



## Loyalty Day

AN E-MAIL SITUATION REPORT (SITREP) OF THE PUTNAM COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE AGENCY

May 1st is a day set aside for the reaffirmation of loyalty to the United States and for the recognition of the heritage of American freedom.



My membership in the Veterans Of Foreign Wars began in 1988. Every year since then I have attended the Loyalty

Day Jamboree. That is 30 years ago . 30 years. In Putnam we hold it on the closest Sunday to May 1st.

What is Loyalty Day? A question that I have been asked and answered many times. It would be easy to go to the internet and cut and paste the history of Loyalty Day. However it has long been my feeling that Loyalty Day cannot be explained by the historians tools. There has been almost a writers block regarding what to say about Loyalty Day. Then today April 2, 2019 while I was thinking about what to write I received an e-mail from a friend. Jane Reape from upstate New York is a VFW friend. She is on the path to be the VFW Auxiliary National President. Jane is also known far and wide for her culinary skills. This multi talented lady sent me an ad for the VFW Service Officers Journal (a VFW State fundraising project that I chair) with the following quote in the ad:

*We can't all be heroes because somebody has to sit on the curb and applaud when they go by"*

*Will Rogers*

What in incredibly poignant quote. At many events Veterans and military march by cheering members of the public. Most of those sitting on the curb have not served. Here is what Loyalty Day really is it is the opportunity for all of us to be on the "curb" cheering for America. What ever the history or the family tree that went into the DNA of Loyalty Day matters little. What matters is that there is a Loyalty Day to give each of us the opportunity to be on the curb and cheer as America goes by. To do less is not an option. Please join the VFW, Veterans, Family members and citizens of this great county to applaud America on April 28, 2019.

Karl

Lest we forget



**DONALD B. SMITH GOVERNMENT CAMPUS**  
**110 OLD ROUTE 6, BLDG. #3**  
**CARMEL NY 10512**  
**MONDAY-FRIDAY 9-5**  
**CALL FOR APPOINTMENT EITHER LOCATION**  
**845-808-1620**  
**TUESDAY EVENINGS 5-8PM**  
**2505 CARMEL AVE. (RT 6) SUITE 212**  
**BREWSTER, NY 10509**  
**KARL ROHDE, DIRECTOR**  
**ART HANLEY, DEPUTY DIRECTOR**





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# **JAMBOREE**

**Putnam County Veteran's Memorial Park  
Gypsy Trail Road Carmel , NY**

**Admission FREE**

**Sunday, April 28, 2019 11 AM - 4 PM**

**Parade & Ceremony at 11:45 AM**

D.J. Music & Refreshments Served  
Putnam County Tug of War Championship



Games for Children Games for Adults

**BRING THE FAMILY AND  
ENJOY CELEBRATING LOYALTY DAY WITH  
VETERANS**

**EVENT SPONSORED BY  
PUTNAM COUNTY COUNCIL VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS**



# Lest We Forget.

www.TheExaminerNews.com

April 9 - April 15, 2019

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## Putnam's Women of World War II

During the final days of Women's History Month in March, the Putnam County Historian's Office and the Putnam Veterans' Museum is proud to build on the role of women in the military and remember some late, great female heroes.

Over the years, the Historian's Office has had the privilege of honoring former Mahopac resident Corp. Gertrude Casetta (nee Pearson), who trained at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia and served in World War II as a cryptographer in the Signal Corps of the Army Air Corps as a WAC (Women's Auxiliary Corps) in England and France. In a 1994 article in the Courier Trader, Casetta remembered June 6, 1944, a.k.a. D-Day, "It was a bright sunny day in England. I awakened to hear the thunderous noise of planes. The sky was literally darkened with planes going to France." This was just one of her many memories of serving in Europe during the war. Casetta gave Putnam County an ever-lasting gift through an oral history that is now housed in the Historian's Collection (HC802, A16).

The Putnam Veterans' Museum Photo Archive at the Putnam County Historian's Office houses an entire photo album of Brewster's own Rosemary Lally's experiences with the WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service) during World War II. She trained at the U.S. Naval Training School, Women's Reserve at Hunter College, in the Bronx, N.Y. and served 1 1/2 years in Washington, D.C., and achieved rank of Pharmacist's Mate 3rd class.

Lastly, Dolores Beal Stephens penned a wonderful book in 2003 entitled *Those Who Served, Those Who Waited*, WWII Experiences as told by the Veterans and Civilians of Brewster/Southeast, NY. (included in the Research Library of the Putnam County Historian's Office) where she paid tribute to many local



WAVES' song book from the Rosemary Lally Collection of the Putnam Veterans' Museum Putnam's Women of World War II.

WWII veterans including her own sister Joan Ross Beal Peckham, of Brewster, who was likely influenced by their father William Ross Beal who served in the U.S. Navy during World War I and returned to serve as a Captain in the U.S. Army during World War II. Joan joined the U.S. Naval Reserve (WAVES) and was trained at the Great Lakes Naval Base, served at St. Alban's Naval Hospital on Long Island, and then at Alameda Naval Hospital in California as a Corpsman. Involved in nursing work, Joan was responsible for taking care of badly burned and maimed sailors. One of her patients was John "Butch" Santorelli of Brewster, N.Y., whose tank landing ship was struck by a torpedo at Normandy in June 1944.



PROVIDED PHOTOS

WAVES Parade at the U.S. Naval Training School Women's Reserve at Hunter College in the Bronx.



John Santorelli

Joan Beal

U.S. Navy's John Butch Santorelli and Joan Ross Beal of Brewster.

A few days ago County Executive MaryEllen Odell sent me an article about the death of the last member of the Doolittle Raiders who had just passed. Around the same time Jen Cassidy of the County Historians office sent me a copy of an article about Putnam County women in WW II. Often we get caught up in issues and perceived grievances. We forget the very people who kept us safe. Look at you history and enjoy what we really have. (Please see next page.)

Karl





# The Last of the Doolittle Raiders Is Gone

By Laura Hillenbrand

**L**t. Dick Cole stood over the open escape hatch of a B-25 bomber, gripping his parachute cord and looking down into 9,000 feet of seamless black. It was the night of April 18, 1942, and the plane, bucking in a rolling storm, had just led one of the most audacious and unlikely missions of World War II—the first Allied bombing of Japan. Now, out of fuel over China, the bomber was doomed. Cole dived out headfirst and vanished.

The Doolittle Raid was a pivot point of the war. Cole survived, and would outlive all his 79 fellow raiders. When he died Tuesday at 103—“it feels a little slower than 102,” he told me in October—an epic chapter of living history closed.

The raid began with an outlandish idea. With no base from which to strike Japan and avenge Pearl Harbor, military planners opted to hoist 16 land-based B-25s, which normally needed thousands of feet of runway for takeoff, onto the aircraft carrier USS Hornet, sail them to Japanese waters, and attempt to fly them off the Hornet's roughly 500-foot runway. Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle would lead the mission, with Cole as his co-pilot.

Cole learned of the operation from a bulletin-board notice: “WANTED: VOLUNTEERS FOR DANGEROUS MISSION.” He signed up. After weeks of strange, unexplained training in B-25s so stripped for weight their tail guns had been replaced by broomsticks, he joined his fellow airmen on the Hornet. There, they finally learned their objective.

The day before the planned

launch, Cole was walking to breakfast when speakers blared. Japanese sailors had spotted the task force, and the strike had to launch some 200 miles prematurely, in a bruising storm. The mission was now virtually suicidal: The planes would not have enough fuel to reach Chinese landing fields. Doolittle had stressed that the men could withdraw without consequences. None did.

**Dick Cole was one of 80 pilots who set out April 18, 1942, on the first bombing of Japan. He lived to 103.**

With seawater crashing over the deck, Doolittle and Cole gunned their plane off the carrier, hung on the verge of stalling, then rose. One by one the bombers followed, some barely making it into the air. In four hours, they reached Tokyo. Cole watched civilians, mistaking the planes for friendly aircraft, waving to them. Buffeted by flak, they dropped incendiaries to light paths for the remaining bombers, then headed for China.

Their fuel was running out. At dusk, they crossed over China. Cole watched the gas gauge sink. Doolittle ordered the bailout.

Cole had no parachute training. He was terrified. Leaping from the roaring plane, he was instantly in silence, falling. He yanked the cord so hard he punched himself in the face, causing a black eye. “They don’t give the Purple Heart for that,” he said.

He landed in a tree. At dawn, he walked west, following his plane's path. Deep in Japanese-occupied territory, he skirted roads, clutching his .45, until he saw a building flying the Nationalist Chinese flag. A Chinese soldier led him in. On a table sat a drawing of a B-25 and five parachutes. He was taken to a dark room, a candle was lit, and there was Doolittle.

The crew was soon reunited. With the Japanese in close pursuit, a harrowing escape began. The Chinese sheltered the pilots, feeding them chicken feet and smuggling them by bus, boat and horse. After 10 days, they reached safety in the Nationalist-controlled city Chungking.

The mission initially seemed a failure. Fifteen of the 16 B-25s crashed (one landed in Russia). Three men were killed in action. Eight pilots were captured; three were executed and one died in captivity. The bombing did little damage. But the raid shocked the Japanese, prompting them to contract forces and aim for Midway Atoll. In winning the ensuing battle there, America began to win the war.

At each raider reunion, there were 80 silver goblets, one for each airman. They'd drink toasts to those who'd died in the previous year, then overturn the lost men's goblets. The final goblet will soon be turned for Lt. Col. Dick Cole, the last of the young men whose courage, on a storm-swept day in 1942, helped turn the course of history.

*Ms. Hillenbrand is author of “Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience and Redemption.”*

## **SAFETALK-Suicide Prevention Training**

Tuesday, April 23, 2019

1:00-4:00pm

**Hosted by: The Putnam County Suicide Prevention Task Force  
and the Kent Police Department**

**held at the Kent Police Department - Training Room**

**40 Sybil's Crossing**

**Kent Lakes, NY 10512**

**1:00 Registration**

**1:10 Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Chief Kevin Owens, Kent Police Department

**1:15 SafeTALK Training**

**SAFETALK is a half day training that can help you make a difference...learn to identify persons with thoughts of suicide and connect them to suicide first aid resources.**

Most people with thoughts of suicide invite help. Often these opportunities are missed, dismissed or avoided-leaving people more alone and at greater risk. In SafeTALK you will learn how to respond in ways that provide practical help.

**After training, participants should be able to:**

- Challenge attitudes that inhibit open talk about suicide
- Recognize a person who might be having thoughts of suicide
  - Engage them in direct and open talk about suicide
- Listen to the person's feelings about suicide to show that they are taken seriously
- Move quickly to connect them with someone trained in suicide intervention
- Acquire techniques for "self-care" and support for yourself when someone you care about is in crisis

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This training is being offered at no charge but pre-registration is required as space is extremely limited-no walk-ins will be accepted  
All materials will be provided

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Agency: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail, fax or email registration to Chief Kevin Owens, Kent Police Department, 40 Sybil's Crossing, Kent Lakes, NY 10512

fax-(845) 306-5288 email-kowens@townofkentny.gov

**Registration deadline-Friday, April 19, 2019-space is limited, please register early**

please call Chief Owens at (845) 225-4600 for more information