



THE AMERICAN LEGION FIRST CALL!

UTICA POST 229

CHRIS URBAN, COMMANDER

SEPTEMBER 2011

JACK LAPAGLIA, MEMBERSHIP

POST MEETINGS ARE FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7:30 P.M. (OPTIONAL DINNER AT 6:15)



Miniature golf was rained out, so why is this Junior Auxiliary member all smiles? Page 7.

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SEPTEMBER

- 1 Post Meeting, 7:30 pm
Auxiliary, 7:30 pm
Joint Dinner, 6:15 pm
- 6 Bingo, 6:30 pm
- 7 Bloodmobile, noon-5
- 12 Vietnam Vets of Am., 1
- 13 Bingo, 6:30 pm
- 17 DAV, noon
- 20 Bingo, 6:30 pm
- 21 Bloodmobile, noon-5
- 27 Bingo, 6:30 pm

OCTOBER

- 4 Bingo, 6:30 pm
- 5 Bloodmobile, noon-5
- 6 Post Meeting, 7:30 pm
Auxiliary, 7:30 pm
Joint Dinner, 6:15 pm
- 10 Vietnam Vets of Am., 1
- 11 Bingo, 6:30 pm
- 18 Bingo, 6:30 pm
- 19 Bloodmobile, noon-5



Legionnaires rendered a salute as the 93rd Department Convention opened July 14 in Binghamton. In front is Frank Carletta, Oneida County Legion historian and District 5 Legionnaire of Year.

CONVENTION FEATURES AWARDS

The American Legion kicked off its annual New York Department Convention in Binghamton in July by honoring outstanding people and organizations around the state, including Utica Police Department. Later in the

convention, Utica Post's Bob Stronach received Department PR and Press Association awards. Also representing the post were Commander Chris Urban, and Past Commanders Tony Palladino and Paul Wojcik. *See Page 3.*

6-COUNTY LEGION TAPS POST'S PICK FOR EMT OF YEAR

Philip Taurisano, a Utica paramedic who participated in an international exchange, has been named Emergency Medical Technician of the Year by the American Legion's Fifth District, encompassing Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Oswego, Oneida and Onondaga counties.

State Sen. Joe Griffo and Fifth District Law-and-Order Chair Paul Wojcik presented the award during the Oneida County Legion Convention in Lee Center.

Taurisano was nominated by Utica Post 229, which honored him last November as its EMT of the Year.



Col. Gary Howard rode 40&8 "locomotive" in Memorial Day Parade.

WWII VETS LEAD MEMORIAL DAY

Two World War II combat veterans led Utica's Memorial Day Parade on Monday afternoon, May 30, which

capped a day of remembrance for American servicemen and women who never made it home from war. *See Page 4.*



COMMANDER'S CALL

CHRIS URBAN

I hope everyone had a GREAT summer. The past few months have been busy for Post 229, including launching our annual membership drive. Past Commander **Jack LaPaglia** has been hard at work processing renewals and sending out cards. His efforts are even more impressive than you might think because he has also spent the summer recovering from multiple broken ribs and cracked vertebrae that resulted from an accident in June. If you haven't renewed your membership yet, I ask you to do renew as soon as possible. If you have misplaced the renewal paperwork or if you want to renew with a credit card, you can go to this web site and renew your membership online: www.legion.org/renew

MOST OF OUR membership drive is about renewing current members. However, this is also a great time to sign-up new members. Any current member who signs-up three or more new members will get a free renewal of his/her membership next year. I have signed-up 5 new members in August; these were folks who I knew were veterans but I had never asked them to join the Legion. If you know a veteran who is not a member, I suggest you ask him or her to join. To help potential members learn about

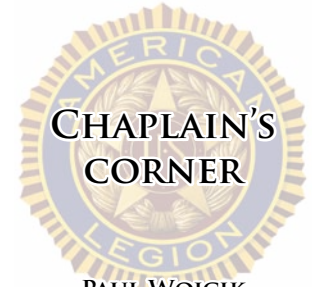
all that we do, you might send them to this website: www.legion.org/documents/pdf/09fourpillarslowres.pdf
 This website shows that the Legion is all about 1) Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, 2) National Security, 3) Americanism, and 4) Children and Youth. The American Legion website is full of great info (www.legion.org) and our website, run by Bob Stronach, has won awards and recognition (www.uticapost229.org).

SOME MEMBERS have asked if we can restart our **Pitch League** and possibly start a **Pinochle League**, if there is enough interest by our members. I think these are great ideas. If you would like to participate, please contact Post 229 and leave a message for me with your name and contact info (you can reach me at the Post e-mail address, info@utica-post229.org; the Post phone number is 793-9377). If you have any other ideas for new activities, please let know what you are thinking.

IN JUNE OUR contract with **Franco LaPaglia** was due for renewal. Franco is a world-class chef and we were fortunate to have him. Unfortunately, we couldn't pay Franco what he was truly worth and we didn't have enough catered events (just 80 last year) to keep him

busy doing what he does best. Franco decided to leave us in June to pursue other opportunities and he recommended that we enter into an agreement with a caterer for our food-service events. We interviewed a number of caterers before deciding that **Dwain Klatt** (aka "The BBQ King") was the right person for the job. Although Dwain specializes in true BBQ (it's all about the smoke), he can cook anything, and our customers have been giving Dwain rave reviews. Please come to our September meeting and enjoy a Dwain-cooked meal with fellow members at 6:15 p.m. (before the 7:30 meeting).

LASTLY, PLEASE consider volunteering for Bingo one Tuesday per month (send me an e-mail or call the Post and leave your contact info). Bingo generates an average of \$500 per night that we use to support 1) Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, 2) National Security, 3) Americanism, and 4) Children and Youth. Bingo is also an opportunity to interact with fellow members (we really do have a lot of laughs at bingo).



PAUL WOJCIK

I saw a soldier kneeling down,
 for this was the first quiet
 place he had found;
 he had traveled through
 jungles, rivers and mud;
 his hands were scared and
 toiled worn;
 he folded his hands and
 looked to the sky
 I saw his tears, as they welled
 in his eyes
 He spoke to God and this is
 what he said
 God bless those who now lay dead.
 I know not what you have in mind
 but when you judge, please be kind
 when they come before you,
 they will be poorly
 dressed but will walk proudly,
 for they
 have done their best.
 Their boots will be muddy
 and their cloths all torn
 but those cloths they have
 proudly worn;
 their hearts will be still and
 cold inside
 for they have fought their
 best and did it with pride
 so please take care of them as
 they pass your way
 the price of freedom they
 have already paid.

REST IN PEACE
 Francis J. Madore
 Stephen J. Wojcik

POST MEETINGS

Sept. 1	Feb. 2
Oct. 6	March 1
Nov. 3	April 5
Dec. 1	May 3
Jan. 5	June 7

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Sept. 15	Feb. 16
Oct. 20	March 15
Nov. 17	April 19
Dec. 15	May 17
Jan. 19	June 21



Utica Post member Bob Stronach received the NY Department Public Relations Award from outgoing Department Commander V. James Troiola (left) and Department PR Chair Kenneth Governor.

DEPARTMENT HONORS UTICA PD, POST MEMBER

The American Legion kicked off its annual New York Department Convention at Veterans Memorial Arena in Binghamton July 14 by honoring outstanding people and organizations from around the state, including the Utica Police Department. Later in the convention a member of Utica Post 229 received Department PR and Press Association awards.

Nominated by Post 229, the Utica Police Department was awarded the New York American Legion Service

Award for "150 years of outstanding public service."

Utica PD, headed by Chief Mark Williams, was cited for its work resulting in a reduction in violent crime. Last year police responded to over 55,000 calls, made 6,247 arrests, responded to 3,530 motor vehicle accidents, and wrote 8,570 traffic summonses and 17,780 parking tickets. The department set forth a plan to reduce violent crime in the city. The hard work of the officers paid off. Homicide rate dropped to the

lowest it has been since 2001. Aggravated assaults (with weapons) dropped significantly, the lowest since 2004. Robberies also decreased, the lowest since 2005.

Bob Stronach received the Department Public Relations Award, with PR Chair Ken Governor citing newsletter and website work at Post 229 as well as his contribution to the Department's PR program. Stronach also won First Place in the post newsletter category from NY American Legion Press Association.

VVA COLLECTING CANS/BOTTLES

The Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 944, is conducting a can and bottle drive until September 10.

A collection box is in the lobby of the post. Proceeds will help fund local projects.

The VVA Chapter meets at Utica Post on the second Monday of the month.

PALLADINO SERVES COUNTY, DISTRICT

Past Commander Tony Palladino has been elected 3rd vice commander of Oneida County American Legion. He also has been appointed Americanism chairman for 5th District (Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Oswego, Oneida and Onondaga counties).

DINNER MEETING

The monthly meeting dinners are open to members of the post, auxiliary unit and Sons of the American Legion squadron at a cost of \$7 per person. To bring a guest, cost is \$10.

Reservations are required a week in advance (unless you are on the permanent reservation list). Dinners start at 6:15 p.m. on the first Thursday.

BOWEN LEADS NEW YORK DEPARTMENT

Newly elected Department Commander W. Michael Bowen made a triumphal entrance on the final day of the convention -- after a rousing demonstration by bannertoting supporters, who wound their way around the convention floor behind a band of blaring bagpipes and cadenced drums.

The former Department membership chair made his way up to the stage with family in tow and declared: "I am proud

to serve this great organization, our God, and our country!"

He introduced some people in the front row -- veterans who served with him on active duty -- and noted: "It can't get any better when veterans are your best friends."

His focus for the year will be the entire American Legion family, Bowen said, noting: "Together we can make a difference, and we *will* make a difference!"



WWII VETS LEAD MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES, PARADE

Two World War II combat veterans led Utica's Memorial Day Parade on Monday afternoon, May 30, which capped a day of remembrance for American servicemen and women who never made it home from war.

Preceded only by Utica Police and Fire Department Color Guards, Utica Post 229 members John Loperfido and Phil Capararo led the 50-unit parade as grand marshals. Both men were part of the landing forces that stormed Omaha Beach on D-Day. Loperfido, a member of the Army Air Corps, was attached to the Amphibian 336th Engineer Combat Unit, spending time in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. He received the French Croix De Guerre Medal, among others. Capararo, assigned to the 42nd Infantry Rainbow Division, was wounded during the D-Day landing. Later, while engaged at the Siegfried Line, Capararo was wounded for a sec-



World War II combat vets and Utica Post members John Loperfido and Phil Capararo kicked off the Memorial Day wreath-laying ceremonies and then led the afternoon parade.

ond time, and awarded two Bronze Stars for heroic action. On December 16, 1944 at the "Battle of the Bulge," Capararo was wounded for a third time. In addition to the Bronze Stars, he holds three Purple Hearts and several other decorations.

Earlier in the day Loperfido and Capararo also kicked off a series of memorial services at six monuments around Utica by placing a

wreath at the Soldiers and Sailors Monument at Oneida Square. Col. Gary Howard, a retired Army chaplain, and his assistant, Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Morrell, led the crowds of veterans, Gold Star Mothers and others in prayer at the sites, which included the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the Parkway, the POW-MIA Monument on the Parkway, the World War I/World War II/Korean War

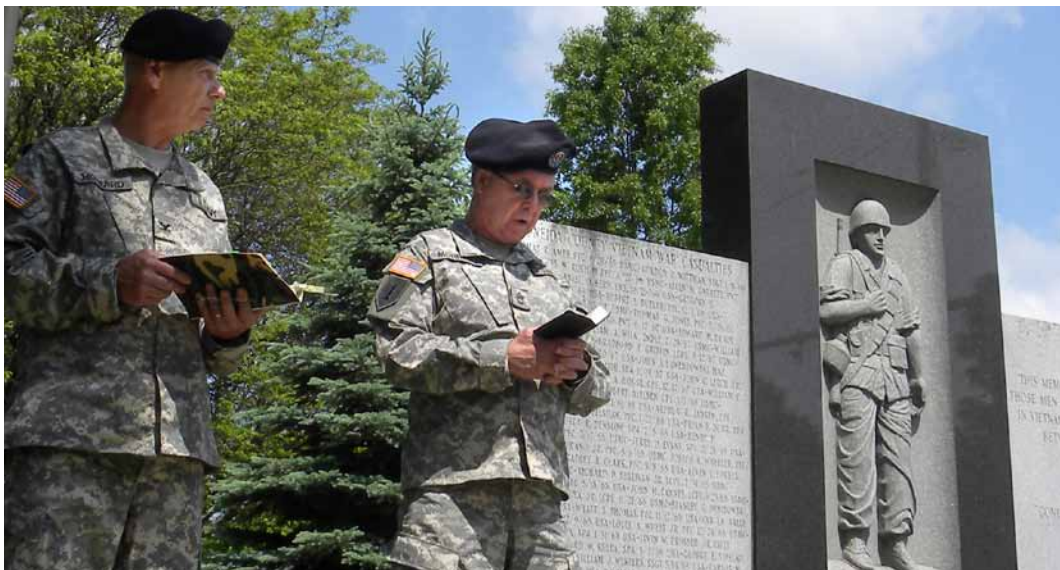
Monument on the Parkway, the Purple Heart Park in West Utica, and the All Veterans Memorial at Utica's Main Post Office on Pitcher Street.

At the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Sergeant Morrell read a portion of Psalm 91, which, Colonel Howard noted, is prayed to troops heading into combat. "We raise up in prayer those who have fallen," Colonel Howard added, "especially the nearly 100 from Oneida County" killed in Vietnam.

"We also raise up those who have sacrificed," he said, referring in particular to Vietnam War Gold Star Mothers Shirley Jones and Mary Wheeler, who placed a wreath at the monument.

Jones and Wheeler, along with Iraq war Gold Star Mother Maria Babula, also participated in a 9 a.m. Vietnam Veterans Memorial Service at Post 229 in North Utica that kicked off Utica's Memorial Day activities.

Photos by BOB & MARY STRONACH



Col. Gary Howard and Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Morrell (both members of Utica Post 229) lead prayer service at Vietnam Veterans Memorial. RIGHT: Post 229 Commander Chris Urban renders a salute at the monument.

Noting the purpose of the day was “to remember our war dead,” Post 229 Commander Chris Urban welcomed everyone to the service and said: “Since the U.S. came into existence, over one million men and women have died in defense of our country. In Vietnam, we lost 58,267,” including “nearly 100 soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines” from Oneida County.

As Tom Buono of Vietnam Veterans of America/ Utica Chapter 944 read the name of each Oneida County resident killed in Vietnam, Past Post Commander Tony Palladino rang a bell and a contingent of Vietnam veterans rendered a salute.

Utica Post 229 and the City of Utica co-sponsored the parade, which stepped off at Genesee and Eagle streets and continued up Genesee to the Parkway. The post also led a committee of veterans’ organizations that planned the day’s activities, with Paul Wojcik serving as chairman.

In addition to elected officials and veterans groups (American Legion, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Veterans of Foreign Wars, AmVets, Vietnam Veterans of America, Polish Legion of American Veterans, Disabled American Veterans, and Auxiliary Units), Wojcik said the parade featured Utica Police and Fire Departments, NY State Police, Oneida County Sheriff’s Department, volunteer fire departments (Deerfield, NY Mills, Yorkville and Schuyler), Gold Star Mothers and Fathers, World War II veterans Kathleen Murphy Brooks and Bonnie Mulvihill,

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE CANDIDS



Children of the American Revolution.



Proctor High School Marching Band.



Shriners’ Ziyara Zanies



Auxiliary Unit 229 and its Junior Auxiliary.



Centro Bus, Shriners’ Ziyara Zanies Motor Clowns, Navy Jr. ROTC from both Proctor and Notre Dame High Schools, POW/MIA floats, Army National Guard’s 107th MP Company, U.S. Marine Corps recruiters, Compeer

“Vet to Vet”, Central NY Veterans Outreach Center, Herkimer County Marine Corps League, Children of the American Revolution, Boy Scouts of America, St. David’s Welsh Society, Knights of Columbus Color

Guard, Utica Post 229 Color Guard, Post 229 Poppy Princess Isabella Kelly, Oneida County 40 & 8 Locomotive, La Banda Rosa, Proctor High School Marching Band, and Donovan JFK Middle School Marching Band, among others.

MEMORIAL DAY CANDIDS

Photos by BOB & MARY STRONACH



TV reporter interviews Memorial Day Chair Paul Wojcik.



John Harrison and John Ryan render salutes. Dave Wilson.



Tom Buono and Paul Wojcik escort Vietnam War Gold Star Mothers Shirley Jones and Mary Wheeler.



The Vietnam Veterans of America Color Guard showed their stuff at all six monuments.



PLAV ladies.



Mamie Capraro, Theresa Jensen and Eleanor King.



Rev. Johnnie Stenson



"Never forget." Chaplain at POW/MIA Monument.



Tom Buono, Paul Wojcik, Frank Casella, Joe Fraccola and John Ryan get set to place wreath at POW/MIA Monument.



THERESA JENSEN, PRESIDENT

AUXILIARY

AUXILIARY AWARDS 2 SCHOLARSHIPS

Auxiliary Unit 229 has awarded two Heather Haggerty Memorial Scholarships. The 2011 recipients are:

- Francesca Palladino, who graduated in June from Proctor High School. She has been active in the Drama Club and varsity soccer, and has been a coach and captain for AYSO soccer. She plans to attend SUNYIT.
- Michael P. Scotellaro IV, a Proctor High grad who attended Herkimer County Community College for two years with plans to attend SUNY Brockport. A former Utica Post baseball player, Scotellaro was co-captain of HCCC baseball team. He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society at HCCC.

The scholarships are for students planning to attend or already enrolled in college and who are a child, grandchild or other immediate relative of a member of the Post, the Auxiliary or Sons of the American Legion.

2011-2012 OFFICERS

- President: Theresa Jensen
 1st Vice: Eleanor King
 2nd Vice: Peggy Kohler
 3rd Vice: Pat Dodge
 Secretary: Rosetta LaPaglia
 Treasurer: Rosaria Haggerty
 Historian: Donna Wojcik
 Sgt-at-Arms: Francine Sansone

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

THERESA JENSEN



Dear Auxiliary Members,

Welcome back! I hope you all had a safe healthy summer, enjoying the hot weather we had.

We will have another busy year helping our community, children and veterans, and we would appreciate any help our members can give. This month, we begin our monthly reporting to our County Auxiliary, so continue to keep track of your hours, miles and monies spent volunteering.

Our first meeting will be Thursday, September 1, at 7:30 p.m. All officers, committee chairs, please attend.

Auxiliary Department Convention was held in Binghamton, July 13-July 16. Representing the unit were Eleanor King, Peggy Kohler, Rose Coniglio and myself. I did see Donna Wojcik at one of our meetings there. Thanks ladies; a great job.



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

GAIL GRECO

Today I stumbled and once again Was lifted up by an unseen hand.

What comfort and joy that knowledge brings.

For I hear the whisper of angel wings.

The guardian angels God sends to all

To bear us up when we stumble and fall.

Trust Him, my friend, and often you'll hear

The whisper of angel wings hovering near.

Author Unknown

SYMPATHY

Dorothy Alteri
Adeena Moore

GET WELL

Ginger Pieloch
Evelyn Muench



Katelyn Sahn, Isabella Kelly and Lisa Greco were among those enjoying ice cream.

ICE CREAM TRUMPS GOLF

The Junior Auxiliary decided to celebrate the advent of summer by meeting for a round of miniature golf at Palm Springs in Marcy near the end of May.

But before they got to play, it started to rain, with skies darkening for a thunderstorm, so the girls and adults retreated to Friendlys to enjoy a round of ice cream instead.

ANY MEMBER of the post or auxiliary who would like to register a daughter or granddaughter for the Junior Auxiliary should contact Mary Stronach at 796-9284 or info@utica-post229. Girls are involved in service projects and fun activities.



**Utica Post #229
The American Legion
409 Herkimer Rd.
Utica, NY 13502**

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members and local communities.
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Since its founding in Paris in 1919, The American Legion has been an advocate for America's veterans, a friend of the U.S. military, a sponsor of community-based programs for young people and a spokesman for patriotic values.



Utica Post 229 Color Guard performs in Memorial Day Parade.

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE FEATURED VINTAGE CARS



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