We maintain a Wake List to communicate with each other. Feel free to add your name and number to this list to help out.

## Boys State Girls State

The Post again sponsored two boys and two girls for these great programs. It costs over \$2000 to support these programs but it is a great investment in our youth.

The boy candidates are Joseph Franco of Tottenville High School and Matthew Pirozzi of Monsignor Farrell High School. The boys went to SUNY Morrisville from June 27 to July 2.

The girl candidates are Jenna Saldi and Julia Macaluso, both from Notre Dame Academy. The girls went to SUNY Brockport from June 30 to July 6.

You can follow these programs on face book and instagram.

<https://www.facebook.com/empiregirlsstate/>

<https://www.instagram.com/alaempiregirlsstate/>  
<http://www.empiregirlsstate.org/>



<https://www.facebook.com/nyboysstate/>

<https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/nyboyssstate2019/>

<https://boysstateny.org/>



## Post Building Down



The Post building have been torn down in order to build a new structure or structures.

## County Convention

The Richmond county American legion held its convention on June 21, 2019 electing the following officers:

Commander	Anthony DeNatale
Vice Commander	Daniel Venezia
Vice Commander	Paul Dietrich
Vice Commander	David Martin
Vice Commander	Steve J. Ayling
Vice Commander	Carmine Vacirca
Commanders Aide	John Greco
Commanders Aide	Roy P. Wood Jr.
Adjutant	Frank LaMarsh
Treasurer	William Magnuski
Chaplain	Robert Mahoney
Judge Advocate	John M. Dalton, Esq
Sgt-At-Arms	Mark Kelly
Parliamentarian	Robert Mahoney

Assemblywoman Nicole Maliotakis was recognized at this convention.



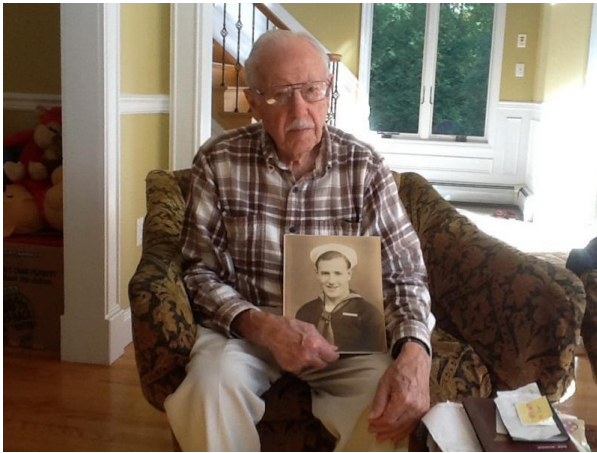
Americanism	Carmine Vacirca
Boy's State	Frank Saladis
By-Laws & Resolutions	Robert Mahoney
Children & Youth	Jamie Gonzalez
County Convention	Anthony DeNatale
County Installation	PDC Frank Peters
Credentials	Anthony LoCasto
Directory	John Greco
Hospital Visitation	Mary McLoone
Housing	Charles Navarino
Interfaith Breakfast	Paul Dietrich
Law & Order	Robert Mahoney
Legion Birthday	Anthony DeNatale
Legion Editor	Anthony LoCasto
Legislation	Frank LaMarsh
Membership (Department & County)	Paul Dietrich
Memorial Mass	Daniel Venezia
National Commanders Dinner	Anthony DeNatale
National Security	Robert Mahoney
Oratorical Contest	Albert Klingele
Pearl Harbor Day	Daniel Venezia
Political Forum	PDC Frank Peters
POW-MIA (Department & County)	Mark Kelly
Rehabilitation / W.I.N.A.L.	Lester Modelowitz
Dept, District, County	Dennis McLoone
SAL Advisor	Mary McLoone
SAL County Commander	Dennis McLoone
Scheduling (Time & Place)	Steven Gross
Service Officer Special Event	Dennis McLoone
Special Olympics	Paul Dietrich
Veterans Cemetery	Anthony LoCasto
Veterans Day Parade NY City	James Wassmuth
Veterans Day Ceremony	Dennis McLoone
	Anthony DeNatale
	Donato Carucci



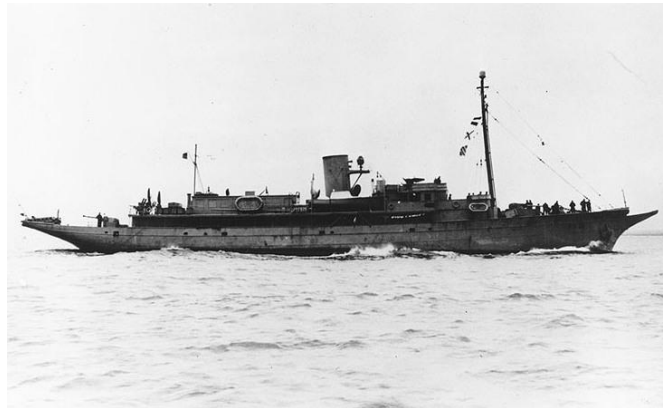


## Now and Then

**Isidore "Teddy" Bertrone**



Our Post member Isidore "Teddy" Bertone is a world War II veteran who was a sailor aboard the USS Zircon. The USS Zircon (PY-16) was a private yacht procured by the Navy and converted into a weather observing vessel. On May 10, 1944, he was part of a heroic rescue mission of the crew of the sinking ship USS YF-415.



The USS YF-415 was built in September of 1943 as a work lighter. The abbreviation “YF” stands for “yard freight”. Operating exclusively in the Boston area, the vessel was manned by a mostly local crew of men based out of the Boston Navy Yard. On May 10, 1944 it departed for the Naval Ammunition Depot in Hingham, MA to load ammunition to be disposed of in deep water off Boston and take on additional crew to assist. Previous excursions to dispose of ordnance had been uneventful.



The crew began dumping the ordnance without incident. However, there was a “terrific whoosh” – a fire from an explosion of rockets, which set off a chain reaction of explosions, quickly engulfing the port side of the ship, spreading from amidships to the entire main deck. Numerous ships and vessels operating in the area were dispatched to conduct search and rescue operations. The USS Zircon was on convoy duty looking for U-boats and making weather observations in preparation for the June 1944 invasion of Normandy. The USS Zircon was the first to arrive on scene. The crew of the Zircon was made up by men mostly from New York, some of who were from the same neighborhoods and during their time on the Zircon, formed close bonds that carried forth throughout their lives. Such is the case for Isidore Bertone and Anthony Sussino.

According to Bertone and Sussino, it was a day with fog and limited visibility when the Zircon got the call to proceed to the YF-415. Some of the Zircon crew were below decks finishing lunch, while others were on deck when the general quarters alarm sounded. The men jumped to action and began looking for survivors.

At first it was thought the YF-415 may have been torpedoed, but when shrapnel began striking the Zircon, they suspected it something else. It is here where reports differ. News reports published suggested the Zircon was unable to get very close to the YF-415, but that was inaccurate according to Bertone and Sussino. The men of the Zircon took great risks to rescue as many men as possible. As they approached the YF-415, they were struck with shrapnel and threatened by explosions aboard the YF-415; they observed debris, including men's limbs, floating in the water. Still, they pressed on to rescue survivors.

Anthony Sussino recalled the YF-415 as it sank, the stern sinking first, which was surprising since the YF-415 sits on the ocean floor with its bow buried in the mud, and its stem raised. When asked if he was certain, Sussino described that he witnessed a man clinging to the bow anchor of the YF-415 as it sank stern first. He would never forget that. Both Isidore Bertone and Anthony Sussino described horrific scenes of attempting to rescue men so severely burned their flesh was coming off. One man brought aboard the Zircon was so severely burned not even the doctor aboard the vessel could help him and he died on deck.

For young men in their late teens and early 20s, it is difficult to appreciate the impact this has on a person throughout their life; now, over 76 years later, many of the valiant events that occurred during World War II come to light for our current generation to honor.

## Post Happenings

### Golf Shirts

If you are interested in obtaining White Golf Shirts with the Kells Grennie American Legion Screen Printed Logo, Carmine Vacirca has them available at a cost of \$11.00 per short sleeve shirt and \$16 per long sleeve shirt, a dollar more for XXL sizes. Call 718-702-7578 The Post will pay for one of the shirts.

### Copies of Our Newsletter

We will make available 20 paper copies of our latest Newsletter at our Post meeting.

### Now and Then

Every issue of the News letter we will feature a member of the Post with two pictures Now - a present picture and Then - a picture in when they were in the military. Along with that we will feature a short biography of the member.

This month features our Now and Then Post member Teddy Bertrone.

### Veteran's Fishing

On July 17 a Kiwanis sponsored veteran's fishing trip out of Sheepshead Bay was attended by Post members: Gus La Rosa, John Vivolo, Allen Palazzo and Ritchie Burge.



### Upcoming Events

At our September meeting (Sept. 16) we will honor Boys and Girls State candidates as well as volunteer groups assisting in the Memorial Day Ceremony.

### Membership (John Vivolo)

The Membership chairman Vice Commander John Vivolo is available to assist you with or answer questions regarding Kells- Grennie Post 316. I'm here for you. I'd just like to remind you that the Post misses you and we would like you to come to our meetings. They are held the 3rd Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. except for July and August.

We meet at New Dorp Moravian Church, 2205 Richmond Road, S.I. 10306, which is handicapped-friendly. We serve food and refreshments at the end of the meeting so all are welcome and we are here to help. You know you how satisfying it is to get out and enjoy a night with friends.

Help us keep current with our membership for 2019 Please talk to your friends who are veterans to enroll in Kells Grennie Post 316.

You can reach me at 718-351-9233 or at my email address: johnlegionpost316@gmail.com.

### Member News

New members James Olive USMC and Nick Castellano USA.

### Deceased Post Members

If anyone becomes aware of any of our Post members that have passed away, that we're unaware, please notify the Post and/or the Commander and provide the information for the wake so we can properly honor that member.

#### Augustine Ruggiero

Augustine Ruggiero a long time Post member passed away on August 1, 2019. He was born on August 29, 1941 but we have no information about him. He was a heart 2 Heart member.



### Worn American Flags

Drop them off at the post so they can be properly disposed of.



#### Legacy

*Post Members and their immediate family can name Post 316 as beneficiary on a will. With a gift through your will or living trust you retain full use of your gift property during your life*