



## *The Legion-Air*

**Pat Murphy**  
Commander

**Jim Bojanowski**  
Adjutant/Editor

AMERICAN  
LEGION

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**July 2026**

### **Commander's Message:**

I am humbled by the support and the fact; I was elected Erie County Commander. I will try hard to earn the confidence you have shown in me, I want to thank Jerry Kowalski for his support and guidance in my last position as Vice Commander. I would like to say welcome and thanks to all the new Vice Commanders and Officers who signed on for their committees and jobs for the upcoming year .

I will work to carry on the Four Pillars of the American Legion. Veteran Affairs and Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children and Youth. We could spend a year just working on one of the pillars but as always, we must work on all four pillars.

I attended the 6/13 Boys State information luncheon at Matthew Glab Post, it was a pleasure to see and hear from the young men we are sending to Boys State. Listening to the speeches gives me great faith in the country's future. We retired Jerry Kowalski and I stepped in at a very nice luncheon at Francis J. Donovan Post.

That evening, it was my honor to install the Officers of the Milton J. Brounshidle Post.

Thanks to all who attended the 8<sup>th</sup> District Convention in Frewsburg, NY, to support our candidates at the Samuel L Derby Post 556

Point of interest, we are looking for anyone interested in filling the position of Boys State Chair and his Assistant. Current Chair Bernie Romanowski wants someone to shadow him and learn the ropes. Also, looking for a rep for VAVS. Someone who goes to our local veterans' hospital, attend meetings, and can keep us up to date on activities and needs. Contact Erie County at Buffalo City Hall, Room 609, phone 716-852-6500, or e mail veterans14202@verizon.net

### **The 107th Annual Erie County American Legion Convention was held Saturday 6/6/2026 at the Francis J. Donovan Post #1626.**

Congratulations go out to our newly elected Erie County American Legion Officers for 2026 - 2027.

Commander Pat Murphy from Frank H. Brink Post #607, Holland, NY

Vice Commander Howard Patton III from Jesse Clipper Post #430, Buffalo, NY

Vice Commander Bruce Mayfield from Milton J. Brounshidle Post #205, Kenmore, NY

Vice Commander Keith Bender from East Aurora Post #362, East Aurora, NY

Finance Officer Joseph Porempski from Francis J. Donovan Post #1626, Cheektowaga, NY

The Erie County Legionnaire of the Year was awarded to Felton Davis of Jesse Clipper Post #430 for his outstanding contributions to The American Legion and the community.

Law & Order Award was presented to;  
- EMP Sara Stadler, Erie County, NY

Essay Awards were presented to;  
- Leo Reisdorf, Holland Middle School, Holland, NY \$500.  
- Rylee Morgan, St. Amelia School, Tonawanda, NY \$250.

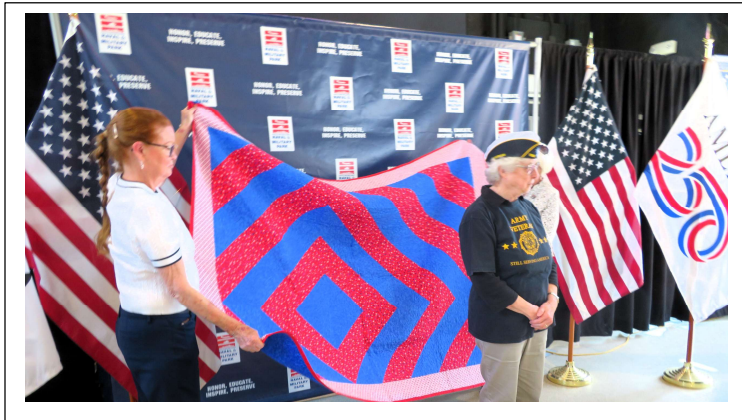
Twelve \$500 Scholarship Education Awards were presented to students entering college from across Erie County.

Many Thanks go out to the 21 Posts who attended the convention; 64, 205, 362, 430, 431, 527, 607, 622, 721, 799, 900, 1041, 1320, 1346, 1477, 1586, 1587, 1626, 1640, 1672, & 1928.

Jim Bojanowski  
Erie County Adjutant



**Iroquois Post #1587 Commander Ron Cook Jr. highlights Seneca Warrior role during annual War of 1812 Cheektowaga Ceremony.**



**Sue Quirk received a handmade quilt from "The Quilts of Valor" Foundation at the Naval & Military Park to recognize her service to our nation on 6/5/2026.**

**NOTE:** I received a call at the office from the WNY Baseball Hall of Fame indicating that The American Legion will be inducted in September.

**Erie County Fair Veterans Day Sunday 8/16/26 – Jim Bojanowski**

There will be free admission and a \$10 voucher for all Veterans, Auxiliary, and SAL members. Erie County Chaplain Rev. Michael Johnson will celebrate Mass at Noon at the Family Entertainment Complex. There will be a Veterans Memorial Service at 1:30 PM in the track infield with yours truly as MC. We are scheduling a guest speaker and a MEPS induction ceremony. A US Flag Retirement Ceremony will be held each evening at 6:30 PM presented to a local Veteran. Nominations are due to the Fair by 7/15. See separate email sent out.



**8<sup>th</sup> District Convention**

Congratulations go out to the newly elected 8<sup>th</sup> District Officers at the 6/20/2026 Convention.

Commander Michael Jones, Hugh Lynch Post #737, Arcade, NY, Wyoming County.

Vice Commander Ted Balbierz, Milton J. Brounshidle Post #205, Kenmore, NY, Erie County.

Boys State Director Tom Deinzer, Hamburg Post #527, Hamburg, NY, Erie County.

Art Forman was endorsed to be the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> District New York Department Vice Commander, South Buffalo Post #721, Erie County.

The 8<sup>th</sup> District Legionnaire of the Year is Ted Balbierz, Milton J. Brounshidle Post #205, Kenmore, NY, Erie County.

David Brophy, from Lancaster High School and current New York Boys State Governor received one of the PNC Michael J. Kogutek Scholarships. Barbara Colt from Chautauqua County received the other scholarship.

Many thanks go out to the Delegates who attended the convention and supported our Erie County candidates.

Jim Bojanowski



**(L to R) Steve Cybart and Sue Quirk present the 8<sup>th</sup> District Legionnaire of the Year to Ted Balbierz of the Milton J. Brounshidle Post #205.**  
Picture by Jim Bojanowski



**Past Department Commander Timothy Van Patten on the right, swears in the newly elected Erie County Officers for 2026 – 2027. (L to R) Jr CC Jerry Kowalski, Commander Pat Murphy, VC Keith Bender, VC Bruce Mayfield, and Finance Joe Porempski. VC Howard Patton III had to leave early that day. Pictures by Sue Quirk.**



**Regular County Meetings at 7 PM**

The next Regular Meeting of the Erie County Committee will be held on Thursday 7/23 at the George F. Lamm Post #622 located at 962 Wherle Dr., Williamsville, NY 14221 **in the rear Grove**. The Post will be serving a Picnic Dinner, Cheeseburgers, Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Salads, and Dessert for \$10 per person, starting at 6 PM.

Thanks go out to the 18 Posts were in attendance for the May County Meeting at Concord Post #431. Posts in attendance were; were 64, 205, 362, 430, 431, 527, 607, 799, 838, 1131, 1528, 1586, 1587, 1626, 1640, 1672, 1780, & 1928.. Hopefully we can see representatives from all the 35 Posts in Erie County on 7/23.

**One copy of the new 2026 Officer & Adjutant Guides will be passed out at the July 23<sup>rd</sup> Erie County Meeting.**

If you have not turned in your newly elected Post Officers yet, please send the OCF form to County Headquarters ASAP. Email is OK.

**NOTE:** We have not received the 2027 Membership Cards yet. Hopefully soon.

**Future County Meetings;**

- August 20, Alfred Jurek #1672
- September 24, Matthew Glab #1477
- October 29, Iroquois #1587

**Department Convention Syracuse, NY July 16 to 18**

**National Convention Louisville, KY August 29 to September 3**



**Felton Davis of the Jesse Clipper Post #430, was awarded County Legionnaire of the Year by Jerry Kowalski and Kathleen Garvey.**



**The 2026 Erie County Boys State Participants at the 6/13 Orientation Breakfast held at the Matthew Glab Post #1477 are pictured with Commander Jerry Kowalski. Picture by Bernie Romanowski**



**SUBMISSIONS  
For the August  
"The Legion-Air"  
Due July 24  
thelegionair@gmail.com**



**County Staff attending the 5/7 Armed Forces Luncheon at the Connecticut St. Armory (L to R) Jim Bojanowski, Sue Quirk, Howard Patton III, Jerry Kowalski, Joe Porempski, Ted Balbierz, Paul Wackowski, & Timothy Van Patten.**



**Past Erie County Commanders welcomed Pat Murphy to their ranks on 6/17 at the Francis J. Donovan Post #1626. Pictured (L to R) front row, Sue Quirk, Jerry Kowalski, Pat Murphy, Charles Herschlag, Fred Pask. 2<sup>nd</sup> row, Gary Wald, Timothy Van Patten, Joe Porempski, Tom Deinzer, Jim Bojanowski, & Ted Balbierz.**



**On 5/21/2026, the Erie County American Legion worked with the New York State Patriot Guard and members of the US Armed Forces to bring to a final rest the cremains of 10 Unclaimed Veterans at the WNY National Veterans Cemetery in Corfu, NY. Pictured (L to R) Ted Balbierz, Jerry Kowalski, Jim Bojanowski, and Howard Patton III.**

Picture by Marlene Roll



Past Commander, Rev. Eugene Pierce, pictured on the right, reported; On Friday, May 29, 2026, the American Legion Jesse Clipper Post No. 430 hosted its inaugural "Legionnaire of the Year Award" ceremony and an Officers Installation Ceremony, which included a dinner provided by Howard's Catering at the beautiful Pucho's Facility.

The evening was filled with excitement, beginning with live music from Dale Oliver Quartet. The highlight of the night was the presentation of the "Legionnaire of the Year Award," presented by Post Commander Cheryl C. Thomas to Sgt-at-Arms Marvin Prophet. The Master of Ceremonies for the event was Pastor Howard Patton III, the County Vice Commander, who installed the following officers: Marvin Prophet as Commander, Felton Davis as 1st Vice Commander/Judge Advocate, Deacon Irvin Bates as 2nd Vice Commander, and Roger Moss as 3rd Vice Commander, Jason Gadley as Finance Officer, Elder Garey Burt as Sgt-at-Arms, Christian Eshelman as Adjutant, Donald Paulk as Compliance Officer, and Cheryl C. Thomas as Immediate Past Commander.

It was a memorable night for the 130 attendees, including Erie County American Legion Officers, members of the American Legion Gabriel A. Rodriguez and Auxiliary #1928, and American Legion Bennett-Wells and Auxiliary #1780, as well as family and friends.

**Saturday July 18**, Iroquois Post 1587 invites all Legionnaires to join the Be The One suicide prevention presentation at the Marvin "Joe" Curry Veterans Powwow event at the Seneca Allegany Resort & Casino Event Center.

**Sunday July 19**, ALL YOU CAN EAT Pancake Breakfast at A. J. Jurek Post #1672, 655 New Rd. Swormville, 14051. From 8 AM to 12:30 PM. Fresh, hot, buttermilk pancakes, "Egglands Best" eggs, link & patty sausage, juice & coffee or tea. Adults \$10, children under 12 \$4, children < 5 free.

**Orchard Park Post #567**, 5784 Ellis Rd., Orchard Park, Dinners at the Post are from 4 – 6:30 PM (or until sold out). Monday: Beef on Weck, Tuesday: Tacos: Tacos, choice of beef or chicken, Hard shell or Soft. Wednesday: Chiavetta's Chicken & Ribs BBQ 2 – 6 PM, Thursday: Pasta Night! Comes with Salad, 2 meatballs and garlic bread. Friday: From the Grill.

**Francis J. Donovan Post #1626**, 3210 Genesee Street, Cheektowaga. The Foxhole Bar Open M-F 2 PM till 6 PM. Hall and Catering services always available, please call Gary at 716-319-4383. Dining room and restaurant Polish Villa 2U will reopen September 4th, 2026. Bateman Memorial pavers can still be purchased at the Bar.

**Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to [thelegionair@gmail.com](mailto:thelegionair@gmail.com) by 7/24 for the August edition. PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor**

**Erie County Website – [eriecountyal.org](http://eriecountyal.org)**

**Phone: (716) 852 - 6500 [Veteran14202@verizon.net](mailto:Veteran14202@verizon.net) Office Hours, M,W,F – 7:30 AM to 12:30 PM**

**DNY website - <https://nylegion.net> National American Legion website - <https://www.legion.org>**