

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



Gold Star Post #1365 Minutes of March 14th 2026

Or Current Resident

«AddressBlock»

Dear Post 1365 American Legion Members and Friends

As we approach the warmer weather, the Post officers are planning several events including fundraisers, repairs inside and outside the post, preparation for Memorial Day and Independence day and a special event to host Sailors and Soldiers who will be visiting Staten Island between July 3 and July 8, We are always in need of volunteers to help with building maintenance, landscaping, clean-up, support during event, hall rentals, and repairs. A fundraiser is scheduled for April 18 at the post featuring 3 live bands. On April 26, Miss Staten Island Teen will be hosting a special fundraiser for Veterans from 11am-3pm. \$15 donation – Veterans-no charge. Other activities planned include a bus trip to Atlantic City, a visit to the Aircraft Carrier Intrepid, and other activities that may be of interest to our members, veterans n and their families. If you can offer some time as a volunteer to help with work around the Post please contact me. We are always looking for new ideas to attract veterans to join the Legion and our Post.

On a somber note, our Post mourns the passing of Will Alcock, former Post Commander, Navy Veteran, and member for 33 years. Please offer a prayer for Will.

Please keep in mind that 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.

It is extremely important for all of us, during the situation in the Middle East to be mindful of our service members who are in harm’s way. Please be sure to 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 10:06; the roll call was taken and recorded. Commander Saladis spoke about the meaning of “inculcate” in the American Legion preamble; to persistently teach, urge or impress an idea, attitude or habit upon someone’s mind, typically through frequent repetition. A motion by Nick Ogrosso to accept the minutes as printed in the monthly newsletter was passed. Three members of the Post’s Auxiliary unit are attending as guests. The next Auxiliary dinner is in April; the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Commander Saladis spoke about the many historical articles found at the Post during the office clean up including one pertaining to the Purple Heart Medal and prayer. Commander Saladis stated he is looking for information of a historical nature for the 250th US birthday. Finance Report: Treasurer Paul Dietrich gave a detailed financial report; the report was approved subject to audit. The recent snow storms have required significant expenses to clear the driveway and parts of the lot, A motion by Paul Dietrich and Robert Motisi to cover the costs for the first 10” storm was \$1,000 and the cost for the blizzard was \$2700. During discussions a suggestion to prepare an RFP (request for proposal) for events like this and others was made. The motion was passed. Commander Saladis spoke about the decrease in the number of hall rentals and the Post is open on Wednesdays after Yoga and on Friday evenings. Commander Saladis also spoke about the process and procedures for purchases to track costs to baseline expenses for preparing next year’s budget. Membership: Paul Dietrich reports presently; 13 short of the overall goal and the need for younger members. Also, please notify the Post should a member pass away so a proper service can be conducted. If a copy of DD214’s are kept locked at the Post it can be useful for the family should the need arise, black out PII data such as social security numbers. Michael Marra reports the SAL membership has increased by 4 new members and we need them to become more active. Frank Peters reported on the National Commander’s dinner on April 17th at Antun’s, the cost is \$100 per person and includes a cocktail hour buffet, open bar, full dinner and a live music. House report: Mark Kelly reported on how the snow removal contract works and the need to wrap the water pipes under the building to prevent future freeze ups as well as the need to reinsulate the doors. Robert Motisi and Roger Tague have begun the outside work and able-bodied help is needed, the annual egg hunt is scheduled for March 29th and supplies have been purchased. The annual County Children & Youth luncheon will be held on April 11th and the Post will be purchasing a table. Frank Peters introduced the Unit President and Vice President; the Unit now has 44 members. A “spring fling” fund raiser will be held on April 22nd at 4:00 PM. Sick Call: Will Alcock is hospitalized in serious condition. Watch your health! Guy Nacchio is back from being ill and Nick Ogrosso is scheduled for surgery. Americanism: Nick Ogrosso spoke about Navy Captain Royce Williams who shot down 4 MIGS during the Korean War being awarded the Medal of Honor. Frank LaMarsh reported he attended the White House ceremony presenting Staff Sargent Michael Ollis with the Medal of Honor and that it was a very humbling experience. Frank also spoke about him and Mark Kelly attending a press conference at the Coast Guard base regarding the DHS not being funded and failure to pay the Coast Guard during future shutdowns. Mark Kelly added be aware of your actions when wearing Legion attire. National Security: Commander Saladis reported on the conflict in the Mideast and reminded everyone to be aware of their surroundings due to the potential for sleeper cells within the US especially during the 250th celebration. Be aware of your surroundings and report anything suspicious. The Post held a citizens preparedness course and others will be held in the future. Commander Saladis reported on the Bell Jar account and that funds were used to pay the Post’s utilities Frank also spoke about the proposed electronic gaming devices and they are at least a year away and that the 70/30 split may be significantly higher due to other fees and may be as high as 50/50. This has resulted in placing a new machine on hold and we will continue using the process now in place. A motion by Paul Dietrich and Frank Peters to take out a \$200 ad in the Department convention journal was passed. The “Let Freedom Sing” event at Cespino Russo Post on 4/9 is

intended to bring young veterans and their families together and is not a fund raiser, and the Post will have a membership table present. Post elections will be held at the May meeting. A VFW service officer will be available on the 3rd Thursday of the month at the Post from 10:00 to 3:00 and is available to all veterans. Commander Saladis appointed Frank LaMarsh to chair the Post nominating committee, the purpose is to recommend a slate of officers for the new Legion year. During the elections nominations from the floor will be accepted. There are several large tables that were previously used inside the Post that are available for members to take, Contact Robert Motisi if interested. Commander Saladis reports he is chairing the county committee to provide entertainment for some of the troops during the 250th celebration, looking to host an event at the Post on July 6th or 7th. Volunteers and donations are needed. The Post is looking for suggestions for activities for Fridays at the Post contact Joe Bossert with suggestions. Joe Skinner reminded the members that March 29th is Vietnam Veterans' Day. The meeting was closed at 11:20.

Respectfully Submitted: Frank LaMarsh, PDC Adjutant

Membership 2026 - Membership for 2025 expired 12/31/25. We are currently at 96.6% of goal with 284 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, Kraft, Mahler, Maida, 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: Donations Mike Matthews, Frank Saladis, Family of William Alcock, and Thank you to the Egg hunt participants

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

Final Honors: Will Alcock - 33-year Member, Past Post Commander
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

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 April: April is the Month of the Military Child:**
 - **April 5:** Gold Star Spouses Day
 - **April 9:** National Former POW Recognition Day.
 - **April 9:** Surrender at Appomattox Courthouse
 - **April 14:** Air Force Reserve Birthday (Est.1948).
 - **April 19:** Battles of Lexington and Concord
 - **April 23:** Army Reserve Birthday (Est.1908).
 - **April 23** “Purple Up! Day” to wear purple for military kids.
 - **April 30:** National Military Brats Day.

Next Post Meeting: Saturday April 11, 10am, Zoom Meeting - Meeting ID: 818 3435 4014
Passcode: 963247
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81834354014?pwd=dVNeDgwM2FKTG11bJQUkFydUNXQT09>
Post elections for Commander, Vice Commanders and Treasurer will be held during the May meeting, as well as delegates to the county committee and convention. Nominations from the floor will be accepted during the elections. All members are urged to attend and vote.

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).

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| 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 18 | – Fundraiser at Gold Star Post – Live Music |
| April 22 | – Auxiliary Dinner at Gold Star Post – Spring Fling 4pm |
| April 26 | – Miss Staten Island Teen Veterans Fundraiser 11am -3p Gold Star Post |
| May 25 | – Memorial Day – Post Ceremony 11am May 23 |
| June | – Annual Ferry Hawks Veterans Appreciation Day – Date TBD |
| June 27 – July 3 | – Boys State |
| July 4 | - 250 th Anniversary of the United States – Independence Day |
| July 6 | – Richmond County Welcome Sailors and Soldiers 12 noon at Gold Star Post |

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.