

Supervisor's Report

The local Memorial Day parade is shared by Copake, Ancram and Hillsdale. In April I was contacted by Ancram resident and Cadby Shutts VFW Quartermaster/Adjutant James MacArthur. In 2019, the parade was in Hillsdale, in 2020, restricted by Covid, Ancram organized a procession of cars and trucks. So this year, it was Copake's turn. Jim wanted to know if Copake would allow the parade.

I contacted the Department of Health. Their first response was that parades were not allowed. But in the weeks that followed, the restrictions on gatherings were eased and the DOH changed their verdict- the parade could go on.

Memorial Day weekend it poured rain. But on Monday, the rain finally stopped and under cold cloudy skies, the Parade did go on. It was classic Copake.

Boy Scouts and some veterans formed the Color Guard which included Copake residents Reed Neer and Rob Weingaertner. They were followed by a float with veterans. Among them were Copake residents David Silvernail, William Newcomb and Richard Barton.

Next came the Copake Town Board, with all members present. Then Hillsdale Supervisors Chris Kersten and Ancram Supervisor Art Bassin. After the Supervisors came the Copake Grange, followed by the Copake Fire Department, and the Fire Departments of Hillsdale, Ancram and Taghkanic.

After the Parade there was a short ceremony at the Copake Park. I saw more people than I had seen in a year and a half.

One of the people I saw was Reed Neer. Reed was in my class at Roeliff Jansen. We graduated in 1970. Reed served in Viet Nam.

When we talked about the parade, Reed told me he had marched in this parade every year for 45 years. Except last year, I said. "No", he said, "Last year I marched, all alone. There was a Sheriff's Deputy car with me, but I marched alone".

We have been through a lot in the past year, but this was a great if small Parade. Thanks to Jim MacArthur for pulling it all together. And thanks to Reed Neer, and all who participated.

Tonight we will close this meeting with a moment of silence for all those who lost their lives in war, fighting for this country.