

Kells-Grennie Post #316



The Patriot

January/February 2000



January/February, 2000
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 Fulcinelli & Rocco Valenti
POW/MIA.....	Lester Modelowitz
Program Chairman.....	Elias Arout
Publicity.....	Elias Arout
Service & Welfare.....	Leo Milham

The Commander's Message

Happy New Year to each and everyone of our members and their families. It's certainly going to seem strange to look at our calendars and see 2000, instead of 19**. But, like everything else, we'll get use to it.



As we begin this new millennium, let us reinforce our commitment to **The American Legion** and the ideals that it stands for. Let's show our citizenry that words like **Patriotism, Duty, Honor, Country**, didn't disappear along with the 20th Century. Let us pledge ourselves to continue the good works of the Legion and support its activities.

Let us begin by renewing our membership to this great Veterans organization. I was informed by our Membership Chairman that only 72% of our members have renewed for the year 2000 and that renewals are coming in at a snails pace. I know we can do better than that. Let us strive for 100% membership in this first year of a new millennium. Isn't that the least we can do to support **The American Legion**?

I am happy to report that our Fourth Annual Super Bowl Party will be held on Sunday, January 30th. Our "pool" is open, but act fast, the "boxes" are disappearing fast.

On Friday, February 18th, our Post will host this months meeting of the American Legion of Richmond County.

On Sunday, March 19th, we will hold our Third Annual "Essay Contest for Sixth Grade Students". This is just one of the ways your Post involves itself with our community. As always, all of our members are invited to attend these three events.

As your Commander, I look forward to leading our Post into this new millennium. With your support and dedication, there is nothing that we can't accomplish.

TAPS

William Castle

12/3/99

Charles M. Stein

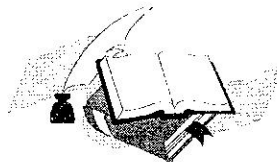
12/22/99

May They Rest in Peace

Membership Report

Our membership goal for 2000 is 375 members. As of the end of December we have 272 renewals, or 72.5% of our goal. If you haven't sent in your 2000 renewal notice, please do so now. We have until May 30th of this year to attain our goal.

Yours for the Legion,
Pat Miserendino
Post Commander



Highlights of the *"Minutes of the Meeting"*

November 12 Our regularly scheduled meeting for tonight was canceled, so that the Post could hold its annual "Honors and Awards" Night. (See article in this newsletter.)

November 26 Post Adjutant Eli Aroust announced tonight that preparations for next year's "Essay Contest of Sixth Grade Students" are almost complete. Eli stated that four neighborhood schools have accepted our invitation (IS 2, St. Christophers, St. Charles and Our Lady Queen of Peace). He also announced that next year's number of contestants will consist of eight candidates (two from each school). The judges for the contest are still to be finalized.

Plans were also finalized for next month's activities. On Tuesday, December 7th, the Post members and Honor Guard will participate in the upcoming Pearl Harbor ceremonies to be held at Fort Wadsworth, beginning at 9:00am. That evening, the Party committee will meet at the Post at 7:30pm to decorate our Hall for the upcoming Holiday festivities. On Friday, December 10th, the Post will hold its annual Post members Holiday Party beginning at 8:30pm. On Sunday, December 19th, at 1:00pm, our annual Children's Holiday Party will be held at the Post.

Hospital and Visitations Chairman Vincent Zangari reported that Post member Joe Dietrich is out of the hospital and is recuperating at home from his recent knee surgery.

It was reported that the Con Thien Post was in need of toys for its annual Children's Holiday Party. The Post accepted a motion from the floor to donate \$50.00 to this worthy cause.

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

December 10 Tonight the Post held its annual Holiday Party for Post members. Over forty (40) members attended this affair to celebrate the upcoming holidays with their fellow veterans. Hot and cold food was served, along with refreshments (you know, adult beverages). Traditional Holiday music was piped into the Hall speakers for their enjoyment. You can be assured that all the participants were well behaved because no one's car was confiscated.

December 24th *Christmas Eve*, Meeting Canceled.



January	1st, Saturday	- New Year's Day *
	14th, Friday	- Membership Meeting, 8:30pm at the Post.
	17th, Monday	- <i>Operation Desert Storm</i> began (1991).
	21st, Friday	- County Meeting, 7:30pm to be held at the H&S Cichon Post
	26th, Wednesday	- <i>Sons of the American Legion</i> , Membership Meeting, 8:00pm at the Post.
	27th, Thursday	- <i>Signing of the Vietnam Peace Accord</i> (1973).
	28th, Friday	- Membership Meeting, 8:30pm at the Post.
February	11th, Friday	- Membership Meeting, 8:30pm at the Post.
	12th, Saturday	- Lincoln's Birthday *
	14th, Monday	- Valentine's Day
	15th, Tuesday	- <i>Sinking of the U.S.S. Maine</i> (1898).
	18th, Friday	- County Meeting, 7:30pm to be held at the Kells-Grennie Post.
	21st, Monday	- President's Day *
	22nd, Tuesday	- Washington's Birthday
	23rd, Wednesday	- <i>Sons of the American Legion</i> , Membership Meeting, 8:00pm at the Post.
		- <i>U.S. Marines Raised Flag on Mt. Suribachi</i> (Battle of Iwo Jima, 1945)
	25th, Friday	- Membership Meeting, 8:30pm at the Post.



* Fly the Flag

Honors and Awards Night A Huge Success

On Friday evening, November 12th, the Post held it's annual "Honors and Awards" night to say thank you to its active members. This year's ceremony was expanded to also include those legionnaires who have maintained a long record of continuous years of membership in *The American Legion*.

This year's committee members consisted of past Post and County Commander Ferdie Salvatore, *who served as the Master of Ceremonies*; Post Commander Pat Miserendino; past Post Commander Thomas Simonetti and Membership Chairman Dennis J. Conroy.

The evening began with a opening prayer by our Chaplain, Tom Simonetti, followed by Post member John Crowley leading the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Emcee Ferdie Salvatore then gave a short speech thanking the membership and guests for the large turnout (over sixty attendees). Then, as current President of the Board of Directors, he presented a "special" Corporation award to Richard Reichart, *posthumously* (he passed away on October, 29th, of this year). The award was presented to his son, Richard, Jr. Richard thanked the Post on his father's behalf and received a standing ovation from the membership.

Ferdie then introduced past Post Commander Thomas Simonetti to begin the presentation of the Post awards. Tom awarded his former slate of Post Officers with "Certificates of Appreciation" for helping him during his year as the Post Commander (1998-1999). Tom presented these to the following members: Vice Commanders: Maurice R. Grosso, William Bonelli, Patrick Miserendino, Eugene W. Ramirez, Andrew J. Procopio; Treasurer, Frank J. Gissi; Adjutant, Elias Arout, Jr. and Hospital and Visitations Chairman, Vincent Zangari. In addition, he also presented a special "Certificate of Participation" to the *Sons of the American Legion, Squadron #316* for their help and participation in Post ceremonies and activities. This "special" award was presented to their Squadron Commander, Michael Ranieri.

Next came the presentation of the continuous years Membership Awards which were presented by Membership Chairman, Dennis J. Conroy. In recognition of their loyalty to *The American Legion*, these awards were presented to the following legionnaires: **25 years:** Stephen Varga, James McCarthy, G. Santos Santiago; **30 years:** Paul A. Tizik, Robert E. Mahoney, Domiano (Teddy) T. Ventura, Jerry N. Pollio, Charles A. Tantillo, Silvano Bastiani; **35 years:** Constantine A. Troiano and **45 years:** Vincent Brigande.

Ferdie then introduced Post Commander Pat Miserendino who had the honor of presenting beautiful walnut plaques

to our *guests of honor*. For **50 years** of continuous membership to *The American Legion*, these plaques were presented to: Ernest Reyes, Albert Somma and Louis A. Vastola; for **55 years:** Andrew J. Procopio. To close out the awards ceremony, Pat also presented the "*Legionnaire of the Year*" award to our Membership Chairman, Dennis J. Conroy.

The Post was honored that all of our *guests of honor* were present to receive their plaques. When the awards ceremony ended, all members and guests were treated with a hot food buffet, cake and coffee.

The Awards Committee would like to especially thank member Lester Modelowitz, for serving as our photographer to record this evening for posterity.

The Kells-Grennie Post *Remembers Pearl Harbor*

On Tuesday, December 7th, the **third annual Pearl Harbor Day** ceremony was held at Fort Wadsworth. This year's event was sponsored by the National Park Service and hosted by Commander Pat Miserendino, Kells-Grennie Post #316, and Commander Eustace Kiriakos, Masonic War Veterans Post #6.

Phil Melfi of the National Park Service, *representing Janette Parker, Acting Superintendent of the Staten Island Unit*, gave the welcoming address. Our own Post Adjutant (and former County Commander of Richmond County), Elias Arout, served as Chaplain and led the attendees in prayer. This was followed by the Pearl Harbor address which was given by Alfred Debar, State Adjutant General of the Masonic War Veterans.

Following the speeches, Commander Pat Miserendino tossed a wreath into the harbor in remembrance of all those who gave the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of freedom. Then, Captain Emery Chagon led our Honor Guard in firing a salute in memory of our fallen comrades. Taps was then played ending this solemn ceremony. Afterwards, all the attendees had lunch at the United States Coast Guard galley at Fort Wadsworth.

Other Veteran organizations who participated in this year's ceremony were: Pearl Harbor Survivors Association, The Veterans of Foreign Wars, Korean War Veterans, Catholic War Veterans, Marine Corps League, Jewish War Veterans, Disabled American Veterans, Naval Enlisted Reserve, Fleet Reserve, Military Order of the Purple Heart, American Merchant Marine Veterans, Richmond Co. #369 Allied Airborne and the China-Burma-India Veterans Association.



Our Children's Holiday Party Was the Best Ever

On Sunday, December 19th, the Post members and members of the *Sons of the American Legion*, hosted its annual Children's Holiday Party.

Was the Party successful? Judging from the 100+ in attendance, we'd have to say **YES!** The children had a ball participating in games coordinated by Bob Ranieri's two daughters (who just happen to be school teachers), as they waited patiently for, What's His Name?

At precisely 2:00pm, you could hear the engineers whistle as the 40&8 Locomotive and Caboose chugged its way up Arc Place carrying its special passenger, **Santa Claus** (a.k.a. Tony Mosca). Santa entered the hall to the applause and excitement of the children. Santa then graciously invited the boys and girls for a train ride around the neighborhood. The children boarded the train with Santa and rode down Amboy Road, New Dorp Lane, Hylan Blvd. and Tysens Lane, waving to the holiday shoppers. Several train rides were

needed to accommodate all the children (and their parents).

Back at the Hall, our volunteers served hot dogs, salads, cookies and cake to all in attendance as the sounds of Christmas music blared from our speaker system. Afterwards, the moment the children waited patiently for had arrived. Santa sat in a special chair and distributed presents and candy to the children. Even the adults got into the act by participating in our raffle drawing of a Christmas Village and lottery tickets.

When the party ended, each child was given a Christmas stocking and candy canes as a memento.

The Post wishes to thank each and everyone of our Volunteers and committee members who made this year's Children's Holiday Party so special.

Just wait till next year's party. Ho Ho Ho.

BIRTHDAY	ANNIVERSARY	ENGAGEMENT	RETIREMENT
SHOWER	<i>Planning a Party?</i>	CHRISTENING	
GRADUATION	COMMUNION	CONFIRMATION	BAR MITZVAH

Why Not Have It At Your Post?

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.



Come On (TOUCH)Down!!!

To our 4th Annual Super Bowl Party

Sunday, January 30th

Time: 4:00pm till MIDNIGHT

Place: Kells-Grennie Post #316

Cost: \$20.00 per person

(includes one box in our Super Bowl Pool)

Open Bar

Macaroni and Potato Salad

4' Heros (American and Italian)

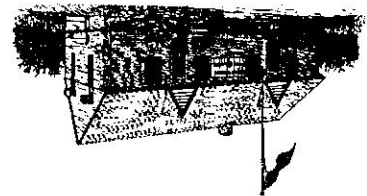
Hot Food

Coffee and Desert

(There will also be raffles and a 50/50 drawing)

Space is limited to the first forty (40) paid customers. So Hurry, Don't miss out. If interested, contact either: Leo Milham or Jerry Quinn, at the Post.

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