



The Greenlawn Bugle

American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244

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

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Memorial Day 2013

Memorial Day this year arrived with near perfect weather after what was a very wet week. The Greenlawn American Legion Post 1244 family gathered that morning in good spirits at the stepping off point at West Maple Rd and Broadway and seemed to grow and grow with each passing moment. Legionnaires, Auxiliary and Sons kept arriving until, we were told by Sgt. at Arms Charlie Armstrong, there were more than forty of us in the line of march.

It soon became apparent that the usual police patrol car was nowhere to be seen. The hundreds of marchers grew more restless as the 9:00 am hour came and went. Fortunately, Legislator William "Doc" Spencer was on the scene along with Huntington Councilman Mark Cuthbertson. The 2nd Precinct Inspector was contacted on the phone and magically, the missing patrol car appeared.

The LIRR train from NY caused only a minor delay as our Post arrived at the RR tracks. Guessing just when that train will pass through Greenlawn on Memorial Day has always been a challenge.

At the end of the march, we formed up at the Greenlawn War Memorial, along with the Greenlawn Fire Department, Knights of Columbus, Boy and Girl Scouts of all ages and sizes, many other organizations and many interested citizens. As is customary, Commander Santo selected a fellow Legionnaire to place our wreath at the base of the monument in remembrance of all those who sacrificed their lives in battle for our great nation. This year, Legionnaire Col. Jerry Weiss, USMC Ret. was our chosen honoree.

After the memorial service, we scattered to the four winds, as our annual cookout was to begin at 2:00 pm at St. Joseph Council Knights of Columbus. This year, members of the Sons of The American Legion organized the event, doing all the shopping and preparation. Even cutting the grass on the Council grounds. By 1:00 pm, preparations



Jerry Weiss and Commander Santo Presenting the Memorial Wreath

were well underway and by 2:00 most of the 75 or more participants had arrived and were thoroughly enjoying themselves. Hot dogs, hamburgers and this year's new treat, chicken leg quarters were enjoyed by all.

The Auxiliary as usual, did not disappoint, providing a choice of delicious salads and desserts for the feast. Our cookout would not be complete without a big pot of Chaplain Allen Shaw's famous chili. Hot stuff, Padre!

As the afternoon drew to a close, our very own minstrel and jester Robert E. Lee began to perform the old familiar songs by Al Jolsen. He was soon joined by Earle Emmons and new Legionnaire and Rider Herb Walker.

Each year, our cookout gets bigger and better. Many thanks to all who helped, especially the Sons and Riders, Auxiliary, **Crescent Packing Corp.** and **Manor Provisions** for their generous donations of food, **St. Joseph Council, Knights of Columbus** for extending their hospitality to us once again. We are looking forward to next year's bash. If you weren't able to join us this year, mark your calendar: May 26, 2014!

Upcoming Events

Post Brunch

Sunday, July 7, 10:30 am
Nocello's, Northport

Huntington Manor Fireman's Fair. Post Membership Booth
Tues., July 16-Sat, Jul. 20.

Korean War Breakfast
Friday, July 26, 9:30 am
Melville Marriot

Greenlawn Fireman's Fair Parade Aug. 29, 7 pm. Post
Membership Booth: Thurs-Mon.
Closed Sunday.

Huntington Awareness Day
Post Booth. Saturday Sept. 7.
11am-6 pm

Greenlawn Pickle Festival
Saturday, Sept. 28. Post
Membership Booth and CPL
Bill. Gardner Farm 11 am-4 pm

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

MISSING IN AMERICA PROJECT

Multiple Interment of Veterans at Long Island National Cemetery



This past month saw the most significant MIAP event since our chapter was formed in 2009. American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244 partnered with U.S. Columbarium Co. at Fresh Pond Crematory of Middle Village Queens, to identify, verify and inter the cremated remains of 34 veterans and 9 spouses of veterans. This was one of the largest multiple interments ever conducted in the United States. Remarkably, among the veterans were two who had served in the American Civil War.

Months of planning and hard work by our Post 1244



Civil War Chaplain gives invocation for the two Civil War veterans.

volunteers and the MIAP volunteers at the national level, led to a ceremony at Long Island National Cemetery on June 22nd, that will not soon be forgotten by those who witnessed and participated in it.

The day began with a solemn ceremony for the 43 deceased at Fresh Pond Crematory, where these remains had languished for many years, followed by a motorcade organized and led by our very own Post 1244 American Legion Riders to the final resting place at Long Island National Cemetery.

High above the cemetery site was a huge American Flag, held aloft by ladder companies from the Greenlawn and East Northport Fire Departments.

Post 1244 MIAP Chairman and National Representative John Caldarelli called the service to order and requested the colors to be advanced. This was done with precision by our Suffolk County American Legion Color Guard from Joseph Loeffler Post 1006 in Brentwood.

Arriving at the cemetery, the remains of our two Civil War Veterans were transferred to a historic "limber." Once used to transport US Army field artillery pieces and ammunition, the limber was then pulled to the ceremony site by members of the 39th NY Volunteer Infantry Garibaldi Guard. They followed a procession of another Civil War reenactment group, Company K, 67th NY Volunteer

Infantry. A muffled drum and riderless horse, followed by the Daughters of The Civil War, lent even more drama to the scene.

As the Urns were placed on the special table reserved for these two veterans, the Coast Guard Auxiliary band quietly played "Eternal Father" while the Civil War Chaplain recited a period invocation. This was followed by the New York City Firemen's Drum and Pipe Band, marching with the slow determination that only New York's Bravest could, playing a dirge that reflected the ancient history of the pipes, the warriors last honors in a final farewell.

The hearse carrying the rest of those to be interred then arrived and each urn was carefully removed from the hearse by our urn bearers, volunteers from Greenlawn Post 1244, our Auxiliary Unit and other volunteers from Suffolk County American Legion Posts. They were placed in order on blue covered tables, tri-folded American Flags marking where the urns of veterans were to be placed.

An invocation was given by Post 1244 Chaplain Allen Shaw. The Pledge of Allegiance followed and our National Anthem was played by the Coast Guard Auxiliary Band.

The mood at the site was one of pure reverence, a perfect segue for the ceremony of the doves. Macy Milback, the keeper of the doves, explained the significance of the doves in the funeral service. The beauty of her recital was overshadowed by the release of the doves, their whiteness



Legionnaire's salute as they place the urns on the tables

reflecting the sun transcended the physical reality of the moment, and left a haunting quality to our surroundings.

John Caldarelli made the introductory remarks and introduced J.P. DiTroia, who spoke of the importance of this day and the honors so richly deserved by these veterans and spouses.

The names of each were read by LI National Cemetery Director Rosanne Santore and Director of Suffolk County

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Post 1244 Boys State Program Expands for 2013

For a number of years, Post 1244 has been sponsoring boys from the Junior class of Harborfields High School to the highly regarded American Legion's Boy's State program. This is a one week intensive education program in practical government, held at the end of the school year, at the SUNY Campus, in Morrisville, NY. It is a participatory program where each of the participants becomes a part of the operation of his local, county and state government with the students elected to the various of-

fices. They gain a working knowledge of the structure of government. It has been called "A week that shapes a lifetime".

Ed O'Shea and I have been involved in the selection of the candidates for the past five years, and the Post was sponsoring two boys each year. As we became more knowledgeable of the benefits of this program, we started to look for ways to increase the number of boys the Post could sponsor. Two years ago we started soliciting the support of local Greenlawn businesses, and thru their generous support were able to increase the number of boys that we could send from Harborfields High School to five. For 2013, this number has increased to six boys, with the help of the Suffolk County Police Association.

We have also made inroads with two additional high schools this year, and are sponsoring one boy each from Commack High School and Half Hollow Hills West High School. Next year we will be working again with both of these schools to obtain local support so we may sponsor additional boys for the 2014 Boy's State program. The total number of boys sponsored by Post 1244 for this year's Boy's State program is now eight, and we will continue our efforts to send as many boys as possible to this rewarding and educational program.

As stated in the Boy's State brochure "The American Legion believes our American government can survive only with an educated populace. By teaching our youth to understand and appreciate our democratic republic, America can remain strong and ensure our freedom for future generations."

Charlie Armstrong



Harborfields High School's 2013 Delegates
L-R. Co-Chairman Ed O'Shea ; Delegates William Ward, John McLaughlin, Tyler Banks, Michael McDonagh and Trevor Simon; Co Chairman Charlie Armstrong and Principal Dr. Rory Manning. Our sixth delegate, Ryan Cates, is not shown.

Greenlawn Businesses Support Boys State

Making the expansion of our Boys State program possible is the generosity of our local business community. They make it possible for our Harborfields High School boys to experience the "Week That Shapes a Lifetime." We are proud to list this year's donors below and urge our members to patronize their businesses whenever possible:

Allstate Insurance, 91 Broadway.
 ASA All State Abstract, 52 Broadway.
 Azure Chocolate, 72 Broadway.
 Broadway Auto Parts, 48 Broadway.
 Bullfrog Communications Inc., 52 Broadway.
 Fab Finds Ltd., 52 Broadway.
 Gold Coast Physical Therapy, 92 Broadway.
 Greenlawn Cleaners, 51 Broadway.
 Greenlawn Service Inc. 96 Broadway.
 Greenlawn Centerport Historical Association
 31 Broadway. (Harborfields Pub. Lib.)
 Grey Meers Pub, 86 Broadway.
 Grooming on Broadway, 70 Broadway.

Healy's Inn, 54 Broadway.
 KMS Consulting, 92 Broadway.
 Law Offices Kelly, Sackman, Spollen & Upton, 52
 Broadway.
 Mid Village Pharmacy, 51 Broadway
 Moir & Saltz Attorneys at Law, 44 Broadway
 Rational Path Inc., 91 Broadway
 Roselle French Cleaners, 95 Broadway
 S&S Chemical, 302 Main St. Northport
 Village Auto Body, 85 Broadway
 Vollmer-Adair Agency Inc. 44 Broadway

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS CORNER



American Legion Riders Chapter 1244 attended a Veteran's Luncheon at Nassau Community College (NCC), a *Veteran Friendly Institution, on May 20, honoring currently enrolled veteran members of NCC Student Veterans of America (SVA). Riders Bruce Blanco (Gold Star Father), and Vietnam Veterans Dennis

Giunta, Robert Glanzman, and Chris Argento (Professor @ NCC) welcomed home graduating student OIF & OEF Veterans. The ALR's formed a Flag Line and truly surprised the arriving Veterans, President Ken Saunders, and Dean Evangeline Manjares. The Veterans and ALR's shared conversation, and enjoyed a 'first class' professional luncheon prepared by the Hospitality Business Department. We congratulate and salute Nassau Community College (NCC) for their superb support and excellent assistance provided our Veterans pursuing education to fulfill their future goals and dreams.

Today, the veteran's experience and transition into civilian life is completely different, yet much the same as returning soldiers from the Vietnam Era. Vets now are honored for their service and are actually 'welcomed home' by the community at large. Vietnam Veterans who returned home and enrolled in college did not speak of nor share their war service for fear of being labeled during a time that was unpopular to have worn a military uniform. Never again will we forget!

But, some things never change. Not surprisingly, Vietnam War and the two OIF & OEF long, unpopular wars now fought by an all-volunteer force, on behalf of a thankless and unburdened public, have indeed produced identical side effects. Civilian students who are often unaware of their peers who have wartime experience, and veterans often conceal their pasts from those who might not understand them. But it's not just the discussion of war he/she omits from other students. Veterans have quarantined themselves almost entirely. With reclusive behavior the veteran shows up for class, takes notes, and leaves, most of the time without communicating with students or professors. Every veteran knows "War changes people" is a profound understatement of the issue. War also displaces the sense of belonging to any number of groups, and from peers. Today, Veterans are older than everyone in the class, and not a typical college kid partying on the weekends. (<http://www.theatlantic.com/national/archive/2012/08/lonely-men-on-campus-student-veterans-struggle-to-fit-in>)

Now veterans' rehabilitation is "hot on the front burner" for returning vets. Organizations which support veteran adjustment and education are growing fast. One such veteran advocate group is the Student Veterans of America (SVA). SVA's mission is to advocate for student veterans. They defend the GI Bill and support policy that best empowers student veterans to achieve their educational goals. SVA is largely recognized as the organization representing



L- R ALR's: Bruce Blanco and Bob Glanzman; several Student Veterans of America, President Ken Saunders, Dean Evangeline Manjares; ALR's Chris Argento and Dennis Giunta.

the interests of student veterans and GI Bill beneficiaries due to the 750+ SVA chapters on campuses nationwide. Universities may be logistically suited to helping veterans return to the civilian world. But the disconnected social experience and age discrepancies turn many veterans off from approaching school in that way. Universities are beginning to understand this growing issue as the veteran population on campus steadily rises. (More than 700,000 veterans and family members have used the Post-9/11 GI Bill since its inception in 2009, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs).

SVA has formed a close relationship with the two largest and most honored of America's Veteran Service Organizations: The American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. SVA also encourages and trains chapters to be advocates on campus to institutionalize programs and policies that support student veterans. Great examples of SVA chapters advocating for supportive services include, Nassau Community College, Florida State University, the University of Arizona, the University of Southern California, and many others.

A recent study at Arizona State University suggests the power of social relationships directly impacts a veteran's decision to stay in school. Post-traumatic stress and multiple deployments are thought to unravel the ability of some to make it through to graduation. For veteran success there must be significant steps toward providing supportive programs and services for returning veterans. NCC does just that, and provides an integrated system of information resources, career guidance, and peer support, all of which are crucial elements for helping veterans succeed in their new environments.

But what does it mean when a school is labeled *"Veteran Friendly?" Factors such as campus culture, academic environment, student body size and composition, location and more all play a role in what programs and ser-

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Greenlawn Auxiliary Unit 1244



Summer came upon us with a vengeance with everyone scurrying to get their air conditioners up and running. We never know what mother nature has in store for us.

We certainly pray for all those people who live in area's plagued by tornadoes. I am pleased to report that last year's Officers will stay in their respective offices for the year 2013/2014. I am once again privileged to serve as President of the Auxiliary. With such a dedicated and active group of Officers and members, my job becomes a pleasure.

This year's fundraiser was a 50/50 Raffle instead of our usual Dance. The generosity of our members, members of the Post and all who bought tickets made our Raffle a huge success. The winner was Carol Kaplowitz; the ticket was sold by our member Maureen O'Shea. As an added bonus seven baskets were given out to the lucky winners. These baskets were donated by Fran Hubbs, Pat Dolan, Sandy Bohn and Nancy Sobina. As an added bonus Leticia Lebate, wife of Post member Steve Labate, donated 3 gift baskets as well.

We certainly thank Commander Bob Santo, Post officers and members for allowing us to sell the rest of our Raffle tickets at the Memorial Day Picnic and pick the winners. I might add those at the Picnic were very generous in purchasing last minute tickets.

My personal thank you to all for your help, its all about support and team work.

Again this year, three members of our Auxiliary, Madeleine Santo, Sandy Bohn and Elaine Schaefer marched in the Memorial Day Parade with the Post. I was privileged to lay a wreath at the Greenlawn Monument with Post 1244. Always I do so with pride and prayers for those who gave their lives so that we may live in peace far from harm's way.

Our ladies are still actively working with the Women's Wellness Center at the Northport VA. Sometime in the fall they will hold a spiritual retreat for women Veterans in which I will be taking an active role.

The Missing in America Project and Greenlawn Post 1244 have finalized plans for the inurnment of 34 Veterans and 9 Veteran's Spouses on June 22nd 2013 at the Long Island National Cemetery, Farmingdale, N.Y. Our Ladies Auxiliary and wives of Greenlawn Post members have been invited to participate in the ceremony. What an honor to be part of this Project.

Wishing everyone a Healthy, Safe Summer.

Fran Hubbs - Auxiliary President.

Korean War Commemorative Breakfast Set

The Huntington Veterans Advisory Board is organizing a Commemorative Breakfast at 9:30 am—12:30 pm on Friday, July 26, 2013 to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the signing of the Armistice, ending the fighting. The event will be held at the Melville Marriott Grand Ballroom, 1350 Old Walt Whitman Rd, Melville, NY. A 25 piece orchestra will perform patriotic music. Proceeds from the journal and breakfast will benefit veterans and military personnel in need.

Donation is \$28.00 per person. Contact Carol Rocco at 631-351-3012 for tickets and information.

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Veterans Service Agency Tom Ronayne. The reading of each name was marked by the peal of a bell.

Three rifle volleys by the 11th Regiment, NY Volunteers followed. NY Military Forces Honor Guard Bugler Louis DiLeo delivered a beautiful version of "Taps" bringing tears to the eyes of many of those gathered.

A single, symbolic flag was folded by the Honor Guard. John Caldarelli closed with the reading of "Go Gently" the iconic MIAP poem, and Chaplain Shaw gave the benediction.

After the colors were retired, American Legion Auxiliary members placed a single rose at each urn as a symbol of love and remembrance for these long neglected veterans and spouses.

At the end of the ceremony, the U.S. Coast Guard Aux-

iliary Band played a medley of Civil War Era music to the delight of the slowly dissipating audience. We look forward to the next inurnment sometime next year.

Our work is not yet done.

John Caldarelli

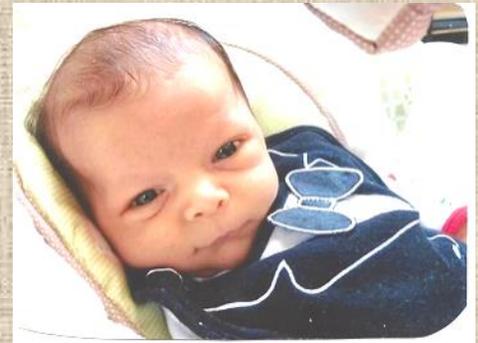
CONGRATULATIONS



Legionnaire and Marine Sean Lynch and wife Kaylee's new son Liam.



Ed and Maureen O'Shea became the grandparents of Charles Christopher Kochenbach on April 1st.



Legionnaire Joe Vitello and wife Eva's new grandson, Joseph Phillip Vitello.



Son Of The American Legion and Eighth-grader at Oldfield Middle School Connor Madden, 13, won the school-level New York National Geographic Bee at Oldfield Middle School in Greenlawn in January, and after completing a written test advanced to state-level competition among other middle schools from across the state in Albany on April 5.



Son of The American Legion Dan Leary was awarded the highest rank of the Boy Scouts at a ceremony on June 2nd. Seen here with Bernadette Castro, Dan's Eagle Project involved the renovation of an area of the High School dubbed "The Courtyard." general sprucing up of the area (shrubs, ground-leveling and flowers) and the installation of three benches. The story of Dan's Flag will be told in the next edition of The Bugle.

Flag Etiquette Lessons Provided



Charlie Armstrong with Girl Scout Troop 195
Sawmill Intermediate School



Sgt.

The Brownie Troop at North Ridge School in
Commack

at

Arms Charlie Armstrong has added to his extensive repertoire and is now our official expert on all things flag-related. Recently, we received a request from the leader of the Brownie Troop at North Ridge School in Commack for a Legionnaire to teach the girls about the American Flag. Charlie volunteered to give a class. Word must have gotten around, because Charlie was then summoned to Girl Scout Troop 195 at Sawmill Intermediate School in Commack for similar duties. Charlie covered flag care, flag folding, how to display the flag and general flag etiquette.

Each of the girls was given the American Legion book "Our Country's Flag."



Receiving Engineer of the Year Award
L-R: Bart A. Marino, P.E., Donna Boyle and
David Macedonio, P.E.

Member News

Post 1244 Service Officer Donna Boyle was recently selected as Engineer of The Year by the New York Professional Engineering Society. The award is given to recognize a professional engineer who has made an outstanding contribution to the goals of the Society of Professional Engineers by means of educational, collegiate and engineering achievements; professional society, technical society, civic and humanitarian activities; and displayed continuing competence.

Donna is the project manager for the West Shore Road seawall reconstruction in Mill Neck. The powerful waves and flooding during Hurricane Sandy caused parts of the roadway and seawall to collapse. The damage was so severe the repair was thought to take 18 months. Nassau Executive Ed Mangano issued an emergency order: Construction was to be finished in nine months, by the July 4th weekend. It turns out the opening was a month ahead of schedule.

As a dual honor, The Society also named the reconstruction project "Project of The Year." The opening of the road, well ahead of schedule, no doubt pleased many Mill Neck, Bayville and Oyster Bay residents and businesses who use the critical thoroughfare. Congratulations are in order. Great job, Donna!

Essay Contest Winners Announced

Post 1244 Essay Contest Chairman John Caldarelli has announced the winners of the George Henry Memorial Award as follows: Julia Mackey, Harborfields High School; John Varlamos, Walt Whitman High School, and Stephen Vasques, St. Pius V School, Melville. Winners were judged based on their essays on the subject: "What it Means to be an American in Light of Our Contemporary Value System." Winners each received a \$250 award from Post 1244.

Happenings

Dennis Madden Named Legionnaire of The Year

1st Vice Commander and Membership Chairman Dennis Madden has been named Legionnaire of The Year by both Post 1244 and Suffolk County American Legion. The dual honor is well deserved. Dennis has served as our 1st Vice Commander, Finance Officer and Membership Chairman for eight years. In that time, our Post membership has



Suffolk County American Legion Legionnaire of the Year Award Presented by; L-R LOY Chairman Phil Barczak; County Commander Robert F. Smith III; Dennis Madden

grown by nearly 250%. For eight consecutive years, we have exceeded the Department of New York's membership goal.

A singular dedication to this task, hard work, imagination and a sincere belief in the mission of The American Legion has brought about this success. In addition, Dennis never misses an opportunity to recruit a new member, whether at a social event, a shopping mall or a store, he is always on the alert for a veteran-themed ball cap a lapel pin, bumper sticker or an off-hand comment indicating a likely recruit. This has provided an example for all of our Post members.

Dennis has made every effort to be sure that our post is a post that any veteran would be proud to belong to. At each monthly meeting, Dennis provides transportation to several legionnaires who would otherwise be unable to join us. A leader in every way, he organizes, promotes and takes part in all of our post activities. Whether organizing day trips to the Cradle of Aviation, Kirkups Veterans Tribute Museum or the Intrepid, or being the organizer and driving force behind our annual Memorial Day Cookout, Post Brunch and Veterans Day Luncheon at Applebee's, he is a very important part of the post's leadership.

Post Conducts Flag Retirement Ceremony

Cub Scouts and parents from Pack 5, and others joined with Post 1244 on Saturday, June 15th as we ceremoniously retired over 500 worn and tattered American Flags. The flags were collected in our Old Glory Mobile Flag Deposit Box, which spends a month in every public library in the Town of Huntington throughout the year.

The flags are burned with dignity and respect as recommended by the United States Flag Code. Our ceremony includes readings which illustrate the importance of the flag. The reading of "The Mike Christian Story" by Vice Commander Madden is especially poignant, recalling how important our flag was to our POW's in North Vietnam.

We were assisted by members of the Greenlawn Fire Department who insured that no one was injured by the flames.

We will have a second ceremony in November at the Huntington Manor Fire Department.



Commander Santo assists a cub scout with first flag

Flag Day Celebrated at The Bristol

Legislator Steve Stern, American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244, the American Legion Riders and Marine Corps League Detachment 792, conducted a Flag Day Ceremony at The Bristol Assisted Living at East Northport. Legislator Stern addressed the patients, staff and participating veterans organizations.

Of special note was the talk given by Marine Joe Cacioppo, an Iwo Jima survivor. Joe spoke about witnessing the little known first raising of the flag under enemy fire by Marines on the summit of Mt. Surabachi and the fact that those men were largely forgotten afterward. The iconic photograph of the second flag raising by Joe Rosenthal become a symbol of victory and one of the most significant images of World War II.

The event was organized by Barbara Heaphy, Recreation Director of The Bristol. There are 38 residents at the facility who are veterans. We had the opportunity to socialize with the veterans after the ceremony, They were glad to share their experiences with us and we enjoyed their company as well.



Back Row l-R: ALR Serge Dei; Legislator Stern; Charlie Armstrong, Tom Freeman, Ed Hayde and ALR Bruce Blanco. Front two rows are all residents and veterans living at The Bristol

Echoes From The Heart



Over this past weekend, I was reminded of a true story which took place at a track and field tournament at a Special Olympics event. There was a race of 100 yards with four runners with Down Syndrome. They took their place at the starting line and started to run at the given signal. One runner was immediately in last place, but he gave all he had and after about twenty yards, he fell, scraped his knee and started to cry. The lead runner heard his cry and turned around. She stopped and started to run back the wrong way. When the other two runners saw her going back, they too turned around and went back to help their friend up onto his feet.

At this point, medals and rewards meant nothing. The four joined hands and walked down the track together. The spectators cheered and gave a standing ovation lasting over five minutes. Now, the point I am trying to make is, how many of us would stop, turn around and go back to help a stricken comrade.

What have we, as individuals done to ease the suffering, physical pain or financial burdens of other Veterans? There is a line from a song "Search your heart, search your soul". Have you done anything? Only you know the answer. Could it be that four people with Down Syndrome have more compassion and love for their own, than we have for each other. We are supposed to be the teachers but, I learned more from them and their unselfish acts than I have learned in my adult life.

Suffolk County Chaplain Thomas Bergin, 2007

American Legion Post 1244 Pride



We have had a great reaction to our Greenlawn Post 1244 Auto Decals (exterior) that you can attach to your car. We recommend that you place it on the lower left part of your rear windshield. They are 4" X 5" and are very durable. Show your pride in our American Legion Post! Decals can be ordered by sending a check for \$6.00 each to American Legion Post 1244 PO Box 238, Greenlawn NY 11740.

What Is The Independent Living Program?

A program to ensure that every eligible veteran is able, to the maximum extent possible, to live independently and participate in family and community life. This increases their ability to return to work. The program services may include any of the following:

- Assistive technology
- Specialized medical, health, and / or rehabilitation services
- Services to address personal and / or family adjustment issues
- Independent living skills training
- Connection with community-based support services



Are you Eligible for this Program?

Are you a Veteran's whose service-connected disabilities are so severe you are currently unable to continue in your preferred occupation.

How would an Independent Living Program be Developed?



A Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC) will determine that employment goals or previous employment activities are not currently feasible. An evaluation of the veteran's independent living needs will be conducted. The VRC and veteran will work together to identify the veteran's needs. Together they will determine those services required to deal with the Veterans identified needs. An individualized Independent Living Program will be written outlining and providing the services required to meet the veteran's identified requirements. Referral to specialized rehabilitation facilities and / or for consultation with other rehabilitation professionals may be required in the development and implementation of a veteran's individual ILP.

How To Apply

Participants must submit an application. Complete VA Form 28-1900: for Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Services (VR&E), complete a comprehensive evaluation with a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC) who will help determine if you are eligible for these services and that an ILP program is appropriate. They will then assist you in the development of YOUR Independent Living Program.

Post Officers Installed

Your newly elected officers were installed on May 8th by officers of the Suffolk County American Legion. They are:

Commander: Bob Santo
1st Vice Commander: Dennis Madden
2nd Vice Commander: Dennis Giunta
3rd Vice Commander : Kevin Farrell
Adjutant: Ed O'Shea
Sgt. At Arms: Charlie Armstrong
Finance Officer: Dennis Madden
Chaplain: Al Shaw
Committeemen: Bob Santo and Dennis Madden

Service Officer Donna Boyle, Judge Advocate Tom Freeman, MIAP Chairman John Caldarelli and Historian Al Shaw were reappointed.



Vice Commander's Call to Members

Hear Ye, hear ye ! Our new fiscal year is about to begin and the new membership cards are IN my hands as I write.

In fact, since I did write and email about it, I have already received half a dozen dues to set us off on our quest for the 9th Membership Award in a row. You do know that we made it to 100% for the 2013 year, and did, in fact, just squeak it up to 102.43 % of our goal. We have been given an aggressive goal for this year and I'm confident that we'll have little trouble getting to it.

Each year more and more members manage to ASK the question of a vet they know ... "Hey, what Post do you belong to"? That's really all it takes to begin the conversation. Once you break the ice, the pride of membership in this Post will take you all the way to a new member. I've always extended an invitation to one of our meetings, too. You know how very congenial we are to be around at our meetings, so get some folks to come along and witness what it is that we do when we're together. And if you know or know of a vet who is recently back from the war, that's even better. Just tell them that we have the answers to where the benefits are and how to get to them. It doesn't hurt that the Director Of Veterans Services happens to be a member of THIS Post, too. Lets use all the tools at our disposal to recruit as many new members as we can, collectively, this year. We're in this

together.

Our outdoor portion of the year is underway with some very successful events already behind us. Most recently, our Memorial Day parade and BBQ were both a tremendous success. We had a record turnout for the parade and made one helluva splash for the little Village that supports us with so many motorcycles and our CPL BILL always a hit ! We had many marchers and a broad Color Guard to lead us up the street, this year without the Police escort.

Later that day, we had 76 folks join us for the BBQ where there was food aplenty and wonderful comradeship. Our Sons group did a magnificent job planning and executing the entire event with a little help from the troops. Thank you to all who participated in the prep, the shopping, the staging, etc. and thanks also to our Auxiliary for the salads and the desserts to compliment the entrees.

Last but certainly not the least, thanks to our spouses, for making the meal show up on time and disappear on time and for the desserts to appearing without a hitch. If you missed it, don't let that happen next year !

Dennis Madden

**Just
ask!**

Welcome New Members

**George Barbaro, Tom D'Andrea, Kimberly McDonough, Sheana Morris,
Trisha Northover, Robert Ruffo, Herbert G. Walker**

(Continued from page 4)

vices characterize a "veteran friendly" institution. NCC has achieved the "veteran friendly" status and continues to Welcome Home Veterans. Bravo!

For more information contact: SVA 1625 K Street NW, Suite 320 Washington D.C. 20006 Telephone: (202) 223-4710 www.studentveterans.org

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



Bob Santa

Commander's Corner

Well, last weekend was one for the books! On Saturday morning, our Post conducted one of the largest interments of veterans and spouses cremated remains in US history at Long Island National Cemetery. (See page 2.) Civil War re-enactors, bagpipes, a rifle squad, 25 piece band, doves and more. Yes, and a vintage "limber" to convey the remains of the two Civil War veterans. Everyone involved did a fantastic job. Kudos to John Caldarelli, all our participants, and, especially the American Legion Riders who led the motorcade from Middle Village to the cemetery.

That Saturday evening, I had the distinct pleasure to witness the awarding of a long-delayed High School Diploma to our very own Gil Harris, who walked with the graduating class of Harborfields High School in Greenlawn. Gil was the beneficiary of Operation Recognition, a program to recognize the dedication and sacrifice of WWII, Korea, and Vietnam veterans who left school before graduation. Gil wore the traditional green graduation robe for Harborfields, but when handed the mortarboard and tassel headgear, he chose instead to wear his *American Legion Post 1244 Cap!!* Way to go, Gil!

Sunday morning found Chaplain Shaw and me, not in church, but on the flight line at Brookhaven Calabro Airport, to witness Domenick Gargiulo take his flight around Long Island in a Mitchell B-25 Bomber as the winner of our 2013 History Flight Raffle. Dom was flight engineer aboard C-46 Commando transports flying "The Hump" in the China-Burma-India Theater in WW II. Dom was the proud recipient of the Air Medal and Distinguished Flying Cross. It was only on that morning, that I learned just how much this flight meant to Domenick.

Sunday afternoon, Madelaine and I finally headed south for a visit to Arlington National Cemetery, where her parents are buried. We then visited The Women In Military Service For America Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, the Korean War Memorial and The National WWII Memorial.

Remembrance, honor, pride and gratitude. All in just a few perfect days in June.

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Taps Has Sounded

George Chironis
United States Army Air Corps

March 13, 2013



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*Best wishes to
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Thank You for your Continued Service*



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A year before the Cuban Missile Crisis began, President Kennedy and Premier Khrushchey viewed Berlin as the major battleground of the Cold War --- their Gettysburg, Stalingrad and Waterloo all wrapped into one.

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

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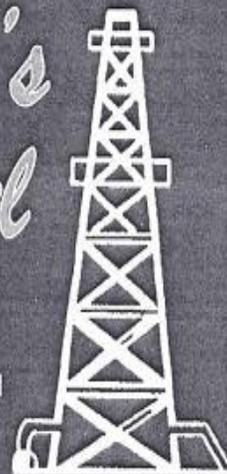
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