

Richmond County American Legion Minutes of September 19th 2025

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM by Commander Mark Kelly. The roll call was taken and noted.

A motion to accept the minutes as distributed was seconded and passed.

Jamie Gonzales reports the Four Chaplains/Interfaith Brunch will be held at the Staaten on February 7th 12:00, the cost is \$75 per person, please have the Post send one check to cover the cost of the members attending. Department Commander's visit and County Installation: Anthony LoCasto reports the event was not a great success; there were only 47 members and 10 guests in attendance. Several posts had less than five members attending. Mary McLoone reports the calendar of events will be included in the directory and that she is no longer able to do the directory. Sick Call: Mary reported the following: Roy Wood, Bob Vendor, Jerry Goldstein and Harold Bregman have been ill or are recovering and that John Downes, David Smith, Jerome Smith and George Bramwell have passed away. Membership: Paul Dietrich reports that membership now stands at 55.7% of the goal and that membership supplies have arrived. Memorial Mass: Dan Venezia reports the annual memorial Mass is October 7th 7:00 PM at Cespino Russo Post for deceased members from October 2024 to the present. National Security: Vanessa Tavitian reports an increase in domestic terrorism and that there is a large amount of illegal drugs entering the country and that known or suspected terrorists have entered the country. Oratorical Contest: Dan Venezia reports the County contest will be held December 13th at Holy Rosary Church. Commander Kelly reports the annual Pearl Harbor service will be held on December 7th 10:00 AM on the pier at the foot of Sharot's Ave. across from Resurrection Cemetery. **Note: The Political Forum will be held at Gold Stat Post on October 17th 7:00 PM.** Mary McLoone reports the district 2 and 10 membership meeting will be held October 4th. Mary also reported on the meaning of ALIVE, Active Ladies Inspiring Values and Inspiration. Dennis McLoone reported the 3rd Friday in September is POW/MIA Recognition Day and that the Secretary of Defense honored the living POWs and spoke about the 65-mile Battan Death March. Dennis reports MIAs include WWII 71,848. Korea 7398. Vietnam 1556. Dennis also reported that a bill to validate and possibly disinter anyone not eligible for burial in a National Cemetery. Frank Saladis reports that the Veterans Day Service at the Mall will begin at 10:30, last year the Tottenville JROTC and Boy Scouts participated and looked for them again, also looking to have the children from PS 6 who performed the flag folding at their school to do it at the Mall. New Business: Anthony LoCasto suggests looking at changing the Department Commanders visit agenda and venue and moves as such, the motion was passed with one vote against. Good of the Legion: Lester Modelowitz reports the County has a website and a Facebook page. Paul Dietrich reported the annual holiday gift giving to veterans in nursing homes will be done again and urged posts to contribute. Commander Kelly thanked Vanessa Tavitian for arranging the Department Commander's tour of the Coast Guard facility. Frank Saladis reported that the 4th of July Committee is looking for a large turnout next year and is looking into the possibility of having floats/buses for those who can't march. There will be a Halloween Trunk or Treat at Gold Star Post on October 19th from 3:00 to 5:30 if interested in participating be at the post by 2:00 to set up. A somewhat contentious discussion about Posts participating in county events occurred and some took acceptance to being challenged for

lack of participation. Anthony LoCasto was thanked for his effort in arranging the county installation. Department Vice Commander Anthony Giuliani reported on the number of Posts not submitting their Consolidate Post Report. Several post indicated that they submitted them to National but that National is not forwarding copies to Department if they are done online. Bill Magnuski took acceptance to his post being referred to as Merrell Post rather than Joseph Merrell – Father Capodanno Post and requested his comment be included in the minutes. The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Frank LaMarsh, PDC
County Adjutant.