



Bolingbrook Legionnaire

American Legion

Post #1288, Auxilliary Unit #1288

P.O. Box 1133

Bolingbrook, IL 60440-1133



An Award Winning Newsletter, Again

October 2006

Volume 9, Number 10

On the Web: <http://members.aol.com/ilam1288>

VETERANS AGAIN TAKE 1ST PLACE

The Combined Color Guard of the Bolingbrook VFW Post 5917 and American Legion Post 1288 walked away with First Place for the Adult Marching Units for the 2nd time in as many years on Sunday, September 10. We displayed the US Flag, carried by Larry Shaver's son, dressed in his tan Navy uniform (he is a retiree), and flanked by two riflemen in organizational uniforms. That was followed by the Illinois State flag, then by the VFW and Legion flags side by side, followed by the POW/MIA flag. We kept a sharp, brisk cadence and made a snappy "Eyes Left" past the 2 reviewing stands.

The color guard was followed by a black convertible with the Post Commanders, Joe Rojek for the Legion, and Larry Shaver for the VFW, sitting on the boot (we even had signs made for the doors. really cool). About 1/2 way through, Larry Shaver took over the VFW flag to relieve one the members, who then got to ride in Larry's place.

The convertible was followed by a big, dark-blue pickup carrying members from our Auxiliary. They had plenty of patriotic bunting on the sides, as well as Auxiliary and US flags, and they passed out candy along the way.

This was followed by a Crete American Legion Post 1291 26 ft. "Wall of Remembrance" trailer that is too sharp for words. The "Wall" was later displayed at the mini fest.

At parade position #6, we were the leadoff for "regular" entries (after the Village and Fire Department contingents). All in all, it made for a very impressive opening for the parade. But the award was based just on the Color Guard marching unit.

FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY OCTOBER 7, 5:00 P.M.

American Legion Post 1288 will join with VFW Post 5917, The Nights of Columbus, and several local Boy Scout Troops to conduct a Flag Retirement Ceremony Saturday, October 7th at 5:00 p.m. The Ceremony will be conducted behind Village Hall by the flagpole on the back side of the pond. The Village is supporting the ceremony and fixing up a 55 gallon drum for the disposal burner.

We will probably use a combination of the Legion and VFW retirement ceremonies, with a few adaptations of our own (red, white and blue smoke as strategic times in the ceremony).

Practice will be at 3:45 that afternoon. Please come out and help us show our community how a proper retirement ceremony is conducted. Wear your Legion (or regular) white shirt, black pants, and Legion cap (or a patriotic ball cap if you don't have a Legion cap).

MANTENO BINGO TRIP OCTOBER 15

The Bolingbrook Legion and VFW will again join together to help sponsor and afternoon of BINGO for the residents of the Manteno Illinois Veterans Home. Both organizations with participate with approximately 8 other units to typically provide approximately \$1,000 dollars in prize money. This is one of the largest prize pots that occurs at the Home.

Besides just passing out the cash, there is time for conversation and visitation with the residents. They really enjoy that. One of the local Cub Scout packs with token gifts and hopefully the Bolingbrook Air Force Jr. ROTC will also attend. The residents really enjoy the interaction with the young people.

Every six months our posts help to sponsor this event, and every six months we encourage the membership to contribute a Sunday afternoon to brighten the lives of the veterans in the home. Every six months, the same faithful few show up, participate, and come back blessed by the effort. We know that the real reason for doing this is not about what we get out of it. We are seeking to BE the blessing, not GET the blessing. Yet that happens none the less. How about coming out and BEING a blessing?

We will assemble at the Levy Sr. Center, 251 Canterbury Lane, about 11:30 and depart at NOON, returning by about 4:30. Hope to see you there.



Always Remembered

Never Forgotten

Meeting in the Levy Senior Center
251 Canterbury Lane: 7:30 p.m.
Post #1288 – 1st Monday of the Month
Auxiliary Unit #1288 – 3rd Monday of the Month
American Legion Motto: *Get Involved*

COMING EVENTS

- Monday, **Oct 2**, 7:30 p.m.: Post Meeting, Levy Sr. Center, 251 S. Canterbury Ln.
- Saturday, **Oct 7**, 5:00 p.m.: Flag Retirement Ceremony, Behind Village Hall at flagpole beyond the pond. 375 W. Briarcliff Rd.
- Monday, **Oct 9 (Columbus Day Holiday)**, 7:30 p.m.: Will County VAC Exec. Committee Meeting, 128 N. Scott St., Joliet.
- Sunday, **Oct 15**, 11:30 a.m.: Manteno BINGO trip, Departing from Levy Sr. Center at Noon.
- Monday, **Oct 16**, 7:30 p.m.: Auxiliary Meeting, Levy Sr. Center. 251 S. Canterbury Ln.
- Tuesday, **Oct 24**, 7:45 p.m.: For 8:00 Village Board Meeting "Gifts to Yanks" proclamation /collection, Village Hall, 356 W. Briarcliff.
- Saturday, **Oct 28**, Legion Past Commander's Dinner: 2:00 Social, 3:00 Dinner, 4:00 Observance:, Lockport Post #18, 15052 Archer Ave. \$10.00 per person.
- Fri., Sat., **Nov 3 and 4: Gifts to Yanks.** See schedule on insert.
- Monday, **Nov 6**, 7:30 p.m.: Post Meeting, Levy Sr. Center, 251 S. Canterbury Ln
- Monday, **Nov 13**, 7:30 p.m.: Will County VAC Exec. Committee Meeting, 128 N. Scott St., Joliet.
- Friday, **Nov 17**, 8:00 p.m.: County Meeting, Manhattan Post 935, Location TBD
- Sunday, **Nov 19**, 2:00 p.m.: County Thanksgiving Service, Peotone Post 392.

POT OF GOLD

Since there was no meeting in September, there was no "Pot of Gold" drawing. Each month, members place a quarter in the "Pot of Gold." At the end of the meeting, a name is drawn from all Post members. If you are present when your name is drawn, you win the pot. The value of the "Pot of Gold" is now \$23.50

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS NEED HELP

So far we only have 47 (40%) membership renewals. We are way behind the rest of the county. Nine posts are over 60% and 3 more over 50%. Please send in your renewals now. Help the post look good this year.

Primary Post Officers		
Commander	Joe Rojek	630.759.6450
Sr. Vice Cmndr	Elden P. Laffoon, Sr.	630.783.2669
Jr. Vice Cmndr	Bettye Carter	630.378.1433
Adjutant	Frank Zwettler	630.759.1575
Finance Officer	Wayne Macejak	630.378.6223
Primary Unit Officers		
President	Nicky Deletorre	630.378.9247
Vice-President	Herstine Crenshaw	630.759.5661
Secretary	Garnett Shaver	630.759.1274
Treasurer	Carolyn Hansen	630.739.4439

"GIFTS TO YANKS WHO GAVE" DRIVE: NOV 3 AND 4

This year's "Gifts to Yanks Who Gave" collection campaign will again be the weekend prior to Veterans Day (Saturday, Nov. 11). This campaign raises funds to provide Christmas presents for every veteran in the VA and Illinois veterans home and hospitals, and in other facilities, as the Department is informed of them.

It is a unique program in that it does provide a gift to all the residents of the facilities, not just to some. Typically, our county, with 15 posts, raises some 15 – 17 thousand dollars. The State total is usually just over \$150,000. Our four county District often pushes on \$40,000. You can see that our efforts contribute a significant percentage of the total. That is why it is very important that we have a good turn-out for this effort. Every penny raised goes to gifts. The Legion eats all administrative costs. Our efforts have seen collections over \$1,000 at least for the past 8 years. Two years ago we were one of the top 10 posts in the state with a contribution over \$3,000, which we collected in just 2 days. It would be great to reach that total again.

Bolingbrook residents are familiar with the program and willing to donate. The only thing that restricts our total is the number of people we are able to turn out. We can cover Wal-Mart, both Jewels, the Post Office and about eight intersections in town (with 2 – 4 people per intersection), if we can get enough people to help. Our collection rate is typically \$40 to \$60 per hour, with instances running at or over \$100.00 an hour. All it takes is bodies on the streets and at the stores.

So, please, set aside some time on one or both days (or the whole day or both) to help with this worthy effort. There is a form enclosed with this newsletter that you can fill out and send to the post, bring to the post, or e-mail your intentions to ilam1288@aol.com.

"GIFTS TO YANKS" PROCLAMATION AT VILLAGE BOARD MEETING, TUESDAY, OCT 24

Our Village Mayor, Roger Claar, will again proclaim the weekend prior to Veterans Day, Nov. 3 and 4, as "Gifts To Yanks Who Gave" days during the Village Board Meeting on October 24. This long standing practice provides a splendid pre-drive opening seen by many people in our Village. We are even permitted to solicit the audience for our kick off contributions.

The proclamations are proclaimed just after the opening of the Board meeting, which, as you know, begin at 8:00 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays. We need at least 6 people present for the event, and the more we have, the better the show of support the Village sees. So please come out with your Legion hat and Legion or other veteran/patriotic cap and shirt.

Yes, I will help Post/Auxiliary Unit 1288 with Gifts for Yanks Who Gave for 2006! I can begin on/work the following shifts:

Fri. Sat. November 3rd and 4th > Meet at Dunkin' Donuts – IL 53 & Beaconridge

- 6:10 a.m. for 6:30 – 8:15 rush hour collections at I-55 & Weber, I-55 and IL. 53, etc.
- 8:30 a.m. for 9:00 – Noon streets and stores collections.
- 12:30 p.m. for 1:00 – 3:00 streets and stores collections.
- 3:30 p.m. for 4:00 – 6:00 stores collections, Only till Sunset for street collections.
- 6:30 p.m. for 7:00 – 9:00 night stores collections.
- I cannot make it out to help, but here is a contribution to help the Post's/Unit's program.

Name: _____

Return at Post/Aux. Unit meeting or mail to the Post/Unit at P.O. Box 1133, Bolingbrook, IL 60440