

Post 880 News

COMMANDER'S CORNER

The warm weather is here!

June 6th will be the last meeting (summer break) until September 5th, 2023.

Post Chicken & Rib BBQ will be on June 7th, 3 pm. to 7 pm. or sold out, please support this function for your post.

Flag Day is Wednesday June 14th with Flag Day services at GLP school at 8:30 am, 10:00 am. at Eden Heights Assisted Living, and 6:00 pm. service at the Legion Grounds. Please attend this service - it is when we dispose of tattered and unserviceable flags of our nation.

With the construction going on at the school, summer activities will take place on legion grounds and will begin June 26th. Music on Main St. concerts will also be on legion grounds beginning on June 27th and go all summer. In addition to these events, there are baseball games almost every evening so please use caution on Legion Dr. when coming to the post.

Signup sheets for the corn festival will be posted in July. Help is always needed. Please show up if you sign up.

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.

God Bless our Troops,

God Bless your Family

Jim Blidy,
Cmdr. Post 880



Newell-Faulkner Post 880 Commander Jim Blidy, center, is presented with an Americanism Award by Vice Commander Paul Wackowski on the right, and Erie County Commander Fred Pask on the left.



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
Finance Officer	Mark Sisti
Adjutant	Joe Tutuska
Sgt.-at-Arms	Scot Christiansen
Chaplain	Wayne Mintz
Co-Chaplain	Jonathan Bauer
Historian	

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

Left - Commander Jim Blidy, Auxiliary President Karen Ferguson, SAL Commander Ken Szal and Pastor Dr. James Reidling at our Memorial Day service at Eden Evergreen Cemetery

CHAPLAIN'S MESSAGE

Independence Day 2023

Next month we will be celebrating the 247th anniversary of the birth of our Country. You will probably be hard pressed to find many young people that know the true meaning of the Fourth of July. 1776 was a time when colonists from the thirteen colonies came together as one to declare their independence from Great Britain. These people were of one mind and one spirit united against a foreign oppressor.



Skip forward in time to 2023, and welcome to a nation divided. Not only on political issues but moral, religious and racial as well. One of the key points driving this problem is a lack of respect. This can be witnessed in the vandalism that occurred at the Veterans' Monuments at the Naval Park and in Amherst at Salvatore's. The persons committing these crimes obviously have no respect for the sacrifices the Veterans have made on their behalf.

So many of today's problems could be solved if respect were present; starting with self-respect, respect within our families, with our neighbors, strangers, respect for God and other peoples religions and political affiliations.

Our Heavenly Father expects nothing less!

Have a wonderful and joyful summer and 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 we just completed a successful Memorial Day. Both the East Eden and Eden events were very well attended. I would like to thank Cmdr. Blidy, Bob Franz, and Karen Ferguson for putting together a great program. I would also like to thank behind the scenes Bill Clark and Dennis Stender for all they did. Many others helped in putting this event together and they are to be thanked also.



I would also like to thank everyone that helped in making our gun raffle another success this year. Once again we were packed and chairman Mark Sisti did another outstanding job. This event ran very smooth because of all the help that we had. The Ladies Auxiliary once again was a big help and President Karen Ferguson and her crew are to be commended once again for a job well done.

We will have our regular scheduled meetings on May 30, 6:30 Board and 7:30 general. But in June, July and August we will be going to our summer schedule and will have just one meeting where the membership may attend as a whole at 7pm. Please note the change and come join us.

Our next big event will be the Corn Festival in August, followed by our Post golf tournament in late August. Stay tuned for information on both events.

That's all for now. Enjoy your summer and be safe.

May God bless our military, our Post, and our country.

Cdr. Kenneth D. Szal
Squadron 880.



As always, the Sons drew a huge crowd for their annual gun raffle.



AUXILIARY NEWS

Hello Ladies,

Spring is zipping by and before we know it summer will be here.

The front page of this newsletter lists the officers of each organization for the upcoming year. I want to thank the ladies for trusting me to be their president once again this year. As I always say, I couldn't do it without the great support I receive from the our members who help me throughout the year.

In May our Americanism chairman and we read the Americanism essays that were submitted from the 8th grade students. The winners this year were Haleigh Diltz and Nathan Tarnish. They each received a certificate and a check for \$50.

I'd like to thank everyone who volunteered an hour or two of their time to distribute poppies in May. We had some newer members help out which was very nice as some of our previous volunteers are aging and unfortunately some have passed away.

I counted about 10 members who volunteered at the Sons gun raffle and several of the Sons expressed their thanks to me so I am extending that thanks to you.

This past week the Auxiliary invited the veterans from Eden Heights to come to the Legion for dinner on us. They feasted on broiled seafood, fish fry and steak and a couple even enjoyed an ice cold beer!

The Legion is having a chicken and ribs barbecue on Wednesday, June 7. Volunteers are needed and members are encouraged to buy a dinner or 2.

Our scholarship committee is reviewing the applications received from graduating high school senior girls. I will present the 2 winners at graduation along with Commander Blidy and SAL Commander Szal.

In case you haven't heard, John's Corner Store in Hamburg run by John Braymiller and Anne Smith (our Unit Secretary) closed at the end of April. Over the years they collected donations for our veterans account and when they closed their doors, the total amount of donations collected from their customers totaled over \$5,000! Thank you John and Anne for your support over the years.

Our next meeting is on June 13 and that will be our last one until September. Enjoy the summer!

For God and Country,
Karen Ferguson
Unit President



Joesiah Devlin was presented with an award at our Memorial Day Service. He and Harrison Lenz will be attending Empire Boys State at Morrisville College this summer. Both boys recently joined the Sons of American Legion. Joesiah is the grandson of longtime Legion member and past commander Tom Baird.

Last November we sent care packages to local deployed military servicemen. One of the packages was returned to us undeliverable. The tracking of this package indicated it went from Eden to Chicago to Tokyo back to Chicago then Okinawa, then Tokyo, then Frankfurt Germany, back to Tokyo and then back and forth several times from Japan to Germany and finally returned to Eden in January! We resent the package and this time he received it. Ryan Sheehan sent us a lovely thank you note and said he enjoyed the local items such as the wing sauce and Weber's mustard. He had to demonstrate what a Kazoo was and then was given a 5 minute time limit to play it before it became irritating!

As a thank you, the Legion received a plaque and an American Flag that was flown on Veterans Day over Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, Africa.



Veteran residents from Eden Heights Assisted Living Center enjoyed a delicious dinner at Post 880 with Auxiliary President Karen and Rosie Peters.



**Captain John Levulis Golf Tournament Sat. September 16
Concord Crest Golf Course**

For many years the Captain John Levulis Foundation held a soccer tournament to raise funds to support veteran programs and our community. This year they are switching over to a golf tournament as many of the participants are getting too old to run around and chase a soccer ball - supposedly it's much easier to hit a tiny ball into a hole with a club!

For more information or to sign up to participate in the tournament go to <https://cpt-john-j-levulis-memorial-golf-tournament.perfectgolfevent.com/>

On Memorial Day Post 880 received a flag from Major Christopher Haggard that was flown in Kuwait in honor of Post 880. Major Haggard is a member of our Post and was a classmate of John Levulis at Niagara University and is currently stationed in Kuwait. He also sent word that he nominated John for the Niagara University Military Hall of Fame and that Captain John Levulis will be inducted to the NU Military Hall of Fame on June 3.

TELL US YOUR STORY

You may recall a few years ago we had a section in the newsletter that included a photo of one of our members and you had to guess who it was. We would like to have a section in future newsletters similar where members could submit their story and experiences they had while serving in the military.

If you would like to participate, please send your story to Karen Ferguson. My contact info is on the first page of the newsletter.



Easter Egg Hunt Winners

Ages 5 and under

Gold - Kelsey Spicciatie - age 5
Silver - Dennis Spicciatie - age 4
Green - Ashtyn Salisbury - age 2

Ages 6 and older

Gold - Wayne Setter - age 8
Silver - Alana Soda - age 10
Green - Luke Rozborski - age 10

Sick Call

*Janice Johnson
Ed Travis*

In Sympathy

*Donald Dole
Frank Miller
James Reusch*

*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*

Calendar

June

6 - Legion Member Meeting
7 - Chicken & Ribs Barbecue
13 - Auxiliary Meeting
14 - Flag Day
18 - Happy Father's Day
21 - Post Executive Board Meeting

July

4 - Independence Day
19 - Post Executive Board Meeting