



Or Current Resident

«AddressBlock»

Dear Post 1365 American Legion Members,

As we enter the year 2026, it is important to take a moment and reflect on the accomplishments of the past year, the lesson we have learned, the memories of those we have lost, and the importance of membership in the American Legion. The American Legion is crucial for its advocacy for veterans' benefits, its community programs (youth sports, scholarships, disaster relief), and its promotion of patriotism, national security, and responsible citizenship through programs like Boys State, American Legion Get Out the Vote, Be the One” and initiatives that strengthen communities and support military families. In essence, the American Legion acts as a vital bridge, connecting veterans with necessary support, fostering strong communities, and upholding core American values. Please discuss membership in the Legion with your family members and friends. We must maintain a strong voice for all veterans and the American Legon is a key factor in legislation that affects our veterans. A recent quote worth sharing “Too often, military service is acknowledged in May and November, then forgotten the rest of the year

During the next few months, the officers of Gold Star Post will review and improve our internal processes, focus on attracting new members, and plan for overall improvements inside and around the Post grounds. We are thankful for the small group of volunteers who ensure the Post is always in great condition and a comfortable place for our members to visit. We welcome any member who would like to volunteer and join our dedicated team. We are also thankful for the Auxiliary. They have done a great job in 2025 and the Post has benefited substantially through their programs and activities. The Officers of Gold Star Post wish you a healthy, rewarding, and peaceful start of the New Year and, as always, thank our veterans often, please continue your efforts to encourage veterans you know to join the Legion, and we thank-you for your service.

Respectfully, Frank Saladis – Commander

The monthly meeting was called to order by Commander Frank Saladis at 10:06; the roll call was taken and recorded. A motion by Paul Dietrich and Paul Cempa to accept the minutes as distributed was passed. Commander Saladis recognized Mary Ann D'Agostino the Post Auxiliary president who was present. Commander Saladis stated that there would be a wreath laying ceremony immediately following the meeting at the WWI and WWII monuments. Finance Report: Treasurer Paul Dietrich reports all accounts are in good shape and members wishing to view the reports should speak to the treasurer. Paul also stated that the Wednesdays are keeping the house account in good shape. Commander Saladis reported the Bell Jar account is in good shape and will be used to pay for the Post's utilities. The gaming license is scheduled for renewal at the end of the month and we are waiting for the Governor to sign the electronic gaming bill into law. Committee reports, Membership: presently there are over 256 renewals; of the 309-member goal. Paul Dietrich moved that Wesley Thomas and PUFL David Pelletier be accepted as new members; the motion was seconded by Paul Cempa and passed. Presently we have 71 SAL members and we need them to be more active, Commander Saladis stated he will be communicating with them. House Report: the container has been winterized; the ice machine has been cleaned and supplies purchased. The house committee will produce an inventory process to reduce unneeded supplies to maintain the Post's bottom line, Stan and Mary Karpinski donated \$100 to the Post. The Post's tree lighting event was a big success and the Post was “packed”. The outside tree was decorated fin red, white and blue. The Post Auxiliary members helped decorate the inside of the Post. Once again, the Auxiliary did a great job and is working hard for the Post. Unit President Mary Ann wished all the members a Merry Christmas and happy holidays. Mary Ann also thanked the Post members for the support at the Jimmy Max fund raiser. The Post has the only active unit on Staten Island. Frank Peters thanked the Auxiliary for stepping up and helping with the monthly theme dinners. The January dinner will be a Super Bowl theme. The Post unit is now approaching 40 members. Graves Registration: fortunately, no members have passed. Commander Saladis urged members to have a copy of their DD214 on file at the post, in case it needed in an emergency. The social security number should be blocked out. Sick Call: Neil Schimler is recouping in a nursing home. Americanism: a service commutating the attack on Pearl Harbor was performed on the pier at the foot of Sharrots Ave. on December 7th. Legislation: Frank LaMarsh reported on 2 bills waiting for the Governor's signature and that the resolution he authored seeking Michael Ollis be awarded the Medal of Honor was passed by the National Executive Committee with the help of Frank Peters our NEC representative. National Security: the US Coast Guard and Navy ships are interdicting drug runners to stop the flow of drugs into the US. Frank LaMarsh reported on the upcoming Mid-winter conference in Albany. A VFW veteran's representative will be at the Post to answer questions. The dates will be published on the Post website. The Four Chaplains Interfaith breakfast will be held at the Staaten on February 7th, the cost is \$75 per person and the Post will be purchasing a table of 10 and members attending are asked to make a donation back to the Post. A motion by Frank Peters to support the placement of a flag on the Verrazano Bridge in recognition of the United States 250th birthday was passed. Commander Saladis spoke about the Veterans' Day service at the mall and asked for a motion to donate \$100 to the Tottenville HS JROTC; the motion was passed. Volunteers stuffed stockings at the Post tree lighting for distribution to the SI hospital Pediatric ward, Last year 475 stockings were distributed. A motion by Paul Dietrich to donate \$100 Evangeline's was seconded and passed. Frank LaMarsh congratulated Commander Saladis for his efforts in putting together the Post Officer's social including his performance with the live band. Good of the Legion: a young veteran round table is going to be scheduled to discuss changing the organization's image of “old men drinking stale beer” and why they don't join the organization. 18

turkeys were distributed to active-duty service member families. The Oceanic Volunteer fire dept. will be conducting 3-hour CPR courses, dates TBD. Joe Bossert has volunteered to be the Post communications point of contact to gather and distribute information. There will be a Post planning meeting on January 27th 9:00 to organize and prioritize the Post's projects and programs. The meeting was closed at 11:31.

Respectfully submitted, Frank LaMarsh, Adjutant

Hotline for Difficulties with the VA -855-948-2311

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>

Membership 2026- 2025 Membership and benefits expired 12/31/25. If you have not renewed your membership, please renew as soon as possible. We are currently at 90.5% of goal with 266 members renewed. If you renew online you may wish to renew for multiple years which protects you from any dues increase during those renewed years. This can ONLY be done online. [Renew Membership | The American Legion](#)

The following have NOT renewed: Bailey, Basa, Camarda, Camenares, Canarutto, Cardenas, Chattergoon, Civiletti, Cobbs, Conlin, Conroy, Delprete, Diehl, Doerbecker, Fulco, Gomez, Goodacker, Grosso, Kopp, Kraft, Lipp, Lurito, Mahler, Maida, Maloney, Muttana, Ortiz, Otten, Palumbo, Reynolds, Riley, Salvatori, Santapaola, Scaramella, Schimler, Scott, Scotto, Sinclair, Stoffo, Valdez, Wright

We encourage members 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.

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

This Month's Donations to support the Post – Saladis, Debiase, Karpinski, Cooney, Iswara

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

Sick Call – Harold Bregman, Joseph Marrone, John Nappi, Ray Ortiz, Guy Nacchio

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

The Staten Island Service Member/Veterans and Families (SMVF) newsletter
<https://statenislndpps.org/veterans/>

S.I. Veterans Discount cards from S.I.E.D.C – 718 477-1400 ext. 813

Upcoming NYC Veterans Events can be found at: <https://bobwoodrufffoundation.org/our-veterans-nyc/>



Important Military Dates in January

- **January 3 (1777): Battle of Princeton. General George Washington defeated British forces**
- **January 8 (1815): Battle of New Orleans. The final major battle of the War of 1812.**
- **January 16 (1991): Start of Operation Desert Storm.**
- **January 17 (1781): Battle of Cowpens. A decisive victory for American Continental and militia in the of the Revolutionary War.**
- **January 25 (1945): Victory at the Battle of the Bulge.**
- **January 27 (1973): Vietnam War Cease Fire.**
- **January 30 (1968): Start of the Tet Offensive. A massive surprise attack by North Vietnamese and Viet Cong forces across South Vietnam**

Next Post Meeting: Saturday January 10, 10am, Zoom Meeting - Meeting ID: 818 3435 4014
Passcode: 963247
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81834354014?pwd=dVlNeDgwM2FKTG11bJlJQUkFydUNXQT09>

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).

January 1 – New Years Day
January 16 – Dept. of New York Mid- Winter Conference
January 28 – Gold Star Post Auxiliary Pre Super Bowl dinner – Tailgate Theme 4pm
February 7 – Four Chaplains (Interfaith Breakfast) at the Staaten
February 8 – Super Bowl Sunday – Post Open, Super Bowl Fundraiser Still Available.
February 8 -14 – National Salute to Veteran Patients
June (Date TBD) – Annual Ferry Hawks Veterans Appreciation Day -
June 27 – July 3 – Boys State
July 4 - 250th Anniversary of the United States – Independence Day

The Food Pantry at Staten Island Giving Circle, which supports Veterans needs your help. Please consider a donation to keep the pantry stocked with essential items for our Veterans in need. Bring items to the Post. All items are delivered to the Giving Circle. Canned food, Cereal, dry foods etc.

Online Legion Updates and Information <https://www.legion.org/>

Year – Round Veterans Discounts
https://news.va.gov/85765/veteran-discounts-available-year-round/?utm_source=middle&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=VetResources&utm_id=31DEC2025