



The Legion-Air

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Commander

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October 2026

Commander's Message:

Well, the Erie County Fair came and went. I would like to thank all who helped. It makes it so much easier with many hands. Please try and take time to help next year. Erie County American Legion booth, our booth, was awarded a ribbon and a 100-dollar check from the Fair committee.

The Flags on the Bridge at Delaware Park was held and as always, I am sure it was well attended

I am sorry was unable to attend Iroquois Post 1587 Fall Festival and Parade I was in Alaska. I am sure it was a good time thanks to Ron Cook and his Post members.

Our national commander has a program started to help with membership get 2 new members to join and receive a pin MEMBERSHIP EXCELLENCE INCENTIVE PIN, showing your time and effort please advise your post members of this program .

The Mighty 8th District will be having an event and dinner for the National Commander Jay Bowen on October 9th, RSVP by 10-1-26. This is a good way for 8th District to show their support for the American Legion, and a nice day event for members and family, a train ride and dinner. Please attend, any questions, contact 8th District Commander Mike Jones at the Arcade Post

Donations to the National Commander for his project the Child Welfare Foundation should be made out to the Department of New York with the MEMO indicating CWF.

Membership: Howard Patton III

Membership is the backbone of the American Legion the 2026 - 2027 Target Dates are: 9/3/26 – 50%, 10/7/26 – 55%, 11/5/26 – 65%, 12/2/26 – 75%, 1/6/26 – 80%, 2/3/27 – 85%, 3/3/27 – 90%, 4/7/27 – 95%, 5/5/27 – 100%

1. We have all but nine posts that are on target with 50% paid membership to date.

2. National Commander Jay Bowen's Incentive Pin

- National Commander Jay Bowen has started a 2027 Membership Excellence Incentive Pin. To qualify one would need to recruit two (2) New Members into the American Legion.
 - A new member is defined as an eligible Veteran joining for the 2027 Membership year who was not a member of the American Legion during the 2026 membership year. (Transfers, do not count as new members). Auxiliary and SAL Members do not count toward this incentive.
 - Be certain that the member has been processed before submitting the form and membership will be verified before pin is mailed.
 - Deadline for this incentive is June 30, 2027

3. Remember the free tactics

- **Check Post 1:** Veterans could be persuaded to transfer to your post
- **Social Media:** To tap into the younger Veterans, social media is a great tool, such as Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, etc.

Oktoberfest – Ted Balbierz/Jerry Kowalski

On Sunday Oct. 18 from 1pm - 7pm, your Erie County American Legion Family, will be hosting its 4th annual Oktoberfest to benefit Variety Club of WNY at the Lamm Post Grove, 962 Wehrle Dr. Williamsville NY 14221.

Cost of admission is a \$10 donation at the door. With a chance to win a flat screen TV. Food and beverages are available for purchase. Erie County American Legion Auxiliary will be hosting a Bake Sale & Basket Raffle. The Bills game will be on the Grove's televisions.

We are requesting all Erie County Legion Family Post, Units, Squadrons, and Riders, to please support this cause by donations from their Children & Youth programs.

This year we are trying something different. I sent a press release to WBEN Radio, to Hank Nevins show on Saturday & Sunday mornings. To help advertise our Oktoberfest event to the Erie County community.

As the Legion Family, we have only ourselves to raise donations for the Telethon. So, if any member has a group or business that would like to donate funds. Please send their information to me, jckowalski@roadrunner.com or 716-681-7169, I will contact them.

If those who are interested in helping, please have them make checks payable to: Erie County American Legion, 65 Niagara Square, Room 609, Buffalo NY 14202.

Thank you for all your support.

Scouting – Felton L. Davis

West Seneca Post 735 has reached out to learn about Scouting Scholarships.

There are two Major Scholarships possibilities for Eagle Scouts I know about. See the links below for information about the amounts available, the qualifications requirements and how to apply.

A. The American Legion:

<https://www.legion.org/get-involved/scholarships/american-legion-eagle-scout-of-the-year-scholarship>

B. The National Eagle Scout Association:

<https://nesa.org/scholarships/>

My contact info 716-864-8430 or felton1@aol.com



Americanism: VC Bruce Mayfield

The Americanism Commission is asking all legionaries to contact our senators and congressmen to show our support for the Take Care of Americas Veterans Act legislation.

<https://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/Campaigns/138045/Respond>

Special Activities: VC Keith Bender

Our annual calendar sales are ready for distribution. Thanks to everyone who picked up calendars at the County Meetings.

Please contact me at 716 462 2268 or at kebender@fbi.gov to make arrangements to pick up calendars for 2027. Or, see me at the 10/29 County Meeting at Iroquois Post #1587.

Boys State: Bernie Romanowski

To increase the number of boys participating in the 2027 Boys State program my cochairman Ray Borawski and I will be making an informative presentation of the program to the High School Counseling Association of Western New York on Friday 10/23 at Golisano Institute for Business. We will tell the counselors to contact the Post in their area or contact Erie County for more information.



Some of the Erie County Attendees at the WNY Baseball Hall of Fame Dinner held on September 9, 2026.



The WNY BASEBALL HALL OF FAME presented the Erie County American Legion with the Patrick Sullivan Founders' Award for sponsoring 100 years of baseball. Accepting the award are VC Bruce Mayfield and PDVC Jim Bojanowski. Picture by Sue Quirk.



Iroquois Post #1587 Color Guard at the Seneca Nation Fall Festival Parade. (L to R) Cmdr. Ron Cook Jr, Reginald Kohler, James Papas, Stephanie Young, and Ronald Hart.



Additional representatives were 8th District Commander Mike Jones, Joe Porempski, Sue Quirk, Jerry Kowalski, & Gary Krueger.



Regular County Meetings at 7 PM

The next Regular Meeting of the Erie County Committee will be held on Thursday 10/29 at Iroquois Post #1587 located at 12897 Route 438, Irving, NY 14081. The Post will be serving Spaghetti w/ meat sauce, meatballs/sausage, Tossed salad, Garlic bread, & Banana cake. \$10 per person, starting at 6 PM.

Many thanks to the 22 Posts who sent representatives to the 9/24 County Meeting at the Matthew Glab Post #1477. 63, 205, 362, 430, 527, 567, 607, 622, 735, 799, 838, 1041, 1131, 1477, 1528, 1586, 1587, 1626, 1640, 1672, 1780, & 1928. Hopefully we can see representatives from all the 35 Posts in Erie County on 10/29.

Future County Meetings;

November 19, Gabriel Rodriguez #1928
December 17, Francis J. Donovan #1626
January 28, In need of a host Post

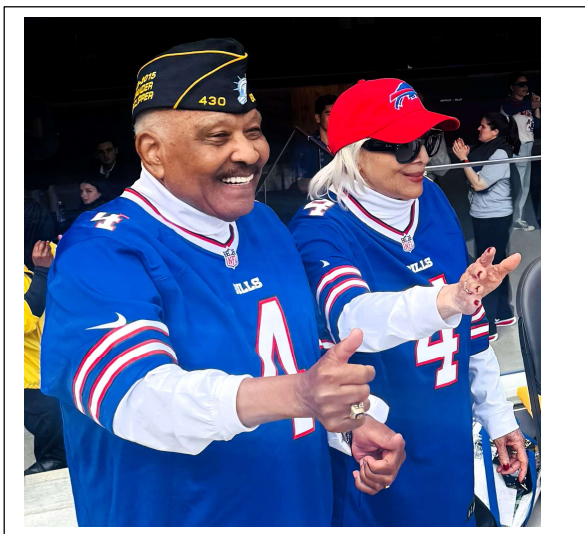
8th District Conference Sunday October 4

Wyoming County at Hugh Lynch Post #737, 550 West Main St., Arcade, NY 14009. Membership meeting at Noon, Conference start at 1 PM.

National Commander Jay Bowen visitation to the 8th District in Wyoming County 10/9 at Byrnclyff Golf Resort.



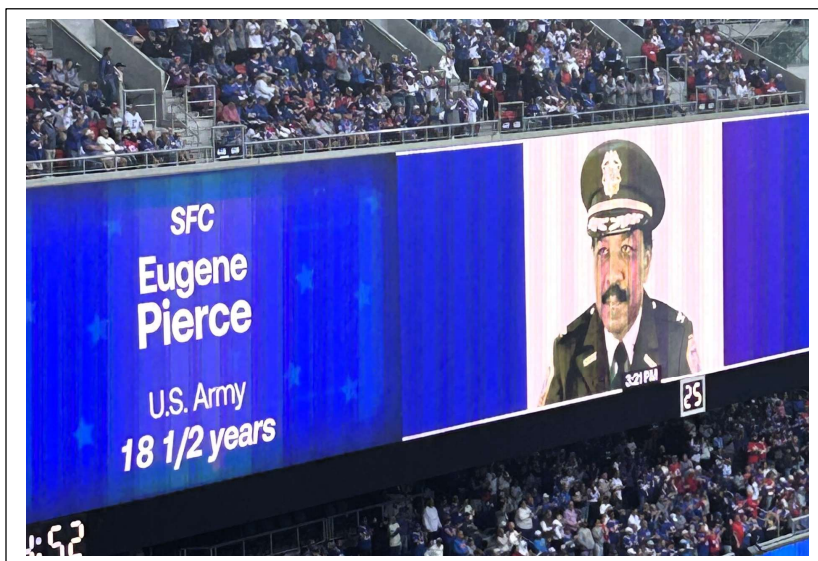
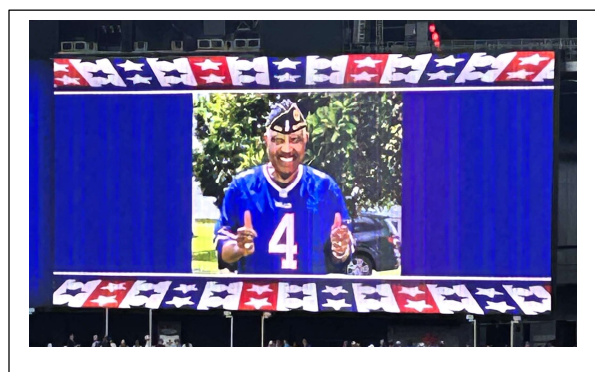
**SUBMISSIONS
For the November
"The Legion-Air"
Due October 30
thelegionair@gmail.com**



Jesse Clipper Post #430 Past Commander Rev. Eugene Pierce was honored as the Military Hero of the Day by the Buffalo Bills on Sunday September 27. Rev Pierce's wife Sharon was also enjoying the festivities. Go BILLS!

A series of photos were shown on the stadium video board. I was able to capture below.

Jim Bojanowski



Members of the Erie County American Legion attending the National Commander Dan Wiley's dinner at the National Louisville Convention. Pictured (L to R) Jerry Kowalski, Tom Deinzer, Jim Bojanowski, Timothy Van Patten, Kathleen Garvey, John Siefert, & Joe Porempski. Also attending the convention were Sophie Rockwell, and Art Forman.

Friday October 2, Orchard Park Post #567 Oktoberfest from 4 to 7 pm, Music 6 to 9 PM, \$10 dinner, Pork Schnitzel, German Potato Salad, & Apple Strudel.

Saturday October 10, Francis J. Donovan Post #1672 Oktoberfest from 6 – 9 PM, music by the Lederhosen Lads. Cost \$10

Saturday October 10, Matthew Glab Post SAL, 1965 Abbott Rd., Lackawanna. Spaghetti Dinner 3 to 7 PM, Vets eat free, \$10 eat in, \$6 kids 6 to 12, 5 & under free.

Wednesday October 14, PCC meeting at 7 PM at Depew Post #1528 85 Manitou St. Depew.

Sunday October 18, 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.

Sunday October 18, Erie County Oktoberfest to Benefit the Variety Club of Buffalo at Lamm Post.

Sunday October 25, Frank L. Gierlach Post & Auxiliary is having a Polish Dinner & Basket Raffle from Noon to 4 PM at 50 Gates Ave., Sloan, NY 14212. \$20 dinner presale only. Golabki, Polish Sausage, Lazy Pierogi, Potato, Rye Bread, & Dessert. Contact Julianne 716 2028 1498.

Sunday October 25, Pancake Breakfast at Milton J. Brounshidle Post #205, 3354 Delaware Ave, Kenmore, 9 AM to Noon. \$10.

MEAT RAFFLES

Saturday October 17, Orchard Park Post #567 at VFW Post 1419, Lakeview Rd., 6 to 9 PM. \$10.

Saturday November 7, Concord Post #431, 109 Zoar Valley Rd. Springville, 6 to 9 PM, \$5.

Saturday November 14, Iroquois Poist #1587, Virtual Raffle, contact Cmdr. Ron Cook

Sunday November 29, Matthew Glab Post #1477, Grand Prize Fundraiser, 3 to 6 PM. Tickets \$100.

Hamburg Post #527, 2 Memorial Drive, Hamburg, Spaghetti Dinners every Thursday from 4 to 6:30 PM. Large Dinner \$12, Small \$10. Take out call 716 649 4667.

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 \$16 Chicken, Ribs \$23, Thursday: Pasta Night! Comes with Salad, 2 meatballs and garlic bread. Friday: From the Grill.

Defensive Driving Classes, 10/19 & 10/26, \$39, at Orchard Park Post #567. 9 AM to 3 PM.

Francis J. Donovan Post #1626, 3210 Genesee Street, Cheektowaga. Our famous Polish Villa 2U will reopen on September 11. Our kitchen will now be open every Friday from 4-8 PM. Fish Frys and so much more! Our Live Music events start on September 11th and will happen every Friday from 7-10PM We are the home of The Foxhole Bar. Bills Patriots Game October 4. Open at Noon.

Send in your articles for the Legion-Air to thelegionair@gmail.com by 10/30 for the November edition. PCC Jim Bojanowski Editor

Erie County Website – eriecountyal.org

Phone: (716) 852 – 6500 Veteran14202@verizon.net

Hours, M,W,F – 7:30 AM to 12:30 PM

DNY website - <https://nylegion.net>

National American Legion website - <https://www.legion.org>