



Veteran Stories - December Edition

Capt. Donlon was serving as the commanding officer of the U.S. Army Special Forces Detachment A-726 at Camp Nam Dong when a reinforced Viet Cong battalion suddenly launched a full-scale, predawn attack on the camp.

During the violent battle that ensued, lasting five hours and resulting in heavy casualties on both sides, Capt. Donlon directed the defense operations in the midst of an enemy barrage of mortar shells, falling grenades, and extremely heavy gunfire.

Upon the initial onslaught, he swiftly marshaled his forces and ordered the removal of the needed ammunition from a blazing building. He then dashed through a hail of small arms and exploding hand grenades to abort a breach of the main gate.

When he discovered that most of the men in this gun pit were also wounded, he completely disregarded his own injury, directed their withdrawal to a location 30 meters away, and again risked his life by remaining behind and covering the movement with the utmost effectiveness.

Without hesitation, he left this sheltered position, and moved around the beleaguered perimeter while hurling hand grenades at the enemy and inspiring his men to superhuman effort. As he bravely continued to move around the perimeter, a mortar shell exploded, wounding him in the face and body.

As the long awaited daylight brought defeat to the enemy forces and their retreat back to the jungle leaving behind 54 of their dead, many weapons, and grenades, Capt. Donlon immediately reorganized his defenses and administered first aid to the wounded.

Capt. Donlon's extraordinary heroism, above and beyond the call of duty, are in the highest traditions of the U.S. Army and reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of his country. On December 5, 1964, he became the first Vietnam War and Special Forces recipient of the Medal of Honor.

Auxiliary Corner



Happy Holidays Everyone! I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. On to Christmas and New Years!

I am pleased to report that our Unit submitted 4,268 volunteer hours to the County in November. At \$33.49 per volunteer hour, our Unit submitted \$142,935! Amazing job ladies. I am very proud of all of you!

The November 17th Basket Raffle raised over \$3800 to support our auxiliary programs and events. I would like to thank everyone that volunteered their time and those who donated baskets. A HUGE thank you to Danielle Haxstun for chairing the committee for this event. You all did a wonderful job!

The Auxiliary has been working hard to make Breakfast with Santa another amazing event. June Gaulin, our resident crafter, with the help of junior member, Lydia Duffy, has once again blown it out of the park. I can't wait to see it all come together. November 23rd, we had 20 volunteers come to wrap books and stuff all of the give away bags for the children. Thank you for volunteering your time for this wonderful event. This year's theme is Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer and we are planning for 150 children. Thank you to Colleen Rich and Northeast Crane Mat Corp for donating the money to pay for the books for this year. The books have returned from the North Pole, signed by Santa and are wrapped and ready for the kids!

The committee for hosting the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall will start meeting in January. To date, we have over \$8000 in donations so "Thank You" does not seem like enough to express my gratitude to each and every one of you that has donated. I am humbled by everyone's generosity to make this happen. We have a lot of work to do to make this come to fruition by July. Together we will make this an event to remember.

Thank you to everyone that has stepped up to volunteer in the kitchen while we have been short staffed. Penny will recover and join us again soon but please contact me if you can help. We can always use extra hands while people are out. A special thanks to those who donate delicious dishes for our specials. Our kitchen is one of our biggest funding for our programs and you are all appreciated. Thank You.

If you haven't paid your dues for 2025, please do so now. Also, please reach out if you know any girls under 18 that would be eligible for our expanding junior membership program. There are so many things that the juniors could be involved in. The Auxiliary also has a patch program for juniors and one of our junior members, Gabby Chandler, is doing an AMAZING job completing her tasks for her patch program. Congratulations Gabby! Keep up the good work!

Again, I thank everyone for their continued support of our Auxiliary! I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas with your loved ones. The coming year is sure to be a great success!

Respectfully,

Julie Montello, Auxiliary President

Sons Corner



Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all Squadron and Post 574 Family! I certainly hope these festive days are treating everyone well. Thanksgiving was great, football, turkey, more football, pumpkin and apple pies, last of football, pass out. Doesn't get any better, there was family over and a good time for all as well. Now here we are in December, the last month of the year, please remember those who may need a little more this time of year. The holidays can be tough for some, that's why there is the "Buddy Check" or even the Legion "Be the One" program. If you know of someone in need, don't hesitate to call for helping hands or ears.

Squadron members assisted 3 Veteran families for Christmas through the Washington County LEAP "Adopt a Family program", with \$2500.00 allocated to provide a nice holiday. They also donated \$500.00 to the Operation Santa Claus which also provides gifts of necessity and toys to local children. WCKM (98.5) radio hosts Dan Miner and Pete Cloutier have been involved with this program for many years in our community. They host the Small Business Challenge, where our donation was given.

The Post 574 Pavilion Upgrade project will start at the end of winter. The appliances already purchased for \$750.00 are: 48" propane flat top grill w/cart, deli cooler/sandwich prep station, electric deep fryer w/cart and other miscellaneous kitchen items. In addition, \$3,000.00 has been allocated for expanding the kitchen into the pavilion. When finished, we will have a more functional kitchen to host better prepared events and for those that rent for private gatherings.

Squadron Membership is almost at 100% paid, just 16 members to go. Thank you again to all for the great response in paying your dues. At November's meeting, 2 new members were voted in, Jay Butler and Vincent Bourdeau. Welcome to the Squadron and the American Legion Family. Squadron meetings are always the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7pm. Next meeting is on December 17th.

Squadron members are asked to participate for the Pearl Harbor Memorial Service on Dec 7th and also on Dec 8th for Breakfast with Santa. Both events are in need of volunteers. Breakfast with Santa is our largest community event. Contact myself or Big Dan Nolin if interested or just come on in for volunteering. Big shout out to Big Dan and dual member Glenn Kimble, they installed an access ramp for Judy Gadrick, daughter of late Legionnaire Ray Keech and niece of late Legionnaire Don Keech. The Squadron reimbursed Glenn for materials used at \$333.00. American Legion Department of New York Mid-Winter Conference is January 17th, 18th and 19th, 2025 in Albany. Members interested in attending, please contact me for number of hotel room reservations. This a great event to learn more about our SAL and Legion programs for Veterans.

A Christmas wish from your Squadron Commander- May this Holiday find comfort for all, warm tidings of joy and happiness, for those who can't be with family, your sacrifice does not go unnoticed, may God keep you safe from harm as you do for us so we can feel protected on the home front. Never forget until everyone returns home. God Bless to all, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sincerely - Dan Lancette - Squadron 574 Commander

Riders Corner

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS

Happy Holidays everyone. We have had a great extended riding season and I know I enjoyed a few late rides. We have participated in the Annual Toys for Girls and Boys parade, and donated toys as well as \$750.00 to the program. We also attended the Fat Johnny comedy show, which raised \$1,700.00 for the toy program. I would like to see some more people join me in 2 events this month:

- December 14th we will be placing wreaths on veterans resting place at Saratoga National Cemetery be there by 10 am or earlier.
- December 24th is the annual Christmas Eve Road March behind at the civic center by 8:15 am. Bring your American Flag if you have one. Happy Holidays to all and to all a great new year.



December 2024

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1	2	3 6p Aux	4	5	6 7p Bingo	7 6p Karaoke
8 8a Breakfast	9	10 630p House	11 5p Cguard	12 7p Riders	13 7p Bingo	14 3p Army - Navy Game
15	16	17 7p Sons	18 5p Eboard 6p Legion- naires	19	20 7p Bingo	21 6p Karaoke 6p Xmas Party
22	23	24	25 Merry Xmas!	26	27 7p Bingo	28
29	30	31 8p New Year's Eve Party				

THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY



SERVING UP BREAKFAST WITH SANTA



Place: American Legion Post 574
72 Pearl St., Hudson Falls, NY

DATE: SUN., DEC. 08, 2024

TIME: 8:00 am to 11:00 am

PRICE: \$10.00 per person

Children under 10 = \$5.00

Family of 4 = \$35.00

PUBLIC WELCOME!

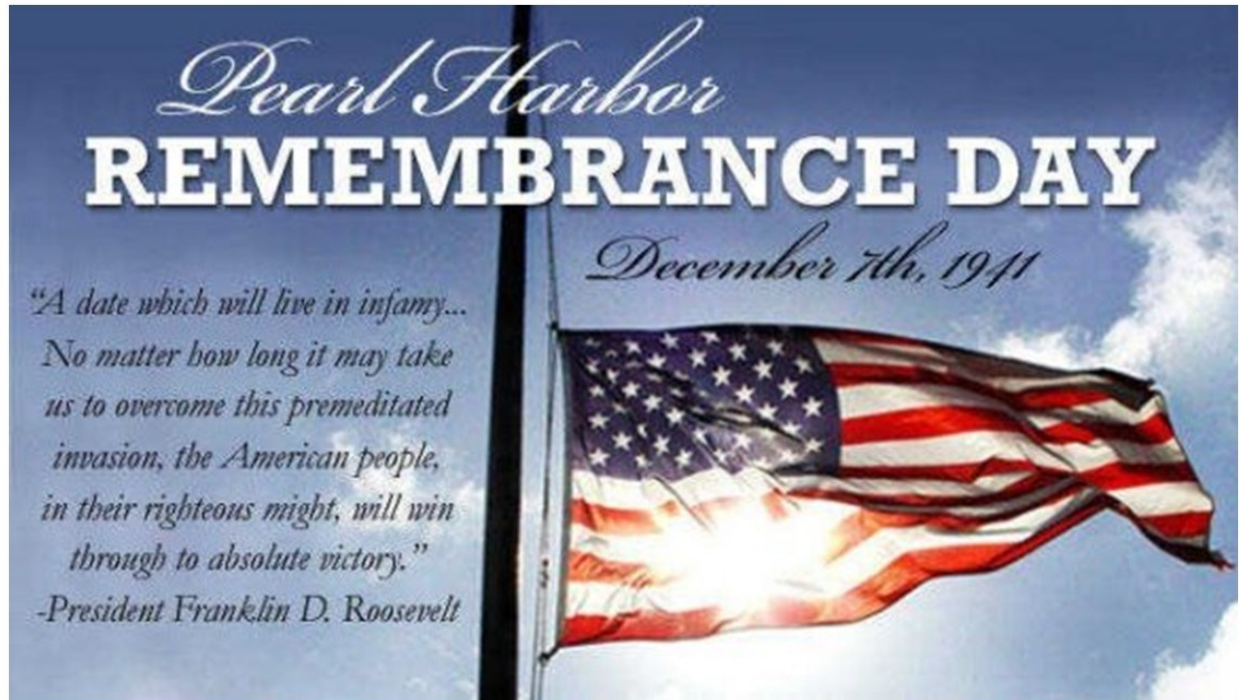


MENU INCLUDES:

**SAUSAGE GRAVY with BISCUITS, SCRAMBLED EGGS,
HOME FRIES, PANCAKES, BACON, SAUSAGE, FRENCH
TOAST, HOT BEVERAGES & JUICE**

Christmas Tree Raffle drawing at 11:00 AM

You do not need to be present to win.



**SATURDAY DECEMBER 7, 2024
10AM**

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 574
72 PEARL ST - HUDSON FALLS**

Community is Welcome

**Presented by Hudson Falls American Legion
Family**

Coffee and donuts will be served after the ceremony





American Legion Post 574 Hudson Falls, NY

A special election will be held to fill the vacated 3rd Vice Commander post. If you are interested in taking these duties, contact the Post Commander or Adjutant before the regularly scheduled December Legionnaire meeting held on December 18

Fancy Friday

Elevate your weekend with the Post 574's Fancy Friday! Mixologist Jenna Duffy is shaking up a selection of premium drinks sure to impress. Whether you're unwinding after a long week or gearing up for a night out, Fancy Friday is the perfect mix of glamour, flavor and fun!

Drink suggestions always welcome!



BOOSTERS

If you would like to become a booster or renew, the cost is \$3.00 a year. This is to help pay for printing. Please place request in the NEWSLETTER mail box in the Lounge or send it to the Post, attention Booster. Thank You for your continued Support.

THRU 2024

Lyssa Farr, Walter Howard, Meghan Howard
In Memory Of
Blayde Howard, Beloved Poppa

Edna Sexton and Rita Porteous
In Memory Of
Roy Porteous, former Post Commander

Ken papa Williams
In Memory Of
David Ball

Noma Bump (Auxiliary)
In Memory Of
Bill Bump (Veteran)

Lecia, Cindy, Nancy, Leigh, Chuck, Dan, Flub
In Memory Of
Bill "pa" Bump

THRU 2025

From Post 574 Color Guard
In Memory Of
Our Commander and Chaplin William Fish

Duane & Barb Vaughn
In Memory Of
Brother John J Stewart

Dawn Palmer
In Loving Memory Of
My Dad Daniel B. Hayes US Army (Silver Star)

Reggie Prouty
In Memory Of
Loved ones Reginald Smith, US Army and Ed Barry, US Navy

THRU 2027

Jay & Sue Marchese
In Memory Of
Tim Pratt

ADRK Art Jr.
ALWAYS
Art Gibbs Sr. WWII (Silver Star) and Steve Gibbs, Korea

THRU 2028

From Rachel Quackenbush
In Memory Of
Jim Quackenbush 1st Director of 574 Riders

THRU 2028 (cont'd)

Gail & Ron Pliscofsky
In Memory Of
Tony Pliscofsky

THRU 2029

Anonymous Donor
In Memory Of
Joel Barber

Ronnie Graham
In Memory Of
Foster Graham Frank Keys & Margaret Keys Raymond (MUD) Graham Donna (Dolly) Graham

THRU 2030

From Don Amorosi
In Honor Of
Thomas Eastwood

Margaret Folk
In Memory Of
John P. Folk Past Department Vice Commander

From Post 574 Color Guard
In Memory Of Our Dedicated Departed Brothers
Bob Cheeney, US Marines (Vietnam) and US Army Bob Beverage, US Navy

THRU 2032

From Catherine Eastwood
In Memory Of
Charles Hicks, 82nd Abn and Viet Vets in the Tank

THRU 2040

From Donald Amorosi
In Memory Of
Catherine Eastwood

From Donald Amorosi
In Memory Of
Dick Bacon

From Jay Marchese
In Memory Of
Frank Marchese U.S.N.- UDT 1958—1962

From Shirley Kelly
In Memory Of
Tom Kelly


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Fat Johnny Fundraiser Finale



Paul Patterson leads the singing of the show's final song

Congratulations Early Bird Winners: Jeanne Legodais (Riders), Keith Bishop (Legionnaires)

If you or someone you know is injured or ill, please call Post Chaplain: Sally Barker 518-798-0752

**AMERICAN
LEGION**



Keep up-to-date with the latest Post news at:

<https://americanlegionpost574.org>

Big thanks to this issue's image and flyer contributions from Dana Warren and Bill Fish

NEWSLETTER

The Post 574 Family Newsletter is published monthly. Articles are due to the Editor **before** the 25th of the month prior to publication. Membership submissions are encouraged. E-mail articles and photographs to: newsletter@americanlegionpost547.org

Scan the QR code at the right with your smartphone to subscribe by email.

