

The Consular Post

U.S. CONSULATE GENERAL: AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND

VETERANS DAY EDITION



Dear Friends across New Zealand and the South Pacific:

As diplomats representing the United States and our fellow citizens around the globe, my colleagues and I are blessed with many special opportunities and privileges. At the very top of that list is the human element – the people we meet and their stories that we come to know.

Recently, here in Auckland, we have come to know a very special story, special because it is unique, but also because it is so representative in its very uniqueness.



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We were given, by the son of his deceased Kiwi mother, an overflowing scrapbook of photos, papers, and other memorabilia. This scrapbook had been left in the keeping of this Kiwi lass by her World War II sweetheart – a United States Marine who had gone back to the United States after the war and never returned. Both of them later married and had their own families, half a world apart. (That Marine is pictured above right.)

Now the son was giving this scrapbook to the United States and its people, hoping that it would be of interest to us. Was it ever! What a treasure-trove of history, both personal and universal! This Marine - an 18-year-old boy when the saga started - became a man very fast, and a big part of the central history of that period. He was one of the Marines who first landed on Guadalcanal on August 7, 1942, the very first Allied offensive counterattack of the Pacific War, and a storied part of our military lore.

The scrapbook has so many fascinating things. One we'll publish is on the next page, the guidance of the Marines' battalion commander on the eve of their landing. We have included a few photos as well, one of this Marine and a buddy, at the island grave of one of their fallen comrades. For me, the most spine-tingling document of all is the letter from the captain of the troop transport U.S.S. Betelgeuse, to all his crew and the Marines he was transporting, full of hope and resolve and advice, and ending with a most eloquent prayer. We've included the first part of that letter as well.

For this Marine and his buddies, the sailors of the U.S.S. Betelgeuse, the GI's and airmen who took and ran the crucial airstrip on Guadalcanal, and all our fighting men and women gone to their rest, may their memory be eternal! Happy Veterans Day to all.

On a personal note, this is my last time writing you, as my family and I shall return to the United States before Thanksgiving. On that most wonderful of all our national holidays, we'll be thinking about and praying for you all with great gratitude.

Very best wishes always,

Nick Greanias, United States Consul

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EMERGENCY SERVICE for American citizen emergencies only: Mon – Fri, 7.30am – 4pm call +64-9-303-2724 extn: 2900. Afterhours call +64-4-462-6000 (You will be asked to leave a message for the duty officer to return your call).

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"B" GROUP
THIRD DEFENSE BATTALION, FLEET MARINE FORCE,
5 August, 1942.

MEMORANDUM TO ALL UNITS:

Caution your personnel on the following points:

1. Carry nothing ashore in the way of diaries, letters, addresses, etc. Your dog tag must be your only identification.
2. If captured, give only repeat only your name, and rank or serial number. Then say nothing more.
3. Do not collect souvenirs... Any enemy documents or papers, etc., that come into your hands must be at once turned over to the nearest intelligence officer. This is most important.
4. Use your gloves and nets at night. Eat no food and drink nothing except such food or drink supplied by U.S. Naval or Marine Forces.
5. Curb your curiosity. Don't pick up or examine anything that is not yours. Disregard of this may cause a quick passage of the Pearly Gates. The Japs go in for booby traps.
6. Show no lights at night. Snipers may put them out for you if you do.
7. Stay close to your guns unless on some special detail. Don't wander, or your gun may not get in action when most needed.
8. Don't be too brave to take cover. Only remain exposed during bombing when doing an essential job. A good time to duck is when the bomb bays open.

S. G. Taxis
S. G. TAXIS,
Major, USMC,



VETERANS DAY EDITION

U.S.S. BETELGEUSE

August 6, 1942.

TO ALL OFFICERS AND MEN:

The ZERO hour approaches.

THE TIME HAS COME.

OUR DAY of revenge is near at hand.

Tomorrow we will strike a blow to avenge the dirty treachery of PEARL HARBOR.

For months we have trained and worked. The "pay-off" comes tomorrow.

Strike first — Strike hard — Be not afraid — Because the RIGHT is on our side.

WE MUST WIN, in order that our Country, our homes, and our loved ones will forever be safe from the heel of the Dictator Nations — The AXIS Powers. I am certain we will WIN. LET NO THOUGHTS ENTER YOUR MIND OTHER THAN WINNING. LET THERE BE NO DOUBT.

We have tried during the past months to give you the training and information that will automatically make you do the right thing at the right time.

Tomorrow you will have your "Baptism of Fire". You naturally will be nervous and jittery until the zero hour when the shooting starts but after that you will calm down and seem like a target practice except you will have a live target that you must get or he will get you.

BE CALM — BE STEADY — BE SURE. Make every shot count.

I know we can count on every officer and man to do his utmost to do his best with what he has.

OBEY ORDERS WITHOUT DELAY. Your training, loyalty and good old American Spirit will see you through.

This is just like any other game — the coach can't do much about it after you leave the locker room and go out on the field.

I had intended to talk to you personally this morning but the existing conditions and watches made it impossible to assemble all of you together.

It is an old Navy Custom for the Captain to offer a prayer before going into battle. Tonight wont you join me in the following prayers for our success tomorrow? Make everything right in your heart and you have nothing to be afraid of.

(over)

(prayers omitted)

Harry D. Power
 HARRY D. POWER,
 Commander, U.S. Navy,
 Commanding.

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History of Veterans Day

World War I – known at the time as “The Great War” - officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, in the Palace of Versailles outside the town of Versailles, France. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, between the Allied nations and Germany went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of “the war to end all wars.”



Soldiers of the 353rd Infantry near a church at Stenay, Meuse in France, wait for the end of hostilities. This photo was taken at 10:58 a.m., on November 11, 1918, two minutes before the armistice ending World War I went into effect

In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day with the following words: *"To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations..."*

The original concept for the celebration was for a day observed with parades and public meetings and a brief suspension of business beginning at 11:00 a.m.

The United States Congress officially recognized the end of World War I when it passed a concurrent resolution on June 4, 1926, with these words:

Whereas the 11th of November 1918, marked the cessation of the most destructive, sanguinary, and far reaching war in

human annals and the resumption by the people of the United States of peaceful relations with other nations, which we hope may never again be severed, and

Whereas it is fitting that the recurring anniversary of this date should be commemorated with thanksgiving and prayer and exercises designed to perpetuate peace through good will and mutual understanding between nations; and

Whereas the legislatures of twenty-seven of our States have already declared November 11 to be a legal holiday: Therefore be it Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), that the President of the United States is requested to issue a proclamation calling upon the officials to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings on November 11 and inviting the people of the United States to observe the day in schools and churches, or other suitable places, with appropriate ceremonies of friendly relations with all other peoples.

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An Act (52 Stat. 351; 5 U. S. Code, Sec. 87a) approved May 13, 1938, made the 11th of November in each year a legal holiday—a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as "Armistice Day." Armistice Day was primarily a day set aside to honor veterans of World War I, but in 1954, after World War II had required the greatest mobilization of soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen in the Nation's history; after American forces had fought aggression in Korea, the 83rd Congress, at the urging of the veterans service organizations, amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word "Armistice" and inserting in its place the word "Veterans." With the approval of this legislation (Public Law 380) on June 1, 1954, November 11th became a day to honor American veterans of all wars.

Later that same year, on October 8th, President Dwight D. Eisenhower issued the first "Veterans Day Proclamation" which stated: "In order to insure proper and widespread observance of this anniversary, all veterans, all veterans' organizations, and the entire citizenry will wish to join hands in the common purpose. Toward this end, I am designating the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs as Chairman of a Veterans Day National Committee, which shall include such other persons as the Chairman may select, and which will coordinate at the national level necessary planning for the observance. I am also requesting the heads of all departments and agencies of the Executive branch of the Government to assist the National Committee in every way possible."



President Eisenhower signing HR7786, changing Armistice Day to Veterans Day. From left: Alvin J. King, Wayne Richards, Arthur J. Connell, John T. Nation, Edward Rees, Richard L. Trombla, Howard W. Watts

On that same day, President Eisenhower sent a letter to the Honorable Harvey V. Higley, Administrator of Veterans' Affairs (VA), designating him as Chairman of the Veterans Day National Committee.

In 1958, the White House advised VA's General Counsel that the 1954 designation of the VA Administrator as Chairman of the Veterans Day National Committee applied to all subsequent VA Administrators. Since March 1989 when VA was elevated to a cabinet level department, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs has served as the committee's chairman.

The Uniform Holiday Bill (Public Law 90-363 (82 Stat. 250)) was signed on June 28, 1968, and was intended to ensure three-day weekends for Federal employees by celebrating four national holidays on Mondays: Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Columbus Day. It was thought that these extended weekends would encourage travel, recreational and cultural activities and stimulate greater industrial and commercial production. Many states did not agree with this decision and continued to celebrate the holidays on their original dates.

The first Veterans Day under the new law was observed with much confusion on October 25, 1971. It was quite apparent that the commemoration of this day was a matter of historic and patriotic significance to a great number of our citizens, and so on September 20th, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed Public Law 94-97 (89 Stat. 479), which returned the annual observance of Veterans Day to its original date of November 11, beginning in 1978. This action supported the desires of the overwhelming majority of state legislatures, all major veterans service organizations and the American people.

Veterans Day continues to be observed on November 11, regardless of what day of the week on which it falls. The restoration of the observance of Veterans Day to November 11 not only preserves the historical significance of the date, but helps focus attention on the important purpose of Veterans Day: A celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

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American Organizations in New Zealand

For the reference of U.S. Citizens residing or traveling in New Zealand; the below information is provided directly by organizations in New Zealand. The U.S. Consulate General, Auckland assures no responsibility or liability for the professional ability or reputation of, or the quality of services provided by, the following organizations. Inclusion on this list is in no way an endorsement by the Department of State or U.S. Consulate General, Auckland. The information is provided directly by the organizations.

Veterans Club - Auckland

The United States Veterans Club was formed as a Veterans of Foreign Wars Post by servicemen who stayed in New Zealand or returned to the country after World War 2. Not many of the WW2 veterans are left today, the small membership now made up of Korea, Vietnam and Gulf veterans and some others who have severed in various places around the world.

Over the years members have meet together sharing a common bond, but these days, veteran numbers are so few in number regular meetings are not possible. However, American Thanksgiving is always celebrated and the Memorial Day Service is well-attended every year.

If you would like to join us, or meet up for coffee and a chat we would love to hear from you. You can get in touch with Michael Riley ph: (09) 818 4737; Cel. 027 3133544; Email: riley.nz@xtra.co.nz

The American Club of Christchurch

The American Club of Christchurch represents a group of Americans, Canadians and friends who meet socially regularly, particularly for Halloween, Thanksgiving, Fourth of July, and those American holidays that mean so much to all of us.

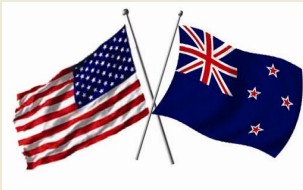
Our Club events include a January Hawaiian Luau, Super Bowl party, and a Fourth of July function. In the last two years we have organized significant September 11th Memorials to the New York Firemen and Heroes. This year we also included a special Tribute to our local Canterbury first response personnel – the fire-fighters, ambulance workers and police who were so involved when the 7.1 earthquake hit Canterbury on 4 September.



We were fortunate to enjoy a Tour of a C-17 Deep Freeze aircraft – amazing and moving experience for more than seventy of us. We welcomed the recent visit by Consul Nick Greanias and Hayley Wilson and held an evening function at The Canterbury Club in central Christchurch.

We also act as a support group and network for those who are interested in moving to the Christchurch area or who have recently settled here. Our Membership dues are \$50 per year per couple or family, and \$25 for individuals. Board members are Bruce and Anna Barker, Kent and Margaret Deitemeyer, Amy Gardiner, Susan Jackson, Scott Loeffler, John Peterson Chairman, and Patricia Thornton. To learn more about us, go to: <http://www.american-club-chch.org/> or email: admin1@american-club-chch.org

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American Club New Zealand, Inc

The American Club New Zealand has been bringing Americans and New Zealanders together since 1966. Many of our members are New Zealanders with family in the US and links to America in other aspects of their lives. Each year the Club raises funds toward the Peter Brown Memorial Friendship Award, assisting a New Zealand student with NZ\$1000 toward study at a university in the United States. In 2010 we awarded two highly regarded recipients pursuing Masters Degrees at Columbia University and at the Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government. The American Club honors its relationship with the American Consulate. We have a long-standing affiliate relationships with the American Chamber of Commerce, American Women's Club, and the Canadian Club.

We welcome new members! Our membership is growing weekly, with several parents creating special events with kids in mind. Our second annual Halloween Party was a great hit with parents and kids alike. Families and friends are invited to attend our Independence Day and Thanksgiving Celebrations where kids are encourage to share songs, poems, music and stories. The Eagles team (age 17+) plays in the Slow Pitch Softball league on Monday nights ('til March) at Keith Hay Park in Mt Roskill. Supporters and new players are very welcome, especially for the end of season Maple Syrup Tournament. Our evening events give everyone an opportunity to mingle before movies, group dining, guest speakers, entertainment, and outings. The new website provides convenient access to the latest events, the American Eagle newsletter, donations, membership application and helpful links: www.americanclub.org.nz

American Club New Zealand Inc.
P.O. Box 589, Shortland St., Auckland
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American Women's Club Auckland

Our purpose is to make your life a little easier and perhaps happier while you live here. Members in the club can offer you a wealth of information. Many of our members have been here for years; some are war brides who married American GI's, others have married Kiwis and decided to move here. Some of us are here because we have chosen to live here. Others are here with American companies for a few years or until the new assignment arrives. We range in age from twenty to ninety plus! Geographically, we cover a very large portion of the greater Auckland and beyond.

Our club aims too: To promote mutual goodwill, understanding, respect and co-operation between members of the Club and the New Zealand community. To assist new American residents in adjusting to life in New Zealand. To contribute time and/or financial support to a charitable organization as approved by the membership. To maintain an American atmosphere within the Club by observing traditional holidays and activities. <http://www.awcauckland.com/>
Mindy Vinther, President

ONLINE TRAVEL REGISTRATION

The Department of State recently launched an **Online Travel Registration Web Site**: <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs>. As U.S. citizens you can use it to record your foreign travel and residence information. We can use this information to communicate with you, or assist you in an emergency, and we strongly recommend you register yourself and your family. Even if you've already given your information to us at the Consulate, please do re-register online and update your information. The data you provide is completely secure. It is held behind Department of State (DoS) firewalls, accessed only by cleared personnel in Embassies, Consulates, and DoS, and releasable only under provisions of the Privacy Act .

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MOVING BACK TO THE U.S. AND NEED TO FILE FOR YOUR SPOUSE TO ACCOMPANY YOU?

As a U.S. citizen, you need to file an I-130 Petition to qualify your spouse for an immigrant visa. You can file it with us only if you live in New Zealand or the rest of the consular district (Samoa/Cook Islands), and have been here for at least 6 months (and not just on a tourist visa). You can obtain the initial forms and instructions to start the immigrant visa process by calling the Visa Center on 0900-87-847 (a caller pays service) or contact the Immigrant Visa Section at email:

AucklandIV@state.gov. Your non-citizen spouse can start the process by mail if you are outside Auckland city. However, eventually the I-130 petition must be filed in person by you – it cannot be filed by mail. Download from USCIS website: www.uscis.gov – Forms. You can file without an appointment at the Consulate General on weekdays between 8 – 9 am. More information on the immigrant visa process is available on the Embassy website: <http://newzealand.usembassy.gov>

APPOINTMENT'S FOR U.S. CITIZEN SERVICES AT THE CONSULATE GENERAL, AUCKLAND

Appointment's are required for American Citizens Services at the Consulate General, Auckland.

Appointments are needed for all passport services and Consular Report of Birth Abroad (CRBA) applications. Appointments are available Monday – Friday 8am – 11.45am.

The system allows you to schedule your own appointment in a time slot that suits you. The process takes just five minutes! You can make your appointment by visiting the ACS page on our website:

<http://newzealand.usembassy.gov/appointments2.html>

UPDATE FOR NON-U.S. CITIZENS ENTERING THE U.S.

As of April 30, 2010 ALL visa applicants are required to fill in the [online application form \(DS-160\)](#). Once completed, the information in the DS-160 will be electronically transmitted. The applicant must then print the confirmation page that includes some biographical information and a bar code confirmation number. Applicants must bring the DS-160 Confirmation Page to their interview.

http://travel.state.gov/visa/frvi/forms/forms_4230.html

***2010/2011 PUBLIC HOLIDAYS AND CLOSURES**

The Consulate General observes all U.S. and New Zealand public holidays. We're also close the last Wednesday of each month. These are the public holidays remaining in 2010 and first half of 2011 on which we'll be closed.

Thu, Nov 11	Veterans Day (US)	Mon, Jan 31	Auckland Anniversary (Auckland only)
Thu, Nov 25	Thanksgiving (US)	Mon, Feb 21	Washington's B'Day (US)
Fri, Dec 24	Substitute for Christmas Day (US)	Fri, Apr 22	Good Friday (NZ)
Mon/Tue Dec 27/28	Substitute for Christmas and Boxing Day (NZ)	Mon, Apr 25	Easter Monday/Anzac Day (NZ)
Fri, Dec 31	Substitute for New Years day 2011 (US)	Mon, May 30	Memorial Day (US)
Mon/Tue Jan 3/4	New Year's Day (NZ)	Mon, Jun 6	Queen's B'Day (NZ)
Mon, Jan 17	Martin Luther King, Jr B'Day (US)		