



Hicksville, N.Y. March 19, 1959

# American Legion Commerative

## Legion Celebrates 40 Years of Service

### The End Was The Beginning

The 463 delegates to the Paris Caucus reached agreement on forming an organization of American veterans of World War I. They named the new society, The American Legion, although there had been two prior units with that name. They set up a committee of 100 to push plans for enrollment overseas and at home. They left the completion of the new organization to a second caucus of 1100 delegates that met in St. Louis, Mo., May 8 to 10, 1919. The new organization applied to Congress for a charter and Congress responded by issuing the first charter ever granted a veterans' organization by the Congress of the United States.

Historian Richard Seelye Jones, in writing of the founding Paris Caucus, made the following interesting note:

"The American Expeditionary Force dissolved. It left its dead in France. It left its record for history. It bequeathed the perpetuation of its memories, comradeships and service ideals to The American Legion."

Forty years of dramatic service to God and Country now lie behind The American Legion. It is now starting on the fifth decade of its wonderful life. Today its ranks are mostly filled by a younger generation of American veterans eager and anxious to write the greatest chapters in the history of The American Legion.

The march of time has changed the entire world. We are living today a fantastic period that we call the Space Age.

The American Legion too has changed. But it has changed only in dimensions, not in character and integrity. It is today a 3-war organization. It has 17,000 community posts. It has outposts in very land outside the Iron and Bamboo Curtains. It can well be said today that the sun never sets on the domain of The American Legion. It has an Auxiliary today with 14,000 community units. It has grown far beyond the fondest dreams of its founders - grown in stature, in membership, in prosperity, in prestige, in influence and best of all, in public esteem.

Today the men and women in the uniform of The American Legion still are charter members of war, chairmen of democracy and treasurers of peace. They are still filled with an aggressive Americanism, sparkling with the victory volts of the ideals of freedom. They are still teaching by word and by example that love of country is America's best bodyguard. They are still warning that danger lurks where patriotism shrinks and that when liberty is lost it passes to no one and is never regained.

Today it is still a source of fierce pride to The American Legion that it is regarded by the Communist Party of the United States as its Public Enemy No. 1. Today The American Legion still is in the foreground in militantly opposing Communist and other subversive activities, in ripping off the masks of Communist front organizations and in teaching and preaching that it is not enough to be merely anti-Communist. In The American Legion you have first to be pro-American!

In its militant opposition to Communism, The American Legion has always had the courage to speak up for America. The House Committee on Un-American Activities whose exposes and reports to the American people have aroused them to a realization of the Communist infiltrations in this country, came into being in 1938 in response to a resolution adopted by the 1937 National Convention of The American Legion in New York City. At every session of Congress over the last 20 years The American Legion led the legislative fight to assure adequate funds for the work of this committee.

In fighting Communism The American Legion relies chiefly on education and on exposure. It is to the credit of The American Legion that its chief traducers today are those whose first allegiance is not to America. Today more than 60 percent of all American Legion Posts own their homes which have an aggregate valuation of more than \$300,000,000.

From these fortresses of freedom radiate patriotic influences that are serving to bring about a dynamic conviction of Americanism to cope with the tidal waves of Communism.

Its Americanism program is one of the brightest jewels in the crown of The American Legion. Through its constant accent on its positive programs of youth-training it has built soundly over 40 years for future good citizenship.

More than 400,000 selected high school students participate annually in The American Legion's nationwide Oratorical Contest. The objective of this program is to stimulate original study and research by these students of the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. They have to prepare their own orations on some phases of these documentary bulwarks of American freedom. Think of how many constitutional lawyers this program must have produced - men and women dedicated to upholding the Constitution and defending it against emasculatory amendments. National Commander Preston J. Moore was an oratorical champion in his high school days in Oklahoma!

Taking note that the pathway from the altar leads to the pagan shadows of the Red Star in Moscow and concerned over an increasing number of American families in which religious vacuum has developed, The American Legion in 1950 launched its nationwide, non-denominational "Back to God" movement. In this program American Legion chaplains at all levels have come into their own as true spiritual leaders. This activity has three simple objectives - daily family devotions, regular church or synagogue attendance and religious training of American youth. Through this program thousands of dedicated Legionnaires are working to strengthen the churches and synagogues of their home towns. They are putting the accent on Divine Guidance in daily living. It is fitting to note that the birth of The American Legion in Paris in 1919 was ushered in by a prayer by an Army Chaplain.

The American Legion has had an immeasurable impact on the American scene during the first 40 years of its life. This impact was registered through its major basic programs which brought new concepts of service

(continued on page seven)



Norl C'mdr. Preston J. Moore

### Legion Backs Ike On Berlin

WASHINGTON (ALNS) — Any military action deemed necessary by President Eisenhower in the mounting Berlin crisis will have the complete and unhesitating support of The American Legion.

This pledge was made by National Commander Preston J. Moore on Mar. 3.

He commended the President for his forthright statement that "we are not going to give one inch" in Berlin.

In Washington to attend the Legion's 36th annual National Rehabilitation Conference, Commander Moore said that nearly three million Legionnaires will be proud to render any service that will help strengthen and unify the nation in the critical weeks ahead.

"We must close ranks and demonstrate to Russia and the world that we will not be intimidated or frightened into abandoning our rights and responsibilities in Berlin," the Legion head stated.

"The grave choice President Eisenhower faces," he added, "is not whether to meet Russia's threat of a show down. It is whether we will do so before or after May 27."

Moore noted that The American Legion has disagreed with the President on the adequacy of the proposed defense budget because it did not provide for strengthening conventional military forces and reserve components as required by such developments as the Berlin crisis.

"This criticism was motivated solely by our concern for the security of America," Moore said. "This same concern for the best interests of the United States now compels us to urge the Nation's full support of President Eisenhower in the crisis we face."

With regard to a possible "summit" conference, the Legion chief stated such a meeting of heads of states "could be a way out of the Berlin crisis." He also warned, "It could be a form of appeasement."

### Labors of Legion Had Impact On USA Welfare and Security

As The American Legion celebrates the 40th anniversary of its birth, March 15 to 17, its members can gain renewed inspiration for the fifth decade of their efforts from a review of their accomplishments since 1919.

While it is possible to count noses and reckon expenditures, the profound effect of the labors of millions of Legionnaires on American life cannot be measured. They had a tremendous and beneficial impact on the American scene.

Few have ever credited The American Legion with pioneering in new social concepts. But it is a fact that through its rehabilitation activities for World War I veterans, The American Legion brought about enlightened new concepts in the care of all sick, disabled and physically handicapped.

Likewise The American Legion through its child welfare program achieved a recognized leadership in raising the standards of the care and protection of all children in America.

By its persistence on adequate national preparedness since its cradle days, The American Legion helped to convince the American people that peace can be insured only through strength and not by examples in disarmament.

The American Legion has made monumental contributions to the cause of education. It initiated American Education Week in 1921 to focus public attention on the accomplishments and needs of American schools. The annual observance of this week has become an American tradition. From its very beginning, The American Legion has supported better pay for teachers and during depression periods fought against economies that would have closed schools. Through the educational provisions of its World War II and Korean War GI Bills, The American Legion brought a boom to college and vocational training that has resulted in raising the intellectual level of the entire nation.

Through its unflagging and militant opposition to Communism, The American Legion was largely responsible for the creation of the House Un-American Activities Committee in 1938 whose exposes have aroused the American people and government to the Red conspiracy in the United States.

#### Few Legion Highlights

American Legion legislative efforts helped to bring about enactment of the National Defense Act of 1920 which gave this country its first workable plan for a small Regular Army, augmented by adequate National Guard and Organized Reserve components.

The Veterans Administration is The American Legion's greatest living memorial. Organized first as the Veterans Bureau through American Legion legislative efforts in 1920, it became the VA in 1926.

The adjusted compensation for World War I veterans was largely the product of American Legion efforts.

Benefits taken away from veterans by the Economy Act of 1932 were restored by The American Legion-backed Public Law 141 over a Presidential veto, March 28, 1933.

The American Legion has been largely responsible for the entire structure of state and federal laws dealing with veteran affairs and the realistic compensation program for the disabled and their dependents.

The Widows and Orphans' Bill known as Public Law 482, 78th Congress in December 1944, marked a great American Legion legislative accomplishment.

The American Legion initiated and successfully backed the Veterans Preference Act of 1944. It also backed the creation of the Veterans Employment Service in 1949.

#### Legion Firsts

The American Legion was the first to label Hitler as an enemy of peace.

It was first to denounce Stalin as a foe of freedom.

It was first to oppose United States recognition of Soviet Russia. It was the first to advocate strengthening of the United Nations Charter to eliminate the veto in matters involving aggression.

It was the first to send a commission to Europe in 1941 to study civil defense and was the first to issue an American manual on the protection of the home front.

The American Legion launched its first "Tide of Toys" in 1926 to send 3,000,000 playthings to needy children in Europe. Its second drive in 1931 netted 5,000,000 toys for the kiddies overseas.

During World War II The American Legion conducted vast scrap metal drives, collected playing records, playing cards and cigarettes for American fighting men and women overseas, staged bond drives, trained instructors for air raid wardens and established blood banks.

The American Legion in 1950 organized The All-American Conference to Combat Communism with 60 national organizations participating.



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## How Post Was Originated, Named

The Charles Wagner Post #421 was founded on September 5, 1919 when a group of Hicksville's returned World War I veterans petitioned The American Legion for a charter. Today only Fred Turner is still listed among the active membership of those who were the original signors of this petition.

On June 5, 1923, the Post received its permanent charter from National Headquarters and today, charter members who are still active are Fred Braun, Peter Connors, Martin Duerr, Henry G. Elsmann, Edward Herfort, John G. Harbes, Frank Jung, Fred Hahnicht, William Keller, William McIntosh and Fred Turner.

The Post received its present name honoring a fallen Hicksville soldier, Charles Wagner, who enlisted in the National Guard on May 24, 1917. His regiment was called to Camp McArthur, Texas, on July 1, 1917 and after five months in camp was sent east to Tenny, N.J. The regiment became part of the 32nd Division, First Army Corps, and he sailed for France in February, 1918. As a member of the 107th Ammunition Train he first saw active duty on the Alsace Front; took active part in the Battle of Chateau Thierry and spent considerable time in the Verdun Sector. He was wounded on September 30, 1918 and lost both legs above the knees. He died three days later on October 2, 1918 and was buried in the military cemetery at Conterreville, France.

## Legion Is Organized

The American Legion, for best working conditions, is organized into separate Departments, one for each State. The Department of New York is further organized into Districts and each District covers several Counties. The County organizations are further broken down into Divisions. Thus the Charles Wagner Post is a member of the 3rd Division of the Nassau County American Legion (there are approximately 20 Posts in each of 3 Divisions) which in turn is part of the 10th District (with Suffolk and Queens Counties) of the Department of New York.

## Auxiliary Membership

Membership in the Auxiliary is limited to women who have direct personal connection with World War service through a member of their immediate family who served with the armed forces during those wars, or through their own service with the armed forces. Upon establishment of eligibility, such women may become members of a local unit of the Auxiliary.

## Our Color Guard



Left to right: Anthony Bellacera, Robert Sutton, Arthur Rutz, George Johnston, Michael Palladino, Peter Seitz and Robert Mangels.

## Charles Wagner Post Officers 1958-59



Left to right Front Row—Commander Albert Barlow; Vice Commander E.T. Koerner; Adjutant Peter Muller; Treasurer Anthony Bellacera; Sgt.-At-Arms Howard Brown and Executive Committeeman Robert Mangels.

Left to right Rear Row: Chaplain George Johnston; Public Relations Arthur Rutz; Sunshine Fund, Ernest Gundlach; Historian Robert Beard; Legion Hall, Inc., Henry C. Brengel, Rudy Bouse and Sons of The American Legion; Elias Jabour,

## The Meaning Of The Emblem



This is the emblem of The American Legion. It is a badge of distinction, honor and service. It stands for God and Country, and the highest rights of man. Of its several parts, each part has a meaning. The rays of the Sun, that form the background, are emblematic of the principles of The American Legion, for Loyalty, Justice, Freedom and Democracy will dispel the darkness of violence, strife and evil.

The two gold rings around the field of blue, bearing our name, typify

two of our four main objectives: rehabilitation of our sick and disabled comrades, and care for the children of America. Within the rings is placed a wreath for remembrance of those who died that liberty might live. Upon the wreath is set a star reflecting the glory of victory and promising the world perpetuation of those cardinal principles of our organization. Set upon the star are two bronze rings which typify the other two of our main objectives; a better and more loyal Americanism, and service to the community, state and nation.

The inscription demands that the wearer shall ever guard the sanctity of home and country and free institutions.

## Post Commander Is Topmost Job

The office of Post Commander is the highest position that a Post can bestow upon one of its members. The following is a list of those so honored to date by the Charles Wagner Post.

1919-20 Frank Howe

1920-21 Hugh Lee

1922-23 Boyce Mooney

1923-24 Jerry W. Becan

1924-25 Henry C. Brengel

1925-26 John Dutweiler  
1926-27 Walter F. Stillger  
1927-28 Forrest Mason  
1928-29 Fred Cuniff  
1929-30 Henry Engler  
1930-31 Henry C. Brengel  
1931-32 Henry Starke  
1932-33 Emanuel Smolik  
1933-34 Nicholas Harter  
1934-35 Walter F. Stillger  
1935-36 Judd Snyder  
1936-37 Judd Snyder  
1937-38 Arthur Ferro  
1938-39 Fred H. Davis  
1939-40 William Abrams  
1940-41 Erle LeBarron  
1941-42 Silas Valentine  
1942-43 Joseph Kayol  
1943-44 John G. Harbes  
1944-45 Frank Shea  
1945-46 Lawrence Small  
1946-47 Leonard Young  
1947-48 Walter Schlichting

1948-49 Fred Brengel  
1949-50 Rudolph A. Bause  
1950-51 Robert H. Beard  
1951-52 Elias J. Jabour  
1952-53 Edward M. Becker  
1953-54 Walter H. Barnett  
1954-55 Allen S. Carpenter  
1955-56 Robert Mangels  
1956-57 Arthur T. Bletsch, Sr.  
1957-58 Guy B. Smith  
1958-59 Albert H. Barlow

## Legion Display In Library Lobby

The lobby wall case of the new Hicksville Public Library on Jerusalem Ave., is featuring from now until the end of March a display of the various printed matter covering all the programs of The American Legion in honor of the 40th Anniversary.

From a large size copy of The Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion, to the small red flowers strewn about the bottom of the case, the Poppy, the Legion's flower of remembrance, the whole story is there.

After the display, the material will be given to the library, as requested, for their reference files.

Have You Signed A New Member Today?

## Wagner Post Is Real Livewire

The Charles Wagner Post #421 has its clubhouse located at 24 E. Nicholas St., Hicksville, which is free and clear, in which regular meetings are held the first and third Monday of each month. Besides the normal business conducted at each meeting, there is a Capsule Drawing held and a cash prize awarded to winner, if he is present. After the meeting refreshments are served and the rest of the evening is devoted to pleasurable activities.

One of the features of the Charles Wagner Post is its newspaper, which is published twice each month and is sent to all members, keeping them abreast of the goings on at the Post in the event they missed a meeting. Another service rendered the membership is the publishing of a complete membership directory twice a year which is also sent to each member.

Members are further kept informed by the appearance of a column each week in The MID ISLAND HERALD entitled "Legionnaires' Log" written by Arthur Rutz, who also edits the Post newspaper, "The Hicksville Post." The membership is kept informed of happenings in The American Legion world on a national basis by receiving a copy of The American Legion Magazine each month. This magazine, published monthly by the national organization, is mailed to each member and is the largest men's magazine in America today. The subscription is included in the annual dues of the Charles Wagner Post which are \$6 annually.

Today, the Charles Wagner Post is one of the largest in Nassau County and one of the most active in all fields of Legion work. It boasts of a very snappy and uniformed Color Guard which carried the Colors of the Legion at the American Legion at the reception tendered National Commander Preston J. Moore last month. The Charles Wagner Post is one of the few Posts on Long Island that can take pride in a very active Auxiliary Unit, whose membership this year has broken records; a reorganized Junior Auxiliary that is growing larger each week and a Sons of The American Legion Squadron that is the second largest in New York State.

In 1956 The American Legion gave \$55,000 to the National Association For Mental Health to launch this organization.

The American Legion National Child Welfare Foundation was incorporated in 1954 to make grants within its means to finance needed surveys and studies relating to childhood diseases and improved services for mentally retarded and partially-sighted children.



EDITOR ARTHUR RUTZ seems to be enjoying National Commander Preston J. Moore's comment as they scan the Post newspaper.

## Charles Wagner Auxiliary Officers 1958-59



Left to right: Sgt.-At-Arms Sophia Sutton; 1st Vice President Harriet Mangels; Executive Committee Anna Brengel; President Trudy Rutz; Recording Secretary Sylvia C. Lindlach; Treasurer Dorothy Fricke and Color Bearer Ella Palladino.

(Photo by James G. Carter, Bethpage)

## 'Mother' of Hospital Visits



MRS. LUCIA MCINTOSH, 1st Unit President and a past County Chairman, is credited as being the "Mother" of regularly organized Sunday visits to various veterans' hospitals in the state and throughout the nation.

This well known Legion project was the direct result of the Auxiliary, Post and good people of Hicksville who travelled out to Kings Park Hospital on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, 1922, at the suggestion of Mrs. McIntosh, to visit the forgotten and friendless ex-servicemen. About 35 men and women made this initial trek offering homemade pies, fruits, nuts, ice cream, candy, cigarettes and entertainment to help brighten the day for the inmates. County Welfare Chairman Harry Tappen and State Commander William Deegan were immediately impressed and set the wheels in motion to make these visits as part of the Legion's Rehabilitation program.

Today, almost 37 years later, this suggestion by Mrs. McIntosh, has bloomed forth throughout the nation and thousands upon thousands of Auxiliary and Legion members dedicate themselves each week towards making life just a little happier for the unfortunate by their visits.

## Auxiliary Unit Formed in 1922

The Charles Wagner Unit of The American Legion Auxiliary was organized on September 12, 1922, at the invitation of William Stacey, 1st Commander of the Post.

The first elected officers were: Lucia McIntosh, President; Louise Mason Wilbur and Adah Eisenmann, Vice Presidents; Louise Brengel, Secretary; Mona Mooney, Treasurer; Mayme Davis, Historian; Jeanna Stillger, Janet Magill and Mrs. A. Stacey as Executive Committee members.

On June 30, 1923, the Unit received its permanent Charter and Charter members still on the rolls today are Mrs. McIntosh, Mrs. Anna Brengel, Mrs. Jeanna Stillger, Mrs. Janet Magill, Mrs. Mayme Davis and Mrs. Louise Wilbur.

All its activities were designed to promote the work of The American Legion and to help The American Legion reach its objectives. Although often working independently on projects of its own, the Auxiliary has no purposes that are apart from the aims of The American Legion.

For many years in the 30's, Hicksville was well represented at contests throughout Legion circles by a fine band which contained skill members as well as Legionnaires. Some of their trophies can be seen in the trophy case at the club house.

One of the American Legion Auxiliary programs are Girls State, Camp Sales, Legislative Work, National Security, Pan American Club, Rehabilitation, Americanism, Child Welfare, Civil Defense, Community Service, Education and Scholarship.

The Auxiliary has been sponsoring highly successful late Sunday Supper Buffet Suppers to which members of the Post and Auxiliary are invited to partake. The requirement is to bring the whole family, a covered dish of food, plus \$1 and you are assured of a good meal and good company.

The membership this year has been in a sharp rise and has gone far beyond its assigned quota and this is even further accelerated by the reactivation of the Juniors a short time ago. The Juniors are a group under the age of eighteen and are under the able supervision of Cynthia Hochbrueckner. Upon reaching the age of eighteen years, Junior members will automatically be admitted into active membership with full privileges. Dues for the Juniors are \$2.00 and the dues for the Auxiliary are \$3.50, both payable on October 20th for the coming year.

## THE END WAS THE BEGINNING (cont. from pg. 1)

to the entire nation and changed the thinking of all Americans. Through its rehabilitation program for veterans of World War I, The American Legion actually pioneered in bringing about enlightened modern methods of taking care of the disabled and physically handicapped and of re-training them to become self-sustaining and useful members of society. Today such care and rehabilitation are available to all American citizens through public programs, services and resources unheard of before World War I.

The American Legion has become the greatest name in rehabilitation. The Veterans Administration is today its greatest living memorial. Through its far-sighted fathering of the G.I. Bill of Rights for World War II veterans and its subsequent Korean G.I. Bill, The American Legion has contributed to the raising of the educational level of the entire nation. This same legislation also gave a tremendous boost to home ownership in the United States.

G.I. Bill-educated or trained, veterans today boast of a 15 percent greater earning power than non-veterans of the same age brackets, a complete reversal of the situation 13 years ago!

The American Legion is largely responsible for bringing about modern concepts of child welfare and for streamlining laws, court procedures and public services having to do with the care and protection of all American children. Horse and buggy period adoption and probation laws have been brought up to date. Uniform state laws on desertion changes came about mostly through American Legion leadership.

Today The American Legion still pioneers in the field of child welfare. It is financing through grants from its National Child Welfare Foundation research studies and surveys aimed at improved training and services for mentally retarded children, at helping partially-sighted youngsters and at training police officers for careers in working with juveniles who have become delinquent.

The American Legion will continue to give the best of itself to its communities, states and nation. Its gifts are precious for they are tied with heartstrings. The 17,000 American Legion Posts are the lengthened shadows of 2,700,000 patriots working for God and Country!

## SAL Squadron Advisers Officers And Members



Rear - Anthony Bellacera, Advisor; Kenneth Seitz, Michael Palladino, Arthur L. Rutz, officers; Elias Jabour, Advisor; and member Peter Seitz.  
Front - Members Charles Eddings, William Eddings, William Jabour, William Mangels, James O'Connell, John Jabour, Anthony Bellacera Jr. and Robert Mangels Jr.

(Photo by James G. Carter)

## Squadron Organized 36 Years Ago Today More Active Than Ever

The Sons of The American Legion was authorized by action of the 1932 Portland, Oregon, National Convention of The American Legion. At the May, 1933 meeting of the National Executive Committee of The American Legion, the National Constitution and By-Laws were approved. The Charles Wagner Squadron

received their temporary charter on July 10, 1933, to become one of the first S.A.L. squadrons on Long Island. Of the original charter members of this squadron only three are members active with the Post as Legionnaires at this time and they are: Dr. Walter Stillger, Robert Boerckel and Fred Brengel.

On February 14, 1958, the squadron was reactivated under the leadership of Post S.A.L. Chairman, Elias J. Jabour, who at the present time has graduated to the 3rd Division Chairmanship and Past Commander Edward Becker has taken over the reins of the squadron. The Charles Wagner Squadron today is the second largest squadron in the Department of New York. Its present Captain, Arthur Lewis Rutz, is serving his second term and has just been elected to the staff of the Nassau County Sons of The American Legion. Due to the wide scope of ages, some are nominated from birth, there is a great variety of programs covering all ages.

At the present time, the squadron has a drill team equipped with training rifles and the makings of a drum corps who practice with much gusto each meeting night. The Squadron meets at the Legion clubhouse each 2nd and 4th Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. and after each meeting refreshments are served.

Annual dues of \$1.50 is payable October 20th of each year.

In 1925 The American Legion raised a \$5,000,000 Endowment Fund, the earnings of which help to finance its national rehabilitation and child welfare activities. This was increased to \$7,000,000 in 1945.





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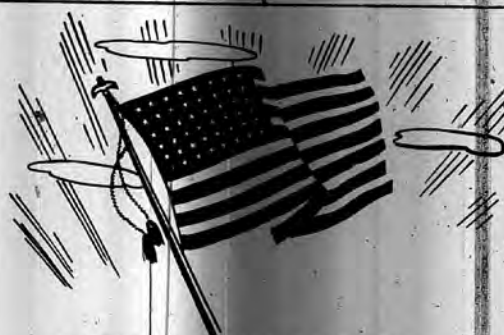
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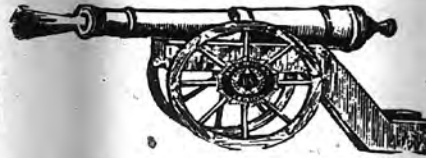
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