

Lamm Lights



George F. Lamm Post
962 Wehrle Dr.
Williasville, NY 14221
716 - 204 - 2405



Commander Phil



Proud To Be American

IMPORTANT NOTICE

DO TO THE RECENT CORONAVIRUS
OUR POST HAD TO CLOSE ITS DOORS TEMPORARILY TO THE PUBLIC,
OUR MEMBERS AND TO ALL THE EVENTS
THAT WERE SCHEDULED FROM MARCH THUR JUNE.

WE ARE STILL TAKING RESERVATIONS PENDING REOPENING

THE REVENUE LOST FROM THESE EVENTS HAS FORCE THE POST
TO MAKE SOME CHANGES TO OUR OPERATION.
STARTING IN JUNE THE LAMM LIGHTS WILL NO LONGER BE MAILED.
IT WILL BE ON OUR NEW POST WEBSITE WHICH YOU CAN VIEW AT.
WEBSITE _____

HERE IS LIST OF OFFICERS YOU MAY NEED TO CONTACT
IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ACTCESS THE WEBSITE PLEASE CONTACT
ONE OF THE INDIVIDUALS BELOW

COMMANDER: PHIL ENGLISH 716 - 398 - 8008

EMAIL: philenglish52@gmail.com

PRESIDENT: PAUL LAURENZI - 716 - 994 - 1004

MEMBERSHIP: PAUE SHEA: 716 - 906 - 9257

2ND VICE: STEVE SAMS: 716 - 807 - 2894

EDITOR: DOMINIC SAVARINO - dominicsavarino@verizon.net

Post Clubhouse:398-8008
 Lamm Post Grove:634-6965
 Editor/Mailing-Dominic Savarino:207-0349
 email - dominicsavarino@vizon.net

Lamm Post Officers 2019 - 2020

Commander: Phil English.....291-4638
 1st Vice: Erine Bacon1-585-317-8946
 2nd Vice: Steven Sams.....807-2894
 3rd Vice: Don Helminiak.....668-2905
 Adjutant:Open
 Mobilization:Open
 Sgt-At Arms: Don Helminiak668-2905
 Service Officer:.....Open
 Finance Officer: Richard Brown836-0418
 Corp President: Paul Laurenzi335-4881
 Chaplain:Open
 1st Asst. Chaplain:Open
 2nd Asst ChaplainOpen

EXECUTIVE BOARD AT-LARGE MEMBERS 2019 - 2020

Dominic Savarino207-0349
 John Scallsi:563-1521
 Paul Laurenzi:335-4881
 Rick Herrmann:243-5348
 Paul Shea906-9257

AUXILIARY OFFICERS 2019 - 2020

President: Debbie Diebold836-9617
 1st Vice: Theresa English.....Unlisted
 Secretary: .Susana Colon.....491-2429
 Treasurer: Mary Ann Bush.....759-1171
 Chaplain: Cindy fries391-1883
 Sgt - At Arms: Ruth Brown276-3590

Got a minute? Tell the Post what you think of the monthly newsletter "Lamm Lights." Send your respond to dominicsavarino@verizon.net. If you would like to contribute to improving ur newsletter, please feel free to contact me with your interests

Thank You!

**TO GET US ON FACEBOOK
 GO TO
 GEORGE F. LAMM POST**

JOIN US

General Membership Meeting
Second Wednesday Of The Month
7:30p.m.

Ladies Auxiliary Meeting
Second Wednesday Of The Month
7:30p.m

*The Lamm Lights will be ready for viewing on the
 5th of every month on our website.*

*Just go to
 and click on newsletter to view.*



**To Book your event at
 the George F. Lamm Post
 Contact Bob Bruno
 at 716-335-4881**



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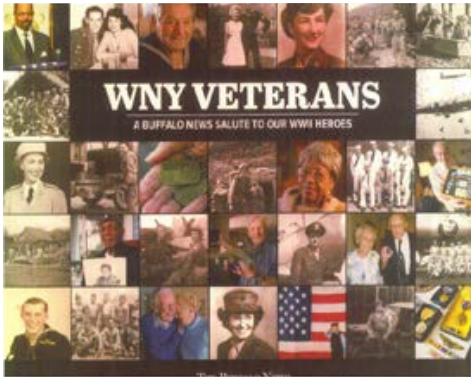


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Surviving the ferocity on Iwo Jima



An "honor to be there with MacArthur

In a word, Donald L. Puff says he felt "inspired" as he watched fellow Marines raise the American Flag atop Mount Suribachi during World War II Battle of Iwo Jima.

For an 18-year-old who had enlisted at 17 with his parents permission, it was a sight to behold amid the blood and guts all around him on that Pacific island.

"It was the most patriotic feeling I have experienced in my life when I saw that," said the 85-year-old retired physical education teacher from Cleveland Hill School District.

There days after he witnessed that special moment on Feb 23, 1945, which yielded one of the most enduring photographic images from World War II, Puff again gazed out into the distance. But this time he spotted a Japanese Grenade flying right of him.

"We were attacking a ridge-line, and I looked up and saw this thing coming at me - and it exploded in my face. The most serious thing was that my right eye was injured," Puff said.

He was evacuated to the 148th Army general Hospital on Saipan for two weeks, then transferred to the Navy Hospital at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and eventually returned to the States.

As the years passed, the vision in his injured eye decreased, and he now has sight only in his left eye.

But we're getting way ahead in Puff's story.

At the end of 1945, he decided to leave the Marines and crack open the books at Cortland State teachers college. It didn't work.

The yearning to serve the country kept calling out to him, and he re-enlisted in 1947.

"I thought I wanted to make a career out of the Marines, and I was working as athletic and recreation noncommissioned officer, but I failed the physical for Officer Candidate School, and they medically retired me in 1951 because of my eye," he said.

So he resumed higher education, attending the University of Buffalo and eventually was hired as a gym teacher at Cleveland Hill High School.

In addition to teaching, he coached football, swimming and even track and field for a couple of years. But it was in swimming that he made some serious waves.

"While I was the swim coach for 21 years," he said, "we won over 200 meets and 13 championships. No surprise that district officials saw fit to name the

Opposite: Donald L. Puff's memories of Iwo Jima include witnessing the flag-raising by fellow Marines atop Mount Suribachi. His war mementos include a Japanese sword given to him by a friend. Charles Lewis/Buffalo News

Donald L. Puff, 85

Hometown: Buffalo

Residence: Cheektowaga

Branch: Marine Corps

Rank: Sergeant

War Zone: Pacific

Years of service: 1944-45, 1947-51

Most prominent honors: Purple Heart, Presidential Unit Citation with battle star, Good Conduct Medal

Specialty: Infantry rifleman



swimming pool the Donald L. Puff Natatorium.

While he has had great success in life, his early years often come swimming to the surface.

"My platoon started out with 43 Marines, and by the morning of the eighth day at Iwo Jima, there were eight survivors, and I was one of the eight. They brought replacements in, and I was made a squad leader," Puff said.

Death was all around the young Marine. "It was totally unbelievable," he recalled. "I still have a vivid picture of the first Marine who I knew was dead. He was shot in the hand, and he died of shock."

Under other circumstances, that kind of battle wound was commonly known as "a million-dollar wound" because it meant that the

survivor would be returning to life back home, far from the horrors of the front line.

Instead, the unlucky Marine, "about 25 and one of the older members of our platoon was literally frightened to death," Puff said. The Japanese, Puff said, also had heavy casualties at Iwo Jima, with more than 6,800 Americans and nearly 22,000 Japanese killed in action.

"From the U.S. naval bombardment," he remembered all around us. "So with death so much a part of the landscape, Puff's initial thought that he would surely survive began to wane.

"A first, I didn't think I would die," he said, "but as our numbers started to dwindle, I became more pessimistic."

Then, at 5pm Feb 26, 1945, bad luck found him in the form of an enemy grenade.

Yet he lived and has endured.

As he now reflect: "I got a college education out of this from the GI Bill of Rights. I met my wife Adele, while I was in the service. she was in the navy, and we were married in the service.

"I also got a lifelong career as a physical education teacher, and I made lifelong friends with guys I served with in the marines.



Attention' Meat Raffle Lovers

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Call the Stamm Law Firm at 631-5767 for a free phone consultation or go to stammlaw.com.

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*Attorney Advertising: Stamm Law Firm

LAMM MANOR & LAMM GROVE

*Geo. F. Lamm Post Manor and Grove is one of Western New York's premier banquet and grove facilities. It is conveniently located at 962 Wehrle Drive, Between Cayuga Road and Union Road, Williamsville, NY just minutes from the Buffalo Airport and easy Thruway access via the NYS 90, I-290 and RTE 33 (Kensington Expressway). We offer full service banquet hall facilities for all your special occasion needs, with **plenty of convenient parking!** Lamm Manor and Grove has handi-capped accessible entrance and lavatory.*

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MAY 2020						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
	3	4	5	6	7	8
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

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and Active Members
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Service To Our County.*

Erie County Legislator
Edward Rath
Akron - Amherst - Clarence - Newstead



LAMM LIGHTS



Distribution List for Erie County
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Veterans of Foreign Wars Posts
Amvets

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