



## Happenings

### Dignity Memorial Vietnam Wall in Huntington

In 2008, Huntington Town Councilman Mark Cuthbertson, conceived of the idea to bring this three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., to Huntington, Long Island. With Town Supervisor Frank Petrone's approval and the support of the Town Council, it happened in 2010.

Dennis Giunta, 2nd Vice Commander of Greenlawn Post 1244 as well as Patriot Guard Rider and Director of 1244's American Legion Riders joined with other riders to escort the semi-truck bearing the Memorial to Peter Nelson Park in Huntington Station from Citifield in Queens.



Within two days, the Wall was up and the Huntington General Services Department had landscaped and planted numerous flower arrangements to match the dignity of the Wall itself.

From Friday through Sunday, 24 hours a day, thousands came to honor the more than 58,000 thousand Americans who lost their lives in the Vietnam War, with many visitors leaving behind tributes to the fallen.

The Town Council Members and Supervisor Petrone attended every one of the nine programs from Friday to Sunday, October 1st to 3rd.

Greenlawn Post 1244, Sons and Auxiliary is proud to have posted nearly 20 volunteers for Security, Food Supply, and general assistance to help make the exhibit work without a hitch.

Allen

### Gentle Heroes

By Major Michael D. O'Donnell, Dak To, South Vietnam, January 1, 1970

**If you are able,  
save them a place  
inside of you.**

**And save one backward glance  
when you are leaving  
for the places they can  
no longer go.**

**Be not ashamed to say  
you loved them,  
though you may  
or may not have always.**

**Take what they have left  
and what they have taught you  
with their dying  
and keep it with your own.**

**And in that time  
when men decide and feel safe  
to call the war insane,  
take one moment to embrace  
those gentle heroes  
you left behind.**

Major O'Donnell was killed in  
Cambodia on March 24, 1970.

### Facts About The Wall

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial holds over 58,000 names of people who died or are listed as missing in Vietnam.

The youngest Vietnam KIA is believed to be Dan Bullock at 15 years old.

The oldest person on the Wall is Dwaine McGriff at 63 years old.

At least 5 men killed in Vietnam were 16 years old and at least 12 men were 17 years old.

During the Vietnam War, 244 men were awarded the Medal of Honor. 153 of those are listed on The Wall.

The Vietnam Wall is the most visited monument in Washington, DC.

## Happenings

### Columbus Day Parade



Along with the VFW, Marine Corps League and other Huntington veterans groups, our Post led the Huntington Columbus Day Parade on October 10th. The parade, celebrating the achievements of the great explorer who founded the first European settlement in the New World, was held in conjunction with the Town of Huntington's annual Fall Festival. Members of thirty five lodges of the Sons of Italy participated. The theme of this year's parade, sponsored by the Long Island Sons of Italy, was "God Bless the USA." Photo at left is of Tom Freeman, Brian Bilyk and Tony Corrente enjoying the parade in "Bill's Truck."

### Historical Society Launches Veterans Project

The Greenlawn-Centerport Historical Society will undertake a major project to gather data on all veterans affiliated with the Greenlawn and Centerport communities. Data will be collected from the Revolutionary War to the present day. An exhibit is planned for Memorial Day 2011 at the historic Suydam House in Centerport. Other events are to be planned for Veterans Day. The society is especially looking for information from all members of the Greenlawn American Legion. We are looking for volunteers to assist the society. **A questionnaire is included with this edition of the Bugle. Members wishing to participate may return it to us at PO Box 238, Greenlawn, NY 11740 or bring it to our next meeting on January 12th.**

### Post to Host Suffolk County Oratorical Contest

Post 1244 has been chosen to host the annual American Legion Suffolk County Oratorical Contest on January 8th at 9:00 am the St. Joseph Council Knights of Columbus. Contestants from local High Schools will compete for a chance to participate in District, Z one, Department of New York and National Contests.

### Huntington Hills Veterans Visited

A contingent of Post 1244 Legionnaires visited the Huntington Hills Health Care Center in Melville on November 3rd to remind the veteran patients there that they are remembered on Veterans Day. Our newest Sons of The American Legion member Benjamin Marlowe (age 5) led the group in The Pledge of Allegiance. The veterans, many from World War II and the Korea War shared their war time experiences with us. Each was presented with a flag pin with a red white and blue ribbon as a thank you for their service to our country. By the end of our visit, other patients and staff had gathered and joined us in singing "God Bless America" with us. We look forward visiting again next year.

### First Annual Huntington Holiday Parade



L-R Ed O'Shea, Dennis Madden, Charlie Armstrong, Sons member Ben Marlowe, Bob Santo and VFW Post 1469 member Paul Kelly. Madelaine Santo, of our Auxiliary acted as post photographer.

Undeterred by the frigid weather, Post 1244 was proud to provide the Color Guard for the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Huntington Holiday Parade on November 27th.

Our Legionnaires, Auxiliary and SAL, following close behind the Supervisor and Town Councilmen, marched from just North of the Big H shopping center to Main and then Wall Street which was closed off for the event. We were followed by dozens of fire trucks and emergency vehicles from throughout the Town of Huntington, all brightly decorated with the lights of the holidays. The crowds included lots of very enthusiastic children.

It was rumored that Santa Claus was somewhere to be found far back in the parade aboard his sleigh, but we did not stick around for his arrival as the night wore on and the temperatures plummeted. We all hope that the parade will become an annual event for our town.

## "You Earned It"

by Donna Boyle, Post Service Officer



### The VA may have determined you earned a Pension

There are 2 types of pensions administered by the VA. One is a pension paid to wartime veterans with limited income, and who are permanently and totally disabled or age 65 or older, and the other referred to as a Death pension which is paid to eligible dependents of deceased wartime veterans.

(Note: That name was assigned by the VA)

### Who Is Eligible?

#### For the Pension if:

- you were discharged from service under other than dishonorable conditions, **AND**
- you served 90 days or more of active duty with at least 1 day during a period of war time\*, **AND**
- your countable family income is below a yearly limit set by law, **AND**
- you are permanently and totally disabled, **OR** you are age 65 or older.

#### For the Death Pension if:

- the deceased veteran was discharged from service under other than dishonorable conditions, **AND**
- he or she served 90 days or more of active duty with at least 1 day during a period of war\*, **AND**
- you are the surviving spouse or unmarried child of the deceased veteran, **AND**
- your countable income is below a yearly income limit set by law.

**\*Special Note:** Anyone who enlists after September 7, 1980, generally must have served at least 24 months or the full period for which called or ordered to active duty. Service from August 2, 1990 to present is considered to be a period of war (Gulf War) in addition to other periods of war such as World War II, Korea, and Vietnam.

### How much is this pension worth?

VA pays the difference between your countable family income and the yearly income limit that describes your situation. This difference is generally paid in 12 equal monthly payments rounded down to the nearest dollar.

**Note:** Certain expenses (i.e., medical expenses, education expenses, or expenses related to the last illness or burial of a dependent) paid by you are taken into consideration when arriving at your countable family income.

### How do you apply?

By completing VA Form 21-526, *Veteran's Application for Compensation and/or Pension*, attach copies of dependency records (marriage & children's birth certificates) and current medical evidence (doctor & hospital reports). Or by completing VA Form 21-534, *Application for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, Death Pension and Accrued Benefits by Surviving Spouse or Child* attach copies of dependency records (marriage & children's birth certificates).

**Don't throw away money you earned  
call 1-800-827-1000 for more information.**



## Vice Commander's Call to Members



Since this is the ending of a very active and successful year I am drawn to remember all that we have accomplished. With your help and enthusiasm we have managed to put more than a few dollars in the bank, put more than a few hotdogs and burgers under our belts, more than a few parades behind us, more than a few Veterans visited, more than a few Memorials dedicated to our fallen heroes, more than a few flags properly retired and more than a few "posterior" in the seats ! We have grown and we have won on any and all fronts, because of you, our members, relating to others what a great Post you belong to. It doesn't take much. JUST ASK is the mantra when meeting a veteran.

I am also drawn to remember the fellows who have left our ranks. Those we knew well and those we had not come to know but were brothers and sisters of the Post nevertheless. We started a Ladies Auxiliary that is flourishing and full of ideas to help support the Post. We have renewed the Sons Squadron and will guide them to become more active as well. It has been a very good year, indeed.

Thanks to the leadership of our Commander, Bob Santo, this Post is leading Suffolk County in every aspect of Legion life. We are the "little Post that could...and DID" ! Thank you ALL for your part and your support of this Post. Have a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year and please bring a friend to join you at any meeting you can possibly attend.

Dennis Madden

## Welcome New Members of the Post 1244 Family!

Since our last edition of *The Greenlawn Bugle*, we have added 6 new members:

Al DeChiara, George Ferraro, Frank Giordano, Angelo Longo, Walter Thomas and Jerry Williamson

### Congratulations to:

- Legionnaire Sean O'Malley and wife Maria on the birth of their first child, Olivia Grace O'Malley, on September 28.
- Domenick Gargiulo on celebrating his 90th birthday on October 12th.
- Dennis and Anne Madden on celebrating their 40th Anniversary, October 24th.

## Agent Orange Update

### Expanded Eligibility for Agent Orange Exposure: Thailand Military Bases

A recently declassified Department of Defense (DoD) Report written in 1973 titled, "Project CHECO Southeast Asia Report: Base Defense in Thailand 1968-1972," contains evidence that there was a significant use of herbicides on the fenced-in perimeters of military bases in Thailand to remove foliage that provided cover for enemy forces.

DoD determined that herbicides used on the Thailand base perimeters may have been tactical and procured from Vietnam, or a strong, commercial type resembling tactical herbicides.

Vietnam-era Veterans whose service involved duty on or near the perimeters of military bases in Thailand anytime between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975 may have been exposed to herbicides and may qualify for VA benefits.

The following Veterans may have been exposed to herbicides:

- \* U.S. Air Force Veterans who served on Royal Thai Air Force (RTAF) bases at U-Tapao, Ubon, Nakhon Phanom, Udorn, Takhli, Korat, and Don Muang, near the air base perimeter anytime between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975.
- \* U.S. Army Veterans who provided perimeter security on RTAF bases in Thailand anytime between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975.
- \* U.S. Army Veterans who were stationed on some small Army installations in Thailand anytime between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975. However, the Army Veteran must have been a member of a military police (MP) unit or was assigned an MP military occupational specialty whose duty placed him/her at or near the base perimeter.

To receive benefits for diseases associated with herbicide exposure, these Veterans must show on a factual basis that they were exposed to herbicides during their service as shown by evidence of daily work duties, performance evaluation reports, or other credible evidence.

## Commander's Corner



### Not Just Another Christmas

On Christmas night of 1776, General George Washington and his Continental Army crossed the Delaware River and marched on Trenton. Against all odds, they surprised and defeated the Hessians troops quartered in and around the village. The future of our newly-declared republic rested on the successful outcome of that battle. That victory gave our fledgling nation hope and a chance for survival.

From that time on, American men and women in uniform have spent many Christmases in remote and dangerous places far from home. Many of us remember the time we spent in Europe, the Pacific, the Korean peninsula, Africa, Southeast Asia and most recently in Iraq and Afghanistan.

*Bob Santo* This year, as we gather with our families and friends, free to celebrate the holidays according to our individual beliefs and customs, we can thank that long line of patriots who have won this freedom for us with their courage and sacrifice.

As veterans we are a very special family, made up of many different peoples of different faiths and beliefs. But like family, we are still willing to sacrifice for each other.

However you celebrate this year, take time to remember those who still serve, separated from their loved ones. Remember also the fallen and their families.

Whether you say Merry Christmas or Happy Holidays, what's important is that we care and remember those who need our help whether veterans of past conflicts or those still serving our country.

To all our fellow veterans, and especially to those who still serve, and to all our many friends in the community, we wish you a very Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a Peaceful New Year.

## Taps Has Sounded

**Karl H. Bonawandt.** On September 29th, 2010. Karl was a WW II Navy veteran. He fought in the Battle of Okinawa on board the aircraft carrier Shangri-La. He was a true and generous friend to our Post.

**Georgiana Kachura.** On September 29th, 2010. Georgiana was a member of the US Army Nurse Corps. Assigned to Walter Reed Army Medical Center, she served in the Open Heart Unit and was later assigned to the Psychiatric Unit. After her discharge in 1974 as a 1st Lieutenant, she served as a nurse for many years at the Northport VA Medical center.

**Francis J. Kershis.** On November 25, 2010. Frank was a member of the FDNY for 38 years and served in the US Army during the Korean War.

**Gerard Skrodanes.** On December 9, 2010. Gerry was a US Army veteran of World War II.

**Leonard Borger.** On January 27, 2010. We belatedly learned of Lenny's passing just this month. He was a veteran of World War II.

The Greenlawn Bugle is a quarterly publication of American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244. 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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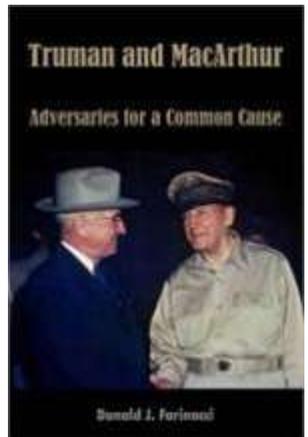
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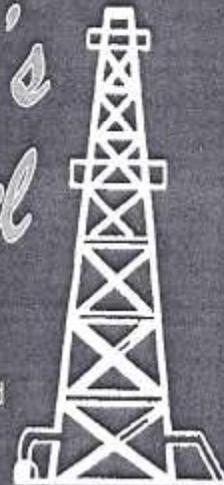
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