



Summer-Fall 2013

REVEILLE News

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Legion Family Picnic-Great Fun!!!



On a beautiful sunny Saturday in August we held our first annual Family Picnic. By all accounts it was a huge success. Legionnaires and their families, totaling 80, enjoyed a great day of spending time together, getting caught up with old friends, playing games and eating a wide variety from a menu of picnic foods. Everyone put on a few extra pounds that day, especially with all the delicious homemade desserts and snacks everyone brought.



Games featured volleyball, horseshoes, beanbag corn hole toss game and a golf chipping game. There was a 50/50 game and the entry fee was \$1/ball. The last person to try his luck was Jim Mullen and he being a pro golfer easily won the prize money of \$37.

Many thanks to all who attended, helped with the setup, cooked and assisted with the clean-up. Your help and presence made the event a great success.

The Commanders Corner



So much has happened since we published our last Reveille News. In reviewing our numerous activities of this past year, I am personally pleased and proud of what our organization has accomplished within our community.

Poppy sales constitute our main source of income and are held prior to Memorial Day. This remarkably successful program is headed up by Chuck Trado. Chuck's outstanding organizational skills, hard work and dedication, as well as the many volunteers who gave willingly of their time and effort, resulted in a healthy contribution to our proud tradition.

Everyone loves a parade, especially Ridgefielders, whose overwhelming appreciation, heartfelt thanks and gratitude go out to Past Cmdr Bob Tulipani and Sr. Vice Cmdr Dick Godbout for their considerable time, effort, and undaunted enthusiasm, in their orchestration of yet another stellar Memorial Day Parade. For all who marched and helped make this parade happen, you are equal recipients of Ridgefield's sincere thanks. We received many comments that this was the largest and best parade in recent years.

At the closing ceremony we presented Matti Joyner with a plaque expressing the Legions gratitude for providing her vocal talent to our ceremonies for six years. We wished her well in her future endeavors and attending college.

This past year our Legion Baseball Program was expanded from two teams to four.

They are:

19U (meaning 19 years of age and under) our senior team. 17U is our Jr. Team. The two new teams are 16U and 13U. This is in response to recognizing the need for kids who don't want to play Babe Ruth, but still want to play in a more competitive league. This

is all possible because of our Gen'l Mgr. Bruce Yuen and Baseball Board Members. The validation of the strength of our program this year lies in both the Sr. and Jr. Teams making the state playoffs.

Sr. Vice Cmdr Dick Godbout took the reins and ran a very successful Legionnaires Family picnic this summer. Well attended and I believe it will become an annual event, as a good time was had by all.

This year we again sponsored three Jr. High School boys and two girls, to the Legion's Boys State and Girls Programs respectively. This is another great program to promote Americanism within Ridgefield. I look forward to another active year of good community oriented events and your continued support.

Coming and Goings

Membership Changes 2013

New Members

Denis Loncto	Harris Towne
Jack Hughes	William McCann
Ronald Giustino	John Wille
Mark Lieberman	Howard Cummings

Post Everlasting

Si Bellagamba	Ray Salvestrini
Patsy Figliola	James
Robertson Frank Montanari	James
Costanzi	

Former Members Post Everlasting

Lou Fossi	Joe Swiatek
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Former Members

Tom Berry	Tim Cooper
Michael Jancz	Benjamin Myers
Leonard Provenzale	Joe Sheehy

The Boys and Girls of Boy's State and Girl's State

At our monthly meeting on September 26th, the Post had the pleasure of being introduced and meeting the five outstanding young women and men from Ridgefield High who were selected to represent Post 78 and their community at Boys and Girls State at Eastern Connecticut State University in Willimantic. The three boys and two girls each spent a week with 150 of their peers, learning about our government and how it works. It is a participatory experience and the participants were excited about their experiences there friends they made. Our Post representatives George Schuster and Jerry Kiernan shepherded them thru the selection process.

We were able to listen to their comments about their experiences and all five were excited and enthusiastic about the week they spent in Willimantic with 150 other young men and women as talented as they...

George and Jerry have provided biographies of the five along with photos. You can read and view their pictures below. It is exciting and a privilege for our Post to sponsor such outstanding students.

Stephen Alt.

Stephen is an athlete, playing football, wrestling and volleyball. He spends what spare time he has volunteering at Ridgefield Crossings and is planning on applying to West Point and The Naval Academy.

Stephen received the Richard William Anderson Award at the program. An award presented to the boy whose dedication to the political process has helped to advance the principles of integrity and service to the community.



Graeme Hewett

Graeme is also an outstanding athlete whose sport is track and field. He has received numerous awards for his excellence in Cross Country and the 800 meter relay event. At RHS he has served as the Student Gov't President in all four years of High School. His GPA is listed at 4.0. At Boy's State he was in the top five selected to go to Washington for a special Boys State event.



Robert Jones

Athletics is listed as one of his accomplishments. His sport is soccer where he is the goalie for the varsity team. In his class at RHS he has served as class treasurer in his Freshmen Junior and Senior years.

Robert has also been very active in the Boy Scouts where he attained the rank of Star Scout and leadership position of Quartermaster. His volunteer work has included Relay for Life and the Appalachian Service Project.



Analise Giobbi

Analise has been active in Girl Scouting and is progressing toward her Gold Award the highest award that can be achieved in Girl Scouting. She is an accomplished pianist and has played competively.

She is also active in her parish church St Mary where she is a choir member and Eucharistic Minister.

Miss Giobbi has an interest in the military and has applied to the naval Academy as well as an NROTC Scholarship.

Laura Franklin

Laura has an interest in law and politics. At RHS she is captain of her Mock Trial Team of 24 where after rigorous case preparation they appear before a Judge in the Danbury Court. She has worked through her Church, Jesse Lee Methodist, with the Appalachian Service Project. Laura also has an interest in cooking and is a member of the RHS Cooking Club.

Her college plans are to study History and Social Sciences.

Both Laura and Analise were nominated in the top five out of 150 girls to go to Washington for a Girls State Event.

Looking Forward

Fall- Winter, Calendar of Events

- **October 17th**- *monthly meeting and installation of 2013-14 Officers. Cmdr of District 3 presiding over the installation*
- **October 19th**- *Ridgefield Old Timers Assoc. presents Commander Besse an award for promoting Americanism.*
- *Week before Veterans Day, we all should be attending the programs put on by our schools honoring Ridgefield's Veterans. Schedules to be announced.*
- **November 10th**- *Jim Connelly will represent Post 78 & Ridgefield in a Gala Fundraising Event "Dancing with Hero's". Jim will dance with a local celebrity in competition with other veterans.*
- **November 11th** - *Veterans Day Ceremony-11a.m. at the Community Center/Veterans Garden.*
- **November 21st** - *meeting will feature our Turkey Raffle Drawing*
- **December 19th** - *Christmas Dinner at the Community Center.*

Mark Your Calenders