



THE AMERICAN LEGION

UTICA POST 229

FIRST CALL!

LARRY WEIBEL, COMMANDER

MARCH 2024

JACK LAPAGLIA, MEMBERSHIP

SALUTE TO VETS A 'REMARKABLE OCCASSION'



By OARE' BEYAH

The salute to veterans event held on February 3 at Raymour and Flanigan Furniture in Yorkville was a truly remarkable occasion. Stepping into the venue, there was a sense of warmth and camaraderie in the air, creating a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere.

One of the most touching aspects of the event was its emphasis on recognizing black veterans, a group whose contributions are often overlooked or underappreciated. By shining a spotlight on their service

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At the salute to veterans event held in conjunction with Black History Month, Raymore & Flanigan donated \$500 toward a STEM college fund. Among those representing Utica Post 229 were Vice Commander Ed Jackson (left) and Auxiliary Chaplain Oare' Beyah (right). Others in the photo are, from left: veteran Steven L. Taylor, R&F manager Mark Edwards, R&F employee McKenzie Mahoney and manager Rachel Craft.

LEGION & AUXILIARY MEETINGS

1st Thursday
(March 7 & April 4)
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

Come out for entertainment and camaraderie on March 16

We have musical entertainment lined up for Saturday, March 16, with Rick Adams performing from 6 to 10 p.m. in the Post Lounge. Come and enjoy some refreshments while listening to some good music.



SALUTE TO VETS

Continued from page 1.

and sacrifices, the event not only paid tribute to their invaluable role in defending our freedoms but also highlighted the importance of diversity and inclusivity in our commemorative efforts.

Raymour and Flanigan's initiative to launch a college fund for STEM majors, with a \$500 donation to The American Legion, further underscored the event's commitment to empowering future generations, ensuring that the legacy of service continues to thrive in new and innovative ways. (The name of the fund is: *The Aspiring T. Revels -Gibson STEM College Fund: Honoring a Legacy, Advancing African American Excellence in STEM Education.*)

New Horizons Chorus added an uplifting element to the proceedings, as both an artistic expression and cultural celebration. Additionally, the recognition of individuals like Mr. Steven Taylor and the late Tuskegee Airman Mr. Herbert Thorpe exemplified the event's dedication to honoring excellence and leadership within the veteran community.

Senator Joe Griffo's presence was a highlight, blessing the event with his uplifting thoughts and presenting all the organizers with awards of recognition.

The exceptional food and

refreshments catered by O'Connors added to the overall enjoyment of the event.

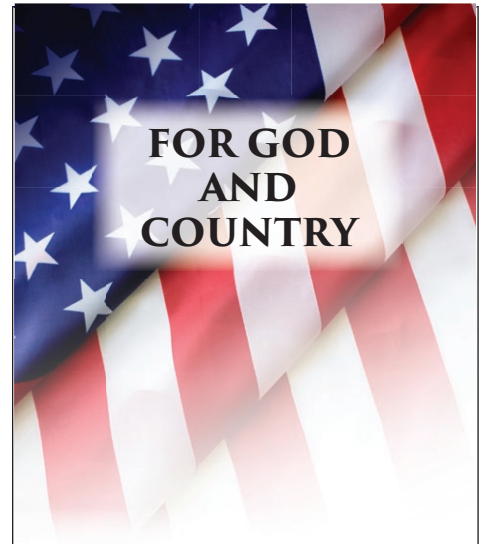
Later that afternoon, over 70 deceased black veterans were memorialized at Carol L. Crooms Cultural Center in Utica. Approximately 120 people were in attendance.

The distribution of certificates, giveaways, and sponsored gifts not only expressed gratitude but also served as tangible tokens of appreciation for the sacrifices made by black veterans.

Moreover, the event provided a vital opportunity for veterans to come together, fostering fellowship and solidarity. The establishment of a roster of black veterans further ensures that their stories and contributions are preserved for future generations, serving as a testament to their enduring legacy.

In honoring the memory of Utica's deceased veterans, the event also acknowledged the profound impact of their service, underscoring the importance of remembrance and reflection in preserving our collective history.

Overall, events such as these not only honor the past but also inspire hope for the future, reinforcing the enduring values of service, diversity, and community that lie at the heart of our nation's identity.



**FOR GOD
AND
COUNTRY**

CHAPLAIN PAUL WOJCIK

(in honor of St. Patrick's Day)
May the strength of God pilot us, may the wisdom of God instruct us, may the hand of God protect us, may the salvation, O Lord, be always ours this day and forever more
AMEN. (St. Patrick)

Never iron a four-leaf clover;
you may be pressing you luck.

There are friends and there is family and there are friends who become family; welcome to the American Legion.

Craft Show
Saturday, April 27
10 to 4
**Crafts, vendors
and food.**
**Please come out
to support our
Legion Post.**





DOROTHY BAILEY, PRESIDENT

AUXILIARY



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DOROTHY BAILEY

Hi everyone!

5TH DISTRICT SPRING CONFERENCE is April 6 at Post 229

Anyone that wants to attend needs to make reservations by **MARCH 29** to Rosetta LaPaglia, 315-797-8653.

COUNTY MEETING is April 20 at Post 229. Our Unit will be hosting and we would like to see a nice turnout. Reservations needed by **APRIL 15** to Rosetta.

Hope to see you at the monthly meeting, March 7.

Yours in service.

COMMUNITY SERVICE: WINTER CLOTHES

By ROSETTA LaPAGLIA

Our Auxiliary unit is asking members to gather any gently used winter coats, clothing and winter footwear that you are not using and would consider donating to the most vulnerable of our citizens. A box has been placed in the post lobby, and donations are earmarked for the Morrow Warming Center at the Cornerstone Community Church on Oneida St., which helps feed and clothe our most needy, many of whom are unhoused and/or suffer from mental illnesses and addiction. Others live in the vicinity and have children who also benefit from a warm place and a hot meal, especially at

this time of year. Blankets are needed and welcomed, as the Center also gives our unhoused a warm, safe place to sleep during the cold winter months. The center has also started a foot clinic, since many of these people have to walk several miles a day, and boots are just about gone at the church closet. Men's sizes in sweatpants and other items in very short supply are L, XL, 2X. Women's sizes range from Ladies Small-Large. Please consider helping if you can. Donations may be dropped off at the post, and we will deliver them to the church. Thanking you in advance.

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

Saturday, March 23, 9-11:00 a.m.

Food by Michele.

Age 10 and under free;

11 and above \$10.00.

Cut-off for reservations is March 16.



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

I'm happy to report that our membership numbers have jumped quite a bit since I last reported. We are now at 81.5%, with 150 paid members. That leaves us with only 34 more to go to reach our quota of 184! THANK YOU to all who renewed and continue to support this organization. Your commitment to our veterans, military, and community is greatly appreciated. And to all our new 2024 members, *Welcome to Unit 229!*

Yours in service,

Rosetta LaPaglia, membership chairperson

**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.

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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.

AMERICAN LEGION TURNS 105 IN MARCH

The American Legion is turning 105 on Friday, March 15 – the day in 1919 when the first American Legion caucus, held by members of the American Expeditionary Force, convened in Paris, France.

The purpose of the Paris caucus, held March 15 to 17, was to form a patriotic veterans' organization. That was followed

up in May with the St. Louis Caucus, where the name "American Legion" was officially adopted.

On July 15, 1919, after many World War I veterans returned to civilian life, a group of them met in Utica to form a local post. After approval of the application on Aug. 20, 1919, Utica Post 229 became a reality.



The Paris Caucus

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