Depew Post No. 1528 American Legion

P.O. Box 301
Depew, New York 14043

Post Location: 85 Manitou St., Room 200
Depew, NY 14086

Email: jbetz@depewlegion.org

Web site: www.depewlegion.org

December 2025 Issue

Post Meetings

Post meetings are held at 1900 on the **third Thursday** of every month, in Room 200 at the Depew Municipal Building, 85 Manitou St. We invite you and urge you to attend. We are looking for new people to help out on committees and to move into Officer positions and serve on committees.

Depew Post Officers

Commander	Tom Johnston
1st Vice-Commander	PC Jake Schu
2nd Vice-Commander	Bob Aranyosi
3rd Vice-Commander	Mike Zalikowski
Adjutant	Jack Betz
Finance Officer	PC Richard Walczak
Chaplain	PC Don Schram
Sgt.-at-Arms	Dick Chudzinski

Post News

PC Fr. Mike Johnson is currently our Membership Chair and Jack Betz is also our Graves Registration Chair.

Please get involved in your Post. Officers and committee chairs cannot do all of the work that needs to be done. If you can spare a little time to help, please contact that committee chair or one of our officers.

Commander Tom Johnston is also our Quartermaster and has numerous items for sale. Contact him at (716) 480-9691. Remember that our Post sells American Legion American flags, POW-MIA flags, ties and many other items. We get credit for this on a point system, where we get $0.10 for every dollar we spend on American flags. If you see someone flying a flag at their business ort home, try this approach:

"When your flag wears out, we would appreciate your support by allowing us to provide you with a new one. Our prices are extremely low, and your purchase helps to support our Post and the work that we do."

We offer nylon or commercial grade polyester flags at very reasonable prices and in various sizes.

Special points of interest:

- *Commander's Report*
- *Veterans Day*
- *Lottery*
- *Membership*
- *Christmas Party*
- *Special Events*

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COMMANDER'S REPORT— BY TOM JOHNSTON

This has been a busy year for us . We were able to accomplish the following tasks :

- A successful Poppy Drive, chaired by Jack Betz and Jake Schu. We saw our volunteers for this very important fundraiser step up and fill all of our shifts. However, we had to drop a bank location and some still had to do multiple shifts as we could always use additional help.
- Memorial Day was lightly attended but we managed to carry it off again, with the help of Depew Mayor Kevin Peterson and Depew Fire. Without their help, it may not have happened. THANK YOU Mayor Peterson and Depew Fire for your assistance! We also thank the Vine Wesleyan Church for having our service!
- As we close out 2025, I want to thank our officers and members for keeping our Post viable.

3rd ANNUAL POST AWARDS NIGHT

This year the Post will recognize Members with 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40 and 60 years of continuous years of American Legion Service. This year there were 22 individuals presented with Pins. Pins will be presented at the February 19, 2026 meeting.

VETERAN'S DAY SERVICES

On **Tuesday, November 11, 2025**, Veteran's Day Services were held at St. John's Lutheran Church, 67 Litchfield Ave. in Depew. Church service at 1015, followed by the Veteran's Day ceremony in the basement of the church at 1100. It was held inside due to weather.

The Lancaster Elks Lodge again put on a Luncheon for all Veterans on **Tuesday, November 11th. 1200 to 1700**. The Elks are huge supporters of the VA and Veteran's activities. Post 1528 again approved a donation $250 toward this event to assist with the costs. The event is known as the Bob Sharpe Veteran's Dinner, as Bob chaired this event for many years, was our 2nd VC and very active in our Post events as well as with the Elks.

THANK YOU ELKS!

Dinner was spaghetti w/2 meatballs, chef salad, bread w/butter. Drinks were on the house.



MEMBERSHIP & DUES BY FR. MIKE JOHNSON CHAIR

Depew Post 1528 did good job in our 2025 Legion Year! I know our Post has the potential to surpass our previous Legion Year performance in our 2026 Legion Year! As of the publication of this newsletter, Depew Post 1528 has 102 Members paid which is 79.1% of our goal! We're only 28 paid Members away from reaching our goal of 100%! If you have a family member or friend who is serving in the military or honorably discharged or retired from the military and they are not a Legion Member, please encourage them to join the American Legion and our Post! All we need is a completed application signed by them or they can E-Mail me at: tke251@hotmail.com with the following information: Full Name, Mailing Address, Phone Number, E-Mail Address, Date of Birth, Branch of Service, date they entered the military, date of honorable discharge (unless still on duty), and attach to their E-Mail a copy of their DD-214 (if discharged) and they are all set! They would also send their $47.00 dues to our Post. There are incentives offered by the National Commander and Department Commander for your recruiting efforts (i.e. - Any Legionnaire recruiting 2 new Members will receive the National Commander's Dog Tag Pin). Let's build up our Post and Legion Family with new Members!! Also, if you know a Legionnaire who let their membership expire, invite them to rejoin the Legion and our Post! Also, if your contact information changes, please let us know, or you will not receive Post notices. If you have paid your 2026 dues, thank you!! If you have not yet paid your 2026 American Legion dues, **which were due to our Post by September 1, 2025**, please either go to www.legion.org, click 'RENEW', enter your Membership ID and Last Name, and pay your dues online (which will process through within 24 hours); or a check or money order for $47.00 made out to American Legion Depew Post 1528 and mail to our Post at:

American Legion Depew Post 1528
P.O. Box 301
Depew, NY 14043—0301

I would also ask you all to reach out to any fellow Veterans you know, whether it's family members, friends, or coworkers, ask them if they are a Member of the American Legion, and if they are not, invite them to become a Member. All I need to get their application submitted is their full name, mailing address, E-Mail address, phone number, date of birth, date they entered active duty, their branch of service, and their date of honorable discharge (if they are not actively serving). We will also need a copy of their DD-214 with the SSN blacked out when the membership application is processed.

Membership is all of our responsibility, so we all need to reach out to any family members or friends we know who are Veterans or Active Military Members and invite them to join the Legion Family and our Post! There's strength in numbers and our Post and Legion will be stronger if we get more of our fellow Veterans to join our ranks. Remember, there are awards that you can earn from Department of New York and Legion HQ for recruiting new members!

If I can be of any assistance to you or if you have any membership related questions, please contact me at (716) 570-1246 or tke251@hotmail.com.

DEPEW POST 1528 ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY— BY PC RICH WALCZAK CHAIR

Our annual Christmas party was held at the 16 Ellicott Bar and Grill, 16 Ellicott Place, Depew, NY 14043. Thanks to PC Jake Schu for arranging the party with the 16 Ellicott. This year, the party was held on December 4th. We had an open bar at 6:00PM, followed by a great dinner at 7:00PM. The bar reopened for one hour after dinner. The cost was $25.00 per member or $50.00 per member and guest. The value for your dollar was well worth attending. The owner, Dave Hastreiter, personally prepared and served the meals, along with our server Jackie. The food was great, and the company warm and friendly. We had 6 cancellations for various reasons, with 28 members and guests/spouses attending. Erie County Adjutant Jim Bojanowski and his wife Michelle also attended.

If you could not attend this year, plan on coming next year!

DEPEW JOINT VETERAN'S COMMITTEE

The Depew Joint Veteran's Committee (DJVC) met to discuss planning for Veterans Day. Only three people attended this meeting. If attendance and participation does not improve, we will discuss dissolution of the DJVC. American Legion Post 1528 will be lead for services held. 2025 DJVC officers are:

Chair: Jake Schu AM. Legion/AMVETS

Vice Chair: Mike Zalikowski, AMVETS/AM. Legion

Secretary: Jake Schu AM. Legion/AMVETS

Treasurer: Don Schram, AM. Legion/AMVETS

Parade Marshall: Dennis Zimney DAV 203

POST 1528 GRAVES REGISTRATION PROJECT— BY JACK BETZ CHAIR

In 11 years as grave registration chairman working on the 5 cemeteries under Post 1528's jurisdiction, my team and I have spent over 14,000 hours compiling cemetery records, fragmented and incomplete records that cover deceased Veterans from the Indian Wars to present service. I continue to develop the Post database, which today contains over 4,988 known deceased veterans. If you know of a veteran that may be buried in one of these cemeteries, please contact Jack so that he may follow up on that person and add them to our data base.

The following is a breakdown by cemetery as of 12/10/2025:

LANCASTER RURAL:	19,200 grave sites;	884 Veterans
St. ADALBERTS:	20,900 grave sites;	2,246 Veterans
St. AUGUSTINES:	5,330 grave sites;	637 Veterans
SACRED HEART:	1,340 grave sites;	198 Veterans.
ST. MARY'S:	11,897 grave sites;	923 Veterans.

MEMORIAL DAY

Again, this year the Post placed over 2,900 flags on veteran graves at St. Adalbert's and St. Augustine's Cemetery with the help of our members, Boy and Girl Scout troops. Along with our annual services at Lancaster Rural.

POST WEBSITE

Thanks to PC Schu, you can now view deceased Veterans located at the five (5) cemeteries listed above. Just go to post 1528 home page and click on Veterans Graves Master List. There you can view any of the Veterans that have been located at the various cemeteries. If you know of others that are not shown, follow the directions at the top to have them added.

2026 LOTTERY BY RICH WALCZAK

Enclosed are three (3) tickets for our annual lottery drawing fundraiser. You get two numbers on each ticket and they are good for two months (April & May)



We ask that you purchase or sell all three tickets. If you need more, please contact Rich Walczak at 716-472-2591.

This is a very important fundraiser that helps your Post support many functions throughout the year. Please help!

Please return your three ticket stubs and $30.00 to:

Depew American Legion Post 1528
P.O. Box 301
Depew, NY 14043-301

Special events



Commander Johnston, Tom Petrie, Adjutant Jack Betz and PC Jake



Picture of the Buffalo-Niagara Honor Flight Board with Depew Post 1528

On September 4, 2025, Depew Post 1528 Commander Tom Johnston, Adjutant Jack Betz and Past Commander Jake Schu present the American Legion Red, White and Blue Award to President Tom Petrie of Buffalo-Niagara Honor Flight, at their recent Board meeting. Tom was nominated by American Legion Depew Post 1528 for the award and we are proud of what he and the Board has done for veterans. Congratulations to you Tom Petrie! We thank you and the Board for your dedication and service to veterans. Keep up the amazing work you have done!

Sick Call

Please call Jack Betz at 716 481-3569 or Tom Johnston at (716) 480-9691 if you know of a member who is ill or has passed away. Also, please pass this information on to the Webmaster, that it can be Posted on our web site.

Sick call: Chet Pawlowski

Passed since April 2024:

EDWARD J. MYSZKA	7/17/2023
WAYNE C. ROBINSON	8/6/2024
ROBERT C. BALTUS	9/16/2024
LEO L. NOWAK	12/18/2024
RAYMOND H. WOLFE	2/19/2025
JOSEPH D. MILLER	3/17/2025
JAMES R. GASIEWICZ	5/27/2025
BASILE KORBUT	5/30/2025
DAVID L. WIRDOR	8/3/2025
ROBERT W. WILDE	8/10/2025