

Gold Star Post 1365
17 Cannon Ave
Staten Island NY 10314
Frank Saladis, Editor



Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
Paid
Permit No. 354
Staten Island, NY

Or Current Resident

«AddressBlock»

Dear Post 1365 American Legion Members,

The Officers of Post 1365 wish our members and their families a very happy, healthy, safe, and enjoyable new year.

As mentioned, many times in previous newsletters, the American Legion's success depends entirely on active membership, participation and volunteerism. The organization belongs to the people it serves and the communities in which it thrives. Please try to find time to visit the Post, encourage others Veterans to join, and participate in our Post activities. The Post held its annual Childrens Holiday Part on Dec. 17. The turnout was very low and we will look at alternatives for next year. The member social on Dec. 17 at 2pm was also very poorly attended. The Post has over 300 members. We really need to see an increase in participation at our events. If you have suggestions that will help us increase interest in Post functions, please contact any post officer.

The Post is sponsoring an Eagle Scout project that will provide the Post with a burn pit for retired flags. We will need volunteers to help with the preparation of the location and the Scout will be seeking donations to finance the project. Contact the Post for more information.

The Post also initiated a Superbowl Fundraiser. Please consider participating. The funds assist with our operating costs.

Gold Star Post is the largest American Legion Post in Richmond County and we continually attempt to attract new members. The Post officers and a small group of volunteers are doing their best to keep the Post functioning. As you know, we are an aging Post and we have a very serious need for new, members to keep the Post operating. We are also attempting to form an Auxiliary to help us plan events and other activities. Please consider volunteering some time to help keep thee Post active and functioning.

Submitted By: Frank Saladis – Vice Commander

American Legion Gold Star Post # 1365 - Minutes from December 9,2023

The meeting was called to order by Commander Mark Kelly at 10:12, the roll call taken and noted. A motion by Tony Kosinski and Nick Ogrosso to accept the minutes of the October meeting as read was passed. Committee reports: **Americanism:** Nick Ogrosso reported on Pearl Harbor Day and the Nuremburg trials, VC Frank Saladis reported on the Battle of the Bulge and stated that the official end of WWII was December 31st 1946. **Boys State:** VC Frank Saladis reported the program and selection process will be starting soon. Paul Dietrich offered to do a spot on the cable TV show “In Honor Of” to promote the program. **Children & Youth:** Frank Saladis reported the children’s holiday party will be held at the post due to the theater being closed down and the parish hall not being available. Frank also stated there was limited response from post members. There will be one session begging at 9:00 with the children stuffing stockings that will be given to children in the hospital followed by a magician and Santa. Frank is looking into a “tree lighting as well as other events for next year. The Boy Scout who has proposed building a flag burning pit at the post for his Eagle Scout project thanked Frank Saladis for his help and support. **Sick Call:** Past Post Commander Will Alcock is hospitalized with an infection. **National Security:** VC Frank Saladis reported on the migrant issue and that essential services are being cut as a result. **Membership:** VC Vanessa Tavitian reported membership dues are due by December 31st. Post Editor: VC Frank Saladis reported he is looking into sending the newsletter via email to the members we have emails listed for in order to reduce the costs.

Finance: Paul Dietrich reported on the post finances and that the post received a check from NYCDVS for the use of the post for the Yoga being held every Wednesday from 12:00 to 1:00. Paul stated that all post members veterans and spouses are welcome to attend. **The Four Chaplains Interfaith luncheon will be held on February 3rd at 12:30 at the Staaten.**

House report: Commander Kelly reported that a new “dirt catcher” runner was purchased to protect the floor from getting damaged. Mark also stated that the annual fire extinguisher inspection is scheduled for next Wednesday. **New Business:** Sgt at Arms Roger Tauge is keeping track of the prospective new Auxiliary member’s names. A motion by Paul Dietrich to send Commander Kelly and his wife to the Interfaith Breakfast on February 3rd was passed.

Good of the Legion: Commander Kelly spoke about the children at PS 26 reciting the Pledge of Allegiance every morning. Commander Kelly presented the school Principal with a plaque with the Pledge on it that is hanging in the office.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:36 by Commander Mark Kelly.

Respectfully submitted,
Frank LaMarsh,
Adjutant

Next Meeting: Saturday January 13, 2024 10:00am.

Zoom Meeting - Meeting ID: 818 3435 4014 Passcode: 963247
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81834354014?pwd=dVINEGwM2FKTG11bJJQUkFydUNXQT09>

Veteran Benefits Specialist, NYC Department of Veteran Benefits Services: 1 Centre Street, Suite 2208 New York, NY 10007 646-799-2743 jliss@veterans.nyc.gov

Gold Star Post Website - www.goldstarpost1365.org

DD214 forms Please ensure that you have a copy of your DD-214 on file at the Post. This is very important for obtaining Legion Membership benefits and for your family's convenience regarding the passing of Legion members.

Volunteers needed for Coverage of Hall Rentals and general post maintenance and clean up. Please contact Mark Kelly if you are interested in managing parties when the hall is rented or helping with the maintenance of the post.

Membership 2024 - Currently the post has reached 82.5% of members renewed You can renew online at NYLEGION.NET, at a post meeting or by mailing your renewal to the post. Remember your membership expires 31 December and your membership will be suspended. You may come back to active status by renewing your membership. If you do NOT have your 2024 card yet call Paul at 718-698-5269

Note that we were notified that the National American Legion will be raising the dues by \$5. We do NOT know when this dues increase will occur but recommend you renew as soon as possible prior to this increase. **Please discuss membership with your Veteran friends and those who are eligible for Sons of the Legion.** Post 1365 needs more members, especially younger veterans. Help promote the Post.

To Renew Online: Go to your [MyLegion.org](https://www.mylegion.org) account. A “Renew Now” button appears at the top right-hand page of your MyLegion.org account. Click on “Renew Now” and the amount due is displayed in “My Order Balance.” Select “Pay Now” or “Renew Now” to proceed. You can save your credit card on file for auto renewal. The Legion membership year runs July 1-June 30.

Sons of the American Legion – For membership in the SAL send an email to: goldstarsal1365@gmail.com.

This Month's Donations to support the Post: Ogrosso, Dietrich, Zito, Debiase, VFW Post 1574 (for Zoom usage)

Final Honors:
Please honor our members by attending the ceremony offered to the families of our members who have been called to Post Everlasting. Call the Post to report the passing of a member.

Sick Call – None reported

American Legion Updates and Services for Veterans
https://www.legion.org/vsa?utm_campaign=Source+Code+Here&utm_content=VSA&utm_term=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Adestra

<https://www.legion.org/suicideprevention/256277/risk-ny-veterans-get-major-boost-american-legion>

American Legion Auxiliary – Gold Star Post is attempting to establish an American Legion Auxiliary. If you are interested, contact the Post for more information. Please help us form an Auxiliary. An Auxiliary can help us with many programs.

American Legion Programs <https://www.legion.org/programs>
<https://www.legion.org/newsletters>

https://www.legion.org/join?gad_source=1&qclid=CjwKCAiAqNSsBhAvEiwAn_tmXTsgOaugEqehsElUkB10sLI2cY0dCAzjQ4eBueNYPqiVWmM0X8A66hoCINcQAvD_BwE

Veterans Affairs Life Insurance (VALife) Available Now – Call the VA Life Insurance Center at 800-669-8477 8:30am-6:30pm EDT. You can get these benefits: Up to \$40,000 in whole life insurance coverage (in \$10,000 increments) and cash value that starts 2 years after the application is approved.



Important Military Dates in January	
	• 1/16 Desert Storm (Persian Gulf) Began (1991)
	• 1/27 Vietnam War Cease Fire (1973)
	• 1/31 Panama Campaign Ended (1990)

Food Pantry Donations for Active-Duty Personnel – Please continue to donate non-perishable food items for our active-duty service men and women.

Gold Star Post Important Dates and Events:
The Post is open every Wednesday from 1pm to 5pm (or later depending on attendance)
The Post hosts a Veterans Yoga program at the post from 12-1 every Wed afternoon EXCEPT the third Wed of the month when it is from 1230 to 1PM. Veterans and their families are welcome to attend a stress reducing Chair Yoga Session **FREE OF CHARGE**.

January 13 – Gold Star Post meeting 10am
January 13 – Columbia Basketball Game – Veterans may apply for free tickets
gocolumbialions.com/heroes
February 3 – Interfaith Breakfast at the Staaten
February 11 – Super Bowl Sunday
February 24 – Flag Retirement Ceremony Pouch Camp 11am – **Volunteers needed**
April 20, 2024 – Children and Youth Luncheon. \$60 per person. Staaten
May 11, 2024 - Big Apple Honor Flight is proud to announce that **BAHF: Mission #4 will take place this year on Saturday, May 11th, 2024** when we will honor 70 of our city's veterans from World War II, the Korean War, Cold War, and Vietnam War with a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Washington D.C. to visit the memorials built in their honor.
June 28 through Wednesday July 3, 2024 – Boys State at SUNY Morrisville.

If you are aware of any Veterans related events scheduled for Staten Island, please send the information to goldstarpost1365@gmail.com or leave a message at 718 983 7675. If you would like to feature a Gold Star Post member or have a story for the newsletter, please contact the Post.

Post Member History – Paul Cempa’s uncle, Frank J. Cempa, was killed in action on Normandy Beach June 6, 1944. He was 19 years old.