

POST SENTINEL

VOLUME 15, EDITION 6

JUNE 2023

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Dear Comrades and Auxiliary Members,

June brings a lot of holidays to celebrate. June 12th, we recognize Women's Veterans Day which marks the anniversary of the Women's Armed Services Integration Act.

The U.S. will join in the celebration of the U.S. Army's 247th Birthday on June 14th as we remember its creation in 1775. Also, on June 14th we celebrate Flag Day; this annual holiday celebrates the history and symbolism of the American Flag.

Also, LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) Pride Month, which is celebrated annually in June to honor the 1969 Stonewall Riots, and works to achieve equal Justice and equal opportunity for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) Americans. Not only are Pride parades, picnics and parties held, memorials are held during this month for those members of the community who have been lost to hate crimes.

We here at Post 1419, do not discriminate against any citizen for race, sexual orientation or religion, but we do object to a POW flag being removed in the place of a Pride Flag. The POW flag symbolizes all those that remain missing and/or unaccounted for from all conflicts of war. On June 2, 2023, Randy Hoak, Hamburg Town Supervisor took it upon himself to remove the POW Flag and replace it with the Pride Flag. This is unacceptable and a slap in the face to any Veteran who served, who are serving our country and to the families of those military members missing in action. The Pride Flag should be flown on a separate pole and the POW should remain flying under the American Flag as a symbol that these men and women are not forgotten.

In May, as many of you know we had our annual Poppy Drive on Memorial Day weekend. I would like to thank our volunteers who took time out of their busy schedule and stood outside and collected donations: John Arcadipane, Katy Blaszkiewicz, John Ciurzynski, Bob Lillis, John Redmond, Maik Redmond, Chris Schreiber, Stephen Siulc, Jan Siulc, Gabby Sekuterski-Stone and Dan Stworzydla. We raised over \$6,000.00 for our Post/Auxiliary Relief Fund accounts. This money is used to assist Veterans and/or their families in need. The post assisted a young veteran who just came home from a deployment and found himself homeless and in mental health crisis. The Post was able to secure this person a two-day hotel stay, before he was admitted to a rehab center. Hopefully, this young veteran will get the assistance he needs and we helped to alleviate the unthinkable.

Commander Article Continued page #2

CONTACT US:

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** If you would like to receive the Post Sentinel via email, please send an email to the address above.*

* PLEASE CONTACT THE POST IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED THIS MAILING IN ERROR



VFW AUXILIARY

Just a few things I'd like to touch on.

- 1) We are having a Thank You to Veterans and First Responders Day in August because the Erie County Fair no longer Honors the Fire Personnel and Veterans with their own days. Oh sure, we can get in for free on a specific day but we are no longer allowed to gather as a group.
- 2) We are having a protest in Front of Town Hall on Saturday the 10th of June at 10:30 AM to let Supervisor Hoak and his Personnel know that we object to the Removal of the POW/MIA Flag. For those of you that are under the impression that we are protesting anything other than the removal of the Flag, you are wrong and you should read everything that was written or talk to the people organizing it before threatening the Commander or anyone else with your own little method of retribution. Do what you have to do and we'll do what we have to do.
- 3) I had very little to do with the food for Memorial Day but for those of you who were told I didn't want to be bothered with it, That Is COMPLETELY false. The decision to serve the food that was served was made while I was in Florida trying to salvage what was left of our doublewide mobile home. That being said, Thank You to the individuals that ordered the food and served the food, Special Thanks to Kara Siulc, Heather Strebel and "NICK" for making the meal a success. Also Thanks to John Arcadipane and Mary Dinan for making sure we had the proper tools for serving the food.
- 4) Thanks also to everyone that contributed a dessert for the day. From all accounts, everything was delicious.
- 5) Thanks to Gabby Sekuterski-Stone; and Jan Siulc for adding to the Relief Fund Collections at Walmart on Memorial Day Weekend.
- 6) Debbie Harris Memorial Service information is on the last page.
- 7) I am proud to announce that the Winner of our Marge Pluto Scholarship is Victoria Kwandrans, granddaughter of Joann and Terry Eagan. Congratulations to Victoria!!!

I guess that's all I have for now. Please keep our members and their families in your prayers.

President-Katy Blaszkiewicz

ON FRIDAYS WE STILL WEAR RED!!!
REMEMBER EVERYONE DEPLOYED

COMMANDER ARTICLE CONTINUED FROM PAGE #1

On Sunday, August 13th from Noon to 6 p.m. the Post will be sponsoring a Thank you to our Veterans and First Responders Day. This event will include free beer, hot dogs, snacks. A bounce house for the children, dunk your favorite (or least favorite) veteran, axe throwing, basketball, live entertainment, just to name a few. We will be having basket raffles, 50/50 and non-perishable food donations that will go to the KIA Memorial Road march being held at Chestnut Ridge Park on August 19th. If you would like to sign up to run, walk or participate virtually you may do so under our team "Post 1419 Fallen Dragons" at www.kiamemorialmarch.com

I would like to congratulate our in-house scholarship winner Alexander M. Stoyoch from Hamburg, New York who was our winner and received a monetary award of \$500.00.

Have a safe and fun summer!

In Comradeship,
 Amy Owczarczak
 Commander

SERVICE OFFICER

For any service member or veteran looking to pursue their education goals through the use of the GI Bill, there is an important tool offered by VA. The GI Bill Comparison Tool allows users to compare different programs and institutions. In the past few years, some student veterans have been impacted by the abrupt closures of the schools they were attending. These schools were using predatory business practices and had numerous complaints against them. The tool gives users the ability to check the schools they wish to attend and provides up-to-date data received from current and past students. This information can help GI Bill users make better, more informed decisions about where to attend school, and hopefully avoid programs that offer little to no value. <https://www.va.gov/education/gi-bill-comparison-tool/>



[GI Bill Comparison Tool | Veterans Affairs](https://www.va.gov/education/gi-bill-comparison-tool/)

Use our GI Bill Comparison Tool to help you decide which education program and school is best for you. Find out which benefits you'll get at your chosen school.

www.va.gov

Dominic Caselli-Service Officer

HONOR GUARD

June....Memorial Day is behind us and a busy one it was for the Honor Guard. If you were not there we did the Lake View Community Parade which we do every year. Following that we proceeded to the Hamburg Brewing Company where they held a special ceremony on the grounds for a Gold Star Family. As always it was riveting to see the family hear about their fallen family member. God Bless them. After giving the rifle salute and taps we proceeded back to our post and did our ceremony for our members. All in all it was a busy day...

I just want to send out a reminder that on June 17th we are having a get together fund raiser for the Honor Guard. (Still looking for a name as Honor Guard Stag has a male only connotation) The cost is \$15.00 per person and the tickets are available at the Post Bar. The cost includes Draft Beer, Food, and a chance to win a Door Prize. We will also have a Cornhole tournament that day with a prize to the winning team so get your tickets now. The Pallet Bar, on display in the Post Lounge, will also be raffled off that day. Those tickets are \$5.00 each or 3 tickets for \$10.00.

I'll be signing off for now so as always God Bless America, our Troops who are now serving, and those who can't be with us who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

Yours in Comradeship;
Don Hancock
Honor Guard Captain



POST SENTINEL INFORMATION

The Deadline for article submission is the FRIDAY AFTER THE POST MEETING. It is very important that all articles are submitted by the due date.

**The Deadline for next month is
July 7th**

**All submissions should be sent via email
to**

postsentinel1419@hotmail.com

Katy Blaszkievicz-Editor

(716) 253-4681 Cell

Life Member of the Auxiliary, Debbie Harris passed away very suddenly on May 6th. On June 22, 2023 at 11:00 in the morning, there will be a Celebration of Life/Memorial Service at Trinity Episcopal Church 261 East Main Street in Hamburg.

On June 23rd, at 1:00 pm the remains of Past Commander Lenny Harris and those of his wife Debbie, will be laid to rest at the National Veterans Cemetery in Pembroke .

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information.**

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SICK CALL

If you know of any member of the Post or the Auxiliary, who is sick, in the hospital, or has died, please let someone know.

Post Chaplain Brent Doyle	716-649-3019
Auxiliary Chaplain Terry Walker	716-912-6849
Past Commander Jerry Welsted	716-316-8917
Commander Amy Owczarczak	716-432-0829
Aux. President Katy Blaszkievicz	716-253-4681
Honor Guard Don Hancock	716-310-4549

You can also call the Post and tell whoever answers the phone.

If we aren't told we don't know.

