

Post 880 News

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Hello All,

As everyone should know by now the Eden Corn Festival runs from August 3 - 6. The signup sheets for drink ticket sellers, pull tab tickets and beer servers in the barn and tent have been posted but there are several more people needed to sign up and help out. Please come and help your Post - this is our largest fundraiser of the year and it keeps us running throughout the year. And please, if you sign up - please show up for your shift. Parking passes are available from the bartender for those who signed up to help.



Once again this year all veterans are invited to ride on the deuce and a half military truck along with our Honor Guard in the Corn Festival Parade on Sunday, August 6. Please be at the Legion by 11:00 am for transport to the start of the parade.

Veterans Day at the Erie County Fair is on Sunday, August 13. Although there will not be a parade and dugout again this year, all veterans receive free admission. Members can show their Legion card for free admission and a \$10 voucher for food or drinks at the Fair.

We are having our second annual Outdoor Gear and Meat Raffle on September 30. Tickets will be available for purchase in the near future.

On July 20 the severe winds that blew through Eden damaged many of the American flags and poles that line Main Street. Some can be repaired but many need to be replaced. We are seeking donations to purchase 65 replacement flags and poles and brackets at a cost of \$70 (\$4,500 total) but any amount will be greatly appreciated. The Captain John Levulis Foundation will match donations up to \$2,250 (half the cost needed). Checks should be made payable to 'Newell Faulkner Post 880' and earmark 'Flag Donation'. Our address is 2912 Legion Drive, Eden, NY 14057.

Our next post meeting will be on Tuesday, September 5 and the next board of directors meeting will be on September 20. I mentioned in the last newsletter and want to reiterate if anyone is interested in serving as a post officer, now is the time to get acquainted with the position you'd like to run for next March. It's never too early to start learning about the different positions held by our officers. Please reach out to our current officers to inquire.

Last but not least, I want to thank those who helped pick up the flags at our local cemeteries.

God Bless our Troops, and may God Bless your Family

Jim Blidy,
Cmdr. Post 880

2023 - 2024 OFFICERS

LEGION

Commander	Jim Blidy
1st Vice Cdr.	Bob Weisedel
2nd Vice Cdr.	Vinny Skoczylas
3rd Vice Cdr.	Ken Franz
Finance Officer	Bob Reed
Adjutant	Bill Clark
Judge Advocate	Paul Pruchnicki
Sgt.-at-Arms	Bob Franz
Chaplain	Jerry Kopryanski
Historian	Dennis Stender
Service Officer	Dick Casseri
Public Relations	Jim Trembath

AUXILIARY

President	Karen Ferguson
1st VP	Cindy Henry
2nd VP	Lori Ranney
Secretary	Anne Smith
Treasurer	Carol Haag
Sgt.-at-Arms	Renee Hadley-Scott
Chaplain	Karen Pruchnicki
Co-Historians	JoAnne Franz & Rosemary Peters

SAL

Commander	Ken Szal
1st Vice Cdr.	Pat Pitillo
2nd Vice Cdr.	Mark Flowers
3rd Vice Cdr.	Chuck Danzi
Finance Officer	Mark Sisti
Adjutant	Bill Forness
Sgt.-at-Arms	Scot Christiansen
Chaplain	Wayne Mintz
Co-Chaplain	Jonathan Bauer
Historian	Dave Daurelio

Karen Ferguson
3099 Milford Terrace
Hamburg, NY 14075
716/870-2857
KJFERG59@GMAIL.COM

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

A Summer of Opportunity

I know, I've said it before but it's worth repeating time and time again....Why do summers seem so short and winters seem so long ?? Here it is the end of July already and Labor Day is one short month away.

Take this short advantage to earn more jewels for your heavenly crown. In the summer most people are not holed up in their houses and thus opportunities present themselves. Look in on elderly neighbors if temperatures soar and you know they have no a/c. Invite neighbors that you haven't talked to a while to an outdoor barbecue. If you see a widow or widower struggling to maintain their property, lend a hand. Go shopping for neighbors that might not have transportation.

Remember Our Good Lord said: "Whatever you did for one of the least ones of mine, you did for Me. Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you."

Have a great rest of the summer! Please remember to pray for our troops.

God bless you and your families and God bless America!

Chaplain Jerry K.



NEWS FROM SAL

Hello all! Well our summer is about 1/2 over and it's time for a few announcements and a few FYIs.

Our new board was sworn in last meeting by Cdr. Blidy. Our officers are as follows: Cdr. - Kenneth D. Szal, First Vice - Pat Pitillo, Second Vice - Mark Flowers, Third Vice - Chuck Danzi, Finance Officer - Mark Sisti, Adjutant - Bill Forness, Historian - Dave Daurelio, Sgt at Arms - Scott Christiansen, Chaplain - Wayne Mintz, and Co-chaplain John Bauer. Congratulations to all of these fine men and I wish them luck in the oncoming year!

We also are in the process of presenting our annual donations. Our target list of recipients is as follows: American Legion Post 880, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 880, John Levulis Foundation, WNY Healthcare, Eden Athletic Assoc., Eden Little Loop Football, Whirlwind Warriors & Veterans Retreat, Eden/N. Collins Salvation Army, Eden Central Scholarships, SAL Tap award, Child Welfare Foundation, WNY Veteran Housing Coalition, Homeless Veterans Task Force, and WNY Heroes.

Setup and prep for our clam stand at the Cornfest is happening. On Aug 1 we will be bringing our trailer down to our site and setting up. Aug 2 we will finish setup and decorating the stand. Aug 3, 4, 5, and 6 is the festival itself. We need all hands on deck to help in all facets of the Corn Festival. Please make every effort to lend a hand. 8am setup each day, and all day Sunday at the stand are the times when we need the most help. Let me know if you can help. Aug 7 is the takedown of our stand. Please, Please help!!

Other announcements: Our Post 880 Golf Tournament takes place on Friday, August 25 at the Eden Valley Golf Course. It's a 3 man or woman or combination of the two with registration taking place at 9 am. The cost is \$110 and includes beverages on the course with a lunch at the turn. Afterwards we will be having a steak dinner, open bar, prize giveaways along with corn and clams. Sponsors (\$100), and golfers are needed. The golfer sign up sheet is on the bulletin board at the Post. It's a first come, first serve sign up. So hurry up and sign up so you aren't left out.

It is obviously a super busy time of the year for us. Please help out and pray for good weather for all of our events.

May God bless our military, our country, our veterans and our post.

Kenneth D. Szal
Cdr, Squadron 880



AUXILIARY NEWS

Hello Ladies,

I hope everyone is enjoying the beautiful summer. The season is so short and we have to enjoy it while it's here.

On behalf of the Auxiliary, I presented Scholarship awards to Skyler Marchitte and Elizabeth Agle at graduation in June.

I want to thank everyone who has committed to helping out with this year's wine stand at the Corn Festival. Please note the Legion is still in need of volunteers to serve beer in the barn and tent and ticket sellers drinks and pull tab tickets. There are sign-up sheets on the bulletin board in the bar room so please help out if you can.

As you know every month a group of us go to Eden Heights to visit with the veteran residents at Eden Heights. Each summer we do a barbecue on their back

courtyard patio but this year we decided to invite them to the Post for a picnic type meal. Baylee cooked up hot dogs, hamburgers and Italian sausage in the kitchen for us and we served them along with tuna macaroni salad, watermelon and cheesecake for dessert. It was a nice afternoon out for the guys.



Well, that's all for now. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 12.

For God and Country,

Karen Ferguson
Unit President



Meet Legion Member Gary Sam

Cpl- United States Marine Corp
MOS: 0351 (Assaultman), 0352 (Anti-Tank Missileman)

Served in Operation Iraqi Freedom, completing two (2) tours.

During my time first tour in Iraq, we conducted operations in the area around Abu Ghraib prison which is located about 20 miles outside of Baghdad. We then returned to Camp Fallujah area, where we worked in Karamah, and then later moved to Saqlawiyah. I then deployed back to the Al Anbar Province and conducted operations in the Habbaniyah area.



If you would like to share your military experience with our members, please email your story and a photo to Karen Ferguson -kjferg59@gmail.com

For about 3 weeks Auxiliary member Cindy Henry observed a brass plaque that had come off of a veteran's headstone in Eden Evergreen Cemetery. She was concerned that it hadn't been reattached to the stone so she enlisted the help of her brother-in-law and Legion member, Dave Ferguson to adhere the plaque to the stone as she knew this veteran, John Wayne, had been a friend and co-worker of Dave's. Dave and Karen went to the cemetery and reattached the plaque as you can see in the pictures below.



AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2023

Sons presented donations to numerous organizations including Veterans Housing Coalition, Whirlwind Veterans and Warriors Retreat and the Captain John Levulis Foundation.



Our annual Flag Day service and retirement and proper disposal of flags took place on June 14 with the help from our local Boy Scouts.

Ernie Penn presented a flag to be inspected by Commander Jim Blidy.



Calendar

August

- 3 - 6 - Eden Corn Festival
- 7 - Purple Heart Day
- 13 - Veterans Day at the Erie County Fair
- 29 - Sons Meeting 7 pm

September

- 4 - Labor Day
- 5 - Post Membership Meeting
- 12 - Auxiliary Meeting
- 20 - Post Executive Board Meeting
- 26 - Sons Meeting
- 30 - Outdoor Gear & Meat Raffle

Sick Call

*Janice Johnson
Ed Travis*

In Sympathy

Donald Seefeldt

*For illness or death notification, please call
Legion Contact Dick Casseri at 549-4975
Auxiliary Contact is Karen Pruchnicki 380-4410
SAL Contact is Wayne Mintz 575-4045*