

The Greenlawn Bugle ♦ Post 1244

♦ New York State American Legion Best Paper 2008 & 2009 ♦

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Greenlawn Post 1244 joins the Missing in America Project (M.I.A.P.)

Post 1244, under the leadership of Legionnaire and MIAP Chairman John Caldarelli is supporting the work of the Missing in America Project. At our June 10th monthly meeting, the membership agreed that this would be in keeping with the American Legion's mission. We have initiated a team to pursue this mission in the Long Island area.

On May 9-10, 2007 The National Executive Committee of the American Legion assembled in Indianapolis, adopted Resolution 24, supporting the mission of the Missing in America Project.

Legislation:

- The Veterans Missing in America Act of 2009 (House Bill 2642) supported by the American Legion, would direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to cooperate with organizations such as the American Legion and the MIAP in identifying unclaimed remains, provide for the cost of funeral and burial expenses if the remains remain unclaimed and establish a publicly accessible database of the names of any veteran so identified.

The objective of the Missing In America Project (MIAP) is to locate, identify and inter the unclaimed cremated remains of veterans through the joint efforts of private, state and federal organizations and to provide honor and respect to those who have served this country, by securing a final resting place for these forgotten heroes.

- New York State Assemblyman Andrew Raia (9th Assembly District) has indicated to Post 1244 that he will introduce legislation in the next session that would obligate funeral directors and crematory authorities to attempt to determine the veteran status of a deceased individual so that the cremated remains, if not claimed by an authorizing agent, can be afforded interment with military honors. It would also serve to protect the parties from liability regarding the release of information relating to the deceased person's status as a veteran. We are grateful for Assemblyman Raia's support.

The movement's founder is Vietnam veteran Fred Salanti of Grants Pass, Ore. While working as a regional facilitator for the Patriot Guard Riders, Salanti became involved with conducting monthly services at regional and state cemeteries for veterans with no family and no money. It was then that he became aware of the need to properly inter indigent and forgotten veterans, whose remains have been languishing on the shelves of funeral homes, mortuaries and state hospitals across the United States for decades

Please ask your Federal and State Representatives to support these bills.

Salanti estimates that the remains of as many as 15,000 veterans remain unclaimed. In one Oregon State Hospital, 3,500 canisters of unclaimed remains dating back to 1890 were discovered. Possibly 1,000 of which may be those of veterans.

For information, please contact John Caldarelli at JCaldarelli@optonline.net

Since 2006, the MIAP has identified the unclaimed remains of 571 veterans of which 387 have been now been interred.

See also www.MIAP.us



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Upcoming Major Events

- Dec 6:** 2:00 pm Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day I National Ceremony.
- Dec 7:** 10:30 am Pearl Harbor Dropping of the Roses American Airpower Museum
- Dec 9:** 8:00 pm Post Monthly Meeting and Holiday Pizza Night
- Jan 13:** 8:00 pm Post Monthly Meeting

DETAILS ON OUR

Award Winning Website
2009 New York State
American Legion
Best Web Page Award
www.Post1244.org



Vice Commander's Call to Members

In the last few years this Post has been tasked with a revitalization program of sorts, to help bring it back to a state of health prescribed by the National Organization. We have, for all intents and purposes, achieved our goal and are well on our way to being a leading Post in the County and State.

While these and many other achievements are feathers in our collective cap, for me, it is the friendships I have made that are of the utmost importance. We are a closely knit group of Legionnaires that care for and about each other. We celebrate our new members and we

mourn our lost members...those who gave so much of themselves to help grow this Post.

It is a pleasure for me to know each of you, heroes all, and to continue to serve our country together. I wish you and your family a blessed Holiday Season and a healthy and Happy New Year.

Stay connected with our POST, it is our pleasure to serve with you — call me... my cell phone is 516-523-9391.



Vice Commander,

Dennis Madden

"YOU EARNED IT" by Donna Boyle

Stop-loss was created by the United States Congress after the Vietnam War. Its use is founded on Title 10, United States Code, Section 12305(a) which states in part: "...the President may suspend any provision of law relating to promotion, retirement, or separation applicable to any member of the armed forces who the President determines is essential to the national security of the United States"



Did "Stop-loss" effect you, a member of your family or a friend? If so you may be entitled to \$500.00 a month for each month. Here are the general guidelines:

- The individual was honorably discharged and,
- was on active duty between September 11, 2001 and September 30, 2009,
- and completes the application process before October 2010.

The application process is simple. Visit the following site below for your service branch information— "YOU EARNED IT"

ARMY: <https://www.stoplosspay.army.mil>,

or email RetroStopLoss-Pay@CONUS.Army.mil

NAVY: email NXAG-132C@Navy.mil

MARINE CORPS: <https://www.manpower.usmc.mil/stoploss>

Or email Stoploss@usmc.mil

AIR FORCE: <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/stoploss>

My branch is Army. I was able to complete the process in less than an hour. Just remember the clock is ticking.



◆ **Post Activities Bulletin Board** ◆



POST 1244 CELEBRATES VETERANS DAY 2009

On November 11 at the 11th hour, signifying the signing of the Armistice ending the horrors of WWI, Post 1244 gathered once again at the Greenlawn Monument to remember our fallen heroes and celebrate the bond we have as American Veterans. We were joined this year by members of our newly-formed American Legion Auxiliary Unit, each wearing a patriotic bright red, white and blue scarf. A number of passersby also stopped and joined us.

WWII veteran Mike Bonchonsky placed a wreath of remembrance for all those who have gone before us and Allen Schwartz played the solemn strains of "Taps".

Father Dimitrios Moraitis of St. Paraskevi Shrine Church gave a stirring benediction and Commander Santo and Vice Commander Madden reminded us of the bond we share that brought us together on that cold and windswept plaza. Our ceremony ended with our heart-felt singing of "God Bless America," led by Leona Schwartz.

Afterward, at Applebee's Restaurant in Commack, we were all treated to a complimentary lunch. They have offered a free lunch to all veterans and service members for a second year in a row and they could not have been more hospitable. Thank you, Applebee's!

We look forward to next year's Veterans Day!

Bob Santo



HONOR FLIGHT LONG ISLAND

by Allen Shaw

When Post member Don Foreman heard about Honor Flight Long Island, he wasted no time in firing off an application. Honor Flight flies WW II Veterans, at no charge, to D.C. to see the WW II Memorial.

Don reported to Islip MacArthur Airport on June 20th and he says it was a once in a lifetime happening. At our July 8th meeting, Foreman told the membership that he "flew with strangers and came back with friends", or in his words "my heroes".

When they arrived at Baltimore-Washington airport there were hundreds of people waiting, cheering and shaking hands. He admitted that it caused his eyes to well over. After a short bus ride, they arrived at the awe-inspiring World War II Memorial. They also had time to visit the Vietnam Memorial, which he calls most inspiring.

He told the Post of meeting veterans who had flown missions over Germany, some Pearl Harbor Vets....men with combat backgrounds.

Foreman served on the USS Fargo from 1946-48, handing out personal items, magazines and other comforts from home, even making ice cream.

Foreman said he realizes that America has not forgotten its heroes, even 60 years later.

Honor Flight operates trips between April and September, depending on funding. Veterans are chosen on a first come, first served basis with only terminally ill vets moving to the head of the line. Volunteer guardians, who pay their own way, each escort three veterans, with those in wheel chairs or walkers having a personal guardian.

As Foreman noted, former Senator Bob Dole greeted them and meets most tours when they arrive.

Greenlawn Post 1244 donated \$520



to Honor Flight Long Island which will provide transportation for two more Long Island veterans to see the memorial erected in their honor. We are grateful to Don for sharing his experience....one he deserved.

www.HonorFlightLongIsland.org

Greenlawn Post 1244 Auxiliary Unit Officers Elected

Our newly formed Auxiliary Unit held its first election and installation of officers on October 14th. The installation was conducted by officers of the 10th District and Suffolk County Auxiliary. They were: 10th District President Pat Bergin, Suffolk County President Carrol Goerke, Suffolk County First Vice President Carole Bruggemann and Past Suffolk County President Joanna von Seydewitz.

Following are the unit's newly elected officers: **President: Frances Hubbs; 1st Vice President: Theresa Fay; 2nd Vice President: Genevieve Costello; Treasurer: Nancy Sobina; Secretary: Carolyn Polakos; Sergeant at Arms: Madeline Emmons; Chaplain: Elaine Schaefer; Historian: Sandra Bohn**



The American Legion Auxiliary is the world's largest women's patriotic service organization. Through its nearly 10,500 units located in every state and some foreign countries, the Auxiliary embodies the spirit of America that has prevailed through war and peace. Along with The American Legion, it solidly stands behind America and her ideals.

The mother, wife, daughter, sister, grand-daughter, great-grand-daughter, or grandmother of members of The American Legion, and deceased veterans who served in the United States Armed Forces during the listed war eras are eligible to join the American legion Auxiliary.

For information on becoming a member of the Auxiliary please call Fran Hubbs at (631) 423-1176.

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Greenlawn Post 1244

Suffolk County, New York

Post Meetings: 2nd Wednesday of the month, 8:00pm
Knights of Columbus Hall, 24 Boulevard Avenue

Phone: 631-673-8704

Email: Post1244@Verizon.net



Bob Santo , Commander

Membership is the life blood of any organization and key to our success. Post 1244 welcomes: Jack Comerford, Ed Hayde, Richard Klein and Jim Rizzo. We are glad to have you aboard and hope you enjoy the camaraderie and all we have to offer. [Enjoy membership and all the benefits!](#)

[www. Post 1244.org](http://www.Post1244.org)

'POST 1244: FOUNDED IN 1943 AND HONORED BY PEOPLE WHO CARE'

Standing at the Greenlawn Memorial Park Monument on this cold Veterans Day it occurred to me that the "Veteran" is becoming something of a rarity in our society. While we had a fine turnout on Veterans Day, there were only a few non-veteran citizens in attendance, perhaps drawn to the scene of our ceremony out of curiosity.

Many of us grew up following WW II and the Korean War. There were many veterans in our lives; fathers, uncles, cousins and neighbors. We grew up hearing stories about life in the military; Hollywood movies cast the military in a positive light. When it was our turn to serve, there were very few surprises in store for us. Until the peacetime draft ended in 1973, all young men faced the possibility of at least two years in the military. Military service was a common experience.

Nationally, the number of veterans has been declining every year since 1980. Today there are 23.2 million veterans, just 7.6 % of the population. The United States is defended by an active duty armed force of less than 1.5 million men and women. That's less than 1/2 of one percent of the population. Adding in all the reserve forces, the number is still less than 1%!

The number of veterans in the Congress reflects this trend by the steady decline in the number of Members who have served in the military. In the 91st Congress (1969-1971) there were 398 veterans. Of the 535 members in the current 111th Congress there are now only 121 Members who have served in the military. We veterans have a special responsibility to ensure that our voices are heard and that our experiences are shared.

As a member of the American Legion, take every opportunity to let our elected officials hear your opinions. Teach our young men and women the values of patriotism and good citizenship. The experience of military service has given us a strong work ethic, positive attitude, discipline and leadership skills. We have a special perspective on the world, **SHARE IT!**

A COMRADE HAS PASSED : William A. "Bill" Polakos

On September 16th we lost our great friend and loyal comrade, Bill Polakos. Bill proudly wore his country's uniform from November 1961 to October 1964.

Joining the Army at the age of 18, he soon found himself in Germany with the 7th Army, 124th Ordnance Battalion as a heavy equipment operator. He was billeted at Daenner Kaserne , Kaiserslautern Germany but was there very little as he was always on the road transporting heavy vehicles, i.e., Tanks, Armored Personnel Carriers, etc, and saw a lot of the German countryside and Europe in General.

He left the army with the rank of SP4, a Good Conduct Medal and many stories with which he entertained his friends.

One of Bill's greatest pleasures and his legacy was seeing that those of our members who could no longer march in our parades would ride with honor in his vintage 1953 Dodge M37 3/4 ton weapons carrier. His generosity to those fellow veterans was a measure of the bond Bill felt with all those who served our country in war or peace.

We'll all miss his great wit, intelligence, generosity and friendship.

On September 21st, Bill was laid to rest with military honors at Calverton National Cemetery among his fellow veterans.





“WE THANK OUR SUPPORTERS”

**Best Wishes to all Members of the
American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244
and Thank You for your Continued Service**

Town of Huntington



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MARK CUTHBERTSON**

**COUNCILMAN
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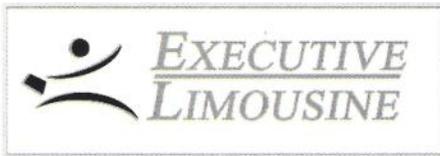


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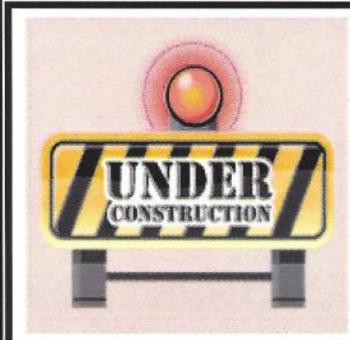
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