



FIRST CALL!

LARRY WEIBEL, COMMANDER

FEBRUARY 2024

JACK LAPAGLIA, MEMBERSHIP

HONORING VETS



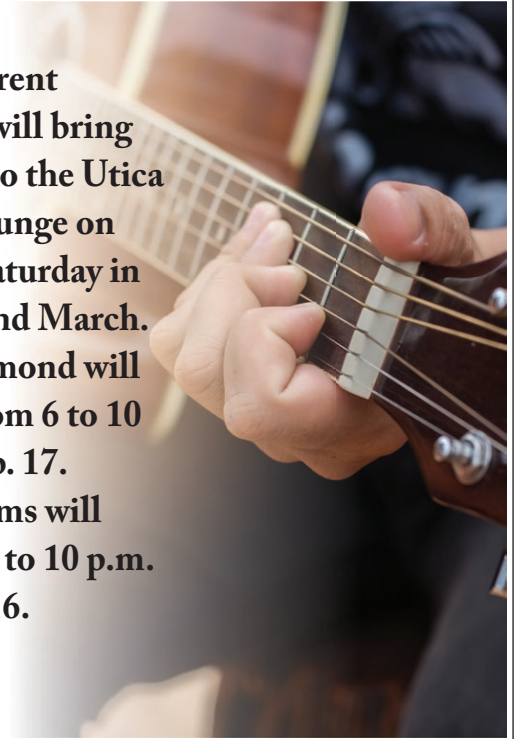
Auxiliary Chaplain Oaré Beyah and U.S. Army veteran Steve Taylor (right) organized a Feb. 3rd event to honor African American veterans as part of Black History Month. Between them is World War II Tuskegee Airman Herb Thorpe. (See P. 2.)

LIVE MUSIC

Two different musicians will bring live music to the Utica Post 229 lounge on the third Saturday in February and March.

Scot Raymond will perform from 6 to 10 p.m. on Feb. 17.

Rick Adams will play from 6 to 10 p.m. on March 16.



LEGION & AUXILIARY JAN-FEB MEETINGS

1st Thursday
(Feb. 1 and March 7)
Dinner, 6:30; meetings, 7.

TUESDAY BINGO STARTS AT 6:15

Volunteers are needed.
Please consider helping out once or twice a month.

FRIDAY FISH FRY

The Post now offers fish fries and other specials every Friday evening.
See weekly menu at facebook.com/UticaPost229



COMMANDER'S CALL

LARRY WEIBEL

Honoring African American Veterans

Thanks to outstanding efforts by our Auxiliary chaplain, Oaré Beyah, we will be recognizing African American veterans on Saturday, Feb. 3. The event takes place at 11 a.m. at Raymour and Flanigan in Yorkville. (See Page 2).

Come to the Post for Live Music

We have some good entertainment lined up for February and March, with live music in the Post lounge on Feb. 17 and March 16. Come and enjoy some refreshments while listening to some good music.

EVENTS HONORING AFRICAN AMERICAN VETS KICK OFF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Utica Post 229 is helping to kick off Black History Month with events celebrating African American veterans, orchestrated by Auxiliary Chaplain Oaré Beyah and army veteran Steven Taylor.

A tribute will be held at 11 a.m. on Feb. 3 at the Raymour and Flanigan in Yorkville. Later that afternoon, a memorial wall will be on display at the Carol L. Crooms Cultural Center in Utica.

“We owe an immense debt of gratitude to the Black veterans who have valiantly served our country,” said

Beyah, the Post’s first female African American chaplain. “This event is our way of recognizing their unwavering commitment and honoring their sacrifices made to protect our nation and its freedoms.”

Beyah said the wall will stand as a symbol of remembrance, allowing the community to reflect on the sacrifices that were made to “preserve our country’s ideals.”

The event is free and open to the public. To inquire about recognizing a Black veteran, contact Beyah at oarebeyah@icloud.com.

A GLIMPSE OF HISTORY FIRST COMMANDER OF UTICA’S FIRST POST

Historian Frank Tomaino featured Utica Post 229 in his *Observer-Dispatch* history column published on Sept. 14, 2023.

He noted that in 1919, **Chester Wyman Davis** was “elected commander of the city’s first American Legion post -- Utica Post 229.” A Utica attorney, Davis had been “a captain with the famed 27th Division in France” during World War I.

Davis’ great uncle, Tomaino wrote, was **Maj. Gen. Daniel Butterfield**, Civil War hero who co-composed the bugle call, “Taps.”

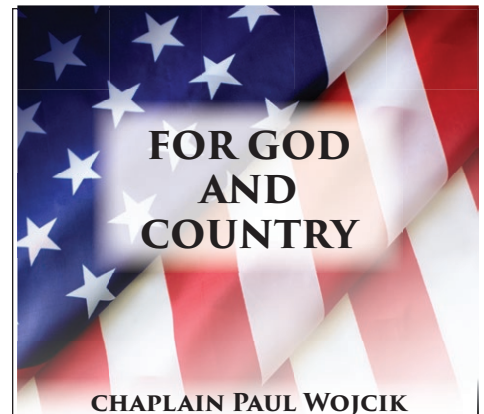
The columnist went on to note that Davis attended Utica’s public schools and earned bachelor and doctorate degrees from Cornell University. He was admitted to the bar in 1904 and opened a law office in Utica. In 1906,

he was elected chairman of the city’s Republican Party Committee and alderman on the Common Council. He was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution and in 1907 was elected president of the Utica Field Club.

The American Legion had been in existence for only a few months, having been organized in France by World War veterans there. Veterans in Utica and vicinity quickly applied for to form a post, which was approved on August 20, 1919.

About 150 men showed up for the first meeting on August 28 in the Steuben Park Armory on Rutger Street (site of today’s Historical Apartments). More than 200 attended the second meeting on Sept. 11.

Among the veterans who signed



CHAPLAIN PAUL WOJCIK

Lord, make me an instrument of
your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may
not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are
pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to
eternal life.

TIP FOR WINTER

In winter before you go out,
hard boil two eggs.
When you go out, use them for
hand warmers and when you get to
work, use them for a snack.

The perks of being my friend is you
will be the normal one.

the application to form a post were:
Stanley W. Jones, Elbert Bagg, John
Buckley, Eben S. Doolittle, Martin J.
Lutz Jr., Lawrence A. Murray, Henry
D. Williams, Dennis A. Hughes, Philip
R. Perry, James A. Hughes, Leslie J.
Riedal, Emmet J. Burke, Frank A.
Coakly, Edwin Schiffer and David S.H.
Howard.



DOROTHY BAILEY, PRESIDENT

AUXILIARY



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DOROTHY BAILEY

At the February meeting we will be electing our nominating committee. Please consider being an officer or taking a committee. To continue focusing on servicing our Community, Children & Youth, Veterans, and each other, we need your help.

We were successful in our service and donations this

past year. I want to personally thank my Executive Committee for their dedication and commitment. Each one of you played a vital role and together there's no limit to what we can achieve in 2024.

Yours in service.

HEATHER HAGGERTY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Qualifications:

1. Open to anyone who is a member or a direct descendant of a member, in good standing, in the American Legion Utica Post 229, American Legion Auxiliary, Junior Auxiliary or the Sons of the American Legion. (For example – spouse, parent, grandparent, child, brother, sister.)

2. Has graduated or will graduate from high school within three months of receiving the scholarship or has received his/her high school diploma or his/her GED.

3. High school seniors, adults wishing to attend college, and those students currently in college may apply.

4. Fill out the application.

5. Recommendation from one teacher (students only) or one community leader; i.e., clergy, business person, leader of non-profit organization, supervisor.

Applications are available online at uticapost229.org

For further information, call Ginger Pieloch at 315-735-5596 or e-mail: dpieloch@roadrunner.com.



**Utica Post #229
The American Legion
409 Herkimer Rd.
Utica, NY 13502**

First Call is a publication of
Utica Post 229 American Legion,
409 Herkimer Rd., Utica, NY 13502,
whose mission is to serve veterans,
members and local communities.
Yearly membership includes First Call,
published 10 times a year.

**Non-Profit Org.
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Since its founding in Paris in 1919, The American Legion has been an advocate for America's veterans, a friend of the U.S. military, a sponsor of community-based programs for young people and a spokesman for patriotic values.

**The Children's
Easter Party is
set for Saturday,
March 23.**

**More info will
be coming.**

**Sign-up sheet
will be in the
lounge. Cutoff
is March 16.**



EDITOR: ROBERT STRONACH. SEND NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PHOTOS TO FIRSTCALL@UTICAPOST229.ORG.