



Or Current Resident

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Dear Post 1365 American Legion Members,

Gold Star Post is the largest American Legion Post in The Richmond County American Legion. We, as an organization of Veterans for Veterans, we are attempting to develop new programs and Post activities to help the Post grow and to provide support to our members and the Staten Island Veterans Community. Founded by an Act of Congress after World War I, The American Legion fiercely advocates for the unique needs of every generation of veterans, service members, and their families who pledge to protect our nation. Today, we are committed to destigmatizing mental health support, offering peer-to-peer resources, and empowering everyone to **Be The One** in the fight to end veteran suicide.

Everyone is aware of the tragic fires in California and many American Legion members and Veterans have suffered tremendous loss. Gold Star Post has established a special fundraising program to support the American Legion National Emergency Fund. The American Legion's National Emergency Fund is set up to quickly and efficiently provide financial grants to members of The American Legion and Sons of The American Legion, as well as posts, that have been affected by natural disasters. Please consider a donation to this effort. Our goal: raise \$1000. Checks may be sent to Gold Star Post 1365, 17 Cannon Ave 10314. Mark the check for NEF.

If you are interested in volunteering to help with Post activities please contact any Post officer. The newly formed Auxiliary also needs additional members. For eligibility information send an email to goldstarpost1365@gmail.com or call the Post at 718 983 7675.

As always, please thank our veterans when you see them or meet them and consider volunteering some time to help the Post grow and to help us serve our veterans and our community.

Frank Saladis – Commander

The meeting was called to order at 10:08 by Commander Frank Saladis, the roll call was taken and noted. A motion by Mark Kelly to accept the minutes of the December meeting as printed in the Post newsletter was seconded and passed. New member Pamela Silvesta was introduced. Treasurer Paul Dietrich gave the post financial report and stated that the bill for the post survey was still outstanding. Commander Saladis stated that the survey results have been received. The fence bordering the post's property and the actual property line vary our attorney is working on resolving the issues. The holding company issue is still being worked on by the executive committee. Membership: Paul Dietrich reports post cards were sent to all members who have not yet paid their dues. The membership year runs from January 1st through December 31st and any member that is not paid up by the 31st is considered suspended. The post membership now stands at 262 renewed the post is presently at 85.3% the Department membership goal for this period is 80% so we are doing well. House report: Mark Kelly reported the ice machine filter was leaking and was replaced, mark also reported the purchase of the new trash cans required by the Sanitation Department will cost \$237, also the back door replacement is on hold until the weather improves, as always help with the house repairs etc. is needed. Children & Youth: Boys State is in progress and is open to boys that are juniors in high school. The next children and youth event at the post will be an egg hunt around the Easter timeframe, details will follow. Frank Peters reports the Post Auxiliary is the largest in the county and started with 16 members and now stands at 20 and is 125% of quota. Frank is looking into getting the Auxiliary more involved and needs to hold a meeting to elect a president and secretary. Graves Registration: The Post needs to be informed of the passing of any members so a proper final farewell service can be performed. Sick call: Harold Bregman fell and broke his hip, Joe Cassar recouping and contacting Philip Eskow at 30 Grissom Ave Apt. A, 10314 would be welcome. National Security: the New Orleans terror investigation is still ongoing and it is disturbing that it was done by a veteran. Bi-laws: Frank Peters reports that updated mandated by National have been incorporated. Commander Saladis is working on getting the Post administration, processes and requirements in line with national and local law. Media and communication: Commander Saladis reported the Post is very active and has been in contact with the National Media director to bring attention to the post. Bell Jar: Commander Saladis reports the bell jar is on track to cover significant Post expenses. Service officer: the presumed cancer list for Gulf War veterans has been updated. Unfinished business: the Four Chaplains brunch will be held on Saturday February 8th 12:30 at the Staaten, the cost is \$65 per person. A motion by Frank Peters to send the Commander and his guest to the brunch as the Post's representative was seconded and passed. The Yoga classes are still being held at the Post on Wednesdays at 12:00 and are being done for free. The Wi-Fi proposal to install a business class system was received; Blazing Star VFW Post has offered to cover the cost as a donation to the Post. Mark Kelly is looking into upgrading the current system to a 16-camera system; the cost would be about \$1500. Gene Guerra stated the property next to the post is the proposed site of a 650-megawatt battery storage facility which is 10 times the size of any site in NYC, the community is planning on protesting and no paperwork has been submitted to date. Gene also reports about the planned closing of Travis Ave. from February 2025 to March 2026 and the community has requested that squad 8 be changed to a complete firehouse. Paul Dietrich made a motion to accept the offer to purchase the business class WI-FI system by the VFW was seconded and passed. Anyone interested in purchasing a Post jacked should see Paul Cempa, jackets must be paid for in advance. Frank LaMarsh reported the annual Memorial Day service will be held on Saturday May 24th with Sunday the 25th as a rain date, help will be needed for the setup on Friday May 23rd. The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 by commander Saladis.

Respectfully Submitted: Frank LaMarsh, Adjutant

American Legion Services for Veterans
<https://nylegion.net/programs-services/>

https://www.legion.org/join?utm_campaign=Source+Code+Here&utm_content=Enter%20Link%20Label&utm_term=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Adestra

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

Military Liaison Services 251-73 Jericho Turnpike Bellerose, New York, 11426 516-821-5140 Our mission is to connect Veterans with our care coordination team who will help them access our healthcare services. Email: militaryservices@northwell.edu Web: Northwell.edu/veterans

Veterans Affairs Life Insurance (VALife) – VA Life Insurance Center - 800-669-8477 8:30am-6:30pm EDT

DD214 forms Please ensure that you have a copy of your DD-214 on file at the Post.

Super Bowl Fundraiser: The Post has organized a Superbowl fundraiser. Information is available at Post meetings or you may call the Post at 718 983 7675

Membership 2025- Membership cards are available and you can renew at a meeting or by mailing your dues to the post. We are currently at 88.3% with 271 renewed. 2024 Membership expired 31 December 2024. Renew as soon as possible to reinstate your benefits.
The following members have not renewed as of this date, if you know one of them please remind them to renew as soon as possible: Akinniyyi, Baronick, Bogan, Brown James, Camenares, Cardenas, Cisternino, Civiletti, Coakley, Coakley, Cobbs, Coughlin, Cristadoro, Draper, Gomez, Grizzuti, Hannan, Koop, Londono, Mareta, Marsh, Miranda, Moore, Moran, Otten, Pena, Picone Sr, Reilly, Rodriquez Frank, Santiago, Savino, Scaturro, Shafi, Sinclair, Valdez, Welsh, Wright.

We encourage you to recommend Legion membership to Veterans you know. Post 1365 would like to see our membership grow. We especially would like to see young veterans join us. Please help promote the Post as an ambassador for the American Legion.
Visit legion.org/renew or legion.org/join : <https://www.legion.org/membership/260621/american-legion-multiyear-membership-here>

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

This Month's Donations to support the Post: Zito, Tague

Final Honors: No Report. Please honor our members by attending the ceremony offered to the families of our members who have been called to Post Everlasting

Sick Call – Joe Modzelewski, Harold Bregman, Joseph Marrone,

Veteran Liaison at Borough Hall – bbeale@stsrenislandusa.com 718-816-2062

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

Important item: The Post Defibrillator, courtesy of the Staten Island Borough President Vito Fossella, is now active and registered for use



Important Military Dates in February

- **February 3 – Four Chaplains Day**
- **February 4 – USO Birthday**
- **February 12 – National Salute to Veteran Patients**
- **February 19 – Coast Gurad Reserve Birthday**

On February 3, 1943, the USAT Dorchester, hit by a German submarine, sank with the loss of 674 of the 904 on board. This program will highlight the story of the "Four Chaplains"—four Army chaplains who gave up their life jackets so that other might survive.

Next Meeting: Saturday February 8, 10am, Zoom Meeting - Meeting ID: 818 3435 4014
Passcode: 963247

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81834354014?pwd=dVINEDgwM2FKTG11bIJQUkFydUNXQT09>

Important Dates and Events: Veterans Yoga- 12 noon -1pm Every Wednesday

The Post is open every Wednesday from 1pm to 5pm (or later depending on attendance).

Feb 8th at 1215 - Four Chaplains Brunch at Staaten \$65,

Feb 7th – Post open 7pm Pre-Super Bowl Primer - Live Music and open mic – \$5 donation

Feb 15 – Valentine's Post social – Live Music \$5 donation – 1 Beverage ticket and Lite Food and snacks included.

Feb 16 – Oratorical Contest – 2pm Malvern Post 250 Franklin Ave

Feb 19 – 11am Iwo Jima Remembrance – Marine Corps League, 46 Ontario

February 21 – Richmond County Meeting – Cespino-Russo Post 10am

March 21 – Richmond County Meeting – Cespino-Russo Post 10am

April 4 - 12 noon – Children and Youth Brunch at Staaten, \$65

April 11 – National Commanders Reception – Anton's, Queens - \$100

May 10 – **Big Apple Honor Flight: Mission #5**

May 24 – Annual Post Memorial Day ceremony 11am (Set up May 23 9am)

Online Legion Updates and Information

<https://www.legion.org/>

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/FMfcgzQXKWpSBTMvkWKJtrcDgcTPKJnB>

Boys State - <https://boysstateny.org/>

Post WIFI be upgraded Feb 5 1-5 pm – No service during that time