



## Or Current Resident

«AddressBlock»

### Dear Post 1365 American Legion Members,

It is with deep sadness to report that Vice Commander and Quartermaster Pail Cempa has passed on to Post Everlasting. Paul was a dedicated Post member, a committed volunteer, and was always at the Post when needed. We will truly miss his sense of humor, his work ethic, and his friendship. Vice Commander Bruce Lieberman has assumed the duties of Quartermaster. Please take a moment to remember Paul.

The Post held a planning meeting January 27 to review and prioritize projects that are designed to make repairs and improvements inside the Post and in the property around the Post. Details will be available at the Post Meetings. The annual Interfaith Luncheon, also known as the 4 Chaplains Luncheon will be held at the Staaten February 7. The next Children and Youth Post activity will be an Egg Hunt planned for March 29 at 12 noon. We are seeking volunteers to help with Post operations. Please contact any Post office if interested. The Post will be open for Super Bowl Sunday at 4pm. Members are asked to bring a dish for sharing – Snacks and desserts would be very welcome. The Super Bowl Fundraiser will be available until Saturday Feb 7 at 6pm. Please consider participating.

Some very good news. The resolution to award SSG Michael Ollis the Medal of Honor has been approved and confirmed by President Trump. Frank LaMarsh was instrumental in the process to achieve the approval.

Keep in mind that this is your Post and we would like to see our members attend our functions and take advantage of the programs and events that we schedule, and we would like to see more of you attend our meetings either in person or via zoom.

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 Adjutant Frank LaMarsh acting for Commander Frank Saladis at 10:06; the roll call was taken and recorded. A motion by Mark Kelly and Paul Dietrich to accept the minutes as printed in the monthly newsletter was passed. Finance Report: Treasurer Paul Dietrich gave a detailed financial report including all outstanding checks and transactions. Paul also stated that the membership account is fully funded and all accounts are financially secure and sound. A motion by Robert Motisi, seconded by Mark Kelly to accept the report subject to audit was passed. Membership: Paul Dietrich reports presently there are 274 member renewals; 93.2% of total goal and well ahead of the February goal of 85%. The high school oratorical contest for the 2<sup>nd</sup> District will be held on January 20<sup>th</sup> at the Elks on Richmond Ave starting at 6:00 PM. Auxiliary Unit report: Frank Peters reported three new members and that the Unit will be sending 2 members to the Four Chaplains Interfaith luncheon. Unit president Mary Ann stated that they're hosting a "tail gate" dinner the last Wednesday in January and asked the members to come out and support them. Sick Call: Paul Cempa reports Neil Schimler is doing much better and Harold Bregman is doing well in the assisted living center; Bob McKeever fell and injured his back and is recouping. David Pelletier reports there is a get-well card to Past National Commander Jake Comer for the members to sign. Americanism: Nick Ogrosso reported on historical happenings of National interest including: the creation of Standard Oil in 1870 by John D. Rockefeller, NASA bouncing radio waves off the moon in 1946, the League of Nations holding the first meeting in 1920 and the US Air Force starting Operation Ranch Hand in Vietnam using defoliants (agent orange). House Report: Mark Kelly reports supplies have been purchased, the exterior floodlights have been replaced, the snow blower adjusted and two new tool boxes have been donated. Graves Registration: fortunately, no members have passed. Legislation: Frank LaMarsh reported on 2 NY State bills that have been signed into law; permitting the use of electronic gaming devices and 100% real property tax exemption for 100% disabled veterans. New York City must still opt in to provide property tax exemptions to Cold War veterans who did not serve in theater. In order to receive the tax exemptions, you must apply online or go to 350 St. Marks Place 4<sup>th</sup> floor by March 15<sup>th</sup>. Frank also stated that the resolution he authored that Michael Ollis be awarded the Medal of Honor now sits on the President's desk. Frank Peters reported on the many committee forums at the Mid-winter conference in Albany and the resolution he wrote to support the placement of a flag on the Verrazano Bridge in recognition of the United States 250<sup>th</sup> birthday was passed by the Department Executive Committee. Joe Bossert is working on having the JROTCs host a "Legion Day" to discuss what we do and offer assistance. Joe Liss from the NYCDVS spoke about the services and assistance available from the city and invited members to contact him whenever needed. Unfinished business: The National Commander's dinner will be held on Friday April 17<sup>th</sup> at Antun's and a bus may be available. Vanessa Tavitian took the Polar Plunge at Coney Island during a very cold windy day with the wind chill being well below zero. Dave Pelletier who recently transferred from a post in Main made a \$100 donation to the building fund named in honor of Angelo Pilla. Dave said he will be doing this on a monthly basis. Mark Kelly stated there are 2 Post covers available and to see him if interested. Robert Motisi made a \$90 donation to the Post. Paul Cempa reports Jackets and shirts are available including red shirts for Fridays. The meeting was closed at 11:05.

Respectfully submitted: Frank LaMarsh, PDC Adjutant

**Membership 2026-** Membership for 2025 expired 12/31/25 and benefits also expire. Renew as soon as possible. We are currently at 94.9% of goal with 279 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.

The following have NOT renewed: Bailey, Basa, Camenares, Cardenas, Chattergoon, Civiletti, Cobbs, Conlin, Conroy, Diehl, Gomez, Kopp, Kraft, Lipp, Mahler, Maida, Maloney, Muttana, Ortiz, Palumbo, Riley, Salvatori, Santapaola, Scott, Scotto, Sinclair, Stoffo, Valdez

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.

**Donations to Support the Post:** Pellitier in memory of Angelo Pilla, Motisi, Clarissa Alliano in memory of Paul Cempa, Zito. Staten Island University Hospital fellow workers of Paul Cempa and in his memory: Ricardo Carone, Alfonso Vitale, Chris Toro, Eddie Contreras, Jimmy Ortega, Kevin Ryan, Chris Flynn, Robert Dumbi, Victor Saldana, Don Tierney, Nick Casa, Mario Ramirez, Nick Anderson, Francesco Rodriguez, Robert Mistretta, Russell Hudybierdi, Nick Souto, Mitch Markson, Charles Picciotto, Roger Grant, Manny Torrer, Lee Altman, Jerry Illiano, Robert Mohr, Ryan Fox, Andrew Guliano, Keith Paterson, Jim Moscola, Steve Pantaleone, Marie Beyers, Russel Ketchie, Jennifer Dimino, Julian Browne and Richie Doyle, St Stephen's Lodge #63 F. &A.M. in memory of Joseph O. Brousseau, USMC

**Sons of the American Legion** – For membership, send an email to: [goldstarsal1365@gmail.com](mailto:goldstarsal1365@gmail.com).

**Final Honors: Paul Cempa, Vice Commander, Quartermaster, U.S. Navy**

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** – Joseph Marrone, John Nappi, Guy Nacchio

Veteran Liaison at Borough Hall – [bbeale@statenislndusa.com](mailto: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/>

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](https://news.va.gov/85765/veteran-discounts-available-year-round/?utm_source=middle&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=VetResources&utm_id=31DEC2025)



### Important Military Dates in January

- Feb 1: National Freedom Day.
- Feb 2: Army Nurse Corps established (1901).
- Feb 3: Four Chaplains Day.
- Feb 3: USO Incorporated.
- Feb 9: Anniversary of the U.S. Victory at the Battle of Guadalcanal.
- Feb 12: Lincoln's Birthday (observed in some states).
- Feb 13: Marine Corps Women's Reserve Established (1943).
- Feb 14: Valentine's Day (often recognized for supporting deployed personnel).
- Feb 17, 2025 (Third Monday): Presidents' Day / Washington's Birthday (Federal Holiday).
- Feb 19: Coast Guard Reserve Birthday.
- Feb 23: Iwo Jima Flag Raising (1945).
- Feb 28: Anniversary of the U.S.-Led Victory in the Persian Gulf War.

**Next Post Meeting: Saturday February 14, 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).

February 4 – Auxiliary pre-Super Bowl dinner – Tail Gate Party Theme 4 pm at the Post

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

February 13 – Citizens Preparedness training 12 noon at the Post

March 14 – One Soldier One Dog Fundraiser Comedy Show 7pm – Gold Star Post

March 17 – St. Patrick's Day

March 18 – Auxiliary St. Patrick's Day dinner 4pm

March 29 – Egg Hunt at the Post 12 noon

June (Date TBD) – Annual Ferry Hawks Veterans Appreciation Day -

June 27 – July 3 – Boys State

July 4 – 250<sup>th</sup> 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.