



*North Albany Post 1610*

# American Legion

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35 North First Street, Albany, New York 12204

September 5, 2009

Dear Legion Family Member and Friends,

Well fall is almost here. Try to fit our meetings into your schedule. The next regular meeting will be held on September 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM. The October executive board meeting will be held on Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 PM and the October regular meeting will be held on October 19<sup>th</sup>, also at 7:00 PM.

## **Florida Veteran Elected Leader of The American Legion**

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Aug. 27, 2009) – A retired U.S. Navy captain has been elected national commander of the nation's largest veterans organization.

Delegates to The American Legion's 91st National Convention here chose Clarence Hill of Jacksonville, Fla., to lead the 2.5 million-member organization of wartime veterans for a one-year term.

The new national commander plans to increase The American Legion's outreach efforts using social media networks and other technologies. His goals also include diversifying The American Legion by recruiting more minorities and increasing awareness of issues effecting women veterans. While veterans from any war era will always be welcome in The American Legion, Hill plans to expand outreach efforts to Vietnam era, post-Vietnam era and current War on Terrorism veterans.

A native of Martin's Ferry, Ohio, Hill graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1972 with a Bachelor of Science degree. He served 19 of the next 24 years on sea duty and retired in 1996. His afloat service included one frigate, two destroyers, two cruisers, Cruiser-Destroyer Group 12 in Mayport, Fla, and the Sixth Fleet in Gaeta, Italy. He served as officer-in-charge of a PT boat, commanded the Naval Communications Station United Kingdom in Thurso, Scotland, for three years, and the guided missile frigate USS MCINERNEY (FFG-8) for two years, including combat operations during Operation Desert Storm. Ashore, he earned two masters degrees, one from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif., and the other from the Naval War College in Newport, R.I.

A 27-year Legionnaire, Hill is a Life Member and three-time Post Commander of American Legion Post 316 in Atlantic Beach, Fla. He is a dual member belonging to SAL Squadron 316. He attended the National American Legion College in 2000 and was an instructor in 2001. He was department commander for Florida from July 2002 to July 2003, achieving an all-time-high in membership. Hill earned eight "Gold Brigade Awards" for recruiting 50 or more members of The American Legion in a single year. He served for three years as the national chairman of The American Legion National and Homeland Security Commission and belongs to The American Legion Riders.

Cmdr. Hill took the oath of office along with five other national officers. Serving as national vice commanders are Eugene A. Schumacher of Aberdeen, S.D.; James C. Morris of Cardington, Ohio; Dr. Gordon B. Browning of Chestertown, Md., Mark A. Avis of Palmer, Mass., and Morris M. Bentley of Grangeville, Idaho.

National Historian James T. Higuera of Arcadia, Calif., National Chaplain John L. Beaver of Mobile, Ala., and Sergeant-at-Arms Paul Martel of Pierson, Fla., were appointed to their positions by Cmdr. Hill following the close of the national convention.

## **Secretary Napolitano Tells The American Legion “Preparedness, Not Fear” Is DHS Guiding Principle**

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Aug. 26, 2009) – Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano says her agency wants to be identified as a resource for preparedness rather than a purveyor of fear. In an address before thousands gathered at The American Legion’s 91st national convention in Louisville, Ky. today, she said that members of the nation’s largest veterans service organization can play an important role in that mission.

With its disaster preparedness education programs already in place, “the Legion is in a unique position to help,” she said. Napolitano appealed for the Legion’s assistance in meeting not just threats posed by terrorists, but by weather – and evidenced by recent flooding in Louisville itself – and disease, such as the expected outbreak of the H1N1 or “swine” flu this fall. “The Legion and its Auxiliary (have) been supporters (of our efforts) in the past and I am asking you to re-energize that participation and that partnership with us,” she said.

The DHS Secretary also delivered a status report on what her agency is doing to benefit military veterans. “We have now 2,100 service disabled veterans that we are employing at the Department of Homeland Security,” she announced to warm applause. She then vowed to have 50-thousand vets in the DHS work force by 2012. “But wait, there’s more, she continued, “...and this was an idea we hatched in a meeting with your commander -- we held our first ever job fair for veterans. We had 745 veterans and their spouses attend... and I am pleased to report that we were able to actively assist (many) in getting employment or improving their current employment situation.” She said her agency was also working with the veteran-owned small business and the service-disabled small business communities assist their members in securing government work contracts.

As Napolitano intimated, her department’s assertive actions to assist job-seeking veterans were prompted, in part, by a meeting last spring with The American Legion’s national commander, David K. Rehbein. The meeting was convened after the Legion objected to the tone of a hastily released DHS report which some interpreted as characterizing military veterans as possible threats to national security. The Secretary apologized for the errant document at the time and reiterated her explanation and regret today.

Napolitano is no stranger to The American Legion. As a young woman she was very actively involved in the Legion’s Girls State and related programs. The former Arizona governor credits that participation with inspiring her career in public service.

With a current membership of 2.5-million wartime veterans, The American Legion was founded in 1919 on the four pillars of a strong national security, veterans affairs, Americanism, and youth programs. Legionnaires work for the betterment of their communities through more than 14,000 posts across the nation.

## **CHICKEN BARBEQUE IS CANCELLED**

Cancelled Cancelled Cancelled Cancelled Cancelled Cancelled Cancelled

## **VETERAN ACTIVITIES**

### **HONOR-A-VET**

October’s Honor-A-Vet ceremony will be held Monday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 AM in the Cahill room, 1<sup>st</sup> floor of 112 State Street.

## **POST INFORMATION**

### **WEB PAGE**

The Post web page can be accessed at <http://www.northalbanypost1610.org/>. Among other information, the monthly newsletter, Post history, meeting schedules and current activities are posted on this site.

### **BELL JAR TICKET CHAIRMAN NEEDED**

Chuck Kelly is stepping down at the end of this month as bell jar ticket chairman, so we are in need of a new bell jar ticket chairman. Interested parties should contact the post at 465-4800. Chuck will train if contacted soon enough.

### **BARTENDERS NEEDED**

Bar chairman Mick Ryan is looking for a few members - Legion, Auxiliary or Sons – interested in bartending part-time. Opening on Saturday evenings and for fill-ins. Anyone interested call 465-4800 and leave a message for Mick.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

All members should remember that 2010 dues are now \$30.00 for a regular membership or \$27.00 if you are age 62 and retired. Retirees should disregard the national dues notice indicating \$30.00. Those notices for 2010 dues were in the mail. We do appreciate those that send their dues in promptly. **Active duty personnel** should email [nap1610@yahoo.com](mailto:nap1610@yahoo.com) so we can now that if you are active or not then your cards will be sent out within the next couple of weeks.

Members confined to home due to a long-term illness or nursing, assisted living residences should contact the Post at 465-4800 or email [nap1610@yahoo.com](mailto:nap1610@yahoo.com) to indicate their present status.

### **Special Thanks Correction;**

To Patrick Ryan and his Sons for all the brush cutting that they have done and are still doing.

### **LADIES AUXILIARY**

We will have a team in the Making Strides for Breast Cancer Walk held in Washington Park on October 18th again this year. Everyone is invited to join us. If you cannot walk, but would like to support our team, please send donations to the Post at PO Box 4004, Albany NY 12204, marked to the attention of the Auxiliary. Checks should be made out to the American Cancer Society.

We will be holding a bake sale at the Post on Saturday, Oct. 3rd. Anyone that can make something, please let me know and we will make arrangements to pick it up if you cannot get to the Post on Saturday. Final arrangements for the bake sale have not been made yet, but we may also have a basket to raffle as well. We will need workers to help sell. If you can give us even an hour or two it would be greatly appreciated. You can call me at 869-8668 or email me at [jbenner1@nycap.rr.com](mailto:jbenner1@nycap.rr.com) for details.

### **REMINDER:**

All honorably discharged Veterans do qualify for Military Funeral Honors. If you have any questions contact myself at [nap1610@yahoo.com](mailto:nap1610@yahoo.com) and I can get you the right phone numbers to contact.

## POST EVERLASTING

### WILLIAM GRAY

For God and Country,

Mike Swezey, Commander

Mike Swezey, Commander	783-9409H, 462-8304O, 330-3938C	<a href="mailto:mike_swezey@ml.com">mike_swezey@ml.com</a>
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Joe Ferraiolo, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Cmdr	465-4800	
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Chuck Kelly, OIC Color Guard	465-4800	