



THE AMERICAN LEGION

UTICA POST 229

# FIRST CALL!

LARRY WEIBEL, COMMANDER

DECEMBER 2024

JACK LAPAGLIA, MEMBERSHIP



**Children's Christmas Party**  
is Saturday, Dec. 14, from 1 to 3 p.m.  
Sign-up sheet is in the lounge. Cut off: 12/6

## POST HONORS FIREFIGHTER, EMT

Utica Post 229 resumed its "Law and Order" awards in November, honoring a *Firefighter of the Year* and an *EMT of the Year*.

Newly appointed Law-and-Order Chair Charles Kriz and Post Commander Larry Weibel presented the awards along with Utica Fire Chief Scott Ingersoll. WKTV News Channel 2 covered the event, providing well-deserved publicity for

the honorees as well as recognizing Utica Post's commitment to honoring first responders.

*Firefighter of the Year* is Lt. **Michael Kennedy**, a member of the Utica Fire Department since 2011.

*EMT of the Year* is Firefighter/EMT **Brandon Bolmer**, just two years on the job.

"Lieutenant Kennedy exhibits everything that we love to see out

of a Utica firefighter," Ingersoll told WKTV. "Dedication and commitment to the fire department, to the city residents and to the craft of being a firefighter." And despite Bolmer being relatively new, the chief said he has made quite an impact.

WKTV noted: "Utica Post honors individuals for their dedication and service to the department and the community they serve."



## COMMANDER'S CALL

LARRY WEIBEL

### Honoring first responders

At our November meeting, we had the pleasure of welcoming the fire chief and two outstanding members of the Utica Fire Department. It was good to resume our long-standing practice of honoring first responder.

I would like to thank our new Law-and-Order chair, Charles Kriz, for his efforts. Bravo Zulu! And I would like

to extend another well-deserved "Bravo Zulu" to Charles' predecessor, Paul Wojcik, who had been Law-and-Order chair for longer than I can remember. He even served in that position on the county and district levels.

I also extend a big "thank you" to WKTV for its coverage of our community event.

### LEGION & AUXILIARY MEETINGS

1<sup>st</sup> Thursday (12/5 & 1/2)  
Dinner, 6:30; meetings, 7  
Call the Post to make dinner reservation.

### TUESDAY BINGO STARTS AT 6:15

Volunteers are needed.  
If interested, please call the Post and leave your name and number.

### FRIDAY SPECIALS

Fish fry and other specials on Friday evenings.  
See weekly menu at [facebook.com/UticaPost229](https://facebook.com/UticaPost229)

### EARLY BIRD DINNER AT 6 P.M. ON DEC. 7

Free to all who renew their membership before Thanksgiving. \$10 for guests.  
Sign-up sheet in lounge.

# POST HONORS FIREFIGHTER, EMT



## FIREFIGHTER & EMT OF THE YEAR

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FROM LEFT: Chair Charles Kriz, Chief Scott Ingersoll, Lt. Michael Kennedy, EMT Brandon Bolmer, Commander Larry Weibel. (Photos: WKTV)



Lt. Michael Kennedy

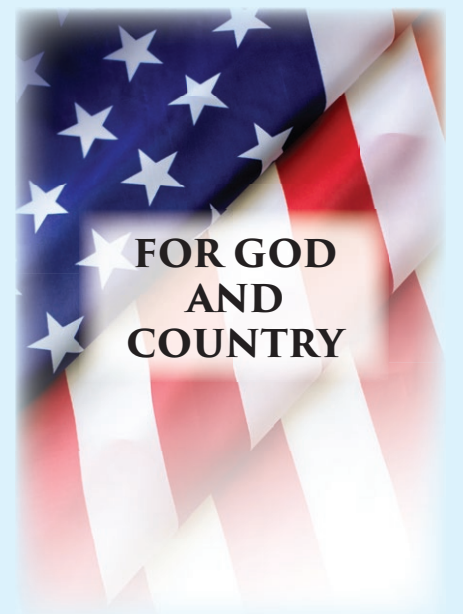


EMT Brandon Bolmer

# VETERANS' DAY



Utica Post 229 led Veterans' Day ceremonies at multiple monuments around the City of Utica, joined by other veterans' organizations (including Vietnam Veterans of America and Military Order of the Purple Heart) shown here at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the Memorial Parkway. Photo by Len Lascala.



FOR GOD  
AND  
COUNTRY

CHAPLAIN PAUL WOJCIK

Lord as we enter December, I seek Your blessings. Fill this month with Your grace and blessing. Let Your light shine brightly in my life and the life of my lover ones Grant us peace, joy and good health as we approach the end of the year. May Your blessings overflow and touch every aspect of our lives. Thank You for Your love and kindness.

AMEN

The most wonderful  
places to be in the world:  
In someone's thoughts  
In someone's prayers  
In someone's heart

Did you know when a short person  
waves at you, it's called a micro wave.

MERRY CHRISTMAS





DOROTHY BAILEY, PRESIDENT

# AUXILIARY



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DOROTHY BAILEY

### NO WINTER MEETINGS

#### *Important Unit 229 notice*

The Executive Committee unanimously voted to postpone the monthly general membership meetings for the winter months of December, January and February, due to the early darkness and winter weather-related road conditions.

General monthly meetings will resume in March, depending on the weather.

The Executive Committee will

continue to meet during daylight hours when necessary.

At the last Executive meeting it was voted that we will no longer be paying dues for any member not directly volunteering for the Auxiliary.

### FEED OUR VETS

We collected and donated \$75 in personal hygiene products. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone that donated.

### VET'S OUTREACH CENTER

There is a blue bin located in the parking lot of Post 229. Clothes and textiles that are in good condition are given to the veterans. Anything that cannot be given out is recycled locally and all proceeds are placed back into helping homeless veterans. They accept all clothes in any condition.

Wishing you and your families a holiday season filled with joy, warmth, and peace.

*Yours in service*

## MEMBERSHIP CHAIR TO STEP DOWN, SEEKS NEW CHAIR

As I have volunteered as the Auxiliary's Unit 229 Membership chairperson for 10 years now, the time has come to pass the torch. I accepted this volunteer position with my whole heart, and hope I have served well in this capacity. It is now time for change, and I will resign this position as of April 30, 2025.

By May 1st, the unit is required to complete and submit a form with the name and information of a membership chairperson to the Dept. of NY, ALA. This person has to be an Auxiliary member in

good standing, and it is a responsibility to take seriously. A membership chairperson or committee is mandatory in every unit. They are responsible for processing dues, whether members pay in person, online, or by phone.

Unit 229 was known as one of the best in Oneida County with dedicated members volunteering much of their time to keep the American Legion and Auxiliary's programs alive; to help our most vulnerable veterans, those homeless, in nursing homes or home bound; our military, families of Oneida County, and our

service personnel overseas. Hopefully this dedication to the American Legion Auxiliary organization will continue in Utica Unit 229.

Along with this change, I am also resigning as unit secretary, which I have voluntarily committed myself to for 30 of my 33 years as a member. The time has come for younger, more energetic members to take the reins. The American Legion Auxiliary is an organization I love and will continue to serve in some way.

*Yours in service,  
Rosetta LaPaglia*

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

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members and local communities.  
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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.*

## **POST CONDUCTS CEREMONIES AROUND UTICA**



*Utica Post 229 conducted Veterans' Day ceremonies at multiple monuments around the City of Utica, including Purple Heart Park in West Utica shown here. Photo by Len Lascala.*

**EDITOR:** ROBERT STRONACH. SEND NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PHOTOS TO [FIRSTCALL@UTICAPOST229.ORG](mailto:FIRSTCALL@UTICAPOST229.ORG).