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YEARS

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ON THE COVER

FERD LAUDIG

Ferd Laudig, born in 1935, I grew up on a grain farm in Indiana. Graduated high school, enlisted in the U.S. Army. Two years of my four-year service hitch were overseas, and I was honorably discharged in 1957. I was recruited back into active duty in 1965 - 1966, to train troops for Vietnam. After 1966, I bought and operated a dairy farm while working in the automobile business. I was the Chaplain for the American Legion Post 974 and General Hospital for approximately 20 years. My enjoyments are being a hobby farmer and working in my wood shop.



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**Congratulations,
American Legion
Post 974 Whitney Point
on your
100th Anniversary!**

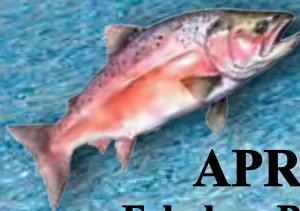
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AMERICAN LEGION

The American Legion was established in 1919 after the Great War as a Veterans Service Organization dedicated to the following four pillars of which the American Legion still stands for. Veterans, National Defense, Americanism and Children and Youth. The over Two and a half million members nation wide sill dedicate their service to the Community, State and Nation helping veterans and their families through Legion programs and services.

In 2019 the American Legion celebrated its 100th anniversary and will be 107 years old this year. As it has in the past years, the Legion will carry on it's mission of serving our veterans, protecting their rights, keeping alive the lights of freedom and defending our Nation.

George F. Riordan Post 974 is a part of this Legacy as we celebrate our 100th Anniversary For more information on the American Legion please visit www.legion.org

HOMETOWN HERO BANNER PROGRAM

In Honor of our local American Legion Post 974 100th Anniversary, the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 974, established their own Hometown Hero Banner Program to honor our very own. Banners are set to be hung down Main Street in the Village of Whitney Point and Lisle and on Route 11 in Whitney Point, by May 23rd when a Banner Rising Ceremony will be open to the public and held on Main Street in Whitney Point. Banners will be on display from Memorial Day until Veterans Day each year, according to Auxiliary Chairperson, Eloise Wescott.



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VETERAN MEMBERS

Jessup Bailey

Jessup was born and raised in Whitney Point. He graduated Whitney Point High School in 2011 and joined the USCG in the fall of 2011. He was stationed aboard the Mackinaw in Cheboygan Michigan and Willmette Harbor Illinois. He is proud to have served his country and is a member of Post 974. He currently resides in Florida.



★ ★ ★

Jerry Bixby

Jerry Bixby grew up in Chenango Forks and attended Chenango Forks Central School. While in high school he enlisted in the Navy reserves. After graduating in 1966 he went on active duty from 1967 – 1968. After being honorably discharged from active duty, he found employment working 39 years for N.Y.S.E.&G. and retired as a chief lineman. Jerry joined the Whitney Point American Legion Post 974 in 2011 and has served the legion as a veteran member, Bar Manager, First Vice, and Commander. His hobbies include hunting, fishing, traveling, and creating junk art.



★ ★ ★

William Fuller

I graduated from Whitney Point High school and enlisted into the U.S. Marines. I was sent to Vietnam for a tour of duty. After being honorably discharged, I found employment working for the Broome County Highway Department for 30 years. After retiring I worked part time for the Town of Chenango Highway Department. I am an active member of the Whitney Point American Legion Post 974 for 44 years and have had the



honor of carrying the U.S. flag in our parades and events for 35 years. My hobbies are playing cards, and I enjoy being a gentleman farmer.

Keith E Galbraith

Keith Galbraith is a proud American Legion Member and a Veteran of the United States Air Force serving from 1973 to 1977. He was attached to the 380th AMS, 380th BW, 8th Air Force, Strategic Air Command. At that time they were flying FB-111 Fighter Bombers and KC-135 Tankers. Keith is currently serving as the First Vice-Commander of Whitney Point American Legion Post 974 and is involved in several of the committees. He is a transplant originally from Groton and later from Greene and Cortland and has lived in Whitney Point since 2004.



★ ★ ★

Robert Gardner

US Navy Navy reserve 1963 1969. Bob joined the Navy while attending Binghamton North high school. Upon graduating and going on active duty, he served as a radio man on the destroyer USS Barry DD933 during the Vietnam war. Returning to his hometown after active duty, his father had him join his American Legion in Binghamton. After moving to Whitney point, he joined post 974 and has served as Post Adjutant, Vice Commander, Treasurer, Commander, SAL Advisor and SAL Commander. Bob is currently Judge Advocate for post 974.



★ ★ ★

James E Hilderbrant

James grew up in Western New York drafted from Geneseo, New York 1966 took basic and AIT at Fort Dick's NJ trained as light vehicle driver MOS

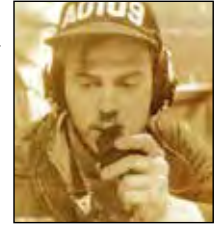


– 64810 stationed at Gibbs Kersene in Frankfurt West Germany drove 38,000 miles in 17 months for support of V core headquarters seventh Army rotated out 1968 and joined the central reserve group and was honorably discharged in 1972

★ ★ ★

Tom Hurlbut

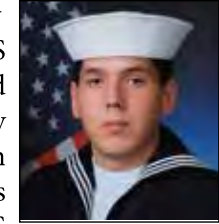
Tom lives in Whitney Point, NY and is U.S. Navy Veteran E4. He served during the Vietnam Conflict. He has been a member of American Legion # 974 member 58 years and is a past Past Commander and 1st Vice



★ ★ ★

Christopher B. Kelly

I graduated WPHS in June 1992 and joined the US Navy in October 1992 as an Aviation Boatswain's Mate on the USS Independence and the USS Abraham Lincoln, where I was deployed three times to the Persian Gulf earning the Southwest Asia medal with Bronze star. I joined the American Legion Post 974 in 2005. During that time I was Vice Commander for one year and I then served as the Post Commander for 6 years. I married my wife Jill in 1995 and we have two sons Brandon and Sean. Currently I am working for the US Army Corps of Engineers.



★ ★ ★

Sue Lamb

Post Adjutant and a Past Commander. US Navy Veteran, spending my entire 4-year enlistment in Norfolk, VA (Women could not go many places back then). I am married to a local "boy" Jim Lamb. I moved to the area in 2005 a year after my sister introduced me to Jim. I have 2 sons, who have given me 8 grandchildren, and



1 great-granddaughter. Jim has 1 son, who has 3 boys, so together we have 12 grandchildren, all of whom we adore! I retired from Binghamton University in 2022; I work part-time for the Town of Nanticoke Clerk as her deputy. My husband and I love travel, spending time with the grandkids and time with all our friends! I'm proud of my membership in the American Legion, and equally proud of Post 974's commitment to veterans and the community.



Luigi Resciniti

Luigi enlisted in the army in 1974. He completed basic and advanced training at Fort Leonard Wood MO and was assigned to the 326th engineer BN Fort Campbell KY in 1976. He was deployed to the federal Republic of Germany to the 82nd Engineer BN in 1979. He was then returned to the United States and discharged at Fort Dicks NJ. After a short break in service Luigi enlisted in the army reserve joining the 98th training division in NYS. Over the next 25 years he served in a number of positions and in 1998 was promoted to Sergeant Major. He retired after 30 years of service in 2009.



Jordan Mahar

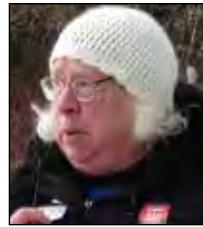
SAL Squadron 974 Jordan has been a member of the Whitney Point Sons of the American Legion Squadron 974 for many years. Starting at a young age he not only attended meetings at the post, but also attended Detachment of New York State Conventions and Sons of the American Legion National Conventions in different cities across the nation. He is a graduate of Windsor Central High School and is currently attending SUNY Broome Culinary School.



AUXILIARY MEMBERS

Debra Abbey

Debra Abbey recently joined the Auxiliary and she is the co chairman of the Poppy Committee. She has marched in the Broome County fair and Whitney Point Holiday parades where she assisted in decorating the floats. She also enjoys attending the Veterans Day service and the 100th Anniversary Ceremony. Debra is also a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution and serves as chapter Librarian. She is also co coordinator for the Wreaths across America ceremony at Riverside Cemetery and works with the legion in coordinating this event. She is a trustee on the Riverside Cemetery Board.



Jill Bixby

Jill was born in Binghamton New York. Her family moved to Chenango Forks when she was six years old after she graduated she married and became a rural letter Carrier delivering in Chenango Forks for 35 years. She went through a divorce then married a navy veteran and they joined AL post 974 she has been a member of the Legion auxiliary for 10 years and has been very active there. She has many hobbies, including golf, flowers, needlework, jigsaw puzzles, cards, fishing, reading, traveling and especially she enjoys spending time with her family and friends. Life is good.



Vivian Brame-Gardner

Vivian graduated from Whitney point Central school in 1967. She then began a nursing career after



graduation from CS Wilson, school of nursing where she specialized in critical care. Vivian joined the Whitney point American Legion auxiliary unit 974 in 2011. She graduated from the American Legion auxiliary College of New York in 2016 and has held positions of American Legion auxiliary president unit 974 for four years, Broome County American Legion auxiliary president and sixth district American Legion auxiliary president. Vivian remains active in Broome County and her unit 974 auxiliary functions.



Christine Hurlbut

American Legion Post 974 Whitney Point, NY Auxiliary member for 29 years. Past Chaplin



Dawn Laudig

I have been a member of the American Legion auxiliary 974 for about 18 years. I am a past first vice and have been chaplain for about 18 years. I have participated in several fundraising. I am very proud to be a member of this post and encourage any women who is eligible to join.



Barbara Kaminsky

Barbara moved to the Whitney Point area eight years ago and quickly became involved with the Ladies Auxiliary at the Legion. "Everyone has been so friendly" she says "and I try to volunteer as much as my health allows. The holiday events are especially heartwarming; I love bringing new dishes, like the coconut cake I made last time, which everyone absolutely adored."



Debra Mojica

Debra (Debbie) Mojica, joined the Whitney Point American Legion Post 974 Auxiliary in 2015. She has



participated in and volunteered for many of the Legion and Auxiliary activities over the years including walking in the Memorial Day and Christmas parades, volunteering at the Broome County Fair, visiting with and helping out during the holiday season at the Oxford Veterans Home, participating in the Wreaths Across America wreath placement ceremony at Riverside Cemetery in Whitney Point, being a Guardian for the Twin Tiers Honor Flight Mission 14, and purchasing Christmas gifts for sponsored children.

★ ★ ★

Rita Smith

I am Rita Smith, and am a proud 52-year member of the American Legion Auxiliary. I currently serve as the Treasurer for the Whitney Point American Legion Auxiliary Unit 974, a position I have held for the past 18 years. My strong family roots are deeply connected to life in the



American Legion. Every weekend, every patriotic holiday, and many community and family events were centered around the Legion. As children, we learned the true meaning of patriotism. My grandfather served in The Korean War, and my father served in WW II. Many of our close family friends were Vietnam veterans. Growing up surrounded by this kind of patriotic awareness and education was simply the norm for us. During my first year as a Junior member, I was immediately given the responsibility of being a Flag Bearer, marching in parades both locally and around the state. It probably didn't help that my grandmother, aunt, and mother had all served as officers in the Auxiliary over the years. Participation wasn't just encouraged—it was expected, and it quickly became part of our family's culture. Family traditions still stand through my daughter, grandchildren, nieces, and nephews as members of the Whitney Point American Legion. Our life is rooted in respect, loyalty, and allegiance—a life dedicated to service above self, honoring the sacrifices that made

our freedom in the United States of America possible.

★ ★ ★

Christine Woodruff and Jeanne Ticknor

We joined the Auxiliary under our father, Kenneth Joslin, who was a WWII veteran. He was a past commander at the Post and our mother, Alda Joslin, was a past president of the Auxiliary. We both grew up spending time with our parents at the legion. Christine joined the Auxiliary in 1971. She owned and operated a hair salon in Whitney Point for almost 40 years. Jeanne joined the Auxiliary in 1997. She retired in 2019 after working 40 years for a life insurance company. We both enjoy golfing, traveling, reading, cooking and attending live shows at local theaters.



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In 1925 a group of veterans from the Great War decided to become a part of a veterans service organization called the American legion which was established in 1919.

As a result, on this date in 1926 a charter was given to George F Riordan American Legion Post 974 in the state of new york. 100 years ago these 15 veterans became the charter members of this organization dedicated to helping it's veterans, spouses, children, familys and this community, state and nation. Their names are as follows:

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| George I. Cargin | Howard D. Burghardt |
| J. Carver Glezen | Everett S. Bowen |
| Edward Henderson | Ernest A. Holden |
| Leon O. Howell | Arland Brown |
| Leland W. Cross | James E. Moore |
| Kennard W. Rozelle | John O. Oliver |
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CHARTER OF THE WHITNEY POINT AMERICAN LEGION POST 974

**THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA THE AMERICAN LEGION
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**

The required number of persons duly qualified for membership having applied therefore and such application having been approved in due form.

Now, therefore, pursuant to the powers conferred by the Constitution of The American Legion, this Charter is granted and those applying together with such others as may unite with them are hereby authorized to establish and maintain a Post of

THE AMERICAN LEGION

at Whitney Point, to be known as George F. Riordan Post, No. 974, Department of New York, and this instrument, unless revoked or suspended, shall be conclusive evidence of the lawful existence thereof.

By the acceptance of this Charter, the said Post acknowledges irrevocable jurisdiction and declares itself formally and finally subject to the Constitutions of The American Legion and of the Department of New York, and the rules, regulations, orders and laws promulgated in pursuance thereof; and further the said Post pledges itself through its members to uphold, protect and defend the Constitution of The United States and the principles of true Americanism, for the common welfare of the living and in solemn commemoration of those who died that liberty might not perish from the Earth.

In Witness Whereof, this Charter is given under the hand and seal of the National Commander, duly attested by the National Adjutant, at Headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana, this 26th day of January, 1926, and countersigned by the Commander and the Adjutant for the Department of New York, at New York City, the 5th day of February, 1926.

Countersigned:

Harry C. Wilder
Department Commander

Michael F. Stember
Department Adjutant

John R. McQuigg
National Commander

James F. Barton
National Adjutant

It is a distinct honor to extend our warmest. Congratulations to the American Legion Post 974 on its' 100th anniversary. For a century, the American Legion has stood as a beacon of service, supporting veterans, and strengthening communities. Your commitment to the values of duty, honor, and country has made an enduring impact on our nation and here in our local community. Reaching a Centennial is a testament to the timeless vision of your founders, and the dedication of your members over the past 100 years.



With much gratitude,

Matt Hilderbrant, Broome County Legislator - District 9



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SAL DETACHMENT 974 SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

The Sons of The American Legion Squadron 974 received their Charter May 1939 with Eighteen Charter male decendants of veterans of the Great War as the first members. These men would become veterans just over two years later when they would join the armed forces of the United States with the outbreak of World War II. Most would become members of Post 974 as veterans upon their return from the war. Some would be remembered as Post commanders during the years following their return. The detachment of Sons now number over 100. Many of our SAL members are sons or grandsons of Legion members. Sons participate in many Legion functions such as Parades, Holiday celebrations and Legion Baseball. They have accompanied Veterans on Honor Flights to Washington DC to see the memorials dedicated to them. Scholarships are given by the Sons to Whitney Point graduating seniors going into College and Trade Schools. Ask how you can become a member of the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 974.



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SERVING THE WHITNEY POINT COMMUNITY

Community outreach is a cornerstone of American Legion Post 974. Every year members participate in a number of events that help raise money for charities and organizations within the Whitney Point area or to raise the level of community spirit through out the village. To that end the American Legion Post 974 has become a vital part of the Village of Whitney Point. Whether it's a chicken BBQ or a parade there is always something happening at Post 974!

LIST OF POST 974 EVENTS

- ★ Memorial Day Service
- ★ Veterans Day Service
- ★ Lenten Fish Fry
- ★ Chicken BBQ
- ★ Broome County Fair Parade
- ★ Fair Beer Concession
- ★ Halloween Event
- ★ Christmas Holiday Parade
- ★ American Legion Baseball Team Sons
- ★ Wreaths Across America
- ★ Cemetery Flags on graves
- ★ Scholarships for Whitney Point students
- ★ Schools Auxiliary Christmas Party
- ★ Be The One National Suicide Prevention program
- ★ Color Guard/ Funerals
- ★ Oxford Veterans Home
- ★ Christmas Party Bath
- ★ Veterans Hospital Gift to the Yanks
- ★ Oxford Veterans Home Visits
- ★ Twin Tiers Honor Flight
- ★ Golf Tournaments
- ★ Flag Burning Ceremony
- ★ Block Party to Celebrate our 100th Anniversary



American Legion Auxiliary Unit 974 & American Legion Post 974 Whitney Point, NY were able to raise \$300 in Easter Basket Raffles at the Adult Easter Egg Hunt! Proceeds are going to the Volunteer Guild at New York State Veterans' Home, Oxford .



The American Legion float arrives at the Broome County Fairgrounds during the Broome County Fair Parade.



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American Legion Post 974

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WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA



A signature event for the Whitney Point American Legion Post 974 is Wreaths Across America (WAA). WAA is an American nonprofit organization established in 2007. Its primary activity is distributing wreaths for placement on Veterans' graves in military cemeteries. In December 2008, the United States Senate agreed to a resolution that designated December 13, 2008, as Wreaths Across America Day. Subsequent national Wreaths Across America days have been designated on the second or third Saturday of December.

In 2014, volunteers placed over 700,000 memorial wreaths at 1,000 locations in the United States and overseas, including the USS Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor, Bunker Hill, Valley Forge, and the National September 11 Memorial at the World Trade Center site in New York City. During that year, volunteers were able to place wreaths in all sections of Arlington Cemetery for the first time. In 2016, this number increased to 1.2 million wreaths being placed at more than 1,230 cemeteries across the nation.

ORIGINAL CHARTER



American Legion Unit 974 Auxiliary Charter was applied for in November of 1926, which is the same year that the Legion Post 974 got their charter. The Auxiliary charter was approved and recorded by New York State Auxiliary on January 10, 1927, and the New York State Auxiliary President at that time was Isabelle Burnham. Unit 974 original charter members were: Irene Parker – our 1st President, Nina Howell, Nina White, Alice Gardnier, Margaret Frances, Mary Jenks, Mrs. Everett Borveuir, Nellie Johnston, Harriett Ratliduri, and Lillian Ballard.

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HISTORY OF AMERICAN LEGION POST 974 WHITNEY POINT, NY



Built originally in 1887, the Legion Hall on 119th Street was originally the home of a well-off WP farmer, Jesse Ames. Jesse was a successful farmer whose farm was at Upper Lisle on Ames's Hill just a few miles north of town. The 1897 fire in Whitney Point destroyed his

impressive home . He hired G. W. Aldrich, a contractor from Norwich, to build a majestic home with brick in the summer of the same year. This was the same contractor that built the Reporter Building. They did not rebuild from the old shell of the house after the fire it was an all new house. By late August Jesse moved in as the final interior touches were being made. The house was his residence and he would frequently take boarders in. He rented the farm out and helped out there until his final years. He died in Oct. 1908 at 88 years old.

The WP Legion was founded Jan. 26, 1926 with 14 founders. The name George F. Riordan was chosen in Memory of the man who was killed in France a few days before WWI ended. He lived on Owen Hill in Lisle.

In September 1945 the Legion voted to buy the Ames's house that was then owned by the Costello family for a cost not to exceed \$6000. They wanted a place for WWII veterans coming back from the war's end. They removed partitions, replaced the furnace and made general improvements.



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In 2025 the Whitney Point American Legion, Sons of the American Legion, and American Legion Auxiliary of Whitney Point raised and donated over \$25,000 to Schools, Food Pantries, Veterans Programs, and other Charities. Below is a list of the organizations that received these funds.

- ★ Whitney Point Food Pantry
- ★ Whitney Point High School Academic Awards
- ★ Whitney Point Schools After Prom Party
- ★ Whitney Point High School Holiday Baskets
- ★ American Legion Auxiliary Member Emergency Assistance
- ★ American Legion Auxiliary Community Halloween
- ★ American Legion 974 High School Baseball
- ★ Broome County Fair Celebrating Abilities (Special Kids)
- ★ Broome County Fair Celebrating Abilities Golf Tournament
- ★ Tunnel to Towers
- ★ NYS American Legion 6th District Oxford Veterans Guild
- ★ American Legion Twin Tiers Honor Flight
- ★ Bath Veterans Holiday Gift Shop
- ★ Binghamton Veterans Outreach Center
- ★ Broome County American Legion Auxiliary Children's Christmas
- ★ American Legion 974 2026 Anniversary Celebration
- ★ American Legion 974 – Hometown Heroes
- ★ American Legion 974 – Golf Tournament
- ★ Veterans Suicide Awareness In memory of Henry Detrick

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LEGION MEMBERS HONOR THOSE WHO SERVED



Memorial Day has always been an outstanding occasion in the Whitney Point community. In addition to memorial events the goal of every Veteran is to keep Memorial Day sacred to the memory of all those who gave their lives in service to the United States of America.

The Village of Whitney Point hosts an annual Memorial Day Parade and Service to honor veterans and those who made the ultimate sacrifice. The memorial service's start at St. Patrick's cemetery, Center Lisle cemetery, Lisle cemetery, and Whitney Point bridge. Then there is a parade too from the American Legion Post to Riverside cemetery where another memorial service takes place. Riverside cemetery is where over 240 fallen soldiers have been buried. A prayer is held for the fallen soldiers at each ceremony, as well as a three-volley salute and a trumpet performance of taps is played.

"We have a lot of fallen veterans here. And so today we're celebrating the veterans who have fallen during their service, in all wars, you know, back to civil war. And it's over 240 veterans (in this) cemetery right here," Commander of American Legion Post 974 Jerry Bixby said. "So it's a great day (of)recognizing. I try to make good for everybody (to)

remember our country patriotism and everything to be proud of it."

The Memorial Day celebration concludes at the American Legion Post with the final ceremony on the front deck followed by refreshments at the Post.

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, originated after the Civil War in 1868 to honor fallen Union soldiers by decorating their graves with flowers. Proclaimed by Gen. John A. Logan, it was set for May 30, later evolving to honor all American military personnel who died in any war. It became an official federal holiday in 1971, celebrated on the last Monday in May.

The first celebration was on May 30, 1868, at Arlington National Cemetery, where thousands decorated graves of Union and Confederate soldiers.

Though the holiday initially focused on Civil War dead, it expanded after World War I to honor all Americans who died in combat.

The Uniform Monday Holiday Act of 1968 shifted the holiday from May 30 to the last Monday in May to create a three day weekend effective 1971.



SCENES FROM MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONIES 2025



Whitney Point American Legion Post 974 celebrates 100 years

By Andrew Fried - WGNB

The Whitney Point American Legion Post 974 was founded on January 26th, 1926, by 14 founders.

100 years later, the members of Post 974 trekked through the snow and celebrated the history of the Whitney Point staple.

“In 1925, a group of veterans from the Great War, World War I, the war to end all wars, decided to become a part of a veteran service organization called the American Legion, which was established in 1919. As a result, on this date, in 1926, a charter was given to George F. Riordan, American Legion Post 974,” Judge Advocate, Bob Gardner said in his speech at the celebration.

During the celebration, the Post honored Dave Nechedowich after more than 50 years with the Legion, and the original veterans who became charter members were also recognized.

While discussing the history of the post, there were talks regarding the new projects members continue to work in the community.

“We are also excited about a new project, our Hometown Hero banners. The response has been overwhelming and we are happy to share that by Memorial Day these banners will be hung through the town. The banners are a recognition of their commitment and sacrifice, and a symbol of our gratitude. We honor and thank you for your service for our freedom.” Historian of the Women’s Auxiliary, Jill Bixby, stated.

Along with members, local officials came out to the celebration to share kind words and stories of their connections to this post.

The event wrapped up with a prayer-- followed by food and a toast to long-time relationships, as they look forward to another hundred years.





THERE'S ALWAYS TIME FOR A GOOD TIME!

The Whitney Point American Legion Post 974 Women's Auxiliary is a vital part of the organization. From Memorial day celebrations to hosting dinners and events at the post, the women of the auxiliary are the back bone of Post 974. That doesn't mean they don't know how to have fun!

For Community Cheer Up Parade the women donned inflatable costumes to celebrate! Everything from a Tyrannosaurus Rex to an Alien Invader were present and despite a windy overcast day many smiles and laughs were had by all who attended.



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PLAY BALL!

Through the years Post 974 has sponsored Legion Baseball with teams comprised from area youth. Legion Baseball marked its 100th Anniversary Nationally last year and our team played with great pride for Post 974.

American Legion Baseball is a variety of amateur baseball played by 13-to-19-year-olds in all fifty states in the U.S. and Canada. More than 3,500 teams participate each year. The American Legion Department of South Dakota established the program in 1925 at Milbank, South Dakota.

According to the American Legion, the purpose of American Legion Baseball is to give players “an opportunity to develop their skills, personal fitness, leadership qualities, and to have more fun.”

The American Legion first sponsored a baseball league in 1925. In the first American Legion Baseball World Series, Yonkers, New York, Post 321 beat a team from Pocatello, Idaho, in Philadelphia in 1926. However, the inaugural season was expensive for the American Legion due to travel costs, and the subsequent season was cancelled. Commissioner Kenesaw Mountain Landis pledged a \$50,000 annual donation from Major League Baseball, allowing Legion Baseball to resume in 1928. By 1929, teams participated from every state and the District of Columbia.

MLB has continued to support American Legion Baseball annually, although there is no formal partnership between the organizations.

American Legion Post 974 wishes this years team Good Luck as they play during our 100th Anniversary Year.



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American Legion Post 974 Celebrating 100 Years in Whitney Point

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Memorial Picture hanging at Post 974 honoring Post namesake George F. Riordan.



Soldiers on the Birdsell block of Whitney Point, walking east on Main Street toward the river with Collins Street on the right.



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Congratulations to our local American Legion Post 974 on your 100 year Anniversary!



Aiello's Ristorante – Celebrating 44 Years of Italian Tradition

Located at 2677 Main Street in Whitney Point, Aiello's Ristorante has been a destination for authentic Italian cuisine for over 44 years. Known for its warm hospitality, top-quality ingredients, and rich family roots, Aiello's continues to serve guests from across Central New York and beyond.

A Family Legacy

Owners Charlie and Vinnie Aiello carry on the tradition started by their father Vito, who opened the restaurant inspired by their mother's home-cooked meals. What began as a small pizzeria has grown into a beloved staple known for its consistency, passion, and heart.

Quality That Speaks for Itself

Aiello's uses only the freshest herbs, spices, and 100% imported olive oil. Signature dishes like their Black Angus meats, house-made sausage, fresh mozzarella, and handcrafted sauces are made in-house and served with care.

Beyond the Plate

From the kitchen to the dining room, Charlie and Vinnie are always innovating — bringing new recipes, fine cocktails, and thoughtful touches to the guest experience.

In 2020, they launched AiellosRestaurant.com for easy online ordering, takeout, or delivery — offering convenience without sacrificing quality.

Serving the Community

Aiello's is open 7 days a week: Mon–Thurs & Sun: 11am–9pm Fri–Sat: 11am–10pm
Whether it's a cozy dinner, a celebration, or your first visit, Aiello's makes every guest feel like family.
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Right: Celebrating Ferd Laudig's 90th Birthday. Middle: President Anita Conroy honoring Christine Woodruff, an Auxiliary member for 55 years. Above: 100th Anniversary Cake.



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ULTIMATE SACRIFICE: GEORGE FRANCIS RIORDAN



George F. Riordan was born April 24, 1896 at Owen Hill, Town of Lisle to Mr. and Mrs. Luke Riordan. He attended the Whitney Point School and later at the Bundy Time Recording Company (Later to become, IBM, the International Business Machines Company). He enlisted in the Marines March 13, 1915 in the Buffalo, NY recruiting station. His first assignment was to Haiti for police duty to help calm an uprising. In 1917 the Whitney Point Reporter printed the following article referring to Riordan's overseas assignment; "Honored by one of the first of our fighting men to carry the Stars and Stripes into battle, George F. Riordan, a young man from Lisle has left with the first contingent of U.S. Marines for service overseas. Only handpicked men have been selected to represent the Marines First Division....."

He landed in France October 7, 1917 and immediately went into combat in various sectors of that country. On June 12, 1918, Corporal Riordan was wounded at the battle of Belleau Woods at Chateau-Thierry and was sent to the hospital where he remained until August of that year.

Rejoining the company, he went through the St. Mihiel and Champagne battles and finally to the last campaign of the war – Meuse-Argonne. At the time he was reported to have a temperature of 103 but would not enter the hospital even though the Company Doctor insisted upon it. Corporal George F. Riordan made the supreme sacrifice on either the 1st or 2nd of November, 1918. Just a few days before the Armistice.

He was buried in France by a Mr. Floyd Brown of Lisle, NY, who prior to entering the service was an undertaker apprentice at Nichols Funeral Home of Whitney Point, NY. Riordan's body was returned to this country October 20, 1920 and was buried at St. Patrick's Cemetery.

"He paid the supreme price with many other of his countrymen, being killed on November 1, 1918. The records show November 2nd, but I know it was the first day of the big drive that ended in such glorious success for the allies. He was a wonderful man in battle and at all times beloved by his fellow men.
"He is a man and a son of whom you may be proud of, and all the officers and men of the 23rd Company send you their heartfelt sympathy....."

(Signed) Arthur Clifford
ARTHUR CLIFFORD
Sgt.-Major Headquarters
6th Machine Gun Battalion

Excerpt from George F. Riordan Death Notice, from Sgt. Major Arthur Clifford

POST 974 CURRENT OFFICERS



MESSAGE FROM THE 1ST VICE COMMANDER OF SQUADRON 974 SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Hello, I'm Peter Haff, 1st Vice Commander of Squadron 974 Sons of the American Legion. I'd like to congratulate George F. Riordan Post 974 on 100 years of service to Veterans, the Whitney Point Community, the state, and nation.

The Sons of the American Legion are sponsored by the American Legion Post. The Sons are open to male descendants of Legion members or veterans from all wars who have passed away.

The Sons were established by the American Legion in September 1932. Squadron 974 was originally chartered in May 1939 with 18 charter members. Most of the original members went on to serve the United States during World War II and became Legionnaires following their service. When the Squadron was originally chartered, there were over 72,000 Sons members nationally. That dropped to under 6,000 by 1953.

Squadron 974 was revived in 2004 by a group lead by Donald Craft, Jr., a Legionnaire, and others interested in doing more for the Post. Current Squadron membership is approximately 130 members. Nationally, the membership is currently over 400,000.

Squadron 974 Sons are "proud possessors of a priceless heritage."

We provide assistance and support to veterans and we participate in patriotic holiday events. We conduct several fundraisers throughout the year to fund our philanthropic activities. Our activities are based on the Four Pillars of American Legion Service and Advocacy:

First is Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation. These activities include donating to Be The One, a veterans suicide prevention program. We also support activities through donations of time and money to the Oxford Veterans Home and Bath VA Hospital for their Christmas activities. Our members have also participated In Honor Flights to Washington DC as guardians to the traveling veterans.

Second, National Security. This has included donations to the Legion National Emergency Fund. Donations to the community Food Bank, Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets. Sons have also donated time and supplies to gift baskets sent to deployed service members.

The third Pillar is Americanism. The Sons participate in Memorial Day and Veterans Day events. Assisting with placing flags on veteran's grave sites and the flag retirement ceremonies. We have

helped with Wreaths Across America. The Sons also sponsor a High School student for American Legion Boys State program. We also assist the Legion with a variety of events throughout the year.

The fourth is Children and Youth. The Sons support American Legion Baseball. We donate time and money to various Whitney Point Youth Clubs as well as the Secret Santa program. We also provide scholarships to graduating Whitney Point seniors each year.

Since our current inception, Squadron 974 has donated 1000s of volunteer hours and over \$25,000 to local and national philanthropic endeavors. We hope to continue donating volunteer time and money to deserving causes and organizations.

So again, congratulations to George F. Riordan American Legion Post 974 on 100 years and Squadron 974 truly appreciates your sponsorship of our Squadron. We hope to continue to assist and support you for many more years. Congratulations and Thank You!



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**Bold Names indicate
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POST 974 - WHITNEY POINT**

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