



The Patriot

Winter 2019 - December

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 January - March. Any information you would like published is due no later than February 17, 2020.

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
.....	John Vivolo
.....	Lester Modelowitz
.....	Charles Goffredo
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
S.A.L.....	David Curran
Service & Welfare.....	Joseph Toronto
Fire Warden	Richard Burdge

Commander's Message - Winter 2019

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Dear members and their families we have reached that time of year when we look back and reflect on what we have accomplished and give thanks for what we have. First of all, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a joyful New Year from my family to yours.

This year we celebrated 100th anniversary of the American Legion. We gained nationwide recognition including a spot in the New York city Veterans Day parade as well as various celebratory activities. We must rededicate ourselves to the ideals of our organization ... **be active ...and keep faith with our fallen comrades.**

Unlike when Vietnam veterans returned there are great organizations that provide help and aid to returning veterans including health issues and finding jobs. It was our goal to never let one generation of veterans forget another generation of veterans.

To that end we will strive to recruit young men and women and introduce them to the various programs we have available to them. Many of the new veterans organizations only exist on the internet failing to provide veterans with contact and interaction with live fellow veterans. Older veterans can walk them through the VA maze and find the help they need.

So get ready, we are preparing for an all out recruiting blitz looking to double our membership with fresh new blood by the end of 2020....!!

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

*For God and Country, Faithfully
Yours*

*Carmine J. Vacirca,
Post Commander*



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**

Gone Fishing



This is one of the fishing boats of the Midnight Fleet (the Midnight Star). The Midnight fleet is comprised of three ships: Captain Midnight, Midnight Star and Lady Midnight. The captain and the crew were great. They gave us a discount price as veterans.

This is 1 of 2 fishing trips we went on with them for Kells- Gennie sponsored by the Brooklyn Veteran's Administration. you can contact them.
phone: (718) 775-4576
Cell: 347-263-0232
email: info@midnightfleet.com
address: 2607 Emmons Avenue
Sheepshead Bay, NY 11235 .



Our Vice Commander - fisherman John Vivolo reeling them in

Charities

The Post continues to support our veterans and our community through contributions. This includes: the Great Kills Challenge League, the US Coast Guard (fire victims, hospitalized veterans) a Veteran's Administration fishing trip, the Prom Night for autistic children, Sunrise Horizon Camp (kids with cancer - sponsor a service member's child at camp for a week) Pediatric Lyme Disease Emergency Fund, the Stephen Siller Tunnel To Towers Foundation (homes for heroes).

First Responder Awards Night

Edmund Kells - Richard A. Grennie American Legion Post 316 *Third Annual* DETECTIVE SALVADOR DAVILLA COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD to recognize members of the NYPD, FDNY and EMS, who have been nominated by their units for bravery above and beyond. This was at our meeting of October 21st 2019.



Salvador Davila who the award was named for - served in the U.S. Air force and from 1960 – 1965. Salvador joined the NYPD in 1967 attained the rank of detective and retired while serving with the 120th Precinct in 1987. He was a special investigator with the attorney general's office 1987 – 2005.

Salvador loved the New Dorp Community where he resided. He also loved soccer and helped found the Staten Island Soccer League and coached the sport at St Charles and St Josephs By the Sea.

Salvador joined the Post in 2004, became a Vice Commander in 2006 and ran the Post 316 Honor Guard and Rifle Squad. He served three years as Post Commander 2007 – 2010.

After the September 11, 2001 attack Salvador was working as a special investigator at ground zero collecting evidence. A few years later he became very ill from the debris in the air but remained a loyal active member of this Post until his passing on December 22, 2012.

AWARDS

Police Officer Yassir Zahroof with 3 years of service appointed October 11, 2016 was assigned to the 122 Precinct. He has an Associate Degree in Liberal Arts from the College of Staten Island. Police Officer Michael Lam two years of service appointed to the NYPD on January 04, 2017 and also assigned to the 122nd Precinct.

Officer Lam attended the Baruch College where he obtained an Associate Degree in Business.

Both officers started on patrol with the third platoon and then the Anti-Crime team in September of 2019. Their primary job is to target persons of interest regarding crime and apprehend them in the act and aid the precinct Detective Squad in conducting investigations into major crimes.

Officer Zahroof is being recognized for his outstanding efforts with (45) arrests – (11) Felonies and (1) Excellent Police Duty Medal this year.

Officer Lam is being recognized for his outstanding efforts with has (88) Arrests- (22) Felony Arrests and his award by the 122 as the Cop of the Year for 2018.



For these actions the members of the Edmund Kells – Richard A. Grennie American Legion Post 316 honor you for your actions.

First Awards Responder Night (cont)

On January 28, 2019 at 2049 hours, Engine 163 responded to an EMS run for an arrest at 41 Margareta Court. They rescued a male patient in his bedroom, with no pulse and not breathing. The rescuers began CPR and continued until a viable pulse was established when EMS 22z arrived. The unit continued ventilations and assisted in removal and transport to Richmond University Medical Center.

Captain Ralph Talarico, Firefighter William Barr, Firefighter Samuel Feinberg, Firefighter Stephen Demyan and Firefighter Daniel Davis



Emergency Medical Technicians Michael Vale & Joshua Herrman were on assignment, when they noticed individuals with similar symptoms of feeling lightheaded, dizziness and headaches. The alarm on their CO meters immediately began go off with readings of 347ppm. They immediately evacuated the entire family and all other residents and alerted dispatch of a carbon monoxide incident.

They treated their patients with oxygen therapy and the family of six were then transported to Jacobi Medical Center Hyperbaric Treatment (hyperbaric physicians work with Jacobi's burn specialists to provide state of the art care for fire victims with smoke inhalation injuries).

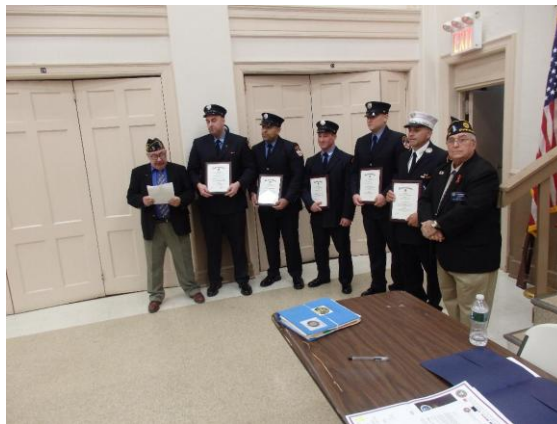
For these actions Lieutenant Aron Ezegui recommended Emergency Medical Technicians Michael Vale and Joshua Herrman for a Meritorious Act-Accomplishment with Merit Award, for their act of personal bravery that resulted in the saving of a entire families lives.



For these actions the members of the Edmund Kells – Richard A. Grennie American Legion Post 316 Honor you both for your actions.

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 these actions the members of the Edmund Kells – Richard A. Grennie American Legion Post 316 honor and commend for your actions.

Craig Bielawski, an off duty Firefighter, was having breakfast when the waiter came running in yelling fire. There was heavy black smoke towards Cedar Grove Avenue, so he went to see which house was burning. He realized it was in the beach community and ran around the back of the burning building which had heavy black smoke all around. He went through the side door and conducted a diligent search for victims but learned that all the women were outside.

He proceeded to take a garden hose trying to stop the fire from reaching the original building that was on fire focusing on one house. Traffic was stopped on New Dorp Lane. He called Staten Island Fire Dispatch; Engine 162 came and recommended transmitting a 2nd Alarm. He provided progress reports but later was transported to the hospital with smoke inhalation and a minor burn to his left ear.

For these actions of bravery, the members of the Edmund Kells – Richard A. Grennie American Legion Post 316 honor you for your actions

Holiday Party

The Post had a gala Christmas Party dinner on December 18, 2019 at Patrizia's 7PM - to 10PM. Many post members (36) attended with their spouses or other family member.



Our Menu

pizza margherita, burrata.eggplant parmigiana
stuffed artichokes, fried calamari
baked clams & grilled baby octopus
lobster
homemade pasta -
skirt steak & lamb chops or chicken Scarpariello
unlimited wine - domestic beer - sangria
coffee, espresso & assorted Italian desserts



*Merry Christmas and Happy
New Year*

Boys and Girls State Awards

We invited the candidates and their parents to Kells Grennie Post 316's monthly meeting on Monday September 16, 2019 at 7:30 P. M. to recognize them at an Awards Ceremony. Jenna Saldi and her mom attended but Julia Macaluso, Joseph Franco and Matthew Pirozzi and their parents could not attend.

The Girls State candidate Jenna was presented with her award and provided the Post with feedback about her experience.



Joseph Franco sent the following message:

Hello everyone, I just wanted to say thank you to everyone that helped in sending me to Boys State. I'd like to personally thank Lester and Bill as I know how hard you worked in securing me a position to attend.

It is one of the greatest experiences and programs that I went to and it couldn't be possible without the hard work from you gentlemen. I learned a lot about leadership, teamwork, and how the government functions. Not only that but conversing with the marines and meeting new people from all over the state was fascinating. To see how different everyone's lifestyles are when you all live in the same state was something of interest.

I cannot wait to come to this post meeting this evening to talk all about my experience. but I am going to do my absolute best in promoting Boys State to other boys who may be interested in attending next year.

I would also like to thank so many others that helped me in the process.



The New Dorp Air Force ROTC

Memorial Day Flags Awards

In addition to Boys/Girls State, there was a dual ceremony for Memorial Day Flags Awards.



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

Carmel Nursing Home

On November 8th Post members visited the Carmel Nursing Home for veterans day luncheon with vet residents. Arch Care at Carmel Richmond provides comprehensive, long-term medical and nursing care, short-term rehabilitation, and a broad array of social and recreational programs and amenities through the Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm. There are 20 to 30 veterans there.



Allen Palazzo **reminds us** that he can take all the old legion magazines to the vets there. They enjoy reading all about the articles in them and we keep our recognition in the nursing home for other events.



There was also entertainment in the dining room



Post members Leo Milham, Gus LaRosa, John Vivolo, Charlie Goffredo and William Baumwoll attended.

Taps For a Passing Post Member



On December 22 Elias Arout, 89, of Grymes Hill, Staten Island, passed away. He was a Post member for 40 years and served as Richmond County Commander 1990 - 1992. He had 26 years of service, with the US Naval Air Reserve, including two years of active duty during the Korean Conflict, as a photographer, 1st class. He was born in Grant City, graduated from Alexander Hamilton Vocational in Brooklyn, and worked for 20 years as a police officer for the New York Housing Authority, retiring in 1980. Elias had been appointed by Mayor Ed Koch as the New York City Taxi And Limousine Commissioner for Staten Island and retired after serving 27 years. He was a co-founder and past president of the non-profit Project Hospitality and long-time member of the Knights of Columbus Council 1662 in Great Kills, Kells-Grennie American Legion Post 316 and the North Shore Democratic Association.

He leaves behind his wife, Margaret of 64 years; his children, Stephen, David, Raymond, Elise, Carlos; and five grandchildren. He will be remembered as a kind, gentle person who had a deep love for his family and friends.

Active Army Legion Member Does Well



Charles Goffredo IV has been promoted to Sergeant in the Army Reserves. His unit is stationed at Fort Hamilton, Brooklyn. In late January 2020 he will be activated for an assignment to Fort Jackson, South Carolina for approximately 3 months where he will be trained as a Drill Sergeant. He is also on the list for the NYC Fire Department and hopes to be starting the fire academy in Sept 2020.

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 there was no Now and Then in the Newsletter.

Special

Acknowledgement

I especially appreciate the help I receive each News letter from the members who contribute to this Newsletter.

Also from Lester Modelowitz for the pictures the biographies of first responders were obtained off our website which Lester populates.

. 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.

Membership (John Vivolo)

The Membership chairman Vice Commander John Vivolo reports that we now have 103 members paid. Please talk to your friends who are veterans about becoming members.

Newer Veterans would greatly enhance our Post.

Sons of the American Legion



The Sons of The American Legion was created in 1932 as an organization within The American Legion The S.A.L. is made up of boys and men of all ages whose parents or grandparents served in the United States military and became eligible for membership in The American Legion. They place high importance on preserving our American traditions and values, improving the quality of life for our nation's children, caring for veterans and their families, and teaching the fundamentals of good citizenship.

Our Post is basically a paper squadron. William (Bill) Knapp and David Curran (Spider) are the active members who take care of the meetings and special events like the Memorial Day flag event and the others. They manage membership (33 members) of which mainly consist of the children and grandchildren of some of the Post members.

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