

# UNIT 376 E-NEWS



## American Legion Auxiliary

Fort Hill ~ Unit 376  
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From Jeanie Petersen, Membership-Treasurer-Publicity Chairman

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November 11, 2020 Hi ALA-ers,

### ★ HAPPY VETERANS DAY! ★

To all military members: Thank you all for doing what you did or are doing for our country.

No large public gatherings are permitted during this pandemic and therefore, there will not be a public service today, Veterans Day. The Post 376 Commander Darlene will recognize and thank the Vets today at 11, but it is not a public event.

(I look forward to hearing how many hundreds of cards the NYS Veterans' Home received for its residents today.)

### TODAY- 2020 Senate Veterans Hall of Fame Inductee.

This morning, at the Floyd L. Maines Veterans Memorial Arena, Senator Fred Akshar, joined by other local officials, officially inducted local veteran and veterans advocate Sergeant Eric Fetterman into the NYS Senate Veterans' Hall of Fame Class of 2020. Eric is a former Marine who served during Operation Desert Storm, and is father of two Chenango Valley High School students.

- ★ THIS FRIDAY, Nov. 13 – **ROAST BEEF DINNER**– Take-Outs ONLY, 4-6 p.m., \$10. Menu: roast beef, potato, gravy, roll, corn or carrots, and dessert. It's a fundraiser for the Legion.
- ★ The Early Bird dinner in November, Cancelled.
- ★ **NEXT UNIT MEETING: Tues., Dec. 8, 2020, 6:30 p.m.** - Our 4th meeting of the (fiscal) year. *Come to a meeting and share your thoughts and ideas! Please wear your mask. We wrap Christmas presents for our "Christmas basket families" at this meeting.*
- ★ **Sunday Legion Community Breakfast IS BACK**- Sundays from 7:30 – 11 a.m. (YES specials.) We have been serving the All-You-Can-Eat breakfasts for 25 years. The pandemic is the only thing that shut it down - temporarily. Breakfast patrons: we are heeding the CDC information regarding the Covid-19 virus. Your health and safety is our concern!



- ★ **November Birthdays** – Christine, Dianne, Karen, Nancy, Nina, Ruth & Teresa - I hope you had a very Happy Birthday. **Mary & Tracy - Happy Birthday TODAY!** To our Unit 376 President Jan (TOMORROW)- a very **Happy Birthday!** Louise, Tracy, Cynthia, Susan, Terrill, Kimberly & Alesha ~ "**Happy Birthday to you all!!!**"

Speaking of special birthdays, did you see the article in the most recent Auxiliary Magazine titled "**Centennial Moments**"? It featured a very special member of Norwich Post 189, **Grace Gustafson**. Grace turned **105 years old** (Sept. 7)! Eligible under the military service of her late husband Frank Gustafson — a U.S. Navy veteran and American Legion member, Grace joined the ALA in 1987. She's been a member ever since, and is an Honorary Life Member of Unit 189.

Speaking of Honorary Life Members, our Unit 376 welcomes two new HLMs



this year: **Jean Ryan** and **Renae Ruff**! These two members made 40 consecutive years of membership in our Unit – **CONGRATULATIONS Jean and Renae!**

Renae, the Primary School Librarian, has been a member since she was an ALA Junior. She was eligible under her grandfather, Rudolph Baxter, who served in the Army in WWII. (Junior years DO count toward your continuous years! Mothers, you could help your daughter's ALA future.)

Our other HLM is Jean Ryan. She is 92 (and will be 93 on March 1, 2021)! I had a little chat with her:

Jean joined the ALA 40 years ago, "*Because it's a good organization and she wanted to meet people.*" She used to do a lot of volunteer work and participate in Post activities with her late husband, Billy F Ryan (of W VA), a career Army vet of 30 years. Billy served in WWII, Korea, and VietNam! Jean, née Purdy, had two brothers who also served, in the Army and Marines. Jean worked for General Motors for 30 years as a factory worker but she's been retired longer than she worked! She went to Oxford Academy School, the same as her grandchildren. She misses good friends who have passed such as Mary Utter and Esther McGowan. Jean has two daughters (one other passed away), who live in Rochester and NJ; they're not nearby. Jean is thankful for her health and faculties, and marvels at her own longevity. *We are honored to have Jean with our Unit.*



### 300 Flags Display in Sherburne:

The Sherburne American Legion Auxiliary Unit 876 presents its 3rd annual Flag Project in honor of Veterans that have served and are currently serving in our armed forces. The impressive display of Flags will be gracing the lawn from the corner of Route 12 and State Hwy 80 in Sherburne into Gaines Park, past the Sherburne Library. The flags will be displayed from November 6 - 21 for all to see. Each Flag is dedicated to one Veteran from Sherburne or the surrounding area. Every flag, thanking all veterans, has a sign showing the Veteran's name, branch of service and war era they served in.

2021 Memberships: You can renew by mail, or online, or at the Post 376 bar. Do you know someone who would like to join the ALA?

Click for an [ALA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION](#) (PDF)

Doing community service to help others and to make a difference in the community can result in making you feel better about yourself, making you feel valued and appreciated.

ALA's Mission: *In the spirit of Service Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace, and security.*

**Nov. 14, 2020** - is ALA National Read Your Constitution & Bylaws Day. Our new C & BL was recently updated and approved. They're on the website (see the link) toward the top of the FAQ page:

<http://oxford-ala.chenango.org/ALA-FAQ.php>

All future ALA County meetings, starting with Monday, **Nov. 2**, are planned to be held at the Sherburne Post #876, at 15 S. Main Street, for the rest of the year. **If** they have them, due to Covid-19, they have more rooms to spread out. **If** the numbers in Chenango County are still high, they will

cancel the meeting again.

The Past President Parley meeting for October has been cancelled. – from Colleen Melella, ALA County Secretary

Auto Insurance company USAA (who give military discounts) shared this: We firmly believe veterans' valuable contributions to our communities improve our country. This year on Veterans Day, USAA is committed to honoring and recognizing veterans virtually with--

The #HonorThroughAction challenge: Draw a "V" on your hand; write the initials of a veteran you want to honor inside the "V"; take a selfie of your hand; and post your photo on social media with the hashtag #HonorThroughAction.

Best wishes,

Jeanie (Petersen) Unit 376, Membership-Treasurer-Publicity

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P.S.–Our website is located at – [oxford-ala.chenango.org](http://oxford-ala.chenango.org)

Also check out Chenango County Legion's website: [ChenangoLegion.org](http://ChenangoLegion.org)