



Sons of The American Legion



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THE LIBERTY

Detachment of New York

Albany, New York 12207
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Convention Issue 2009

Dates of Special Interest:

- July 9th—11th—
Detachment Convention;
Buffalo, NY
- July 17th—25th Boys Na-
tion; Washington, DC
- August 4th—8th Junior
Shooting Sports Champ.
- August 7th—Purple Heart
Day
- August 14th—18th AL
Baseball World Series
- August 21st—23rd SAL
National Convention
- Sept 11th—Patriot Day
- Sept 17th Citizenship Day
- Sept 18th—POW MIA
Recognition Day

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COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

by Gary Denmon

Well, where do I start, the year is coming to a close and it seems as though it just got started. First, I need to say congratulations and thank you, to everyone on a tremendous job. It is you, the blue cap member, that makes the Detachment of New York great and the leader that we are. It is not about the Detachment Commander, it is all you, that does all the hard work. Commanders will come and go but you the blue cap member will always be here promoting and supporting the programs of the American Legion so I say thank you, to all of you for a job well done.



Detachment Commander Gary Denmon

We did a great job in membership and made some target dates this year. It has been a while since we have done that and the target dates that we did miss we came very close. Thank you to Ted Armbrust and all the members of the membership committee for a job well done, but we can't give up yet. We are very close, if not past, that 100% goal. Great job to all of you. Remember, membership is every ones job.

Once again, you submitted some very good Squadron reports this year. These reports are probably one the most important things

we do to help our Veterans. All of your numbers are tabulated and reported to congress. The number of reports was up this year, but still a lot of squadrons didn't get their reports in and from my travels I know that you all are doing a lot. Remember, that no matter how small it may seem report it all. The little things add up to make one big thing. I have heard that the number of reports is up this year which I am glad to hear and can't wait to hear about the great things that your squadrons have done.

Continued on page 2..

FROM THE ADJUTANT'S DESK

by Robert J. Avery

Gentlemen,

Delegates, Alternates and Guests: Welcome to Buffalo and our 35th Annual Detachment Convention. We are happy to have with us this week as Special Guests the National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion Tommie Cisna from the great Detachment of Illinois and the Leading Candidate for National Commander Mark Arneson from the great Detachment of Georgia. Please take an opportunity to introduce yourselves to them while they are here. We wish them both the very best and thank them for being with us!

As of July 1st we are still trying to obtain our 100% goal in membership...and beyond that to the 105%. We need 400 members for our 100% goal. We are in 24th place in the Nation at 98.47% and within our Eastern Region we are 6th place. Remember that membership is everyone's re-

sponsibility, and all unpaid members in your Squadron need to be contacted NOW to renew their membership. Your assistance is greatly appreciated as we wrap up the 2009 Membership Year. It is hoped that we will be at OVER 100% at this year's National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky.

The 2010 cards are in Albany HQ and are being mailed out now to the Squadrons who have submitted an Officer Certification Form (OCF) for the 2010 year. Maybe this will help us to get a jump start on the 2010 Membership Year. Just another reminder.....your Squadron's membership cards are NOT sent out unless we have received an OCF. As far as we know, your Squad has no Officers and is not active unless we receive your Officer Report. You need to report your 2010 year officers even if they are remaining the same! The 2010 Year Membership Target

Dates are as follows:

10% September 9, 2009
25% October 14, 2009
35% November 17, 2009
45% December 9, 2009
60% January 13, 2010
75% February 10, 2010
80% March 10, 2010
90% April 14, 2010
100% May 12, 2010
105% *July 28, 2010
*Delegate Strength Target Date

I personally thank all of our members for all you do! As our ceremonial states....."Forever remember that the cardinal purpose of the Sons of The American Legion are the care of the dependents of those who have answered the Final Call and of those who are now suffering from disease and want; the rightful education of the children of our country, and devoted service to the community, state and nation. "

Keep up the great work!!!

For The Legion Family

Continued Commander....

I know there are still many squadrons who did not report so now is the time for you to start keeping those notes to do your reports next year.

I would again like to thank all of those Sons that

came out to the County visitations to say "hi" to us and gave a donation to the NEF. If you were unaware of the visit to your County, the dates are available on the Detachment website then just get with your Legion for all the details.

I look forward to seeing

many of you this weekend and wish our next Commander all the best. He will surely do a great job and I look forward to working with him

Yours for the Sons,
Gary Denmon
Detachment Commander 2008-09

Americanism Commission by James Coats, Chairman

It has been by privilege to serve as your Americanism Chairman this year. To summarize our activities we have purchased 1,200 Flag Lapel Pins for those attending Boys State this year; 2,500 brochures for Flag Education Programs; 35 Flag Etiquette Books and 100 "Our Countries Flag" comic books; 3,500 Stick Flags for distribution at parades and Flag Education Programs; and 400 copies of scripted flag education pro-

grams for distribution to our Squadrons.

We received 218 entries for the "What American Means to Me" essay contest. We had a tough job judging these entries and awarded all of our participants with a "Light of Liberty" comic book. Roughly 300 Light of Liberty comic books were distributed. You will find transcripts of the winning entries included with this report.

We have also received the applications for the Lt. Michael L. Lewis, Jr. Memorial Fund and The Cerullo Memorial Scholarships and the awards for these scholarships will be announced at Detachment Convention.

I would like to thank all of the Americanism Commission members; Boyd Shaffer, Robert Myrtle, Arthur Maggy, Shawn Hathaway, and Larry Montello for their help this year and I look forward to seeing you all at Convention in Buffalo..

Your American Commission for
The Detachment of New York

What America Means to Me - Essay Contest Winners!

What America means to me. I see an Eagle I think *freedom*. I see the Statue of Liberty I think *Peace*. I see a painting of a soldier I think *stand up for what you believe in*. America is many things to every single person, yet every person has a different belief of what America means to them. Well here is what America means to me.

I see the flag I think how united we stand. I see the stars on the flag it shows me how bright everyone can shine. I see the pictures in our social studies book I then know how many people would put their lives at stake just to make our lives better. We are so lucky to have the forefathers we had and still do have that made a trail to freedom for all the adults in America today to follow in their footsteps so they could guide the way for us today. To help us make the right decisions because every decision leads you down a different road. I hope I make the right decisions all the way.

I hope you see what America means to me. Like these pictures America means excitement and fun. All I know is America means a lot to me!

Mackenzie Smith; 5th Grade, DLL Elementary School; Ms. Durand, Teacher, Bath, NY 14810

This is what America means to me. One thing that the U.S. means to me is that we have one of the strongest armies that protect us. Also we have very clean water to drink and that is very important. Finally, the best thing about America is that we all have the right to vote for presidents. This is what America means to me.

Max Krajacic; Grade 3, St Mary's

Mrs. Lougen, Teacher, Swormville, NY

V. A. & R. Commission

by Thomas Kurk, Chairman

Report, Report, Report, This year our Squadrons did report their accomplishments for Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation in a record setting number of reports. We received 75 Squadron Consolidated Report Forms and 2 Districts reported there donations and number of hours. The numbers are outstanding and it makes us all proud to belong to the Detachment of New York Sons of The American Legion. Myself as chairman can't wait to share these numbers with the delegates at our Detachment Convention in Buffalo and announce the winners. This years "They Marched For Us, We Walk For Them" Walk-A-Thon

total beat last years total by a considerable amount and we had some different ideas that generated more donations and participants to make this event a huge success. In Ontario County Bruce Ruthven had shirts made up for the walkers who could purchase them and the profits went towards the total donations. Don Keech in Washington County reached out to his community and solicited donations from local businesses. The totals that these members in our Detachment obtained are outstanding. The VA&R Commission and most important our Veterans and their Families thanks everyone who

participated in the Walk-A-thon for a job well done. We will once again make a difference in the lives of our hospitalized veterans in one of the Thirteen VA Hospitals or our veterans that are in one of our five New York State Veterans Homes. The Department of New York American Legion Auxiliary will be able to increase their donations to their VA&R Programs with their half of the proceeds from the Walk-A-Thon. It has been said many times there is success in working together and once again the American Legion Family for New York has proven that to be true once again.

Below is an understanding of a relatively new program to identify and bring honor to many deceased veterans who remains have not been claimed by families.

Missing in America Project

Veteran Recovery Program

You served your country through a war, or through peacetime. You expected to receive a military burial, recognition by our government of your commitment to our great country. You expected to have honor and respect paid to you as a result of your service to our great country. Instead, you reside on a shelf in a mortuary or a storage facility at a crematorium.

The mission of the MIAP project is to locate, identify and inter the unclaimed cremains of veterans through the joint efforts of private, state and federal organizations. These forgotten veterans have served our country and, as such, deserve to be buried with honor and respect. The impetus

for our fine program began in November 2006. The Idaho State Veterans cemetery interred 21 cremains of forgotten veterans, with full military honors and the dignity these fallen heroes so richly deserved. Recently, a state hospital announced that 3500 cremains were on shelves to be identified. (The link to the newspaper article is: <http://tinyurl.com/2xrx9u>. On the shelf were cremains for the time span of the 1890s to 1971. It is estimated 1,000 of these cremains are veterans. This is happening in every state.

This project has just begun. We need to blanket every mortuary and cemetery in the United States and let them

know there are people who desire to claim our veterans. We need to let them know it is our desire to see they are interred with the honor and the respect they deserve. They served our great nation. It is now our great nation's turn to serve them.

The veterans languishing on shelves need us. They need America to step forward and ensure they are buried with honor. They need America to show their thanks for their service. Without them, we would not have the freedoms we enjoy today.

More information on the Missing In America project can be found at www.miap.us Please take a look at this web-site and maybe we can make a difference.

Continued on page 5

Greece Squadron #468 presented 1st Annual "USO" Night for Veterans, on March 21, 2009.

Members of Greece Squadron #468 wanted to give something back to the Veterans of American Legion Post #468 in Greece, New York. The Squadron Commander, Tom Palumbo, proposed an old fashion USO night, with all the trimmings. The USO was contacted, and they let the Squadron borrow a banner, and the Post Veterans were asked to bring in old pictures of them



"The USO Crew"



"The Girls with Uncle Sam"

Veteran Recovery Program from page 4

This Commission wants to take this opportunity to thank every member of the Sons of The American Legion in the Detachment of

New York for all the dedication you have shown for the well being of our Veterans. The need for our VA&R programs increase each and every day with our men and women who serve our country as they continue to go

show" was played on the big screen TV as Vietnam Veteran and DJ, Danny Lippenczek, played old tunes from the fifties and sixties. The evening of the event finally came and it was great to see so many older members of the Post come out to enjoy with others, a night of memories. In a few cases it was even a family event with three generations present. The room was decorated in USO memorabilia and two Forty Star American Flags were draped, plus the Squadron also had volunteers "dressed" for the night, providing two USO girls, a Nurse,

one MP, one SP, and last but not least, "Uncle Sam" himself. Accolades became a norm from all Legion Family members, and gave us resolve, that future years would be bigger and better.

By Gerald Shepard

when they were in the service. Tom put together a "picture show" from those brought in, along with pictures of Grandparents and Parents who were veterans. The show was done so that each veteran era was acknowledged, from WWII through present day. This "picture

overseas to make sure our privileges and freedoms of being a citizen of the United States of America. At every chance, take the time to thank a veteran for their service.

Membership

Chairman's Report:

There is not to much to say but thank you to the blue caps members, detachment vice commanders, our membership chairmen, the district commanders for out standing job so far this year. You made our detachment the best it has been in long time I can not stop thanking everyone for this.

Lets not forget to get your officer certification form into Al-

bany Headquarters right now. Your elections are over and you should have no excuse for not filling them out and turning them in. Please make sure they have an email address on it for us to able to get the information out to you.



In closing, I would like to take this time to congratulate our Detachment Commander, Gary Denmon on doing a great job. Thanks for getting the word out about membership and stressing the importance that it is our future, thanks Gary.

In closing lets take this great year and make it even better in 2009- 2010.

God bless USA

Ted Armbrust, Chairman

Legislative

By Doc Gibbs, Chairman

We again, had a successful year with Legislation. Our On-the-Hill Days in Washington went smoothly this past February with at least 10 SAL members present from the Detachment of New York. Our On-the-Hill Day in Albany also was productive.

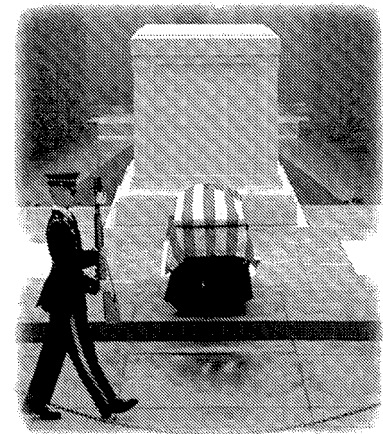
Our numbers do make a difference. Some of our districts are not represented in the Albany Days which could always be stronger, but we do set up meetings with state representatives and senators and our issues and the issues of the Legion are shared. This year, we had the opportunity to meet with several representatives as well as both Senators Gillibrand and Schumer. That was a first, in at least the last few years. We hold a briefing be-

fore we go out on the Hill to set the priorities for everyone's visitation and coordinate whenever possible with the Legionnaires.

Our presence is known. The SAL connection is strong on both the national and State levels but we could always use your involvement. The legislation that was passed this year was quite remarkable. Almost every major Legion issue was addressed or approached. The benefits to Veterans both current and past received much attention this year and significant inroads were made for all.

As an editorial, it is difficult to determine if it was the fact that the Legion and SAL presence is finally paying off or whether the newer congress simply has made a difference. I guess I'd like to think it was a combination of both of those facts but the bottom-line is that Veterans have reaped the benefits this year.

We look forward to preparing for the 2010-2011 legislative year. I wish to thank all the committee members that have paid serious attention to our charge as well as all those who joined us in our visits to our representatives. Committee members this past year were David Perry, Jerry Shepard, Al Deichler, Jeff Jordan and Vince Green.



7th District News by James Coates

Congratulations to the entire 7th District for achieving 100% in membership this year. As of June 16, 2009 the 7th District Sons are in third place in the Detachment with 101.97% of membership. I am especially proud of Livingston County with 108.35%, Yates with 108.33%, Monroe with 106.17%, Wayne with 101.40%, Cayuga with 101.20%, and Seneca with 100.60.

I want to thank Vice Commander Jim Parks for working with the people at the Golisano Children's Hospital and orga-



Commander Jim presents a \$843 check to Team Tyler at the Stroll for Strong Kids

nizing another successful work detail this year. On May 30th I attended the Stroll for Strong's Kids and presented a check for \$850 to our Team Tyler. At mid-winter this year, the Detachment of New York took up a collection off the floor for the purchase of Josh Dogs. Because of this, I was also able to present six Josh Dogs, from the Fourth and Seventh Districts to the Golisano Children's Hospital. I would like to extend a special thanks to the

Fourth District for their contribution. We held our Youth Bowling Tournament on April 25th at Livingston Lanes in Geneseo. We had about 15 participants, down from previous years but still a lot of fun with my grandchildren James and Lydia taking trophies for the youngest attendees at one and three years old. Again, I would like to thank Jim Parks for coordinating this event.

Past Detachment Commander, John Bogart, of Squadron 173 in Bath, again headed up our Camp Good Days and Special Times project. On May 9th, about 10 of us, including John Bogart's daughter, granddaughter, and grandson, chipped in to repair fences for the upcoming season. Also, Past District Commander Ross Polson chaired our Quentin Smith Sr. Scholarship Award. This year this scholarship of \$500 was awarded to Taylor DeBolt of Waterloo.

Vice Commander Gerry Shepard did a great job organizing the Seventh District Flag Retirement Ceremony this year in Union Springs. I sincerely want to thank the American Legion Family of Union Springs, Walter T. Conley Post 1107, and all of the color guards who participated for your significant contribution to this program. It was great having our Detachment Commander Denmon, 7th

District Auxiliary Vice President Virginia, Department Auxiliary Vice President Nancy Kurk and American Legion past Department Commander Stanley Clark present for this ceremony, but I respectfully say that the success of this event was truly measured in the involvement of the community and the number of Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and



Flag Education & Retirement Ceremony held at Post 1107 in Union Springs

Girl Scouts who participated.

It was a privilege to attend this years' ROTC awards program at the Rochester Institute of Technology here in the 7th. The William P. O'Connell Award is a joint program with the 7th and 8th Districts, started by current 8th District Commander Doc Gibbs and the 8th District. This year, the award was presented to Cadet Katherine Dixson, an MSIII ROTC Cadet, who has demonstrated ideals that include the fostering and perpetuating of a true spirit of Americanism and a sense of individual obligation to the community, state, and nation.

Continued on page 11..

8th District Report

By: Doc Gibbs, Commander

The District 8 SAL Squadron awarded the annual Kim Huson Memorial Scholarship for 2009 to Thomas McCarthy, a high school senior from Hamburg Central School who will be attending the University of Buffalo in the Fall. Tom, the sons of Dennis and Barbara, is a member of the Hamburg #527 SAL Squadron.

District 8 members are also encouraged to participate in the Help a Vet Project that we will continue this year. We plan to put the final painting touches on the home of Bill O'Connell's widow Kaye this coming August. The plan is

looking at Saturday, August 15 at 8 AM as the painting date. If you can help please get in touch with Commander, Doc Gibbs, Finance Officer, Kirk Tyler or Chaplain, Lefty Caldwell who are the contacts for this project. Last year, we primed the entire house but simply ran out of time to complete the job.

District 8 was awarded two Josh Dogs to be given away to hospital bound youth. The plan will be to supplement those dogs with additional stuffed animals with others and donate them to Women's and Children's Hospital in Buf-

falo, NY.

District 8 Commander Doc Gibbs was recently named (May 29, 2009) SAL VAVS Representative for the Buffalo VA Medical Center by Steven Smithson, Acting Director of the National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission. We have not had a SAL representative to the Hospital in some time. Duties include regular attendance at hospital center committee meetings and helping to structure the volunteer efforts.



Our Nations Independence – What do you know?

How well do you know the War of America's Impendence?

1) Who defended the British troops at the "Boston Massacre" trial in 1770?

- a) The British Magistrate
- b) John Adams
- c) John Hancock
- d) No one –they defended themselves.

2) Where was the "Shot heard 'round the world" fired?

- a) Philadelphia
- b) Boston
- c) Trenton, NJ
- d) Lexington, Mass

3) True or False: On April 18,

1775, Paul Revere rode from Charleston, Mass. to Concord, Mass., to warn of the British troops' arrival.

4) Where was the Declaration of Independence first printed?

- a) Boston
- b) New York
- c) Philadelphia
- d) Princeton, NJ

5) True or False: The first submarine attack occurred during the Revolutionary War.

6) True or False: The Battle of Bunker Hill was a victory for the patriot troops.

7) After George Washington's fa-

mous Christmas night 1776 crossing of the Delaware River, whom did his Army defeat at the Battle of Trenton?

- a) Hessian Mercenaries
- b) British Regulars
- c) Colonial troops fighting for the British
- d) None of the above, Washington was defeated

8) True or False: The Cherokee sided with the British during the Revolutionary War.

9) At the Battle of Yorktown, the victory that won the war for the Americans, who had the most troops in the fight?

- a) The British
- b) The French
- c) The Americans
- d) The Hessians

10) True or False: George Washington lost more battles than he won.

Answers on page 11

Happenings in the 2nd District

By: John Rogers, Vice Commander

Memorial Day was special, Squadrons in Kings County came out in force to participate in the Longest running Memorial Day Parade in Brooklyn, and it has been taking place for 142 years. The parade was headed by the Kings County Commander, Kings County President, American Legion/Auxiliary – followed by the Detachment

Vice Commander, John Rogers in his vehicle with Veterans and the Past Department President. It was an honor riding in this parade, both as Sons, but also as a Veteran. The parade route was mobbed with onlookers clapping and cheering, holding signs with the words “THANK YOU”, “We Support You”. This is an experience that’s overwhelming.



L to R: SAL County Cmdr, John Norton, Frank Costello, PC, Regina Harris, PDP, SAL Detachment Vice Cmdr., John Rogers, Eileen Hickey, Gold Star Mother and Andrew Affrunti, Post Commander.

Following the parade, there were many Memorial Services throughout the County, one of which was held at the Floyd Bennett Post #1060, wherein the flag was at half staff, and names of the post’s deceased members were read, followed by ringing a bell after each member’s name, after that a wreath of Poppies made by a Past Department President was placed at a Monument on the grounds, Taps heralded, and God Bless America was sung by all in attendance.

After the ceremonies, we attended a BBQ event

held at Cummings Bros Post #1436, all Veterans, Auxiliary, Sons and Family members were invited. At 3PM all members were asked to rise and bow their heads in a moment of silence for our departed veterans and also for our veterans serving Our Great Country. This event was hosted by the Post Family, and the chefs were the Squadrons Commander Joseph McCann and Commander Elect Tim Bonnar. What a beautiful way to spend Memorial Day remembering our fallen comrades and those serving in our Armed Forces today.



County Cmdr. John Norton, Member of Floyd Bennett Post #1060, and Squadron 1060 Cmdr., James Kline.

On May 17th, Floyd Bennett Squadron #1060, sponsored a bus trip to the Intrepid for Veterans of their Post and other Posts, in memory of those we lost during the wars. It was greatly attended, and leading the way was Kings County’s own John Norton, Kings County Commander (SAL).



Annette Norton, Floyd Bennett Auxiliary

National Commander Rehbein reports from Iraq

Thursday, June 25, 2009

from the American Legion Online Update:

American Legion National Commander David K. Rehbein spent four days last week in Iraq, seeing firsthand the state of transition on the ground as U.S. military forces prepare for a scheduled June 30 withdrawal from major cities. Among the commander's traveling companions were six wounded warriors. They, along with Commander Rehbein, saw U.S. and Italian training efforts with the Iraqi Army and National Police, as well as demonstrations of unmanned aerial vehicles. The commander met with military personnel at every level – from Gen. Ray Odierno, commander in charge of multinational forces in Iraq, to enlisted soldiers serving in the Army's 1st Cavalry Division.

Following are his observations from Baghdad:

The six wounded warriors traveling with my group are nearing the end of their rehabilitation periods. Sponsored by the Troops First Foundation, they are here to see the level of progress made in the war zone since they were evacuated, essentially to see that their sacrifices have made a difference. To make that clear, each of them was delivered to the exact same operating location where each was hit.

Two of those locations were Forward Operating Bases Liberty and Victory, which are now transforming into U.S.-Iraqi Joint Security Stations, as the Iraqis as-



sume more responsibility for the security of their country. At all levels, we were told how the Iraqi Army and National Police have significantly upgraded their capabilities and professionalism. The wounded warriors traveling with me were truly amazed at the development they saw from Iraqi intelligence personnel today working closely with Americans in the 3rd Brigade Combat Team Tactical Operations Center. "Two years ago, we wouldn't even let them see our maps," one of the recovering soldiers said.

Enlisted personnel showed our group a variety of high-tech military vehicles and weapons. During our visit with the 1st Cavalry, each company of the battalion involved at the site gave an intelligence briefing of his particular area of operation, including specific threats and recent IED (improvised explosive device) and EFP (explosively formed penetrator) locations. They explained that almost all IED and EFP disposals are now based on tips from the local Iraqi population and generally include names of those involved in the placement of the devices, another sign that the culture has shifted significantly.

The briefers also told of independ-

ent operations conducted by the Iraqi Army and National Police to apprehend suspects and recover devices. U.S. personnel, in many cases, only learn about these operations after the fact, proving that the Iraqis have sufficient confidence in their abilities to undertake such operations without direct American support.

The situation in Iraq is promising. The June 30 deadline to remove U.S. forces from the cities will be met with most objectives having already been achieved. Potential remains for insurgent and rejectionist activities as they test the Iraqi Army and National Police, in an attempt to regain some of their former level of activity.

The economy continues to improve. It's visibly apparent that there is an increased willingness among religious, ethnic and tribal groups to work together and achieve normalcy and peace. During this transition, as the Iraqis assume responsibility in the cities, there may be a temporary increase in violence. But it will only be temporary as the Iraqi Army and National Police continue to improve. There are indeed many challenges to be met, but with the Iraqi people's continuing and growing desire to take charge of their own destiny, those challenges can and will be met.

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<https://www.members.legion.org/cgi-bin/lansaweb?procfun+mail+mail2+tal>

America's Impendence quiz answers

- 1) Answer b – Capt. Thomas Preston, one of the accused, pleaded for Adams to take the case, as no one else was willing. In the interest of a fair trial, Adams accepted. He got acquittals for six of eight British soldiers.
- 2) Answer d – British troops were marching to confiscate weapons held in Concord, Mass and to arrest patriot leaders Samuel Adams and John Hancock in the village of Lexington. British troops and colonist militiamen met on the Lexington Village Green at dawn on April 19, 1775, fighting the first battle of the Revolutionary War.
- 3) Answer False! Though his ride was made famous in the 1860 Longfellow poem, Revere was actually arrested before reaching Concord by a British patrol. His ride was finished by Samuel Prescott and William Dawes.
- 4) Answer c – The document was

printed by a John Dunlap, a local Philadelphia printer, on July 4, 1776. It was first read to the public at the State House of Philadelphia on July 8th.

5) Answer True! In 1775, Connecticut inventor David Bushnell developed a craft with two water tight hulls joined together with tar, which he dubbed the Turtle. On September 6, 1776, the Turtle engaged the HMS Eagle, the flagship of the British fleet, in New York Harbor.

6) Answer False! Although British troops suffered twice as many casualties, on their third charge they drove the Americans back and took the hill. The battle was actually fought on Breed's Hill, which was closer to the British ships position than Bunker Hill.

7) Answer a—Washington's army of 2,400 men surprised a garrison of about 1,400 Hessian's and won the battle in around one hour. Only two Americans were wounded, one of them was Lt. James Monroe, future

president.

8) Answer True! The British never stopped trading with the Cherokee at the outset of the war, and supplied them with arms and ammunition. In 1777, a peace treaty was signed that ceded most of South Carolina and much of Tennessee to the colonists.

9) Answer b – The French troops outnumbered the Americans almost three to one. Plus the French Navy maneuvered a crucial trap of the British ships, which won the battle and ultimately the war.

10) Answer True! Turns out that the father of our country wasn't the greatest battlefield tactician. He lost so many battles one right after another that some wanted him replaced. Lucky for him and us, his overall strategy of avoiding decisive battles, engaging in guerrilla warfare and protracting the war led the Americans to victory.

Continued... 7th District Report from page 7.

We supported the wheel chair escorts to church services, the Auxiliary Gift Wrap, and the 7th District Field Days in Bath. And when we were asked to take over coordinating the Wreaths Across American Program at the Bath National Cemetery. I am proud to say that the Steuben County Sons stepped up to take over that role with the support and participation of the 7th District.

I would like to thank Bruce Ruthven and Will Ellis for working with the Auxiliary on the Veteran's Walk-A-Thon events at the Bath and Canandaigua VA's on April 18th. I am

very proud to say that we raised right around \$10,000 from the Seventh District this year to support VA volunteer

services, the Fisher House in Albany, and other Veteran programs throughout New York State.



Ontario County VA walk-a-thon held at the Canandaigua VA raised almost \$7,000

Detachment of New York
officers for the 2008—2009 year.

Gary Denmon— Commander
Kenneth Kraetzer - Vice Commander
Districts 1 & 9
John Rogers — Vice Commander
Districts 2 & 10
Gaither Espey— Vice Commander
Districts 3 & 4
Dean Williamson- Vice Commander
Districts 5 & 6
David Caldwell— Vice Commander
Districts 7 & 8
Christopher Burtch—Chaplain
William Lutz— Historian
Fred Merscher— Master Sgt-at-Arms
John Bogart— N.E.C.
Raymond Jarvis— A.N.E.C.



Public Relations Commission

The Detachment Public Relations Commission would like to thank every member for their contributions and support. Our goal to report all newsworthy items, to educate ourselves and others of the activities and programs of The American Legion and the Sons of The American Legion.

Please send your news articles into the Commission
for the Post Convention issue **by August 5, 2009**

Bruce Ruthven, Chairman
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Voices of Our Heroes

The Detachment of New York has launch a new program to record our veterans history. We started this program in an effort to document our veterans stories before it's too late. The Sons of The American Legion exist to carry on the legacy and stories of our veterans, and to never allow anyone to forget their sacrifices. Please visit the website at <http://heroes.sonsdny.org/> , enter your veterans information so it can be forever recorded. We hope you enjoy this site and are able to submit your Veteran's Story. We have provided some guidelines and ideas to help get you started.

Join our mailing list! Visit our website at www.sonsdny.org.

Sign up to have the following information sent directly to your email address:

Daily News

- Weekly Indianapolis Reports
- Weekly Washington Reports
- The Liberty Newsletter
- Membership Reports
- Events

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Be an informed member!