

THE GREENLAWN BUGLE



Greenlawn Post 1244

December 2022

Operation Enduring Care Benefit Car Show



The Centurion Cruisers Car Club hosted a late-in-the-season car show at Walt Whitman High School on November 13 to benefit our Operation Enduring Care program.

Over 75 cars were exhibited - despite the cold, wet and windy weather. Spirits were boosted by the sounds of 60's music provided by DJ Bob Marketta of the Centurion Cruisers.

Post 1244 was well represented by Legionnaires, Sons and Riders (see photo above).

Many of those who participated donated personal care, comfort and hygiene supplies as well as socks.

underwear, non-perishable food and snacks. All will be distributed at the Northport VA Medical Center, either at the United Veterans Beacon House Residence or to the residents of the Community Living Centers there.

We are grateful to the Centurion Cruisers, South Huntington School Superintendent Dr. Vito D'Elia, Walt Whitman High School Principal Ken Costa, SCPD Auxiliary Police; and the US Naval Sea Cadet. Thanks to all who made the day successful.

Read more about Operation Enduring Care at:

www.post1244.org/operationenduringcare

Boys and Girls State

As we began the process of setting up interviews for the candidates for 2023 Boy's & Girl's State, I realized that this is the 15th year that our Post has been sending students to the programs. We had a humble beginning in 2009 sending just two students from Harborfields High School. Over the years, we have been able to send students from Harborfields, Walt Whitman, Huntington, Commack, Half Hollow Hills East and West, Chaminade, Kellenberg, St. Anthony's, William Floyd, and Northport high schools. We have been able, due to generous donations and grants, to expand the program to include more students on an annual basis. Soon we will have sent over 200 students.

I thought I would reflect back a number of years, and came across this review that was presented to us by one of the students who was a participant in the class of 2014:

This student is now our own Post member Sean Delle, Sean completed a four year tour of duty with the U. S. Coast Guard, is now employed as an EMT/



Charlie Armstrong, Sean Delle, Carolyn Dooley, Walt Whitman High School Guidance Counselor

Firefighter at the VA Medical Center in Northport, and is our Post Judge Advocate.

"Gentlemen, I come before you to tell you about the remarkable and unforgettable experience I had at Boy's State. While on the bus, I only found one kid from Riverhead who shared a county and city with me. So that made me a little uneasy. It turns out that the kid would also be my roommate.

On the first night, I spent the time campaigning for Mayor of the City of Brown and also for County Executive. I spent the night learning the names too. To my surprise I got nominated for State Trooper, a position I really wanted, but was too afraid to run for. There are only 10 State Troopers elected out of the whole Boy's State. After the main vote, I won the State Trooper job.

I got to meet with my advisers, a retired State Trooper, and a retired Sheriff. Connecting with them really gave me a rich understanding of the job I am responsible for at Boy's State and the actual State Trooper job. My job for the rest of the week was to enforce the Boy's State code, and law of New York State, and when the Governor was elected, I was responsible for protection

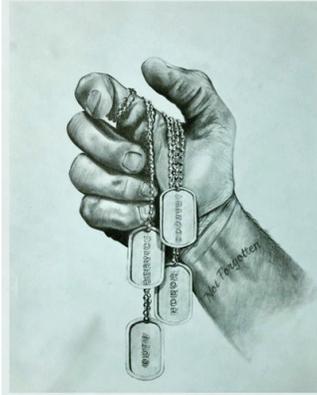
detail. I also got to take an amazing trip to the local jail and 911 call center. Coming from a large county, it was very interesting how a small county works.

During the time there, I got to talk with Boy's Staters from across New York State, as well as Marines, American Legionnaires, Mayors, a holocaust survivor and my Assembly member Chad Lupinacci. While in Morrisville, my time was fun but I finally realized how good the program was - after I left.

My 2 best friends went with me, and another best friend of mine went a year before me. We were singing the Alma Mater and sharing stories of the amazing time we had. If asked how to improve Boy's State, I thought the Marines were too harsh, which taught us to learn responsibility within a week, so it has its pros and cons. That is my only complaint. I had a fabulous time and would highly recommend this program for anyone else. Thank you for letting me participate in a program I will cherish forever."

Sean Delle

Operation Enduring Care



Through a consistent show of teamwork and excellence, “Operation Enduring Care,” has met all of its requests for assistance and goals to remain an important resource for our community during 2022.

Support to the outpatient programs at the Northport VA Medical Center has been

growing. As sources for assistance or food remain scarce, we have been quietly asked to do more. To give more. Inpatient support has been consistent and ongoing as well. We have been supported with usable and needed donations by schools, scout groups and other organizations.

We have also supported the “Operation Hope” program of Island Harvest. We supported The Salvation Army with items not needed by our veterans in need of assistance and toys for children of veterans in need. We worked with “Lend A Hand” Community Outreach for veterans that are referred through them.

Our mission has remained steadfastly the same: to provide comfort, assistance and reassurance to those veterans in need. With available resources, we have proudly met our goals with excellence and a high standard of care. We have grown from scattered items in several garages to a consolidated effort encompassing two storage rooms, organized by our American Legion Posts volunteers, spouses and friends.

I am extremely proud of the contributions and efforts of the members of our post. You make the extremely hard tasks bearable. I wish to thank all that contribute to our effort as members of our post, spouse or friend.

Due to my upcoming treatment for this additional cancer, I am confident and reassured that our collection as well as donation distribution through “Operation Enduring Care” will continue with our standards of care.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Albert A. Statton III
Chairman
Operation Enduring Care

Sometimes, a Few Words Can Speak Louder Than Volumes

cou·ra·geous

/kə' rājəs/

adjective -

Not deterred by danger or pain; brave.

self·less

/' selfləs/

adjective

Concerned more with the needs and wishes of others than with one's own.

res·o·lute

/' rezə, l(y)oot/

adjective

admirably purposeful, determined, and unwavering.

he·ro

/' hirō/

noun

a person who is admired or idealized for courage, outstanding achievements, or noble qualities.

Albert A. Statton III

All of the above.....and more....

May God cloak him in comfort and grace as he continues his battle with the dreaded scourge of cancer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Charlie Tritto
Past Chaplain
American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244



Property Tax Exemptions For Veterans

As the New Year approaches, it is time to start gathering information and paperwork for tax returns. I am sharing with you a brief summary on property tax exemptions for Veterans so

that you are aware of this benefit and know how to obtain it on time to meet the deadline to apply for it. Please note that some of these benefits will depend upon where you are located. Contact your local tax assessor to confirm whether they have the benefit and where to send the application to.

There are three different property tax exemptions available to Veterans who have served in the military. **These exemptions are not automatic, you must apply for them. Most of you will be filing this at the Huntington Tax Assessor's office: 100 Main Street, Huntington, NY (631-351-3226).**

Veterans can receive one of the three following exemptions:

1. Alternative Veterans' Exemption

- Available only on residential property of a Veteran who has served during a designated time of war or received an expeditionary medal. War eras: WWII (12/7/1941 - 12/31/1946); Korean War (6/27/1950 - 1/31/1955); Vietnam (11/1/1955 - 5/7/1975); and, Persian Gulf Conflict (8/2/1990 to Present)

- **Veteran applicants should check with the assessor or clerk in the municipalities in which they reside to see whether the Alternative Veterans' Exemption is offered**

- Extra tax reductions available for combat and United States Department of Veterans Affairs service-connected disabilities

- May be available for school district taxes. School districts must elect to offer the exemption

2. Cold War Veterans' Exemption

- Available only on residential property of a Veteran who served during the Cold War period (3/12/1947 - 12/26/1991)

- Counties, cities, towns, and villages have the option to offer this exemption to qualified Veterans

- Extra tax reductions available for United States Department of Veterans Affairs service-connected disabilities

- Check with your assessor or clerk to see whether the Cold war Veterans' exemption is offered

3. Eligible Funds Exemption

- Provides a partial exemption

- Applies to property that a Veteran or certain other designated person purchases. Such owners must purchase the property with pension, bonus, or insurance monies

- May be available for school district and other taxes. Veterans should submit an amended application if the Veteran's United States Department of Veterans Affairs service-connected disability percentage changes.

Veterans may also be eligible for other exemptions based on income and disability.

How to Request an Exemption

Eligible Veterans must submit the initial exemption application form to the assessor (**the form can be downloaded from: https://www.tax.ny.gov/pdf/current_forms/orpts/rp458a_fill_in.pdf**). I can also print and mail or email the form to you upon request. **There is a deadline of March 1, 2023 for filing.**

Acceptable Military Records

Please reference the listing of documents <https://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/exemption/vetexemptproof.html> that may be used to prove discharge under honorable conditions.

Additional Assistance:

If you would like to learn more about the benefits and services you may be eligible for as a Veteran, servicemember, or as a family member of a Veteran or servicemember, please call the New York State Division of Veterans' Services Help Line at 1.888.838.7697 (VETSNYS), where you may also schedule an appointment with one of the Veterans Benefits Advisors. **You can also contact your local tax assessor's office regarding the Veteran property exemptions (if in Huntington, the telephone number is noted above).**

Michelle Martin

631-361-1216

SailAhead 2022

This year, SailAhead has organized two large events and several smaller ones taking around 150 veterans out to the water. Each of these events has been especially designed to honor Our Mates, veterans who have lost their lives due to suicide, and to spur community connections between veterans and members of the civilian and sailing communities to build strong networks that can help fight veteran suicide.

The main focus creating these opportunities is to use sailing as a way of relieving stress, promoting healing, and providing a sense of camaraderie for veterans. Through this program, SailAhead provides veteran access to sailboats for free so that they can explore the beauty of the open water while developing key skills and abilities such as teamwork, leadership, problem solving, communication and resilience.

The two major events organized by SailAhead this year took place in July and September respectively. For both events, the plan was to take out veterans and their family members for a special day of sailing - each day dedicated to one of SailAhead's Mates, who are over 219 veterans who have died by suicide.

The first event was at the Centerport Yacht Club, which featured the participation of 36 boats and two helicopters. SailAhead and the Centerport Yacht Club partnered for the sixth time to facilitate a day of healing and remembrance. Over 90 veterans and their guests went sailing for a total of 130 guests! The event begins with a ceremony, is climaxed by the sail, and concludes with a BBQ on shore. SailAhead and the American Legion Post 1244 have a close relationship, and we are honored to continue to work together in order to help veterans heal. Our partnership is touching more and more lives, and together we are achieving great things in the fight against veteran suicide.

September 25th, marked SailAhead's 4th event in partnership with the Babylon Yacht Club to take veterans



sailing in honor of Michael Blanco, who was almost 19 when he took his life. His father and Post 1244 member Bruce, and the whole Blanco family were guests of honor at the event. They initiated the ceremonial rose toss which is performed in honor and remembrance of Michael and all veterans who die by suicide.



In partnership with the Long Island Maritime Museum, SailAhead also organized multiple all women veteran outings on the 130 year old Oyster Sloop the Priscilla, which was congressionally declared to be a National Historic Landmark. SailAhead also works in partnership with the LIMM to provide museum days and sailing outings for Long Island based homeless veterans.

SailAhead hopes that seeing familiar faces from past events will help create an even more powerful sense of community among our veteran population while also helping them build valuable connections within their local sailing communities! With a unique approach towards using therapeutic sailing sessions for veteran mental health awareness – we are confident that

Sean Duclay
Co-Founder



Spotlight on The Community

An interview with Edmund J. Smyth, Huntington Town Supervisor

What made you decide to enter the Marine Corps?

I think it was just like a lot of high school students. I wanted something different, a little bit of adventure. I was attending Friends Academy, which was Quaker school, I transitioned from that to Parris Island.

Supposedly three or four other friends were all going down to the recruiter.

The morning we were to meet, only I showed up. The Army recruiter's office was dark. I walked down the dark hallway to the one office with a light on. I was in the Marine recruiting office. The recruiting sergeant was on a bench press pumping iron. The blouse was hanging over the back of his chair. He is wearing his dress blue pants, glasses, shoes and t shirt. He is sitting there pumping iron with those huge weight plates. He racks the weights, looks up at me and says "Can I help you? "I am looking for the Army National Guard recruiter," I replied. He says "Why? He's not here. He won't be here all day. Have a seat." That was that. The 'why' and the 'how.'

I went to Parris Island in June of 1989 and graduated from boot camp September 1, 1989. I went directly into the reserves and served active duty for training in nuclear, biological, chemical warfare training at Fort McClellan, Alabama in the summer between my freshman and sophomore year of college.

How has your being a Veteran affected your career decisions?

I don't think it had much of an effect on my choice of career.

What were your prior positions in the private sector before you entered public service?

I'm a small business owner and I have practiced law on Main Street in Huntington Village for over two decades. I also served on Village of Lloyd Harbor Board of Zoning Appeals.

What are your goals as Supervisor for the Town of Huntington?

Since day one, we have prioritized streamlining the building permit process. Our goal is to make Huntington's Building Department the envy of all Long Island Towns. We promoted a longtime construction professional and building inspector to lead the team and assist the Town in moving us from a paper-based system to a digital system. Our IT department is making progress on implementing technology that will allow us to streamline the issuance of building permits.

We will continue our work from the past four years on critical infrastructure improvements, including record funding for our roads. When I first took office as Councilman four years ago, our infrastructure, including roads, facilities and equipment, were crumbling after decades of neglect. The Town Board invested another \$5.8 million this year for the Highway Department to pave our roads, do drainage improvements, and install ADA-compliant sidewalks. The improvements we are making to roads, sewer lines, marinas, bulkheads, parks, commuter and other public facilities ensures our essential infrastructure is efficient, reliable and safe. We do in-house improvements when possible to ensure the taxpayer gets their money's worth from Town government.

I want to implement an "Apples to Apples" Energy-Efficient Neighborhood Revitalization Program. This



Ed Smyth with son Harland, now a senior in college

would give property owners an incentive to convert energy-inefficient homes into energy-efficient homes. The tax assessment on the property would remain the same as long as the new home maintains the same number of bedrooms, bathrooms and kitchens – "Apples to Apples" – as the prior home. This would help eliminate neighborhood blight, create construction jobs without adding to the burden on our infrastructure, and provide both tax and energy cost-savings for the taxpayer.

I'd like to reform our Affordable Housing Code to establish a Down Payment Trust Fund. The trust fund would replace the affordable housing lottery, which benefits very few people, with a down payment program to help far more residents achieve homeownership.

We are looking at implementing a public-private partnership to address the longtime parking congestion issue in Huntington village. Private property owners would be able to add their parking lots and spaces to the Town's metered parking system after hours and share in the parking revenue.

By Mary Flatley and Bob Santo



Veterans Day Ceremony at Greenlawn Memorial Park

A Final Salute



Hutchinson Dubosque, Jr.
August 17, 2022

United States Army



John R. Spagnoli
September 28, 2022

United States Army



**Their sense of duty continues to preserve our past,
safeguard our present and sustain our future.**

American Legion Riders



The Riders want to wish everyone a great Holiday Season and a Happy and Healthy New Year. 2022 was a rough year for many (my family included).

During the Huntington Holiday Parade down Main Street, this year it was a close tie for whose motorcycle had more lights and could be seen from the moon.

Well, it was a tie between Steve's bike and Billy's bike. They both had a lot of little lights and yes, they were twinkling.

The 2022 Turkey Run was a big success, we delivered a total of 15 full Thanksgiving meals to our Veterans and families. What better way to deliver meals and visit some good friends. Grub Hub look out - the Riders are coming. A call also came to us for our veterans in the Northport V.A. and their families. Gift cards were needed for Secret Soldier Santa. Well, the Riders stepped up. In the photo a few of our Riders, Vic, Steve, Billy and Bruce presented Joe Sledge from the Northport V.A. with some gift cards. During this time of the year let us not forget about a few Toy Runs the Riders go on. We are like big elves who wear black and ride motorcycles.



Secret Soldier Santa Program Northport VA
L-R: Vic Ramondetta, Steve Scinta Joe Sledge (VA), Bill Bartasek and Bruce Blanco.

2022 is coming to an end quickly, so get some party hats and something to make lots of noise because we want 2023 to be a hell of a lot better than 2022 was..!!

*Bruce Blanco, Director
American Legion Riders
Greenlawn Chapter 1244*

Flag Education and Respect

Our Flag Education and Respect program has resumed. The program, a favorite among the scouting community in our area, had been impacted by the pandemic, as had many important activities.

Sgt. at Arms Charlie Armstrong has been an advocate for educating our youngsters in the traditions surrounding the proper handling and display of our national symbol for many years.

Recently, Charlie visited with Joanne Kelly and Cub Scout Pack 66, Den 2 at Oakwood Primary School in Huntington Station.

It was a lively group of about 6 kids, plus a few parents and younger and older siblings.

And they even got a chance to fold the flag as you can see from the photo at right.



Mary Flatley - Woman of Distinction

On October 23, Mary Flatley was among those honored as a Woman of Distinction by Assemblyman Keith Brown.

The award is intended to recognize the contributions of outstanding women in our community.

Mary was in good company at the special brunch among the dozens of women honored for their community service and professional accomplishments.

Honored for her service to veterans, Mary is a valuable member of Post 1244, serving as Post Historian as well as a member of our “Buddy Check” team which seeks to connect with those veterans who cannot otherwise participate in our meetings and other activities. Mary is also an active contributor to The Greenlawn Bugle.



Mary Flatley and Assemblyman Keith Brown

Long Swamp Cemetery Cleanup



In what has become an annual event the Huntington Manor Fire Department Juniors joined the Post in conducting a Fall cleanup of the Historic Long Swamp Cemetery. Post 1244 is the official steward of the cemetery.

This burial ground contains the remains of three members of Huntington’s Revolutionary War Militia:

Sgt. John Carll 1741-1822, Pvt. Scudder Carll 1758-1842 and Pvt. Joseph Ireland 1714-1793

Participants pictured L-R: Omar Archaga-Medina, Marciano Aloe, James Ritchie, Lauren Ritchie, Sean Burke, Bella Spatafora, Genesis Izaguirre-Castro, Colton Kraese, Emma Walsh, Risa Pastore, Logan Glidden, Aiden Lucas, Ray Spatafora, Ryan Pastore, Ethan Burke, Drew Shaneberger, Alex Seeloff, Geoffrey Hoffmann, and Nick Simonetti. Post1244 members Donna Boyle (center), Ed Hayde and Carlo Giordano at far left. Not pictured : Les Lucas, Kevin Burke and Karen.

Thank you all!!!

Veterans In The Classroom 2022

Since 2011, Oldfield Middle School in Greenlawn has invited our veterans to speak to their classes during the week of Veterans Day, about our experiences in the military and life after our military service was over.

The American Legion believes that our military veterans are living textbooks of American History. Their accounts of experiences while in the uniform of the United States Armed Forces should be preserved and shared with others, especially with students in America's schools.



Donna Boyle



Chad Rials



Ed Hayde

The Veterans in the Classroom program is intended to involve the members of the post in the academic curriculum. American history is something we all share, and there is no one better to help tell that story than someone who's had a great part in shaping it.

Giving veterans the opportunities to share their experiences with our kids would go a long way towards helping to keep their memory—and our history—alive

Participants this year were: Cmdr. Donna Boyle, Adjutant Ed Hayde, Trisha Northover, Chad Rials, Richard Klein, Judge Advocate Sean Delle, Chris Argento, and Carl Grasso (not pictured).

Thanks to Ed Hayde for coordinating with the school and for keeping this very worthwhile program going these past several years.



Chris Argento



Richard Klein



Sean Delle



Trisha Northover

Suffolk County American Legion High School Oratorical Contest

Once again, Greenlawn Post 1244 sponsored three students from St. Pius V School in Melville in this year's Suffolk County American Legion Contest. Mary Kennedy, Maureen Kennedy and Ava Michels.

Mary and Maureen Kennedy, who are sisters, finished first and second respectively. They will go on to compete in the district level competition on January 7 at 9:30 am at Rusy-Bohm Post 411 in Islip.

The contest is part of a national competition conducted at American Legion Post across the United States.

The purpose of The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program – "A Constitutional Speech Contest" is to develop knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States on the part of High School students.

Other objectives of the contest include the development of leadership, the ability to think and speak clearly and intelligently, the preparation for acceptance of the duties and responsibilities, the rights and privileges of American citizenship.

An American Legion Post will sponsor their contestants into the County level contests. This sponsorship will continue throughout the remaining contests as the contestant advances from County, to



L-R: Mary and Maureen Kennedy

District, to Zone, to Department, ending with the National Contest.

Last year, **Mary Kennedy**, sponsored by Greenlawn Post 1244, advanced to win the 10th District and Zone 2 contests and competed in the New York State Finals Where she was awarded a \$4,000 scholarship.

Welcome New Members of Post 1244

Steven Colantuono
George Walling

THE GREENLAWN BUGLE

The Greenlawn Bugle: Editor, Publisher Bob Santo

Contributing Writers: Charlie Armstrong, Bruce Blanco, Donna Boyle, Sean Duclay, Mary Flatley, Michelle Martin, Al Statton

Photos by: Bob Santo, Bruce Blanco, Donna Boyle, Sean Duclay and Pam Robinson. Copy Editor, and Morale Officer: Madelaine Santo; Advertising Manager: Walter Rabe

The Commander's Corner

I hope everyone had a nice holiday, and wish you a Healthy and Happy New Year!

The end of the year is fast approaching. When I think back to last Christmas it is hard to believe that this year went by so quickly. The post has stayed busy. We have supported a book drive for the shelves at Northport VA, Operation Enduring Care to support local Veterans who are in need, monthly meetings to visit, participated in "Vets in the Classroom" at a few schools, hosted a couple of cookouts, and hosted a GREAT party last week among other things. I hope you have found something worthwhile in at least one of our activities.

In the next few months the post will be holding nominations and elections so if you need something to do please consider accepting a position within the post.

Everyone has a way to contribute.

Columbia Terrace is a 14 unit affordable housing complex located in Huntington. The Town has designated it as "Veterans Preference," Eligible veterans will be "bumped" in front of non-veterans on the waiting list. So if you know any local veteran please have them check it out to see if they qualify.

These next few months are shaping up to be more of the same so enjoy the slightly slower pace that winter brings while we all wait for summer and the outdoor activities it brings.

Donna Boyle
Post Commander
631-942-2156
39dpip@gmail.com

Military Women's Award

On a clear, crisp fall day, when the nation was recognizing the 25th anniversary of the dedication of the Military Women's Memorial in Washington, DC, the Long Island Air Force Association (LIAFA) held their first annual ceremony to honor local women veterans.

Three members of Greenlawn Post 1244 were honored. They were PFC Mary Flatley - Marine, CPT Denise Crutchfield-Spearman - Army and CSM Donna Boyle - Army.

Mary has been a post member since 2016. She is currently serving as the post historian, and assists our chaplain with the "Buddy Calls." These calls are instrumental in reaching post members who are not able to attend meetings and provides personal contact with these post members.

Denise is a new member who just joined us in September. Please say hello and make her feel welcome when you see or meet her. I am sure she will prove to be an asset to the post in the coming years. Donna has been a post member since 2006, she is currently serving as the post commander.



L-R Denise Spearman-Crutchfield, Post Commander Donna Boyle and Post Historian Mary Flatley.

In addition to the three honorees from our post, there were 25 other military women honored.

Historical Fact

As of the Spring of 2017, 3,500 Medals of Honor have been awarded to American Military members. Of all these medals only one has been awarded to a woman and she received it twice.

The only woman to have been awarded the Medal of Honor is Dr. Mary Walker. She served during the American Civil War. In 1863, she was appointed as a War Department Surgeon. She was captured by the Confederacy in the Spring of 1864. She treated both Union and Confederate soldiers during her captivity. After the war, in November of 1865, she was awarded the Medal of Honor by President Andrew Johnson. The medal was taken back by Congress in 1917. However, Dr Walker refused to return the Medal and wore it proudly until her death in 1919. President Jimmy Carter reinstated the Medal of Honor to Dr. Walker in 1977.



OUR SPONSORS



Edmund J. Smyth
Supervisor
Town of Huntington



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*Thank you to our
Veterans
and their families for
serving our country.*

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**Joan
Cergol**
Councilwoman



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*Proud member of
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**We join you in support of Our Troops.
We thank them for their dedicated service
and sacrifice for our Country.**

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Thank you for your service!

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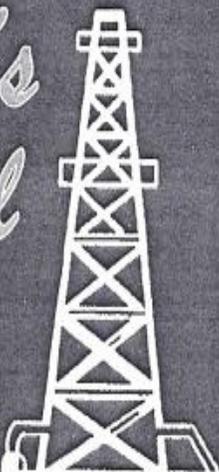


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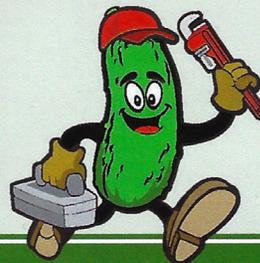
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