



North Albany Post 1610

American Legion

35 North First Street, Albany, New York 12204

February 1, 2010

Dear Legion Family Member and Friends,

Well winter is here and but spring is just around the corner. Try attending some our meetings with your busy schedule. The next regular meeting will be held on **February 15th at 7:00 PM.** The March executive board meeting will be held on Monday, March 1st, at 7:00 PM and the March regular meeting will be held on March 15th, also at 7:00 PM.

HELP FOR HAITI

Donations are needed to help the people of Haiti. The public can also help by Texting "HAITI" to 90999 to send a \$10 donation to the Red Cross, through an effort backed by the U.S. State Department. Funds will go to support American Red Cross relief efforts in Haiti. This is going to the Red Cross for Haiti. Or you can Text "QUAKE" to 20222 to charge a \$10 donation to the Clinton Bush Haiti Fund (the donation will be added to your cell phone bill).

BOYS' STATE ACHIEVEMENT

Bilal Turner is the first student in Albany High School history to be elected governor at the Boys' State leadership program. A first for the North Albany Post, too.

To understand what motivates Bilal Turner, look no further than his forearms.

A tattoo snakes down each one. The Albany High School senior is quick to point out that the tattoos are not gang related. Rather, they are a tribute to his two biggest influences. His mother, Chanell Turner, is represented on the left arm, and his late grandmother, Mamie Maxwell, on the right.

"My mom has always been strong for her children. Education comes first for her," he said. And his grandmother taught him to seize the opportunities that would take him far.

The advice hasn't fallen on deaf ears.

During the summer of 2009, Bilal became the first Albany High School student ever elected to the highest position (governor) at Boys' State, an annual leadership program sponsored by the American Legion. Getting into Boys' State is competitive; being the first Albany High student elected leader by his peers from all over New York fueled Bilal's already-burning desire to run for office.

"I want to use my Boys' State experience to further my career in politics," he said. "Maybe I'll become a senator, then work my way into the White House."

It is no surprise to those who know Bilal that he is headed for great things.

"He is a success story already," said Mike Elliott, who taught Bilal eighth-grade social studies at North Albany Academy and was student government advisor when Bilal was class president there.

"He's always been a leader and a go-getter. He really has passion and is driven to be successful"

This fall, Bilal has his sights set on college and is looking at SUNY Cortland or SUNY Brockport for a bachelor's degree in sports management.

West Point and the U.S. Naval Academy are under consideration, too, thanks to his experience at Boys' State

After that? Law school.

Bilal would like to be a sports agent negotiating contracts for professional athletes, before he launches into a career in public office. He's confident he'll thrive because he heeds the words of the women who inspired him most.

"It's not the color of your skin, it's not your background, it's not the people you know," Bilal said. "It's how you take the opportunities given to you."

His grandmother would be proud.

"Everyone's proud of him," said Mr. Elliott.

A reminder to all who have sons, and or grandsons that may be in high school, the time to apply for this years Boys' State is coming soon. If you have daughters or granddaughters remember we also have Girls' State, you apply for Girls' State through our Auxiliary.

BOYS STATE: WHERE LEADERS ARE CULTIVATED

National Commander Clarence Hill | The American Legion - December 23, 2009

For a couple of hours last fall, I called a time-out from the whirlwind of meetings, phone calls, speeches and travels that come with the territory of this job. A letter had to be written, and it had to come from me, on behalf of a special young man who has greatly benefited from Boys State, and vice versa.

I met Ian Dankelman when he was a junior at Sandalwood High School in Florida. I was Boys State chairman for American Legion Post 316 in Atlantic Beach. Ian came highly recommended by teachers and counselors at the school. After we talked, I knew why.

It helps to understand the competitive nature of Florida Boys State. Numerous interviews and follow-up discussions go into the selection of 525 delegates, who initially qualify on the basis of grades, extracurricular activity, school leadership and references. Once they pass those filters, candidates face more daunting challenges, the kind you won't find on the typical application form.

For instance, I often asked candidates who they would interview from history if they could choose anyone. I asked for the titles of their favorite books, the authors' names, and why their words matter. Little things distinguish good candidates from great ones. One student noticed a typo stitched into the shirt of one of my fellow interviewers: "Post Chaplin." The teen respectfully brought to our attention that the correct spelling, of course, is "chaplain." There are good ways and bad ways to point something like that out. That he did point it out was a plus, in my opinion. That he did so respectfully put him on the short list.

Ian Dankelman is such a young man - bright, charismatic, inspiring and respectful. My post sponsored him for Boys State in 2005, and he was later chosen as one of two Florida delegates to Boys Nation. That might have been enough for someone else, but not for Ian. Every year since then, he has returned to Florida Boys State and served as a volunteer counselor for other young men interested in government, citizenship, leadership, and the future of our nation. Among those he helped mentor is Co'Relous Bryant, a former Florida Boys State governor who went on to win the 2007 American Legion National High School Oratorical Contest; he is now pursuing a law degree at New York University.

Leadership, I have learned over the years, is best demonstrated when no one is watching. When a young man like Ian takes his own time to inspire others to grow and lead - whether in government, the military, at school or at home - he does so not to enhance his own career. He does so to enhance all of us. That's what leadership is about. That is why I proudly took some time last fall to write a letter of recommendation for his Rhodes Scholarship application.

You never know when an Ian Dankelman will appear at your American Legion post, looking for an opportunity to lead or to inspire others to do so. Among the thousands of students now standing before Legionnaires as the 2010 selection process hits full stride, there are mayors, governors, admirals, congressional representatives, business leaders and maybe even a U.S. president. I guarantee there are leaders, looking for opportunities only available through American Legion Boys State.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Limerick Breakfast – Sunday, February 21st following 8:45am Mass at Sacred Heart Church, (approximate time for breakfast is 9:30am).

Miss Limerick Contest – Sunday, February 21st following the breakfast (approximate time is 12:00 noon)

North Albany Limerick Dinner – Saturday, March 6th, 25.00 per person, includes cocktail hour (beer, wine and soda) and a roast beef dinner. Contact Sally Shultis (459-4405), Kim Lease (272-0919) or Diane Maguire (462-2982) for tickets

The North Albany parade is stepping off on Saturday, March 13th at 12:00 noon from the North Albany Post, then with the general parade at 2:00pm on Central Avenue. Please come back to the North Albany Post for entertainment and food (for a nominal fee) provided by the North Albany Post – Corned Beef & Cabbage dinner or sandwich, truly delicious! It is a fun time for all – musical entertainment to be provided.

North Albany Reunion – Saturday, August 14th, contact Tim Ryan (461-3411) or Dick Sherry (785-9243) for tickets and information

POST ACTIVITIES

January Honor-A-Vet



Some of **Kevin B. "Red" Ryan, Jr.**'s family and friends after the Honor A Veteran Ceremony at the North Albany American Legion Post 1610 on January 4, 2010

Wounded Warrior Project



Jack Kane, S.A.L. County Adjutant, NA Post Sons Commander Buzz Harbour, Kevin Kenneally, NA Post Past Commander Ralph Deso, Mike Conners, Eddie Ryan, Wounded Warrior Project Ambassador Paul Hastings, NA Post Sons Adjutant Tim Lane

VETERAN ACTIVITIES

HONOR-A-VET

March's Honor-A-Vet ceremony will be held Monday, March 1st at 8:30am in the Cahill room, 1st floor of 112 State Street.

POST INFORMATION

25 WEEK CLUB

Emma Wilson and Bev Pach are going to re-organize and give the 25 Week Club a jump start for the New Year! If you have any questions or are interested in joining the new club, please call 465-4800 (Post #1610 office phone number) and leave a message for the ladies.

FOOD PANTRY

Sacred Heart Church food pantry needs your help, we have a collection box in the post for your convenience.

BARTENDERS NEEDED!!!

Mick Ryan Here! We NEED Bartenders, Will Train. If you drive by the post and notice that the lights are off, it is due to lack of help in keeping the place running, we need some people for filling in. Anyone interested call 465-4800 and leave a message for Mick.

POST CUSTODIAN NEEDED

Anyone interested call 465-4800 and leave a message, letting them know what position it is about.

MEMBERSHIP

Please keep your mailing address up to date! I have been getting a lot of Return to Sender letters and postcards back at the post. Ways to keep it up to date, US Postal Service, email (nap1610@yahoo.com), or phone (465-4800). We try to make it easy for everyone.

We are in need of **NEW MEMBERS**, please send us anybody that you know that may be interested and qualified. We have 265 paid members to date, our goal is 319. We are trying to get 100% this year. 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 and pay only the \$27.00 rate. 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 so we can now that if you are active or not, when verified your card will be sent out within a 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 to indicate their present status.

POST EVERLASTING

For God and Country,

Mike Swezey, Commander

Mike Swezey, Commander	783-9409H, 462-8304O, 330-3938C	mike_swezey@ml.com
Charles Johnson, 1 st Vice Cmdr	465-4800	
Joe Ferraiolo, 2 nd Vice Cmdr	209-2762C	
Roy Van Amburgh, 3 rd Vice Cmdr	465-4800	
William Parker Jr., Adjutant	533-8140C	nap1610@yahoo.com
William Parker Jr., Membership	533-8140C	nap1610@yahoo.com
Matthew Quackenbush, Service Officer	465-4800	mquacken@verizon.net
Harry Harbour, S.A.L. Commander		harry.harbour@albanycounty.com
Judy Benner, Auxiliary President	869-8668	jbenner1@nycap.rr.com
Rentals	465-4800 (Answering Machine)	
Post Bar & Information	465-1402	nap1610@yahoo.com
Post Fax	518-320-0589	
Post Web Page	http://www.northalbanypost1610.org/	
Chuck Kelly, OIC Color Guard	465-4800	