



# The Greenlawn Bugle

American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244

September 2014

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◆ New York American Legion Press Association Best Paper Award 2012-2013-2014 ◆

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## Upcoming Events

### Stand Down for Homeless Veterans

Wednesday, September 24  
Northport VA  
9:00 am - 2:00 pm

### Columbus Day Parade

Sunday, October 12  
Line up 12:00 Noon,  
Step-off 12:30 pm

### Monthly Meetings

8:00 pm

### St. Joseph Council K of C

Wednesday, Oct. 8  
Wednesday, Nov. 12  
Wednesday, Dec. 10

## Wings of Freedom Winners Take To The Skies

Our 2014 winners of the Wings of Freedom Flight fundraiser were Post 1244 Legionnaires Butch Jensen and Frank Ostroff. Their names were drawn at our Post Meeting on July 9th.

Each winner was entitled to a seat on one of several WWII bombers from The Collings Foundation which were to be part of the American Airpower Museum's Labor Day Weekend Salute to Airpower.

The Boeing B-17 Super fortress was the aircraft of choice on Sunday, August 31st at 5:30 pm. The weather that afternoon was looking pretty dicey as strong winds and cloud cover approached from the west.

Butch and his son Mathew were on the first of two flights scheduled for the "5:30" time slot and they took off only a few minutes late for their trip around Long Island on the historic plane that did so much to weaken the Nazi war machine in Europe.

Frank's guests, future son-in-law Paul Boronow and son Paul Jr. were not so lucky. After the first flight landed, the weather turned ugly and it was announced that the second flight would have to come back the next morning for their adventure. They did just that, and enjoyed their exciting flight thoroughly.

The Post has been running this



Flight Winners with friends and family:  
L-R Winner Frank Ostroff and his future son-in law Paul Boronow and son Paul Boronow Jr.; Matthew Jenkins and dad :winner Butch Jenkins.  
Unidentified man in back row.

fundraiser each year since 2008. It continues to be a successful and fun program, especially with its emphasis on the history of the role that American airpower played in winning World War II.

We hope it also serves to remind all who participate of the service and sacrifices of so many WWII veterans and the families they left behind.

We thank all those who participated, whether you bought one chance or sold 200 chances to friends and family. This raffle is our primary fund raiser for the Post's expenses. We look forward to next year's raffle and seeing some new winners take to the skies!

**Our Monthly meetings are the second Wednesday of each month at 8:00 pm, Knights of Columbus, 24 Boulevard Ave. Greenlawn. Come early and get to know us! For more information call: 631-673-8704 or Email: Post1244@verizon.net**



## BOY'S & GIRLS STATE – 2014



As we begin our preparations for the 2015 Boy's State and Girl's State programs, we can take a moment to look back at the very successful 2014 program. Eleven students (9 boys and 2 girls) attended the programs held at SUNI Morrisville and Rockport respectively.

Six of the young men came to our Post meeting in August to tell us about their experience (the remaining delegates will be at our upcoming meetings). They told us of the offices they ran for and the positions they held in the fictional 51<sup>st</sup> state they were charged with forming. Out of over 1000 delegates, one of our young men was selected as first alternate for one of two positions to represent this state in Boy's Nation.

We heard about both the bad and good; from the long days, to the great food, to learning to make their beds properly, to being supervised by Marines, to the heat, to making new friends from all over the State. All spoke of the exceptional learning opportunity, and of now having a better understanding of politics and the political process. They agreed that it was "A Week That Shapes A Lifetime".

In addition to running for office and vying for positions in this fictional 51<sup>st</sup> State, the delegates heard from a myriad of guest speakers. Among others, the girls heard from Colleen O'Neil, who is running for Jefferson County Sheriff; Addie Jenne Russell, Assembly Woman; Christine Lennard, Lieutenant Colonel; and State Sena-



L-R: Sgt at Arms Charlie Armstrong, Eitan Golan (Half Hollow Hills East), Mike Panettieri (Harborfields), Mike Brunette (Chaminade), Eli Slamowitz (Harborfields), Nolan Borg (Half Hollow Hills East), Todd Sammis (Harborfields) and Adjutant Ed O'Shea..

tor Kathy Young. Some of the speakers the boys heard from were: Helen Sperling, Holocaust survivor; State Senators David Veiesky and Joe Griffo; Scott McNamara, Oneida County District Attorney; and, our own local State Assemblyman, Chad Lupinacci.

Our focus for 2015 is to further expand this program in order to make this exceptional opportunity available to more of our youth. Remember – they are the future of our nation!

*Charlie Armstrong*

### Calling All Veterans!

The Half Hollow Hills Community Library is looking for local veterans from their community who would be willing to share their experiences and stories. The interviews will be recorded and added to the Library's local history collection. The recording may also be added to the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project. All veterans will receive a personal copy of this recording at a reception held for them and their families. Call Edna Susman (631) 498-1260 to register for this important project.

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## Greenlawn Auxiliary Unit 1244

This summer was quite nice, not so hot but also lacking enough rain. We need to count our blessings that we do not live in other area's of the country that have had devastating weather.

We do not meet in the summer months so things have been rather quiet for our Auxiliary. I do want to thank everyone for their prayers and well wishes with my recent surgery and recuperation. I am doing well and ready to take on my responsibilities as President. Several of our Officers Terry Fay, Eileen Lammers and Elaine Schaefer were also hospitalized but now home and well.

I am pleased to say that our 2014 Fundraiser was a huge success thanks to our Auxiliary members, local merchants and the overwhelming support we received at the Annual Memorial Day Picnic on May 26, 2014. A special thanks to Maureen O'Shea for all the gift cards she collected and being our best raffle ticket seller. Because of the monies raised, our Auxiliary hopes to sponsor a student for Girl State in 2015, affording a high school student a chance to learn more about our Government. We are really excited about being able to do this since last year we had to pass it up.

I am pleased to say our Auxiliary gave out our spring donations to the Woman's Wellness Center at Northport

VA Hospital, Boots on the Ground NY Food Pantry and United Veterans Beacon House totaling \$ 500.00. We can only do this because of the hard work and efforts of our members and the monies we collect with the Poppy program.

We look forward to the coming months and supporting our Veteran programs as well as attending the Veteran Day services. As always we are looking for new members who may wish to join our Auxiliary. If you know of anyone interested, please ask them to call me at 631-423-1176, I would be happy to speak with them concerning our Auxiliary.

On behalf of my Officers and members, I wish the Commander Bob Santo, his officers and members, the best in the year 2014/2015 and know we are here to assist them in any way.

Enjoy the rest of the summer. May all of our members be healthy, happy and peaceful. Keep the men and women in the armed forces in your prayers for a safe return to their loved ones. Let us never forget our Veterans.

*Fran Hubbs, President*

### "A HOUSE DIVIDED, The Story of Ike and McCarthy"

This new work by Post 1244 Legionnaire Don Farinacci is the story of the political battle of 1952 through 1954 between President Dwight D. Eisenhower and Senator Joseph R. McCarthy for the political leadership of the Republican Party and the moral leadership of the Nation. Set against the backdrop of the Cold War, the climactic struggle between "Ike" and "Joe" played itself out amidst the machinations of larger-than-life historical figures such as Stalin, Churchill, MacArthur, Truman, Nixon, George Marshall, Joseph and Bobby Kennedy, Edward R. Murrow, Roy Cohn, Whittaker Chambers and Alger Hiss.

The Ike-McCarthy political war was fought on a battlefield undergirded by the emergence of Russia as a nuclear power, The Korean War, the "Red Scare" and the tumultuous Army-McCarthy Hearings of 1954. This is history but it's not dry. Rather it relates a three-year story of high drama, human emotions on display at government's top levels, pride, prejudice, courage and cowardice. The colorful characters alone could have provided the stuff for a good novel were it not for the fact that the actual facts were more intriguing than fiction.

This is the sixth book that Don has written. The others are: "**The Allemagne Deception**", "**1961: Sliding Toward Armageddon**," "**When One Stood Alone**," "**Last Full Measure of Devotion**," and "**Truman and McArthur Adversaries for a Common Cause**."



Congratulations to Post 1244 Legionnaire Rob Scarpelli and April Marie Canestrini! The couple were wed on September 6, 2014. We wish you both a lifetime of happiness!!!

## Missing In America Project



### MIAP Activity Reports

MIAP and Greenlawn Post 1244 regularly conduct honors services for veterans who have died with no known next of kin. We work with the NYC Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs and Dignity Memorial Funeral Homes to be sure that all veterans receive the honors to which their service entitles them.

#### **Clyde Bruton**

June 11 2014

Calverton National Cemetery

The day started bleak and rain swept. Earlier in the morning, I had received a call from the New York City Police escort double checking the rendezvous time. I felt a tad relieved that our American Legion Riders for MIAP would have their escort through the three counties to Calverton Cemetery. It is a bit of a hike for the escorts to go to the funeral home in Queens County, and then back out to Suffolk County. However, they do it with panache and style. It is a proud and heart warming moment to see the lead captain out front with the American Flag flowing behind his bike, and just a little lower the blue MIAP flag as consort to Old Gory.

These moments are to be cherished and remembered

in our dark moments, for they carry the sun with them. The Calverton parking lot had various American Legionnaires waiting for our veteran, they came from Post's throughout the county. The burial pavilion was made ready and the honors service was performed. I chose a different poem this day, because it had captured the beat of my heart several days before. The Poem was "Bury Me With Soldiers" by Monsignor Charles Fink, who was a combat officer in Viet Nam.

As I gazed around at the flag line, I perceive a slight touch of grimness on the faces of our escorts, I then realized that the trip from New York City had taken its toll on our American Legion Riders. However, these stalwart riders stood tall and proud. The last act that I performed was to present the flag to our escort captain Serge Dei. I know that our veteran Clyde Bruton would have approved.

#### **Joseph Wright**

June 16, 2014

Calverton Cemetery

Once again MIAP accepts a veteran for burial, other than from Dignity Memorial, there simply is no other choice in the matter. Our mission is about veterans, and we from MIAP and American Legion Post 1244 are proud to do it, no matter the short notice, lack of information or other minor set backs. We will do it as long as physically possible.

Every abandoned veteran that is properly interred with honor and dignity is one more step towards America's covenant with its military sons and daughters. There were no escort riders for our Mr. Wright, the notice came to us with the speed of the wind and silence of a burial field. We had no time to rally our

American Legion escort riders. However once MIAP agreed to accept the mission, Post 1244 went to work. Post Commander Bob Santo immediately posted the burial on the County web site, notifying the County membership of the impending burial.

There is a certain aspect of challenge associated with this impromptu type mission and a sense of mystery. Mr. Wright had died 15 years ago and was buried on Hart Island (New York's Potters Field). Our veteran waited patiently to be exhumed and brought to his proper place to be interred. This was done with all the respect and honor due him. At times life becomes a road strewn with obstacles. One must strive harder, dig in, hitch up ones belt and persevere. The more we overcome, the more we can overcome. Keeping in mind the old adage "If the mountain was smooth, we would never be able to climb it".

### **Irwin Kornspan**

June 18, 2014  
Calverton National Cemetery

The weatherman had predicted rain for this day. He was wrong. For once it was in our favor. The Sun burned bright and clear, a portend for the day's funeral service. This service would be a variation on a theme. The difference would be the religious affiliation of our veteran. Most times we don't know the religion of our veterans, however this time we did.

Once we realized that our veteran was of the Jewish faith we mobilized ourselves accordingly. Our MIAP Rabbi had just undergone a serious operation and could not do the service. However, MIAP has another Jewish associate who supports us with genealogical help. He is a funeral director in the State of Connecticut, Mr. Leonard Holtz. He is also a Cantor. After listening to my tale of woe, Leonard graciously volunteered to come to Long Island and give our veteran a proper service in Hebrew. Our next move was to notify Dignity Memorial about our Veteran's background and

religion. They promptly furnished a beautiful wooden casket, adorned with the Star of David, thus conforming to Jewish ritual. We next touched base with all the Jewish veteran groups. Post 1244 Commander Bob Santo notified all the other veteran posts possible. Our Post Commander always does an excellent job for our MIAP missions. The day was a bit of a scorcher. However, the turnout was great. At least 40 veterans came from all parts of Long Island.

There were Jewish veterans that we had met before. The Suffolk County Legion was well represented, all of which added to an uplifting of spirits. We sensed that Veteran Kornspan's spiritual essence was pleased, and so were we. Cantor Holtz gave out the customary black ribbons that were cut as we began the service. Cantor Holtz chanted the psalms with a melodic voice that summoned up the ancient beginnings of Judaism. Finally the Poem "I am a Veteran," Written by Retired Army Col, Rabbi Paul Swordlow was recited. As the group passed by the casket in final closure, I marveled at our veteran's solidarity, and thanked heaven for the thousandth time.

**Paul Germann**  
Calverton Cemetery  
August 5, 2014

Airman Germann was born in Rego Park, NY on June 24, 1938. His place of death was Forest Hills Hospital in Queens County, on November 21, 2013. He was an Air force veteran from the Korean Era. On first glance, we don't know much about Airman Germann, however let us look again. Who is this stranger we are here to honor and respect. The men and women assembled there today are not in the habit of going to funerals of strangers.

What is so special about Airman Germann? Granted the day is sunny and warm; granted it is pleasant to socialize with other veterans; granted it seems like the right thing to do, but beyond that, why Airman Germann? Well for one thing his serial number indicates he was an enlisted man, (volunteered). He did so in 1956 when the Korean problems were still brewing. He was only 18 at the time. He displayed all the inherent indicators of a humble man.

As I conducted the service I thought of these things, and came to a surprising conclusion: so what? Thousand of young men could fit that profile. I gazed at the veterans about me. They all were intent on their participation there. They knew what they were there for. Their demeanor conveyed the pride and respect they had for our veterans. I realized that I had grown jaded in my approach to my mission. However upon reflection I now knew why I was there. My rebirth of purpose made me stand taller now.

Veterans don't have to be hero's, all they have to be are veterans who have done their duty by serving their Country. Thank God for them, for without them, many of our freedoms would be non-existent. Many of our cherished beliefs would be mere memories. Many of our values would be only dreams. It is an unending list of wonders that would no longer be. Where would we be without them? Where would we be, indeed! Yes I definitely know why we are here. May our covenant with them always stand.

# American Legion Riders Post 1244



## American Legion Riders

If America never had veterans where would we be? If it wasn't for veterans, people wouldn't have as much freedom as they do now. Our rights and privileges, would

have been gone if we didn't have veterans.

Without them we are nothing and we have nothing. Think about the daily actions of any veteran; his or her contractual obligations, and complete willingness to sacrifice their life at a moment's notice. This, my friend, they do unquestionably every day in Afghanistan, and wherever deployed throughout the world. Now think how comfortable you are on your couch right now.

That's why we, who recognize our Veterans, honor our American Heroes.....every waking moment!

Veterans are those who volunteered and said, "Yes" during a time when it was popular to say, "No". We find these brave and honorable souls walking among the living and resting at peace with the deceased. Those that fought in the conflagrations of wars are called veterans. We should open our arms and hearts and say "thank you" for protecting our country. For permitting us to rest assuredly to know that we're out of harm's way.

Let every American realize that the freedom we enjoy comes from a huge unselfish sacrifice, and indeed, therefore.... freedom is not free. Rather, there is a grave cost giving all Americans his/her unconscious freedoms. It's to those who once wore and are still wearing the Uniform of Courage that we say, "Thank you", and in simple ways express our deepest appreciation for all you do, unknown to us, we your humble Citizen.

Today, our young men and women are volunteers. They choose to serve in harm's way, with knowledge and understanding that to serve.... is to serve at their

own peril. Often their sacrifices are immeasurable. The personal choice to serve comes at a tremendous cost. The soldier's choice should be revered, because Veterans know they may one day pay The Ultimate Sacrifice. Not knowing which day, or the moment they will be asked to "pay in full" is a quiet, unspoken mental burden every combat veteran knows firsthand, but seldom speaks about.

Every veteran at one time of their service has to face the conflicts created from pre-departure thoughts and experience mental pain when they are leaving their loved ones behind. The separation from their children, brother, sister, and spouse, etc.; anguish from who will protect my family when I am overseas; pondering how 'bad will it be' in-country; worrying if they will come back home.....in one piece, or come back home at all.

ALR's Post 1244 members have dedicated their lives toward continued service to God and Country. They have fought for or have family members who have fought for what they thought was right. Our Missions leave no veterans unforgotten. They are designed to honor Veterans for their service, and silently remind Americans of The Veteran Experience through our Mission's Rolling Thunder!

ALR's have already completed 50+ Missions in 2014, honoring and thanking our living, men and women in the military that have served, and are continuing to serve and protect this country. Unfortunately, at *Final Missions* we too honor our Brothers and Sisters during their departure to the renewed and everlasting covenant.

Written by: Chris Argento, RD, CEC  
RVN 66-67 US Army 39<sup>th</sup> Combat Engrs

### Help us Stay In Touch. We need your Email address

If you have E Mail service and are not receiving E Mails from us on a regular basis, we invite you to let us add you to our weekly E Newsletter list. We will let you know of Post news of interest, activities and events you may wish to take part in. No chain letters, political messages or jokes. Only **"The News You Can Use."** Just send an e mail to: [Post1244@verizon.net](mailto:Post1244@verizon.net) and we'll do the rest! (And you can unsubscribe at any time.)



[www.facebook.com/AmericanLegionGreenlawnPost1244](http://www.facebook.com/AmericanLegionGreenlawnPost1244)

## Eagle Scout Awarded Post 1244 Good Citizenship Award

Motorists traveling east in Commack who have been used to seeing the Veterans Memorial at the intersection of Rt 25 and Veterans Highway for many years were surprised to see a major change in the site earlier this year.

The memorial was the Eagle Scout Project of Tim Hardy of Boy Scout Troop 8 in East Northport. Enlisting his fellow scouts and members of the community, he transformed the memorial into one of the finest on Long Island.

Hardy, a sophomore at Commack High School, decided that the site, which had become completely run-down and overgrown with grass four feet high went to



work getting donations of cement from Home Depot, paint from Sherman Williams in Commack for the rusty cannon and a tree and plants from Greenland Nursery in East Northport.

The Eagle was donated by a family friend, Craig Mastandrea, who owns Wood Cut Design in Pt. Jefferson Station.

Elwood-Commack VFW Post 9263 asked Tim to march with the Veterans on Memorial Day.

At our September meeting, Post 1244 3rd Vice Commander Kevin Farrell presented Tim with our Good Citizenship Award for his outstanding accomplishment as many of his fellow scouts, scout leaders and parents looked on.

As his citation concluded: "Eagle Scout Tim Hardy's leadership, ingenuity, resolve and devotion reflected great credit upon himself and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the Boy Scouts of America".



## Just For Laughs

### The Sergeant's Philosophy

The Company Commander and the First Sergeant were in the field. As they hit the sack for the night, the First Sergeant said, "Sir, look up into the sky and tell me what you see?"

The CO said, "I see millions of stars."

1st Sgt.: "And what does that tell you, sir?"

CO: "Astronomically, it tells me that there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets.

Theologically, it tells me that God is great and that we are small and insignificant.

Meteorologically, it tells me that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. What does it tell you, Top?"

1st Sgt.: "Well sir, it tells me that somebody stole our tent."



## Our Last Goodbye

### Dedicated to Our Brother Allen Shaw

How do we say our last goodbye?  
How do we capture the end of a relationship?

An emotional question when we reflect on it, particularly when it is someone you have worked with, and socialized with. Someone who had solidarity with your values and beliefs, one you could call brother, yet there was no blood tie.

Who was Allen Shaw? Well, for one thing, he was the N.Y. State MIAP Chaplain. His invocations and benedictions at our MIAP burials were always elegant and graceful, with thought given, and love of Country shown. He was the Post's historian, religiously maintaining the records of our past and present existence.

When we are aware that deaths have occurred, we are diminished in some subtle and mysterious way. We can't seem to identify the emotion, so we think we are sad or angry in some general way. When we are aware of the passing of a friend or relative, we are diminished in a more profound way. We know that we have lost something special. We know that a part of our lives will never be the same again. Part of us is missing, never to be with us again. We can say that the person will always be with us in our memories, but most memories fade. It is the way of the world. So let us take this moment to salute and cherish our brother's memory, here and now.



Let us remember his droll humor at our Post meetings. Humor that was earned over many years on this planet, 83 to be exact. He saw a history that most of us can only read of in books. The wonder of keeping his mental act together all these years, his mind was always keen and insightful, always aware that there was treasure in the distasteful truth as opposed to the valueless worth of the false honeyed word. We could speak of where he was born, what he did for a living, his children, his wife, branch of service he served, but that will not

tell us who Allen Shaw was. His worth was who and what he was, opening his heart and soul to us, in subtle and humorous ways. Unfortunately we may not have been looking too closely at the time. How sad it is to realize someone's true value after they're gone.

Goodbye dear friend and brother. May your new journey reveal the answers for which you have searched. We shall all meet again one day. My heart will be on my sleeve, and I will thank fate for bringing your presence back to me. We shall sing and laugh and see what eternity has in store for us.

*John Caldarelli*  
Chairman Post 1244  
Missing In America Project

## Operation Paperback



Under the direction of Legionnaire Donna Boyle, our Post has been partnering with **Operation Paperback**, sending hundreds of books to active duty military around the world since April, 2012. Operation Paperback is a non-profit organization that collects gently used books nationwide and sends them to American troops overseas, as well as veterans and military families here at home. Since 1999, they have shipped over 1.9 million books to locations around the globe.

Our service members and their families make sacrifices every day for our country. It takes so little to let them know that they are appreciated. When you donate to Operation Paperback, you will let America's military know that you appreciate their service and their sacrifices.

We will accept paperbacks as long as they are in good condition at any of our meeting nights. If you are unable to bring them to one of our meetings, please let us know and we will make arrangements to pick them up or receive them from you at another time.

**Many thanks to Donna and Joe for all their efforts!** Contact Donna at 39DPIP@Gmail.com or call Cmdr. Bob Santo at 516-458-7881.

### Greenlawn Bugle Earns Best Paper Award

For the third year in a row, your Post newsletter, *The Greenlawn Bugle* has received “Best Paper” honors from the New York American Legion Press Association. Cmdr. Bob Santo and wife Madelaine Santo, traveled to Albany, New York to receive the award at the Department of New York Convention on July 18th. Cmdr. Santo was also awarded First Prize for Best Website for the Suffolk County American Legion web site he manages. ([www.suffolkcountylegion.org](http://www.suffolkcountylegion.org))

*The Greenlawn Bugle* was first published in January, 2007 by Legionnaire Allen Schwartz who nurtured our fledgling newsletter through its first two years. Cmdr. Santo took over the helm in 2009. The paper is mailed to over 400 households each quarter, mostly in the Town of Huntington, but also to the many members now living far away, who have chosen to retain their ties to Post 1244.

Much of the credit for the success of *The Greenlawn Bugle* is due to the many articles written by our post officers, chairmen and our Auxiliary President, Fran Hubbs. They all have contributed in so many ways to



Cmdr. Santo receiving “Best Paper Award from NYALPA President Linda Pixley.

the growth and success of our Post. We are also grateful to our supporters who have made the publication possible. Please see who they are in the last four pages of every newsletter.

Cmdr. Santo would also wish to thank his wife, Madelaine for her invaluable assistance with each and every issue published.

PS: Allen Schwartz is still contributing. See his cartoon “Post-It” on page 7.

## Post 1244 Theater Night

During the last few months, several of us have enjoyed the “OFF, OFF Broadway” theater here on Long Island at the Bay Way Arts Theater in Islip. We chose Saturday evening presentations, had pre-show dinner then off to the show. We all had a wonderful time and thought it might be good to try this for the members of the Post.

We have chosen the Sunday afternoon showing of SOUTH PACIFIC as our first attempt. It will take place Sunday, Oct 26<sup>th</sup> at 2:30PM at the theater and the address is 265 East Main Street, East Islip. ( SS Pkwy to Rt 27A, west prox ¼ mile on right side ).

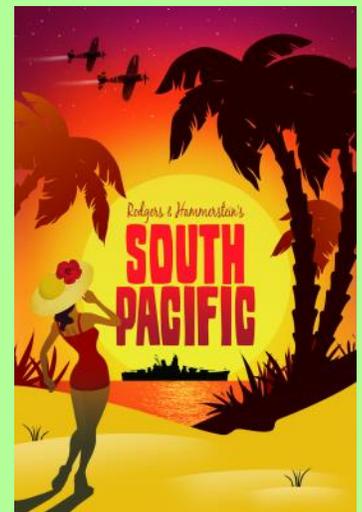
The story is of a love triangle in the South Pacific theater of Operations and a biracial child is involved. Love transcends both war and social stereotypes in this

tale that won 10 Tony Awards and spawned some wonderful music.

The tickets are \$25 per person and this will be a fundraiser for the Post. If you have any interest at all in attending with us, please DO let me know by email at :

[dam9245@optonline.net](mailto:dam9245@optonline.net) .

I’ll ask that a check be sent to confirm your tickets as we get closer to the date. While this is a Post event, family and friends are welcome to join us for this occasion.



*Dennis Madden*

## Common Myths About VA Loans

VA loans are the most misunderstood mortgage program in America. Industry professionals and consumers often receive incorrect data when they inquire about them. In fact, misconceptions about the government guaranteed home loan program are so prevalent that a recent VA survey found that approximately half of all military veterans do not understand it.

With this in mind, we would like to debunk the most common myths about VA Loans.

**Myth 1:** The VA loan benefit has a “one time” use.

**Fact:** Veterans and active duty military can use the VA loan many times. There is a limit to the borrower’s entitlement. The entitlement is the amount of loan the VA will guarantee. If the borrower exceeds their entitlement, they may have to make a down payment. Never the less, there are no limitations on how many times a Veteran or Active Duty Service Member can get a VA loan.

**Myth 2:** VA home loan benefits expire if they are not used.

**Fact:** For eligible participants, VA mortgage benefits never expire. This myth stems from confusion over the veteran benefit for education. Typically, the Montgomery GI Bill benefits expire 10 years after discharge.

**Myth 3:** A borrower can only have one VA loan at a time.

**Fact:** You can have two (or more) VA loans out at the same time as long as you have not exceeded your maximum entitlement and eligibility. In order to have more than one VA loan, the borrower must be able to afford both payments and sufficient entitlement is required. If the borrower exceeds their entitlement, they may be required to make a down payment.

**Myth 4:** If you have a VA loan, you cannot lease the home.

**Fact:** By law, homeowners with VA loans may rent out their home. If the home is located in a non-rental subdivision, the VA will not guarantee the loan. If the home is located in a subdivision (such as a co-op) where the other owners can deny or approve a tenant, the VA will not approve the financing. When an individual applies for a VA loan, they certify that they intend on



making the home their primary residence. Borrowers cannot use their VA benefits to buy property for rental purposes except if they are using their benefits to buy a duplex, triplex or fourplex. Under these circumstances, the borrower must certify that they will occupy one of the units.

**Myth 5:** If a borrower has a short sale or foreclosure on a VA loan, they cannot have another VA loan.

**Fact:** If a borrower has a claim on their entitlement, they will still be able to get another VA loan, but the maximum amount they would otherwise qualify for may be less. For example, Mr. Smith had a home with a \$100,000 VA loan that foreclosed in 2012. If Mr. Smith buys a home in a low cost area, he will have enough remaining eligibility for a \$317,000 purchase with \$0 money down. If he did not have the foreclosure, he would have been able to obtain another VA loan up to \$417,000 with no money down payment.

Veterans and Active duty military deserve affordable home ownership. In recent years, the VA loan made up roughly 13% of all home purchase financing.

This program remains underused largely because of misinformation. By separating facts from myth, more of America’s military would be able to realize their own American Dream.





## Vice Commander's Call to Members

Our Legion year 2015 has been off to a great start with your dues payments coming in very nicely in the beginning, but

we haven't seen a payment in a while now. As a Post, we are doing well in relation to the other Posts in the County and downstate area but we still have a long way to go to complete this task.

If you are not carrying a membership card that says 2015, your dues are due. In fact, you received the first of 3 reminders from the Dept. in mid July, another will arrive in early Sept and the final will arrive in mid Nov if I haven't reported that your dues are paid by processing your new cards. I'm asking that while you're reading this article that you check your card. If, in fact, you are holding a 2014 card, please sit down this weekend and write a check, payable to the American Legion Post 1244 and mail it to me, here at the house: 5 Nagle Lane, Commack 11725 and get it over with.

We are on the brink of winning the ONLY award for 10 consecutive years of 100% goal achievement and I

wouldn't think you'd like to be the guy or gal that keeps us from making that. But we need your dues paid by Oct 31, so please, ... sit down and write the check. Your intentions are to pay it "eventually," right?



Post 1244 has been making the County shine in many areas; Legion Riders, Auxiliary, Boys State, etc. etc., but we have had remarkable success with membership while other Post's have membership has been receding.

We are a beacon and are leading by our example. And, believe it or not, it's really not that difficult. You merely have to engage another veteran in conversation about his or her service when you see his favorite service cap or the decal on his car.

Ask what Post he belongs to and when he says he doesn't then tell him about YOUR Post. All you'll need is the courage to speak to him or her and an application in your wallet. The rest, believe me, will take care of itself. Hey, its how we got HERE !! Please, do your part and ask a veteran. We're in this together !!

## Welcome To Our Newest Members!

**Richard Barbal, Kevin Baxter, James Busco, Michael Caizzo, Earline Johnson, Denis Kelly, Al Lopez, Bill Main, Steve Ott, Anthony Pettretti, Ken Poulos, Nick Poulos, Richard Santeramo, Steven Wilson**

## Post Brunch Set For November 16

The Post has enjoyed several Brunch events and it has become one of the most popular of our events, so we will plan yet another for the Sunday morning of **Nov 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014**. As in the past, the charge will be \$20 per person and \$12 for children under 12 years of age. A small portion of the proceeds will benefit the programs of the Post. The location, once again, will be Nocello's Ristorante at 843 Ft Salonga Rd, Northport and the time will be 10:45 AM.



We always have several more than confirm their interest arrive for the Brunch and it creates a minor problem with headcount and seating so if you would like to join us, please DO let me know by email and the number in your party. I'll ask that a check be sent to me before the event, again, to cover the charges that morning.

So, please do consider BOTH events, ... the show, SOUTH PACIFIC and our Post 1244 Brunch with your "better halves" and let me know by email at [dam9245@optonline.net](mailto:dam9245@optonline.net). Thanks. I look forward to another very successful Post event with your attendance.

*Dennis Madden*

## COMMANDERS CORNER



*Bob Santo*

Well, it's September once again, and our 2014-2015 Legion Year is well underway. Back in July, everyone was notified that their annual membership dues were payable as of July.

Thankfully, so far, 146 of you have stepped up and paid your dues as the responsible Veterans you are. Thank you all!

But, we have over 246 members. **Where are the rest of our membership renewals?**

Are you one of the missing? If you are not sure, just look in your wallet and see if your membership card says "2015." If not, then you have not yet renewed your membership. If it were just a matter of a few members falling behind, I would not be so concerned. But **one hundred members are late.** I am really having trouble understanding that number!

I don't want to make anyone feel bad, but with the amount of effort your officers are putting into making this a first class Post, could each of you look into your hearts and see that by your failure to pay your dues in a timely manner, you are putting us through a huge effort just to keep our membership up. Surely, by now, you all understand how important your individual membership in the American Legion is. I want to close with a recent statement from American Legion Past National Commander. Dellinger:

*'We're not asking you to join for you, we're asking you to join and remain a member for those men and women who are coming home today who need our assistance. We're asking you to support this organization so we can continue to support our returning veterans, our aging veterans, and our veterans of all wars. If we don't continue to grow our membership, who is going to take care of our veterans? We have a big responsibility. It isn't the cost of war, but it's that 50 years of care for our veterans afterward. That's our charge.'*

*Daniel M. Dellinger*



## A Final Salute

**Allen E. Shaw**  
Post Chaplain  
September 14, 2014



The Greenlawn Bugle is a quarterly publication of American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244, Inc. For information on how you can support the Greenlawn Bugle and our Post, please contact Commander Bob Santo at 516-458-7881. Our mailing address is PO Box 238, Greenlawn, NY 11740.

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American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244  
Thank You for your Continued Service*



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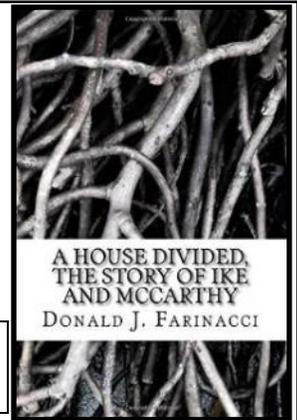


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**Donald J. Farinacci, is a lawyer, military history writer, Vietnam Era veteran, and Member of Greenlawn Post 1244**



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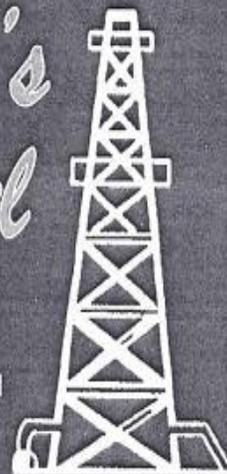
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