



# Nyack Legionnaire

March 2010



**C.R. & R.O. Blauvelt Post 310**  
**PO Box 302, Nyack NY**  
**10960**

Officers 2010

**Commander** - Kelsey Graham  
[grahamappraisals2@verizon.net](mailto:grahamappraisals2@verizon.net)

**Vice Cdrs**

- Frank Pappalardo

[frankpappalardo2000@yahoo.com](mailto:frankpappalardo2000@yahoo.com)

- Michael Longuil

[bamboo.mike@verizon.net](mailto:bamboo.mike@verizon.net)

- Anthony Del Regno

[delregnoa@aol.com](mailto:delregnoa@aol.com)

**Adjutant**

- Alex Umrichin

[aumrichin@optonline.net](mailto:aumrichin@optonline.net)

**Finance Of f**

- Jerry Fenton

[daddyfenton4@yahoo.com](mailto:daddyfenton4@yahoo.com)

**Chaplain**

- Jerry Fenton

**Sgt-at Arms**

- Jim Gurrere

**House Mgr.**

- Ken Wanamaker

[ktwdept2@msn.com](mailto:ktwdept2@msn.com)

**Historian**

- Joe Mitlof

[byways@optonline.net](mailto:byways@optonline.net)

**Post E-Mail**

[nyackpost310@yahoo.com](mailto:nyackpost310@yahoo.com)

**Telephone**

- (845)358-8488

**TAPS:** Post members offer their deepest condolences to the family of Comrade Homer Lydecker who died on 20 February 2010.

**March Meeting Notes (20 Members present)**

1. Meeting was dedicated to memory of Comrade Homer Lydecker.
2. VC Mike Longuil introduced August Sauer, Rockland County Commander.
3. Finance Report for December: Rcts: \$1,415, Exp: \$1,384.  
Recap of 2009 Rcts: \$28,881, Exp: \$26,851.
4. Due to amount of activity planned in April and May the Post yard sale was tabled for planning until June.
5. Motion to buy a 10' X 10' tent for use at street fairs was defeated.
6. House – Floor was stripped and waxed as planned and flag boxes in town were cleared.
7. Art Hyman announced election of Joe Conace into the Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame. Members approved sponsoring Joe by underwriting the \$300 cost of the trophy to be presented. Members also approved \$100 to purchase of 2 tickets to the award dinner.
8. Motion to buy 2 tickets (\$90) to the Past County Commanders Dinner approved.
9. Motion to donate \$100 to Special Olympics at the April County Meeting approved.
10. Motion to purchase 2 tickets (\$110) to the National Commader's Dinner approved.
11. Memorial Day speaker will be Comrade Jim Leiner.
12. Grand Marshall for Memorial Day Parade is Comrade Alex Umrichin.

**Adjutant's Call** Thanks to E. Lundgren and A. Orlandini for renewing their memberships. We now stand at 90% renewal. Let's get up to 100% soon. If you have not renewed please take a moment to do so right now.

We are approaching a time where all the help we can get will be appreciated. We will be selling raffle tickets at the street fairs, getting our journal ads, and getting the post ship shape. Please plan on giving of your time if even for a couple of hours.

The newsletter this month includes a Journal Order Form. Please copy the form if you need more. Our champion seller of ads is Art Hyman. I challenge you all to try to beat his last year total of 24 ads. This is our only fund raiser for the year so anything you can do will help the effort.

If you have items of general interest, announcements, war stories, photographs (current or past), that you can contribute to this newsletter, please send it to the Post Adjutant by email [aumrichin@optonline.net](mailto:aumrichin@optonline.net) or snail mail arrive by the last day of the month.

**Next Meeting**  
**1 April 2010**  
**1930 Hrs.**



March 2009

The RC Past Commander's Dinner will be held on 27 March at: **KRUCKER'S CATERING, 81 CALL HOLLOW RD POMONA NY, 10970**

**DONATION:**

**\$45.00 PER PERSON**

**TIME: 6:00PM; COCKTAIL HOUR; 7:00PM, DINNER**  
*Please make your checks out to the Rockland County American Legion or RCAL, and send them to:*

*John Dulisse*  
**30 S. LEXOW AVE  
NANUET NY, 10954**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL JOHN AT:  
CELL #: 1/914/420/9801**

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Post member offer their congratulations to **Joe Conace** on his election to the Rockland County Sports Hall of Fame.

Post members congratulate Nyack resident and frequent Post visitor **John Vassar** on his selection as the Rockland County Buffalo Soldier of the Year.

Congratulations are also in order to member and Past Post Commander, **Dr. Richard King** for being awarded the Elmer Jewell Community Service Award by the Rockland County Marine Corps League



**WW II Poster**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. Next Post Meeting - 1 Apr 2010, 1930 Hrs.  
6 May 2010, 1930 Hrs.  
Dinner before meetings beginning at 1800.

2. RCAL usually meets on the 3rd Monday of the Month. Next Meeting (Law and Order Night) is at 2000 Hrs. on Thursday, 18 March at the Monsey Post. All members are invited to attend county meetings. Dinner served at 1800.

3. St. Patrick's Day dinner will be held on 19 March. Cocktails at 6, Dinner at 7. \$25 per person  
Cocktails 6PM, Dinner 7PM.

**MILESTONES:**

**1 March 1913** - Federal income tax takes effect, as per 16th amendment

**3 March 1931** - "Star Spangled Banner" is adopted as the national anthem

**4 March 1789** - U.S. Constitution goes into effect

**6 March 1836** - A Mexican Army overwhelms the defenders of the Alamo.

**8 March 1817** - The New York Stock Exchange is formally chartered.

**9 March 1965** - Vietnam: First US combat troops arrive (3,500 Marines)

**10 March 1880** - The Salvation Army invades the US from Britain

**14 March** - Daylight Savings Time begins. Set Clocks ahead 1 hour.

**15 March 1919** - American Legion formed, in Paris

**17 March** - St. Patrick's Day. Erin Go Bragh

**19 March 1865** - Battle of Bentonville: Last major Civil War engagement in the East

**20 March 1942** - Gen MacArthur vows "I shall return"

**23 March 1775** - Patrick Henry says ". . . give me liberty or give me death!"

**24 March 1920** - First Coast Guard air station established, Morehead City, NC

**24 March 1958** - Elvis becomes US-5531076 at Memphis

**25 March 1655** - Battle at Annapolis, Md: between Puritans & Royalists

**29 March 1973** - Last US troops leave Vietnam, 9 years after the Tonkin Gulf Resolution

I believe in the brotherhood of all men, but I don't believe in wasting brotherhood on anyone who doesn't want to practice it with me. Brotherhood is a two-way street.

**Malcom X**

## Vietcong shot up Vic Ciullo's Christmas present while serving with the Marines

By DON MOORE  
Sun Correspondent

Vic Ciullo of Venice was an Amtrac driver in Vietnam with A-Company, 3<sup>rd</sup>-Amphibious Tractor Battalion in 1966-67. His outfit was assigned to various Marine divisions in 'Nam-the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>.

He started on the beach at Chu Lai and then moved to I-Corps, west of DaNang, at Hill 55, Hill 190 and at the Mamo Bridge during the 13 months he was on the ground over there.

The Amtrac he drove carried 26 Marines in an armored box that was 30-feet long, weighed 30 tons had a .30 caliber machine gun mounted on its top. The front door of the contraption dropped to allow the leather-necks to get out.

"We could drive right through rice paddies. It was pretty amphibious. It was on tracks," the 63-year-old Marine explained.

It was also dangerous. The Amtrac was susceptible to enemy mines and RPGs (Rocket Propelled Grenades). During the Vietnam War, Ciullo said, some 200 of these vehicles were lost that way. And the occupants in these vehicles didn't fair too well when they were hit by enemy fire. Often they burst into flames.

He was pretty lucky. He came home from Southeast Asia without a scratch.

Ciullo's story is not about any of this; it's about a record his mother sent him as a Christmas present in 1966.

"I was on a river patrol when her Christmas package arrived. When I returned and opened it, I found she had sent me a battery-powered record player and a 33 RPM album of Petula Clark. My mother knew I like Petula Clark very much," he recalled with a smile.

"I was really thrilled and I asked the lieutenant if I could put the record on and play it? He said, 'Yes, go ahead.' There were probably 8 or 9 guys in the tent with us.

"When the first side was done I flipped it over to the other side. Just as I did the Vietcong started shooting bullets through the tent at us. The first thing I did was hit the deck. I reached for my rifle and cartridge belt. Everyone else in the tent scrambled around and did the same thing. We had a firefight that lasted about 20 minutes. The VC was probing us to see how much fire power we had," Ciullo said.

"When I went into the tent the next morning I found the record completely shattered. The arm that held the needle had been broken off," he said. "I must have done it when I hit the deck when VC rounds punched holes in our tent," he said.

"The fact is my Christmas present lasted about 25 minutes thanks to the VC," Ciullo said in exasperation 45 years later. "It was a difficult time in Vietnam. We were shot at continuously.

"I could never tell my mom the truth about what was going on over there with me. I lied to her constantly. I'd write two letters home each time. One went to my father at his barber shop. I told him the truth. The other went to the family at the house. It was a bunch of lies," he admitted.

After Ciullo was honorably discharged from the Marines in '68 he went to work for ConEdison where he worked for 31 years until he retired and moved to Venice in 2005.

Sgt. Vic Ciullo of Venice served with A-Company, 3<sup>rd</sup> Amphibious Tractor Battalion in Vietnam in 1966-67.

His commendations include: Presidential Unit Citation, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, Meritorious Service Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Ribbon, Vietnam Presidential Unit Citation, National Defense Ribbon and Good Conduct Medal.



Ciullo of Venice looks at a model of an Amtrac like the one he drove in Vietnam

