# 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: jxb73@hotmail.com

Web site: www.depewlegion.org

**June 2026 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

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

## Post News

Jack Betz is currently our Membership Chair and 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.

PC 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*
- *Memorial Day*
- *Post Raffle*
- *Membership*
- *Special Events*

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## COMMANDER'S REPORT— BY JACK BETZ

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

- A successful Poppy Drive, chaired by myself 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 again this year!
- I want to thank PC Tom Johnston and our officers and members for keeping our Post viable.
- We now have four M1 Garand rifles andm an Honor Guard! If you are interested in helping with this, let us know.

3rd ANNUAL POST AWARDS NIGHT

This year the Post recognized 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 were presented at the February 19, 2026 meeting.

## MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES

On Saturday, **May 23, 2026**, Memorial Day services were cancelled at Lancaster Rural Cemetery, because of heavy rain and saturated grounds.

On **Monday, May 25, 2026**, Memorial Day services were held at The Vine Wesleyan Church in Depew. The church service was at 0915, followed by a parade and Memorial Day ceremony in the Depew Veterans Park. This event is organized by the Depew Joint Veterans Committee (DJVC) and received much needed assistance from Mayor Kevin Peterson and Depew Fire. American Legion Depew Post 1528 Commander Jack Betz is the 2026 DJVC Chair.

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## POST RAFFLE

Enclosed are six (6) tickets for our annual raffle drawing fundraiser. The drawing will be at our September 17th meeting.

We ask that you purchase or sell all six 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 payment to:

*Depew American Legion Post 1528*

*P.O. Box 301*

*Depew, NY 14043-301*

## 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: Jack Betz AM. Legion

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. |

**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.

## MEMBERSHIP & DUES BY JACK BETZ 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 117 Members paid which is 90.7% of our goal! 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: jxb73@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. Also, if you know a Legionnaire who let their membership expire, invite them to re-join 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 2027 dues, thank you!! 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.

## 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 Jake Schu at (716) 440-3302 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: Don Schram

Passed since April 2025:

JAMES R. GASIEWICZ 5/27/2025

BASILE KORBUT 5/30/2025

ERNEST W. PRUITT JR 6/17/2025

EDWARD J. MYSZKA 7/17/2025

DAVID L. WIGDOR 8/3/2025

ROBERT W. WILDE 8/10/2025

WILLIS NOBLE 11/15/2025

CHESTER F. PAWLOWSKI JR. 12/16/2025

PC RICHARD “DICK” BULMAN SR. 12/25/2025