

Post 880 News

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Hello All,

If you haven't already heard both the Eden Corn Festival and Erie County Fair have been canceled for 2020 due to COVID-19.

The Post, Auxiliary and Sons all rely on revenue from the Corn Festival to pay our bills and support various events throughout the year so these upcoming months will be challenging. At this time, the Post is open for takeout food orders only and our menu is posted on our website at www.post880.com. Please call 992-3304 to place your order. Currently, our hours of operation are Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 3 to 8 pm and on Fridays from 11 am to 8 pm. We hope to be able to open for indoor dining in the next few weeks.

Although many other local communities chose not to decorate area cemeteries this year, 30 members placed flags at Eden's cemeteries on May 21 and on the poles along Main and Church Streets. It was an unbelievable day and I'm very proud of all that made it possible. Our Memorial Day services went really well and we also had a last minute police escorted procession to Eden Heights Assisted Living Center, and around the drive to honor our veterans. The police escort continued to Eden Evergreen Cemetery. A brief but meaningful ceremony was held at St. Mary's and Eden Evergreen cemeteries which included a 21 gun salute and taps. We will have a Flag Day ceremony on June 14 - details will have to be worked out.

I received word that Eden resident, Alexander Hutz was being commissioned as a 2nd Lt. in the US Army and that his graduation and commissioning ceremony was canceled due to COVID-19 and then rescheduled as a virtual ceremony at his home. I had the pleasure of representing Post 880 to congratulate him and wish him well and presented Alex with an American Legion challenge coin. He will be attached to the 10th Mountain Division at Ft. Drum.

In honor of Post 880's 100th anniversary, we are raffling an M-1 Garand rifle. Tickets are \$10 and the winner will be drawn at our 100th anniversary dinner on Saturday, October 3, 2020. It's been brought to my attention that the wording on the ticket may be confusing to some. Please note the \$10 ticket is for a chance to win the rifle or cash prize and does NOT include dinner. Tickets are available at the Post. When you stop in to pick up your food order, you can also pick up a ticket or two. Thank you for your support.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer. Hope to see you soon when we're able to re-open.

God Bless America, God Bless our Military

Jim Blidy, Post Commander



2020 - 2021 OFFICERS

LEGION

Commander	Jim Blidy
1st Vice Cdr.	Bob Weisedel
2nd Vice Cdr.	Nancy James
3rd Vice Cdr.	Ken Franz
Finance Officer	Bob Reed
Adjutant	Bill Clark
Judge Advocate	Heidi Wysocki
Sgt.-at-Arms	Bob Franz
Chaplain	Ron Smith
Historian	
Service Officer	Dick Casseri
Public Relations	Jim Trembath

AUXILIARY

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

SAL

Commander	Ken Szal
1st Vice Cdr.	Bob Reed
2nd Vice Cdr.	Mark Flowers
Finance Officer	Mark Sisti
Adjutant	Joe Tutuska
Sgt.-at-Arms	Scot Christiansen
Chaplain	Wayne Mintz
Historian	Larry Clerc

GUESTS AND BOOSTERS

President	Bill Forness
Secretary	Mary Ann Clerc
Membership/Treasurer	Jeff Winter

The deadline for the next issue of Post 880 News will be August 26, 2020.

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

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

"Foolish Behavior"

St. Paul reminds the followers of Christ, "When ridiculed, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we respond gently, but not physically or violently." If we call Jesus our Lord and Savior, we must take his eternal priorities to heart – mercy for the sinners, justice for the oppressed, and freedom for those in bondage. What can we do for our country? Pray, hope and trust in the Lord.

Shine like lights in the world!
Chaplain Ron Smith

With the bar and dining area being closed for these past few months, the Post has lost out on a lot of revenue. We've only been able to have takeout food sales. NO bar sales and NO pulltab tickets = NO income. To make matters worse, the Corn Festival is canceled which will really hurt us financially. To make up for these losses, we will be doing several fundraising events.

The first one is a raffle during the month of July based on the NYS lottery daily number drawn each evening. Tickets are \$5 for a chance to win \$50 and \$100 on July 4th.. Tickets will be available at the Post or contact Karen Ferguson at 870-2857 or kjferg@roadrunner.com and she will send you some.



NEWS FROM SAL

Hello All,

We've had to reschedule our 11th annual Gun Raffle due to the pandemic. The new date is Saturday, September 19 from 4-9 pm. Tickets are still available. Our prize list is bigger and better than ever. Refreshments and food are included in your \$20 ticket. We have tickets at the bar in the Post. Or you can call Mark Sisti at 868-7509, or me at 498-0560 to get more. Please contact me to volunteer. Thank you.

The Sons will once again be selling the football books that coincide with the Bills' games. Books are \$20. Winners are paid \$50 per game. Contact me if you'd like one or if you'd like to sell some. There is a caveat associated with the books this year. According to the NFL schedule, there is a possibility that the first 1-3 games may be cancelled due to COVID-19 issues. If that happens, for each game that is cancelled, \$50 will be paid out on the Superbowl instead. So if 3 games are cancelled, \$150 will be paid out on the Superbowl. Your Superbowl numbers will be the numbers you have for the first Bills game. The Bills' number will be the AFC number and the opponent's number will be the NFC number in the Superbowl game.

Once again, thank you for all your support.

May God bless you, our Veterans, our military, and may God bless the United States of America.

Kenneth D. Szal
Cdr. Squadron 880



Mark your calendars! On Saturday, July 25 Post 880 will have a drive thru Chicken Barbecue featuring Weider's chicken. Dinners are \$11 cash only and includes 1/2 chicken, potatoes, coleslaw, roll and butter. Dinners will be available from noon until sold out. Please help support the Post.

AUXILIARY NEWS

Hello Ladies,

I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy during these crazy times.

To recap the past few months, our officers have all been re-elected with no opposition. I would like to welcome Renee Hadley-Scott as our new Sgt. at Arms. In April, Auxiliary member Terri Lester gave birth to a baby boy. Congratulations Terri! Empire Girls State was canceled this year which was unfortunate because once again we would have had 4 girls representing Eden. Some of you may have been looking for poppies around Memorial Day. Poppy Chairman Barb Caffery and I discussed when and how to best distribute them while keeping with social distancing and we decided it would be best to wait until later in the year. We plan to distribute them in November around Veterans Day which is what other Auxiliary Units plan to do as well. We have not been able to visit with the veterans at Eden Heights since February and I don't know when we'll be able to return.

With the Corn Festival being canceled, we will lose out on revenue normally made with our wine sales. We were fortunate to have been able to hold our March Money Madness FUNdraiser when we did, just before everything shut down. Who knows what the future holds and if this virus makes a return visit again in the fall or winter, we may not be as lucky next year.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 14, provided we are allowed to gather as a group by then. In the meantime please consider the Post when you're ordering takeout. The Post, like everywhere else, has taken a hit financially with the closure of the bar and dining area for the past few months. Jack makes an excellent pizza, the wings are great and the fish fries are huge!

Please stay safe everyone and continue practicing smart social distancing efforts, especially if you're vulnerable or have a weakened immune system.

For God and Country,

Karen Ferguson

Unit President



POST 880 TURNS 100 IN 2020

Post 880 is turning 100 years old this year. Plans are in the works for a celebration to take place on October 3, 2020. In conjunction with our 100th anniversary, the Post is raffling an M-1 Garand Rifle at the dinner. You need not be present to win. Tickets are \$10 for a chance to win the rifle or \$1,000. Second prize is \$500 and third prize is \$250. Please note the ticket does NOT include the dinner.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 880

100th ANNIVERSARY

M-1 GARAND RIFLE


RAFFLE

Saturday, October 3, 2020

American Legion Post 880
2912 Legion Drive • Eden, NY 14057
NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN.

DONATION \$10.00

FIRST PRIZE




D-Day Commemorative
M-1 Garand Rifle
- OR -
\$1,000.00 CASH

SECOND PRIZE
\$500.00 CASH

THIRD PRIZE
\$250.00 CASH

Note: Winner must pass the NICS background check - or the \$1,000 prize will be substituted.





Eden Evergreen Cemetery decorated with flags



Above: Police escort procession at Eden Heights Assisted Living Center on Memorial Day

Right: Post 880 Honor Guard and SAL at St. Mary's Cemetery on Memorial Day



Calendar

June

14 - Flag Day

21 - Father's Day

July

4 - Independence Day

25 - Weidner's Chicken Barbecue

August

7 - Purple Heart Day

September

19 - SAL Gun Raffle

Sick Call

Joe Laud

In Sympathy

Jolleen Ford-Bingman

Gwen Green

Marie Hart

Curtis Hodge

Sandy Robertson (Bob Robertson's wife)

*For illness or death notification, please call the
Post at 992-3304 or Dick Casseri at 549-4975
Auxiliary Contact is Karen Pruchnicki 380-4410
SAL Contact is Wayne Mintz 575-4045*