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Dejana Foundation Funds Renovation on VFW Hall.

By Debbie Greco Cohen

For over 80 years, the Port Washington Veterans of Foreign War of the United States (VFW) Henderson-Marino Post 1819 has served as a place where comrades who have served in one or more foreign wars over the decades gather to relate their war experiences, enjoy the camaraderie of their peers, or just relax among friends.

The Post was named in honor of two local soldiers who lost their lives fighting the Germans during World War I: Pvt John Michael Marino and Pvt William E. Henderson. Comrades who have served in any foreign war in which the United States has been engaged have always been welcomed.

The VFW Post had been located at 29 Mohegan Avenue in Manhasset Isle for decades. Its members, along with their friends and families have enjoyed many events there. However, over the years, the facility needed renovating. So, the Peter and Jeri Dejana Family Foundation stepped in with a generous donation that is covering the cost of their initial renovations.

“It is an honor and a privilege to help make the VFW Hall more enjoyable for its members,” said Jim Avena, Dejana Foundation Grant Administrator. “It is extremely rewarding to know that our donation will help so many deserving veterans be more comfortable when they spend time at the VFW Hall with their comrades.”

The donation made by the Dejana Foundation is just the start of a building fund. Many additional renovations are needed to bring the building to the level of comfort and completion our military veterans truly deserve. While the Dejana Foundation plans to continue to support the VFW renovations initiative, additional donations of any amount are appreciated.

“We are so thankful to the Peter and Jeri Dejana Family Foundation for their generosity and support,” added John Chalker, who served two tours of duty in Iraq as a Sargent and is Post Commander. “All of our members enjoy the time they spend at our VFW Hall. The renovations the Dejana Foundation is helping with make this place an even greater pleasure.”



Dejana Foundation's Peter Dejana and Jim Avena (ctr and 2nd from right) are flanked by members of VFW Post 1819.

Just a few examples of how the VFW Marino-Henderson Post 1819 serves its members as well as the entire Port Washington community are: organizing our Memorial Day Parade and Veterans Day services;

offering scholarships; speaking at schools and churches regarding serving the U.S; assisting veterans and their widows and orphans in any way possible. Post 1819 also provided support services for the Village of Manorhaven immediately following Superstorm Sandy. The Village presented the Post with an award to thank them for their help.

Veterans of foreign war who are interested in joining the Henderson-Marino Post 1819, or those would like to help the organization in any way, including making a donation to the building fund, please visit portwashingtonvfw.org, call 516-767-1552, or send an email to chalk6th@yahoo.com.