



Or Current Resident

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Dear Post 1365 American Legion Members and Friends

Gold Star Post continues to remain active in a number of areas. We host the Veterans Chair Yoga every Wednesday at noon and the Post is open for the membership from 1pm until about 8pm after Yoga. We are experimenting with opening the Post Friday evenings for members to visit and the past three weeks have been somewhat successful. The post may not be open every Friday due to hall rentals and meetings. Check with the Post before coming down for a visit. The Post is hosting a Fundraiser for One Soldier, One Dog, One Team Saturday March 14 at 6:30pm. Information is provided in the list of events. Our Annual Egg hunt is scheduled for March 29 at noon and Miss Staten Island Teen is organizing a fundraiser for Veterans which is scheduled for April 26. Please consider making a donation to, and attending that event. For information about these events call the Post at 718 983 7675 or email goldstarpost1365@gmail.com.

The Post Executive Committee is developing plans for various projects around the Post. Each project will include a plan and a specific budget and must be approved by the executive committee. These plans include: Replacing the Gold Star Post sign mounted on the building, A sign near the driveway entrance that is visible to the community, paving of the driveway and parking lot, weatherproofing doors and windows and renovation of the restroom upstairs. Information about these projects will be provided during Post meetings.

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.

Be mindful of our service members in the Middle East, and as always, thank our veterans often, 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 10:03; the roll call was taken and recorded. A motion by Paul Dietrich and Robert Motisi to accept the minutes as printed in the monthly newsletter was passed. Finance Report: Treasurer Paul Dietrich gave a detailed financial report. Paul also stated that the \$100 donation made last month by Dave Pelletier will be deposited in the building fund when it matures. Dave Pelletier made another \$100 donation in Paul Cempa's name. Several house projects have been completed using the approved project plans and budget., the kitchen range hood was completed under budget. Membership account is fully funded and all accounts are financially secure and sound. A motion by Robert Motisi, to accept the report subject to audit was seconded and passed. Membership: Paul Dietrich reports presently there are 281 members renewed; 13 short of the overall goal. Paul Dietrich went over the membership renewal process. Michael Marra reports the SAL membership now stands at 73 including one new member. Frank LaMarsh reported on the National Commander's dinner on April 17th will be at Antun's. The cost is \$100 per person and includes a cocktail hour buffet, open bar, full dinner and live music. House report: Robert Motisi reported there were 3 events at the post since the last post meeting. Robert also reported that due to the extreme wind and cold the water pipes in the bathrooms froze and had to be thawed; fortunately, there were no breaks. The house committee is looking into professional help (wrapping etc.) to prevent a recurrence and asks if anyone has a contact that would offer help at a discounted rate to contact the committee. In addition, the AC units were covered to prevent cold air from entering the hall. Robert also thanked Mark Kelly for having the driveway and part of the lot plowed after the recent snow storm. Paul Dietrich reviewed the Post projects including signs, maintenance activities, rear door sill repair/replacement, driveway paving, upstairs bathroom renovation and replacing the wood property boundary markers with permanently markers. All projects require a project plan, statement of work and a budget before being started. The current cost estimate for paving the driveway is \$15,000. The 1,000s of old flags were properly retired. The flag burn pit needs some repairs and modification to include a door for removing the ash from the pit. Children & Youth: the annual Post "egg" hunt will be held on March 29th at noon; refreshments will be available. Boys State: Boys State is a weeklong leadership and citizenship program open to high school juniors at no cost to the boys and will run from June 2th to July 2nd. There will be a special event at the Cespino-Russo Post geared towards young veterans; Let Freedom Ring on April 9th from 5 to 9 PM. The annual Children & Youth luncheon will be held at the Staaten on April 11th at noon; the Post will be purchasing a table. The Auxiliary "pre-Super Bowl dinner" was successful with 20 to 30 people attending. The next dinner will be in April. Graves Registration: Post Vice Commander Paul Cempa and Anthony Gallano have reported to Post Everlasting. Please try to attend the funeral services. The free to all chair Yoga program is now pushing balance training is held every Wednesday from noon to 1PM. Commander Saladis spoke to the membership about the many Americanism programs sponsored by the American Legion and Gold Star Post. Frank LaMarsh reported on the Vietnam Veterans welcome home breakfast at the Hilton Grand ballroom on March 18th. Commander Saladis spoke about the recent disaster preparedness training held at the Post; another evening session is being planned in about 3 months. New Business: A motion by Robert Motisi for \$403 to cover the kitchen work was seconded and approved. A motion by Robert Motisi to send Commander Saladis and his guest to the Children & Youth luncheon as the Post's representative was seconded and passed. A motion by Paul Dietrich and seconded by Bruce Lieberman to send the Commander and his guest to the National Commander's dinner was passed. Good of the Legion: Frank LaMarsh spoke about the process for electing Post officers; the commander is to commission a nominating committee of past Post Commanders to put together a recommended slate of officers to be presented in April. The slate is just a recommendation and nominations from the floor during the elections can be made. Frank also spoke about what the role as commander entails for anyone interested; "The Post

Commander shall be the executive head of the American Legion Gold Star Post No. 1365 with full power to enforce the provisions of the Post Constitution and By-Laws, and establish Post rules and regulations, and shall be the presiding officer at Post Membership, Executive Committee, special meetings and functions, and shall perform other such duties as are usually incident to the office. The Post Commander shall appoint the necessary committee and officers prescribed in the Post Constitution and By-Laws". Frank LaMarsh made a \$100 donation to the Post" The meeting was closed with Taps and a moment of silence for Paul Cempa. The meeting was closed at 11:20.

Respectfully submitted: Frank LaMarsh, PDC Adjutant

Membership 2026- Membership for 2025 expired 12/31/25 and your benefits also expire. Please renew as soon as possible. We are currently at 95.6% of goal with 281 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 members 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: Motisi, Sheldon Schmidt, Catanese, Dave Pelletier in memory of Paul Cempa. Lamarsh, Manna, Konczynski in memory of Paul Cempa

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

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 – Joseph Marrone, John Nappi, Guy Nacchio

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

The Staten Island Service Member/Veterans and Families (SMVF) newsletter

<https://statenilandpps.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



Important Military Dates in March

- March 3: U.S. Navy Reserve Birthday
- March 3, 1968: Battle of Hue City (Vietnam) ended
- March 5: Seabee Birthday
- March 13, 1943: First group of Women Marine officer candidates arrived at training
- March 13: K9 Veterans Day
- March 21: Rosie the Riveter Day
- March 25: National Medal of Honor Day
- March 26, 1945: Official securement of Iwo Jima
- March 29: National Vietnam War Veterans Day
- Month of the Military Care Giver

Next Post Meeting: Saturday March 14, 10am, Zoom Meeting - Meeting ID: 818 3435 4014
Passcode: 963247

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81834354014?pwd=dVlNeDgwM2FKTG11bJlJkUkFydUNXQT09>

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).

March 14 – 1 Soldier, 1 Dog, 1 team Fundraiser Comedy Show 7pm – Gold Star Post
For Tickets call 347 242 7633

March 15 – American Legion Birthday

March 17 – St. Patrick's Day

March 18 – Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans breakfast – Nicotra's Ballroom 9am

March 29 – Egg Hunt at the Post 12 noon

April 9 – Let Freedom Sing! Event for Veterans and Families– Cespino -Russo Post 5pm

April 11 – Children and Youth Brunch – Staaten 12:30pm

April 17 – National Commander Dinner and Reception- Antons 6pm

April 26 – Miss Staten Island Teen Veterans Fundraiser 11am -3p Gold Star Post

May 25 – Memorial Day – Post Ceremony 11am May 23

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 continues to need your help. Please make a donation to keep the pantry stocked with essential items for our Veterans in need. Items may be brought to the Post for convenience.