



POST 1026

NEWSLETTER

Oct.

2012



Featured above is **Commander Kevin Ryan** attending this year's Wounded Warriors welcome. Other Honor Guard members in attendance included **Sgt. at Arms Lanning Steitz, Adjutant Don Rice** and **Legionnaire John Petersen.**

(Photo provided By Trustee Bruce Eckert)

Upcoming events/activities:

1. Next Month's meeting will be held on **November 6th**, at 7:30pm
2. Veterans Day-- 11/11/12



SAL/Auxiliary News:

SAL NEWS:

-We are looking into future fundraising ideas.

- The next Sons of the American Legion (SAL) meeting is scheduled for Tuesday November 13th, 2012.

SAL information provided by Chris Staiger and/or Kurt Hansen

AUXILIARY NEWS:

-Maureen Curry is our newly elected Treasurer. Congratulations Maureen!

-At our last meeting we discussed the Holiday season approaching and possible donations.

- The next Auxiliary meeting is scheduled for Wednesday November 7th, 2012 at 6:30pm.

Laurie

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

If anyone is interested in helping out or joining the Auxiliary please contact
President Laurie Staiger lstaiger@hvc.rr.com
Auxiliary information provided by Laurie Staiger



Communications Corner:



I would like to thank those that participated in this year's *Wounded Warriors* welcome in Kingston on Friday, October 5th 2012. The 10 veterans honored that day certainly received a Hero's Welcome as hundreds of people lined the streets and applauded them as pipe and drum bands played; with our Honor Guard standing proud among them. See below for more information and photos from that day. **Have a happy and safe Halloween!**

Some news from our October meeting:

It was voted on and approved that the Post bartenders will receive an additional week of paid vacation time this year. Payments will be staggered six months apart.

Mark your calendars... 11/11/12 at 11am we will meet at the Woodstock Cemetery and say thank you to our Vets. It is a cheerful time to acknowledge those that have served our great country. As we get closer I will have more details and Veterans Day discounts and activities so check your e-mails and the website often. **Please try to attend the November Meeting to discuss final Veterans Day plans.**

Donny Haberski
VICE COMMANDER/
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Kingston area gives wounded warriors a heroes' welcome

TOWN OF ULSTER, N.Y. — The motorcade making its way along Sawkill Road Friday afternoon surely looked like a Fourth of July parade.

Lining the roadside, scores of people cheered and waved American flags as motorcycle riders, fire engines and police vehicles led the way for the white stretch limousine carrying some important people.

The 10 wounded veterans who have served in Afghanistan and Iraq were arriving in Ulster County from Fort Belvoir Community Hospital in Virginia for a weekend of rest, recreation and hospitality.

It was all part of the Warrior Weekend hosted by American Legion Post 150 and the Kingston Veterans of Foreign Wars post, which together raised close to \$9,000 to spend on the veterans and their families at area restaurants and attractions.

“We want to give them a hero’s welcome,” said Vince Auletta, the coordinator of the weekend visit. “When we bring them out of Fort Belvoir, it’s all expenses paid. We take them out of their dorm room, and everything they want to do, they do it for free.”



The 10 veterans arrived by train at the Amtrak station in Rhinecliff at 4 p.m. Friday and then headed into Ulster County, arriving at the Quality Inn off state Route 28 in the town of Ulster at 5 p.m.

Hundreds of people were on hand in the parking lot when the motorcade arrived, and the Ancient Order of Hibernians Pipe and Drum band played as the six women and four men exited the limousine to loud applause.

Army Staff Sgt. Teelia Gooden, who injured her shoulder while she was serving in Afghanistan with the 119th Inland Cargo Transportation Company, said she and the others appreciated the show of support.

“It means a lot. It means that my service ... to my country doesn't go unnoticed, and I can come home, and people I don't know have so much love for me, and it uplifts me,” she said.

Army Spc. Anthony Stracco, 23, from upstate New York, likewise felt honored.

He was sent home ill from Kuwait and said just knowing that the country is behind the men and women serving abroad means everything.

“To tell you the truth, it's a great experience, and I think it's great that everyone came together to do this for us,” Stracco said.

Army Spc. Kirby Deitz, 27, of Baltimore, Md., said it's a far cry from how Vietnam War veterans were greeted when they came home. She also noted how vastly different views are toward women and minorities in the military today.



“I feel like now, people see past your color and they see past your sex, and they just see soldier, and I really appreciate that,” she said. “I just feel that I'm part of something bigger.”

The wounded warriors attended a meet-and-greet with the community at Roudigan's, the restaurant in the Quality Inn, Friday night.

Today, Auletta and other veterans will take them for a Hudson River boat ride on the Rip Van Winkle or to Gill's

Farm in Hurley to watch the pumpkin cannon.

“If they want to go the mountains to go hiking or antiquing, we'll take them there, too,” he said.

The group will leave after a full breakfast at American Legion Post 150 Sunday morning.

“We have a lot to offer in the Hudson Valley,” said Bill Bittner, the color guard captain of the American Legion. “The Hudson Valley is a beautiful place at this time of year, and we want them to feel special. It's an emotional thing for them and for us.”

Article and Photos provided by the *Daily Freeman*
Written by PAULA ANN MITCHELL
Published: Saturday, October 06, 2012



Adjutants Desk

Commander Kevin Ryan, Sgt. at Arms Lanning Steitz, Adjutant Don Rice and Legionnaire John Petersen represented the Post Honor Guard at the Wounded Warrior Weekend Opening Ceremony in Kingston. It was a very moving occasion. There were approximately 150 Legion and VFW members in uniform in attendance, along with about 100 motorcyclists.



A buffet was later served at the Quality Inn; attended by about 200 uniformed members. We had the opportunity to meet and talk to all 10 Warriors; they are true heroes. They (wounded warrior veterans) were all overwhelmed with the amount of people that came out for them and all the kindness and respect they were shown. They were given welcoming gifts including a baseball signed by some of the *Band of Brothers*. Congressman Chris Gibson a veteran himself, welcomed them, and they were introduced to us by two members of the Delaware State American Legion who escorted them from Walter Reed Hospital in DC. A lot of activities were planned for them including tickets to the West Point Football game on Saturday. It truly was something special to be with these Vet's.

I recommend to everyone to attend next year's event, you will come away from it with an understanding of how truly dedicated these Warriors of ours are.

Don Rice
ADJUTANT

(Photo provided By Trustee Bruce Eckert)

VETS WILL BENEFIT FROM NEW DRIVER'S LICENSES

(By Colleen Siuzdak)

A bill signed by Gov. Andrew Cuomo last week will place a distinguishing mark on a state driver's license and non-driver identification card to indicate the card holder is a veteran. The new program is designed as a way to better connect veterans with available services and eliminate the need for extra documentation for receiving discounts.

"It is already well-understood by veterans just how much New York does to uniquely identify and appreciate us through its various legislative initiatives," said Karim Delgado, a Marine Corps veteran who served in Okinawa, the Philippines, Thailand and Afghanistan. "As more troops come back from the war and re-enter civilian life, I'm proud to see my state's actions match the rhetoric of troop appreciation to ensure these returning soldiers understand it's more than just words," said Delgado, a Manhattan resident.

This bill, S.6799/A.9611, sponsored by Sen. Greg Ball, R-Patterson, and Assemblyman Bob Sweeney, D-Babylon, is an amendment to the Vehicle and Traffic Law and will take effect in one year.

The Department of Motor Vehicles in the meantime will be revising its application forms and processes to handle requests for a status mark, according to the press release.

"Once identified, we can proactively communicate with veterans to connect them to the hundreds of services and benefits available. I am proud to be the sponsor of this bill and I thank the governor for his continued support and leadership on this critical matter," said Ball, chairman of the Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs Committee, in a press release from his office.



Eugene Parotta, chairman of Ball's Veterans Advisory Council, said returning veterans have difficulty transitioning to civilian life, especially in finding employment. He said this new law will help reach out to veterans who could use services available regarding employment, education, tax credits and more. "These men and women have made invaluable sacrifices for our state and nation, and now that they have returned home, government will work for them," Cuomo said in a press release. "We are proud to help distinguish them as veterans."

Sen. James Seward, R-Milford, co-sponsor of the bill, said this legislation will help identify veterans and allow them to easily access special discounts offered at businesses statewide.

"Easing the ID process for veterans and businesses who want to provide our brave servicemen and women with a thank you shouldn't be that difficult," said Seward in a press release from his office.

Jessica Tobin, a Marine Corps veteran who toured Okinawa, Philippines, and Camp Pendleton, and the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, said this new initiative will help identify veterans, encourage them to use available benefits and possibly bring veterans together.

"Veterans are among us, and it would be great if we could identify them and thank them for their service or discuss our common experiences," the Manhattan resident said in an email to The Legislative Gazette.

--*Published on New York State Senate* (<http://www.nysenate.gov>)



Ulster County has joined the ranks of Rockland, Orange, Putnam and others in offering veterans a discount purchasing program. The return the F.A.V.O.R. (Find & Assist Veterans of Record) discount program will give honorably discharged veterans the opportunity to apply for a County-issued I.D. card which will allow them to obtain discounts on goods and services at local [participating businesses](#). Veterans who wish to apply for this program should visit the Veterans' Service Agency located at 308 Flatbush Avenue in Kingston. They will need to present their DD-214 discharge papers in order to qualify. Once the proper documentation has been verified, veterans will go to the County Clerk's Office at 244 Fair Street, Kingston to have their picture taken and receive their discount card. For further information about this program please contact Veterans' Service Agency Director [Steve Masee](#) at (845)340-3190.

Click on the links below for more information:

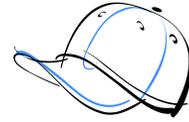
[Participating Businesses](#)

[Veteran Application Instructions](#)

[Merchant Application Form](#)



American Legion Post 1026



Tee Shirts, Golf Shirts, Hats, and Sweatshirts are now on sale. Clothing is on sale and display at the Post **and is also available for purchase on the website. Check it out!!!**



Please visit:

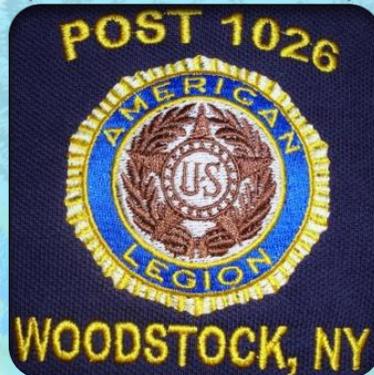
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