



The Patriot

Spring 2019 - May

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 July - September. Any information you would like published is due no later than August 19, 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
.....	Gaspar LaRosa
Treasurer.....	Carmine Vacirca
Adjutant.....	Lester Modelowitz
Chaplain.....	William Baumwoll
Sgt-at-Arms.....	Gaspar 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.....	Allen Palazzo/John Vivolo
S.A.L.....	David Curran
Service & Welfare.....	Joseph Toronto
Fire Warden	Richard Burdge

Commander's Message - Spring 2019

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My Fellow Legionnaires

I hope all had a peaceful Easter and Passover. The Post has a busy month coming up with one of our most solemn activities. We will be placing flags at the Moravian Cemetery to honor all veterans buried there. Elections for Post Officers is due next month. Sponsorship of candidates to the Boys State and Girls State programs is in process.

I continue to feel pride in all Post Members for your continued loyalty and cooperation.

I thank the Post members who come to

our meetings and participate in the Post's activities. I encourage all members of our Post to come join us. You are missing out on the satisfaction of helping veteran's and enjoying the fellowship of other members. if you have a problem let us know.

I want to be able to continue these events and bring back some events which have been put aside. But only with your continued help and cooperation can we accomplish our goals.

Finally I continue to invite new members and encourage all members to join us at our monthly meetings to provide their input and participate in the service activities supported by our Post. (see Special Membership Message on this page) If anyone wants to join any committee please let us know.

In closing, let's continue our Post's great accomplishments. May God Bless you and may God bless the United States.

For God and Country, Faithfully Yours
Carmine J. Vacirca,
Post Commander



Charles Goffredo IV Active Duty

Post member Charles Goffredo IV (Charles Goffredo, Jr. grandson) will be activated from ready reserve unit and transferred to active reserves. He will be re-trained from a forward artillery observer to an army drill sergeant. Charles will then most likely be assigned to a Fort Hamilton unit handling new enlistees in the army.

At Charlie's home all enjoyed a nice Italian dinner of ravioli sausage etc. prepared by Jean Goffredo.

(Pictured are SFC Glenn Chamberlain and SFC Christian Robinson from Fort Drum, New York along with our post member Charles Goffredo, Jr.)

Charles Goffredo

Meanwhile we all had a scare with Charlie having mild stroke last month. He is now recovering from the heart procedure he had (2 stents implanted).

RECOVER WELL CHARLIE

See "Now and Then" page 7 as Charlie is our featured Post Member

Special Membership Message

Fellow Legionnaires I would like to thank you for your service. Now I'm asking you to serve again!

When you're with your family and friends, please speak highly of the legion, and the good work that we do. Help us to recruit. These are difficult times for the legion. Veterans are not joining us. Kindly help me to invite them and sign up new members. I thank you for your help and support.

John Vivolo, Post 316 Membership Committee
You can reach me at: johnlegionpost316@gmail.com



Post Meetings

Held on the 3rd 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 Legionnaire Emory Chagnon Passes

Emory Chagnon who was our Post Treasurer for many years passed away at 87 (Saturday, August 20th, 1932 – Saturday, February 9th, 2019)

Emory also ran the Post's Honor Guard dressing in his whites leading the group. He was persistent in honoring Post members attending their wakes and participating in the Legion's honoring ceremony. He was a resident of Oakwood,



Rest in Peace!

The Passing of the Wife of Our Post Member

Our legion member Carey Spearman lost his wife Laraine C. Spearman who passed away from her bout with cancer. She was 72 years old (January 28, 1947 to February 13, 2019).

A group of Post members paid their respects. Laraine C. Spearman. We all express our sorrow for Carey.



Rest in Peace!

The Passing of the Mother of Our Post Commander's Wife

We are sad to announce the passing of Jo-Ann Vacirca's mom Concetta Marchese on March 18, 2019



Vietnam Veterans Day 2019

When the last combat troops left Vietnam On March 29, 1973 after a little more than ten years of fighting 2,7 million troops had served in country and another 6 million in other capacities during the war. None could self-determine where they were to be stationed, and each deserves our thanks. Those who served in country experienced unique hardships that only comes with service in a combat zone, now almost 50 years later only 850,000 of those who served are still estimated to be alive. These brave men and women that served have no shame, for it was the sins of the nation that held them captive for all these years.

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.

For so many years after our return home for many the battle scars remained, the friends we left behind and then so many were getting sick and dying from the chemicals that our own nation used on us. They said we lost the war but in the minds of so many we did not lose. We had won every major battle fought in those 10 years. Those that sent us there are the ones that truly lost the war. It was not until the mid-80's that the thanks began to surface.

All were called to serve. which every veteran understands and honors. While we recognize all, those who served in country deserve our special appreciation.

We are the Veterans that served in and during the Vietnam War. We were from all walks of life. We were from big cities and small towns across the nation we were from many different ethnic backgrounds, but we loved and cared about each other.

This year we celebrate the 11th anniversary of March 29th Vietnam Veterans Day in New York State all because of Senator Andrew Lanza and former Assemblyman Matt Titone

In 2008 Vietnam Veterans were finally recognized for their service in New York State with passing of Senate Bill 6472 introduced by Senator Andrew Lanza permanently declaring March 29th as Vietnam Veterans Day in New York State, Thirty-five years after the last Combat Troops left South Vietnam. It had only taken six months for March 29th to be recognized as Vietnam Veterans Day in NY State but nearly fifty years for all the Vietnam Veterans to be recognized by our Nation.

On March 28, 2017 by an act of Congress and signed by President Trump March 29th Vietnam Veterans Day became known as a National Day of Remembrance and publicly thanking them with Honor and Dignity and truly recognizing their sacrifices that they all deserved.

We Were the Best America Had, "Vietnam Veterans Those Who Fought Without Americas Support, Those Who Returned Home Without Americas Welcome Home and We Will Always Be the Best America Had.

So, I say Welcome Home.... Lester Modelowitz, Founder of Vietnam Veterans Day in New York State



County Celebrates 100 Years

The Richmond County American Legion celebrated The American Legion's 100th birthday on Friday, March 15, with dinner and dancing at Li Greci's Staaten at 6 P.M. It was a formal affair.

The Centennial Celebration included several hundred veterans, officers, active military, family members and friends gathered to raise their glasses to toast this milestone. Posts present included members of the James J. Tappen Post 125, the Watkins-Kellett Post No. 277, the Granito-Smith Post No. 1296, Gold Star Post No. 1365, H & S Cichon Post No. 1578, Pvt. Joseph Merrell Jr. Post No. 1368, the Beauvais-Hudson Post No. 126, the Kells-Grennie Post No. 316, the Patrick J. Dalessio Post No. 1310, the Huttner-Pasqualini Post No. 1367, and the Cespino-Russo Post No. 1544.

The County is about continuing the organization's legacy of service. County Commander Anthony G. DeNatale, said, "The American Legion's vision of advocating for a strong national defense, veteran rehabilitation, promoting a 100 percent Americanism and establishing programs that give our children and youth a foundation for future success, is as important today as it was to the World War I veterans who formed this great organization."

"Our commitment to these ideals will continue into the next 100 years and beyond. Our determination and commitment will only grow stronger to support the next generation of American veterans," he said.



A Short Legion History

A group of 20 officers who served in the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) in France during World War I are credited with founding the Legion. AEF Headquarters then asked officers to suggest ideas on how to improve troop morale.

Lt. Col. Theodore Roosevelt Jr. proposed an organization of veterans. In February 1919, the group formed a temporary committee and selected several hundred officers who had the confidence and respect of the entire army.

About 1,000 officers and enlisted men attended the Paris Caucus in March 1919. They adopted a temporary Constitution and named it The American Legion.

The group also elected an executive committee to complete the organization's work. It considered each soldier of the AEF a member of the Legion. The executive committee named a subcommittee to organize veterans at home in the United States

In May 1919, the Legion held a second organizing caucus in St. Louis. It completed the constitution and made plans for a permanent organization, setting up a temporary headquarters in New York City and beginning its relief, employment and Americanism programs.

Congress would then grant the Legion a national charter in September 1919.



This Post came into existence in 1919 following the end of WW 1 and was named for Edward W. Kells who was killed in WWI.

Boys and Girls State Candidates

Two candidates have been fostered into the Boys State program with all documentation submitted to Frank Salidis. One candidate is Matthew Pirozzi of Monsignor Farrell High School (pictured below) and Joseph Franco of Tottenville High School. Both candidates are seeking recommendations to attend service academies.



Matthew Pirozzi and father Sebastian

Children and Youth Luncheon

The American Legion of Richmond County held the 44th ANNUAL Children and Youth Appreciation Luncheon at the Staaten, Saturday April 13, 2019. Representing our Post were: Commander Carmine Vacirca, Robert Mahoney, Judge Advocate and Vice Commander William Baumwoll.

Deric Borrero was honored to be the Keynote Speaker. He is currently the Assistant Principal of New York City Middle School IS 24 and has been in that position since 2007. An Alumnus of Brooklyn College, Mr. Borrero has twenty two years of service as an Educator, Boy Scout Leader, Community Youth Mentor and Staten Island Business owner has provided a pathway for young adults to become future leaders.

Deric serves as the Educational Coordinator and instructor for Robotics at Wagner College University External Programs and Educational Coordinator for United Unlimited Activities Inc. His role and responsibility include creating innovative models for special education and general education students, which supports both children, parents and their teachers throughout schools in New York City.

Awards were given to

- SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD - STUDENT VOLUNTEERS
Kevin Deng
- SPECIAL OLYMPICS AWARD
Vincent DeBernardo
- GIRL SCOUT AWARD
Katherine Garlisi
- BOY SCOUT AWARD
James Patrick Flood, III
- SERVICE TO VETERANS
Matthew Hesterhagen
- Gabriella Vecchio
Juliana Caliri
- COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AWARD
Andrew Hionas



Present at the ceremony was Congressman Max Rose



Bob Mahoney opening prayer The County various awards

Memorial Day Flags at Moravian Cemetery

ON SATURDAY MAY 25TH THE POST WILL MANAGE THE PLACING OF FLAGS AT GRAVESITES OF VETERANS BURIED IN MORAVIAN CEMETERY. RAIN OR SHINE

ALL GROUPS WILL ASSEMBLE AT MORAVIAN'S MEETING HALL AT 8 A.M. FOR A LIGHT BREAKFAST AT 8:30 A.M.

ALL POST MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO ATTEND AND WEAR A LEGION SHIRT AND LEGION BASEBALL CAP. POST MEMBERS DO NOT NEED TO DO ANY HEAVY LIFTING. JUST TO BE THERE TO HELP SUPERVISE SOME OF THE GROUPS SENT OUT TO PLACE THE FLAGS.

FLAGS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AND EACH GROUP WILL COVER A DIFFERENT PART OF THE CEMETERY. AT MID-DAY THE GROUPS WILL REASSEMBLE AND HAVE LUNCH.

Post Legionnaire Joseph Dietrich Passes

Joe was born and raised in Manhattan. He was married in 1951, he and his wife Joan were married for 45 years until her passing in 1996.

Joe was a WWII veteran who served in the Army Air force. He worked for the NYC Transit System and the NYC Dept. of Water Pollution where he was an Engineer for 25 years. Joe was also a member of the American Legion Kells-Grennie Post in New Dorp, Staten Island where he served for many years as Vice Commander and Membership Chairman.

Joe enjoyed taking vacations and visiting relatives. He had a deep love of animals. Joe is survived by 5 nephews; Edward, Thomas, Terry, James, & Thomas. For many years his loyal, faithful companion Jean Gallo and her family have been a great comfort to him.

Joseph Dietrich joined the Kells - Grennie American Legion Post in 1996 and was an outstanding member for more than 20 years. In 1996 he became a Vice Commander of the Post and also served as the Post Membership from 1999 - 2014, he also was a member of the Post 316 Honor Guard, Joseph attended all functions of the American Legion on Staten Island. Joseph also served in WW II.

We will always cherish him for who he was and what he did.



Joseph Dietrich cont.



Now and Then

Charles W. Goffredo

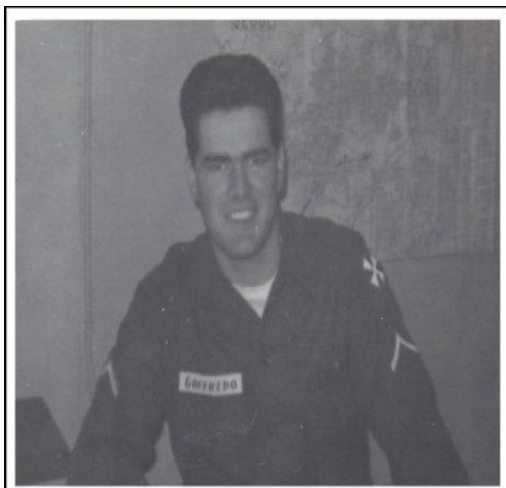
Charles W. Goffredo (the warden) has been a member of the American Legion for thirty-seven years and served as a Vice-Commander of the Kells-Grennie American Legion Post 316 from 2010 – 2017 and is currently the Americanism Chairman. Charlie was born and raised in the West Brighton section of Staten Island. In his early years he worked as a meat cutter while attending and graduating from Port Richmond High School in 1964. Entered the U.S. Army in January 1965 and did his basic training at Fort Dix, New Jersey.

He was then sent to Fort Holabird in Baltimore Maryland and trained as a Military Intelligence Coordinator and analyst. In September 1965 he was sent to the 502nd Military Intelligence, 8th Army Seoul, South Korea. In April 1967 he was assigned to Battalion HQ's and traveling from the DMZ to the Southern tip of Korea mostly with Senior Intelligence officers. While in Korea he was promoted to Sgt E-5.

Later in 1967 he returned home on leave where he married his High School sweetheart Jean and was assigned to the Presidio in San Francisco attached to the 115th Military Intelligence Group, 6th Army for twelve months. He was assigned as the permanent night time Duty Agent at Group HQ's

Charles was awarded the Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Korean Defense medal and the New York Conspicuous Cross.

He returned home in 1968 to work as a butcher for the A & P. attending St John's University and New York Institute of Technology majoring in Behavioral Science and Psychology. Charlie then joined the NYPD. His first assignment was to the 1st Pct. Manhattan South Task Force and then to Brooklyn South Narcotics. Subsequently he worked the Manhattan South Narcotics Organized Crime Control Bureau as an Investigator/Detective wiretap specialist. He later retired from the NYPD and began a second career as a Real-estate Broker. Charlie has three children and seven grand children including grandson Charles IV also an army veteran and member of the Kells-Grennie American Legion Post.



Post Happenings

Golf Shirts

If you are interested in obtaining 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 12 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 our Now and Then Post member is Charles W. Goffredo.

Please submit your pictures and biographies to Lester Modelowitz at his email lmodelowitz@gmail.com

Congratulations To the Milham's

The Post sends its best wishes to Leo and Anna Milham on their 50th Anniversary. A number of Post members helped celebrate at the Marina Cafe Saturday April 27, 2019



Membership

John Vivolo reports that of May 1, 2019 the Post has 114 paid members out of 131 approximately 88% of our goal.

John has employed the cooperation of Northfield Bank in displaying recruitment signs at 7 of their branches.

Please talk to your friends who are veterans and encourage them to join, transfer or enroll into Kells Grennie Post 316.

Deceased Post Members

(John Vivolo)

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.

Post 316 prays for all the victims of hurricanes, floods and fires that continue to affect our neighbors. We hope they get the strength to cope with these tragedies and prevail.

Congratulations To the Vacirca's

The Post congratulates Carmine and Jo-Ann on their new granddaughter Juliana born March 20, 2019. Pictured below is Jake and Janine Hendo holding our new granddaughter with Charlotte Russe 3 years old.



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