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# THE MILLERTON LEGIONNAIRE

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Volume 2, Issue 1

Legion Post 178 - Millerton NY 12546

January 2008

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## The Final Word

*A word from the Post Commander*

**Lee Garay - Post Commander**

First off I would like to begin by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

As many of you know we have had a very busy end to 2007. Starting with our Veterans Day programs this year, to our Christmas party and our holiday visit to the Castle Point VA Hospital. There have been many hands that have helped to pitch in to make 2007 a great success. However there have been a few things that have taken place at the last two Legion meetings that are important to update you all on.

### **Post Scholarship**

At the November Post meeting the Post Scholarship Committee brought up making a change to the current application process. Instead of having the scholarship application deadline on July 1<sup>st</sup> of the students senior year it will now be on April 1<sup>st</sup> so that the award can be made at the students Graduation Ceremony. The revised application will be made available to the Webutuck High School Guidance office

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## The Legion Post 178 Christmas Party

- *By Sean Klay - Post Historian*

This past December 15<sup>th</sup>, Legion Post 178 held its annual Christmas Party. Many Legionnaires and their families came out to join in a good time at the Legion Hall. The party which started at noon and lasted until about 7pm that evening was filled with food, drinks, prizes and fun had by all.



*Kitchen Crew at work  
Randy Christiansen, John Decker,  
Theo Gerhig*

Once again a special thank you must go out to the Ladies Auxiliary and to the Son's for their continued assistance in making our Legion functions possible. Such events would not be possible without your continued support! - **ML**



*Christmas Party in full swing...*

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and is already available for download off of the Post Website.

### ***Post Christmas Raffle***

On December 15<sup>th</sup> we announced the winners of our Annual Christmas Raffle. After the prize money was awarded the post earned \$1,360! The lucky winners of the post raffle this year are as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> Prize of \$800 went to K Baily, 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize of \$300 went to D. Byron, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize \$100 J. Boice. Congratulations to our prize recipients and thank you too all who purchased and sold tickets to make this fundraising event such a success!

### ***The Millerton News***

Some of you may have noted that the sign in front of the Legion home currently reads “*Millerton News discriminates against the Legion, Veterans and the Troops*”. For the last few years there have been many in this post who have noted the inaccurate and scarce coverage in *The Millerton News* of many of our Legion events, to include our Memorial Day activities, as well as this years Veterans Day Dinner and Ceremonies at Veterans Park. The reason for the change to the sign was an incident that took place a few weeks ago. The father of one of our newest post member approached the Editor of *The Millerton News* to seek an apology over the censoring of the phrase ‘For God and Country’ out of a press release that the Airman’s parents submitted to the paper about his graduation from Air Force Basic Training. Following this the Editor called the Dutchess County Sheriff to lodge a complaint that the father had allegedly threatened the editor, and about an hour later the County Sheriff showed up at his front door.

There are few reasons why this incident is important to us as members of the American Legion. First, *The Millerton News* has a long history of inaccurate and minimal reporting when it comes to Legion events. Second, the phrase ‘For God and Country’ is part of the Preamble of the Constitution of the American Legion. In the preamble it states we are sworn to defend the US Constitution and defend the rights of others, this includes someone’s right to their freedom of expression. Third, there are many members of our community who are currently serving in all branches of the US Military. Why does *The Millerton News* not report what our friends and neighbors are doing overseas? Why do we instead see on a weekly basis cartoons, editorials and articles that disparage them?

At the end of the last meeting it was agreed by the

members present that ‘A letter to the Editor’ be submitted expressing our grievances to *The Millerton News*. This letter is to be submitted for the January 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the paper.

### ***Veterans Park and the Village Center Project***

In the last edition of the Newsletter I brought to everyone’s attention the matter of the Village of Millerton’s “Village Center Project”. As of right now, members of Townscape and the Sadlons who own the Movie House, will be at the January meeting to present to the Legion what the current plan is as well as to seek the Legions input into the matter.

Over the last few years we have seen greater and greater participation from the community in our Memorial Day program. This past year alone the crowd around Veterans Park was estimated at over 500 people. Those who were there will remember that the immediate area around the park, and on the streets was packed! The crowd even extended onto the lawn of Simmons Way as well!

I encourage you to write to the local paper and come to the Village Board meetings as well as the January Legion meeting in order to express your thoughts on this matter. We need to continue to tell the Village Board that they must include the Legion in any future discussion on the project. If *we* do not defend our park, no one else will.

### ***Ladies Auxiliary Chili Cookoff & SAL Raffle***

On February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008, the Ladies Auxiliary will be having their annual Chili Cookoff at the Legion Home. Also the SAL is having their annual raffle with a drawing on March 26<sup>th</sup> 2008 at the Legion home. 1<sup>st</sup> Prize is a Hitachi 42” HD Plasma TV, 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize is a Toshiba HD DVD player, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize Sylvania HD DVD Player. Tickets are 1 for \$5.00 or 5 for \$20.00.

### ***DD 214’s***

Please mail a copy of your DD 214 to Post Historian Sean Klay. The Legion is updating our records to ensure that all members are getting the benefits that they are entitled to. DD 214 and records can be mailed to Post 178, Attn: Sean Klay, PO Box 22, Millerton NY 12546.

### ***In Closing...***

In closing, I would like to encourage our members to participate in meetings, events, activities and other post functions. With greater participation we will be able to increase services provided to our veterans and community. -

ML

## POST OFFICERS FOR 07-08

Post Commander: Lee Garay  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander: John Boice  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander: Robert Jenks  
3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander: Dick Spencer  
Post Treasure: Sid Byron  
Adjutant: Stan Chase  
Post Service Officer: Roger Bradley  
Post Chaplin: Herbert Day  
Post Historian: Sean Klay  
Post Membership Chairman: Al Andrews  
Sgt. At Arms: Frank Kelly  
Homeland Defense Officer: Al Andrews

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS.

### JANUARY 2008

**WHAT:** REGULAR POST MEETING  
**DATE & TIME:** JANUARY 24<sup>TH</sup> 2007 AT 7:00PM

### FEBRUARY 2008

**WHAT:** REGULAR POST MEETING  
**DATE & TIME:** FEBRUARY 28<sup>TH</sup> 2007 AT 7:00PM

### MARCH 2008

**WHAT:** REGULAR POST MEETING  
**DATE & TIME:** MARCH 27<sup>TH</sup> 2007 AT 7:00PM

### APRIL 2008

**WHAT:** REGULAR POST MEETING  
**DATE & TIME:** APRIL 24<sup>TH</sup> 2007 AT 7:00PM

### MAY 2008

**WHAT:** REGULAR POST MEETING  
**DATE & TIME:** MAY 22<sup>ND</sup> 2007 AT 7:00PM

**WHAT:** MEMORIAL SUNDAY SERVICE  
**DATE & TIME:** MAY 25<sup>TH</sup> 2007 AT TBD

**WHAT:** MEMORIAL DAY PARADE  
**DATE & TIME:** MAY 26<sup>TH</sup> 2007 AT 10:00AM

## Castle Point VA visit

*December 2007-Report*

The Castle Point visit on 29 December 2007 was well attended. Eleven members of the Post and two Ladies Auxiliary members visited with over 40 sick or injured Veterans. The visit was very much appreciated by the veterans themselves as well as the Castle Point Staff.

Three hundred dollars was approved for purchase of coupon books to be donated to the veterans for use in the Castle Point Veterans Canteen. \$100.00 dollars worth of coupon books remain for the post to distribute on the next visit in early spring of 2008. Any members going to Castle Point prior to the spring visit can contact Bob Jenks for coupon books. The many donated gifts such as shirts, socks, personal hygiene items, CD's and many other items were very well received. We will be conducting additional programs with the Castle Point VA. We have been asked to sponsor Bingo for the Vets and will be meeting with Ellen and Gretchen from the Castle Point Staff concerning the additional visits.

It was obvious to all that attended that this trip was well worth the time and effort. As the American Legion is the voice that advocates for our veterans at the state and national level, Post 178's small grass root effort made many lives a bit brighter during this holiday season. Post 178 humbly thanks all who donated and those that visited with our veterans at Castle Point.

We encourage you all to help with this program as this is what's expected of the American Legion. Please make some time available to visit a needy veteran. Please contact Bob Jenks or Sean Klay for any details. - **ML**



*Visiting Castle Point VA Hospital*  
Front Row – Charlene Mayville, Debbie Downey  
Middle Row – Robert Jenks, Tyson Klay, Scott Klay,  
Gil Mestler, Donald Barnum  
Back Row – Luke Nelson, Stan Chase, Doug Sands,  
Lee Garay and Sebby Amato

*Photo By Sean Klay*

VETERANS DAY CEREMONIES AT  
VETERANS PARK



*Post Chaplin Herbert Day – Photo by Ron Sackawitch*



*Our Guest Speaker - BG Sands– Photo by Ron Sackawitch*



*Firing Squad at Veterans Park – Photo by Ron*

IN NEXT MONTHS ISSUE

- The Final Word
- Legionnaires Visit Castle Point VA Hospital for a Holiday Visit

## Legionnaires assist Q103 Sunday in the Country Food Drive

- *By Sean Klay - Post Historian*

Over the course of the last few months Q103's Dave McMillan and Bill Simmons have been raising funds in order to purchase needed food supplies for many of our regions local food pantries this Holiday Season. One day before Thanksgiving and another shortly before Christmas some of our very own Legionnaires helped in the pick up, transport and distribution of some of these needed food supplies. Other local business helped in volunteering their time and trucks in order to transport the vast quantities of food that was purchased.

On December 20<sup>th</sup> 2 full pickup trucks and a flatbed with 3 pallets of food each 5 ft high were brought to the Q 103 radio station before being distributed to local food pantries throughout the tri-state area.

Once again our local Legionnaires step forward in demonstrating selfless service to our community. - **ML**



*Dave MacMillian in one of the pickup trucks of food delivered*

- *Photo By Sean Klay*



*Randy Christiansen and NASCAR Dave inside the Q103 radio station stacked with food to be distributed – Photo By Sean Klay*