



# The Greenlawn Bugle

The Newsletter of American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244

September 2016

Volume 10 Issue 3

## Post Happenings

### MIAP Inurnment September 27, 1:30 pm Long Island National Cemetery, Farmingdale

Missing In America Project and Post 1244 will conduct an inurnment ceremony for the cremains of 27 Veterans, including two from the Spanish American War. Full military honors will be rendered. All Veterans and members of the public are invited.

### Stand Down For Homeless Veterans September 30 9 am-2 pm

Volunteers are needed at Northport VA Medical Ctr. to participate in escorting Veterans who are greatly in need of our support. On hand will be many representatives of social service institutions able to help our homeless Vets or those in danger of becoming homeless.

### Long Island Fall Festival October 8 and 9 10 am-2 pm

Each year, we take this opportunity at Huntington's Heckscher Park, to meet the many hundreds of visitors to this event, the largest in the northeast. We will have a membership and information booth on Prime Avenue.

### Columbus Day Parade October 9, 12:00 pm

We will assemble at the YMCA parking lot at Park Ave and Main Street. Our 1953 3/4 ton weapons carrier "CPL Bill" will be with us. We'll end at the Columbus Statue at the end of Main Street.

## SailAhead's "Let's Take a Veteran Sailing" 2016

After months of planning by SailAhead, Centerport Yacht Club, Greenlawn Post 1244 and many others, our Second Annual "Let's Take a Veteran Sailing" set sail from the Centerport Yacht Club July 30th, after a reception at the Club. Veterans and their guests from all over Long Island arrived at the club beginning at noon. By 2:00 pm all were aboard the many sailboats manned by volunteer skippers and crew.

The purpose of this annual event is to spread awareness of the PTSD problem and of Veteran suicide throughout the community. We also want to make the community aware of SailAhead's mission to use sailing as a healing platform to help Veterans with the physical and emotional consequences of war.

A total of 51 boats (manned by 149 volunteers!) were provided by SailAhead, Oakcliff Sailing Center, US-MMA Sailing Foundation's Warrior Sailing program, Oyster Bay Marine Center and independent boat owners. 98 Veterans and 68 guests of those Veterans sailed Northport Harbor and Long Island Sound for over three hours in brisk and, at times, wet weather.

On our return to Centerport Yacht Club we were treated to a delicious BBQ sponsored by CYC. There was music and much lively conversation among old friends. Many new friendships were formed that day as well. In the days and weeks after the sailing we received many expressions of gratitude.

A special guest of SailAhead, George Eshleman, founder of Unified Warrior Foundation joined us for the day and addressed the assembled Veterans, guests, skippers and crew prior to the sailing. His organization provides support to Veterans and family members who are experiencing the effects of PTSD. To promote awareness of the high number of Veterans who are committing suicide every day, George carries

the name tapes of 218 Veterans who have taken their own lives. He has recently hiked the full length of the Appalachian Trail, about 2200 miles, with these patches.

SailAhead has reproduced these 218 patches plus one additional patch in honor of L/CPL Michael E. Blanco, USMC, Son of American Legion Riders President Bruce Blanco and Donna Blanco. Riders from the American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244 escorted the name tags of the 219 veterans to the Centerport Yacht Club to be honored at our Let's Take a Veteran Sailing Event. They will sail with us indefinitely on our flagship "Stargazer."



L-R: Kilian and Thierry Duclay show the "219 Flag" to American Legion Riders President Bruce Blanco and new Rider George Raab.

Plans are already being made for next year's event. If you were unable to join us this year, we hope you will do so next summer.

Meanwhile, SailAhead continues to train Veteran skippers and bring sailing adventures to many local Veterans.

Any questions about SailAhead can be addressed to Past Commander Bob Santo at 516-458-7881.

# Boys and Girls State 2016



## BOY'S & GIRL'S STATE – 2016

This year's Boy's State and Girl's State programs were a great success for both Suffolk County and our Post. Out of a total of 985 boys participating in the New York Boy's State program, 73 came from Suffolk County, with 11 of them from our Post. Of the 360 girls, 25 came from Suffolk County, and 2 were from our Post. In both cases, this was the largest contingent ever from Suffolk County.

Having 73 boys participating created its own set of transportation logistic issues as the charter bus can only accommodate less than 60 passengers. Since our Post had a large group and we are located on the western side of Suffolk County, we were selected to have all 11 of our boys join up with the Queens County bus that had available space, for the trip to SUNY Morrisville. The question was how to get all of the boys to the American Legion Post in Broad Channel.

Fortunately, Dr. Dave Bennardo, Superintendent of the South Huntington School District, stepped up and provided a mini-bus which took everyone from Walt Whitman High School to the Broad Channel Post. The bus was there at the end of the week to bring everyone back again. Growth always brings forth unseen issues

and opportunities, and we were very fortunate that this all came off very smoothly. Going forward, as the number of participants increase, the possibility of a second Suffolk bus is being reviewed.

Our Suffolk County Girls State citizens, being a much smaller group had no such problem getting to the College at Brockport - SUNY.

As far as the actual programs, everyone seemed to both enjoy and get a lot out of the experience, and we are looking forward to their visits to our Post to give us a first-hand update on their week.

Beginning in October, we will be back at the schools getting everyone prepared to provide us with the next group of candidates for the 2017 programs.

For 2017, our plan is to continue working hard raising additional funds to allow us to send an even larger number of qualified students from the Junior class of our local high schools to both Boy's State and Girl's State.

If you know an individual or local business that would like to help support Boy's and Girl's State for students in the Town of Huntington, please let us know so we can reach out to them. With your help and support, we can continue to grow this program! Please remember "This Is A Week That Shapes A Lifetime".

*Charlie Armstrong*

Post 1244 Sgt. at Arms  
Boys and Girls State Co-Chairman



Co Chairmen Charlie Armstrong (Left) and Ed O'Shea (Right) with eleven of our thirteen 2016 Boys and Girls State Citizens. They each spoke to our members at our September monthly meeting about their experience and were presented proclamations from the Huntington Town Board by Commander Dennis Madden.



## **Post Burial Reports**

**Arthur Cahn and James Wallace  
June 2nd, 2016  
Calverton Cemetery**

The day was a tad cloudy, however the mood of the Veterans, who had come to say farewell to our comrades, was positive and full of pride and respect. As is becoming more common, today's ceremony would be a dual religious one, as one veteran, Mr. Cahn was of the Jewish faith and one of the Christian faith, Mr. Wallace. To conduct the Jewish ritual, we had Leonard Holtz who came from Connecticut to show his support for veterans. Suffolk County American Legion Chaplain Tom Bergin conducted the Christian ceremony. Tom and the Suffolk County American Legion continue to support these services. Legionnaire Charlie Messina recited the poem "Go Softly" with a heartfelt feeling of farewell. A new MIAP member, as well as a new Post 1244 member, Charles Tritto received the flag for all the fine work he does for veterans at the Northport V.A. Medical Center.

Also in attendance was Ann Marie Martin our genealogist extraordinaire, our ever faithful American Legion Riders and several representatives of other Suffolk County Posts.

Our veterans will not be forgotten.

**John Caldarelli**  
Missing In America Project  
National Representative MIAP (NY)  
Suffolk County American Legion MIAP Chairman  
American Legion Post 1244 MIAP Chairman

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**Pedro Acosta Socarras  
July 14, 2016  
Calverton Cemetery**

Our Veteran was buried with respect and dignity this 14 day of July, 2016. The day was pleasant and warm, a graceful day to say good by for he was not alone.

Missing in America Project, (MIAP), provided the ceremony, and Dignity Memorial the funeral. Back up support was respectfully given by American Legion Post 1244 and Post 1244's American Legion Riders. Also in attendance were Veteran supporter Lance Pittman supporter and Marie Ann Martin, N.Y. State MIAP's genealogist.

Suffolk County American Legion chaplain Tom Bergin conducted the religious service while Charles Messina performed the eulogy service. Attending the funeral was Post 1244's Post Commander Dennis Madden, as well as members from other American Legion Posts. None of our attendees knew our veteran. However this did not stop the compassion, or sense of loss that an American veteran had passed on, but for the above supporters, alone and abandoned.

Charles L Messina  
Acting MIAP State Coordinator

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### **The Missing In America Project "It's The Right Thing To Do"**

The purpose of the MIA Project is to locate, identify and inter the unclaimed cremated remains of American veterans through the joint efforts of private, state and federal organizations. To provide honor and respect to those who have served this country by securing a final resting place for these forgotten heroes.

We also work with the NYC Mayors Office of Veterans Affairs to conduct committal services for New York City's unclaimed Veterans remains.

If you are interested in joining our team, please contact  
John Caldarelli at 631-261-3807

## American Legion Auxiliary



There are many women to thank for the history of success Auxiliary Unit 1244 has had in serving our veterans. For some, we cherish our memories of them and for many others, we continue in service to the legacy of those before us.

In the past year, the Auxiliary has experienced both tremendous loss and a revival of purpose. In what was nearly a closing of our charter we have rallied and reaffirmed our commitment to each other and to our mission. Now, we must bring back to strength an organization of women who, in common support and commitment, strives to help our veterans and our communities.

In the coming months we will continue planning our efforts for the coming year and determining the best use of our resources. That may not include all of the things we wish we could do, but like anything else in life, we can only ask of ourselves what we are able to give.

In this year of change and growth, the Auxiliary is looking to expand its membership. There are a variety of ways to contribute to our efforts that do not necessarily include large time commitments. We ask of our members to give only what they can provide. This can include professional expertise, ideas, time, or organizational skills. There are numerous ways to contribute that make participation accessible.

Our particular focus, as a women's organization, is the needs of our women veterans. This year so far has seen donated funds to the Women's Wellness Center at the Northport VA as well as continued fundraising for the purpose of helping meet the needs of our women veterans.

If you're interested in learning more about our Unit and the amazing women I have come to know, I encourage you to reach out to me. If you're able, we'd love to meet you at our next meeting, Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm. Location to be announced.

Shannon King

Unit 1244 President

ALA1244Greenlawn@gmail.com



### 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 paperback 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.

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

Past Cmdr. Bob Santo at 516-458-7881.

## Crimson Coaching

*Expert, Caring, Experienced Tutoring  
for Students Aged 4-adult*



**Dr. Dominique Padurano** (Harvard '93), founder of **Crimson Coaching**, has helped hundreds of students reach their academic potential at elite universities and high schools, such as Horace Mann and Scarsdale. Dr. P. holds 4 NYS teaching licenses, a Master's in Education and Ph.D. in History; she and her colleagues work **in person or online** with students on any academic subject, all standardized tests and college applications. A certified yoga teacher, Dr. P. also specializes in empowering students to overcome test anxiety.

Visit [crimsoncoaching.com](http://crimsoncoaching.com), call 718-514-0387, or email [info@crimsoncoaching.com](mailto:info@crimsoncoaching.com) to set up a complimentary consultation about your child's needs.

## American Legion Riders



### America's 911 Ride

On Thursday, August 18th, in the pre-dawn darkness, five riders from our Post 1244 American Legion Riders Chapter rendezvoused at LIE Exit 52 with motorcycle bikers from all across Suffolk County.

This was to be the sixteenth and final America's 911 ride to the September 11th, 2001 sites of the terrorist attacks on our country.



**"PT" Tom Imerti**

Bruce Blanco, Tom McAuliffe, Joe Spinelli, Victor Ramondetta and Herb Walker represented Post 1244. After crossing the Throgs Neck and Tappan Zee bridges, they met up with Legionnaire "PT" Tom Imerti, whose PT Cruiser has been a fixture at many of the events our Legion Riders take part in. Tom and his car made history earlier this year, becoming the only car and driver ever permitted to take part in the Rolling Thunder Ride on the Memorial Day weekend. (See The Greenlawn Bugle, June 2016). PT Tom would once again, make the news, being the first to drive a car in America's 911 Memorial Ride.

Meeting up with more riders (plus New Jersey State Police on motorcycles) the group now numbered over one hundred and proceeded on to Somerset, PA. There they were joined by more riders. Finally, they arrived at Shanksville, Pennsylvania - near the site of the crash of Flight 93. This site would be the beginning of the 911 Ride. At this point, there were at least 1200 motorcycles gathered there.

Friday morning came early, once more, and the procession departed the Shanksville 911 Memorial for the next site - The Pentagon. This was the site of the crash of Flight 77. The motorcycles rumbled across western Maryland and northern Virginia heading south through Leesburgh, Virginia to a hotel near the Pentagon.



**Tom McAuliffe, Joe Spinelli, Vic Ramondetta and Bruce Blanco**

The ride continued Saturday from the Pentagon through Maryland and Delaware to Linden, New Jersey for an overnight stay.

On Sunday, our riders arrived in NYC via the Holland tunnel to meet up with all the other riders at the World Trade Center 911 Memorial. Unfortunately, the skies opened up with a torrential downpour. Rider Tom McAuliffe, seeking shelter, rode up onto a sidewalk and found himself under an old theater marquee where he was the only one to keep dry.

After a moving ceremony, the Riders toured the 911 Museum. They were very impressed by the two reflecting pools, each over an acre in size, which sit within the footprints of the original World Trade Center Towers. They also toured the newly opened World Trade Center Transit Hub - an architectural wonder.

The 16th annual ride will be the last; partly because the organizers have grown tired of battling Maryland and Virginia state police and highway agencies over their reluctance to block traffic for the motorcycle procession.



**PT Tom's Cruiser**

### America's 911 Foundation

The America's 911 Ride was sponsored by America's 911 Foundation, dedicated to supporting first responders nationwide. It has given more than \$330,000 in scholarships to the children of first responders. It has also contributed more than \$530,000 in supplies to first responders across the United States and Canada.

## Claggett / Oakcliff Match Race

By Jennifer Duclay, July 18, 2016.



The mission of SailAhead on July 15, 16 and 17 was to provide the safety boat and safety team to the Claggett sailing event that took place this past Friday, Saturday and Sunday in Oyster Bay. The Claggett is the North America's premier event for sailors with disabilities.

During this three day event, our SailAhead Veterans, my family and I, were privileged to have met so many interesting people; from doctors, athletes and volunteers. On the same weekend, I got to meet heads of departments from the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, a 75 year old woman who happens to be a hall of fame sailor and a force in adaptive sailing sport development, the US silver medalist sailor of the London Olympics games and so many amazing sailors with real handicaps who came from all over America and farther.

The SailAhead boat was our RIB (Rigid Inflatable Boat). While in "mission mode" we had at all time on board a doctor (civilian), a nurse (veteran), a swimmer (veteran), a CPR trained responder (veteran) and a driver (civilian)! My brothers and dad were the drivers and backup CPR trained responders. I was the photographer and backup CPR trained responder. The boats used were Sonars – a 3 sailor boat.

I witnessed a blind sailor driving a sailboat! She was guided by her teammates. Furthermore she has a condition that gives her severe migraines. We spent quite some time delivering ice to her to keep her cool in the heat and under the sun. She refused to leave her boat, because this would have been an automatic disqualification for her team! I learned that these migraines are normal for her and despite the evident pain she was enduring, she still functioned and remained competitive. They actually won a few races.

On that same boat there was a lady without legs, a missing arm and the other arm only had a thumb! This sailor was in charge of the ropes... and she was managing the sails efficiently! You have to see it to believe it! I am proud to say that I was there and was part of the event.

There was a tetraplegic sailor who drove the boat with his mouth! The boats have been modified to accommodate the handicaps of the sailors. Our partner Warrior Sailing: ([www.warriorsailing.org](http://www.warriorsailing.org)) is the organization that adapted the boats. On this specific boat they built a 2 straw system that controlled the boat. The sailor blew air into the right straw to make the boat turn right and into the left straw to make the boat turn left. I must admit that the ingenuity of the staff from the Warrior Sailing Program is amazing! It is because of them that these sailors can sail!

From a distance you could not tell that these boats were modified and certainly could not tell that these boats were powered by severely handicapped sailors.

We were also trained on using special equipment to

retrieve people in the water with special needs. This was a net attached to the side of the RIB and we had to follow a special procedure to bring the athletes back onboard (We did not have to use it!).

Like I said earlier, I was humbled the talent and courage that these athletes have. My family and our Veterans learned a great deal this past weekend. By doing missions like this, we are all becoming stronger and better.

The Claggett people were also impressed by our professionalism. This was a

great learning experience for all of us!



**Our SailAhead Veterans Safety and Medical Team assisting at the Claggett / Oakcliff Match Race**

**SailAhead** uses sailing and the ocean as a therapeutic platform to help veterans heal the scars of war. The organization has partnered with the local Northport VA to take veterans sailing year round. SailAhead has organized Veteran medics and a Veteran rescue swimmer for events.

To learn more about SailAhead see our website [www.SailAhead.org](http://www.SailAhead.org)  
Find us on Facebook  
[www.facebook.com /SailAhead](https://www.facebook.com/SailAhead)

**American Legion Post 1244 is proud to be a SailAhead Partner!**

## What The American Legion Does

- Processes more than 600 disability claims appeals per month for veterans trying to get their VA medical benefits.
- Sponsors more than 5,000 American Legion Baseball teams, comprising more than 100,000 ballplayers.
- Helps families of deployed troops through its Family Support Network and Operation Military Family Outreach.
- Awards college scholarships to children whose mothers or fathers have sacrificed their lives in the global war on terrorism through The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund.
- Through its Temporary Financial Assistance program, helps the children of veterans who are suffering hardships.
- Through its Heroes to Hometowns program, works with communities to welcome back their returning veterans and help them make the transition to civilian life.
- Lobbies Congress to upgrade and improve Post-9/11 GI Bill education benefits (The American Legion wrote the original 1944 GI Bill that educated 8 million veterans).
- Urges Congress to provide enough VA funding to take care of veterans' medical needs - and authorize appropriations in advance.
- Volunteers about one million hours every year at about 160 VA medical facilities nationwide.
- Gives emergency financial assistance to Legion families hit by hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, and other disasters through The American Legion National Emergency Fund.
- Offers community programs that encourage the intellectual and social growth of America's children (Boys State, National Oratorical Competition, Junior Shooting Sports, Boy Scouts).
- Raises funds to improve the quality of life for active-duty troops through Operation Comfort Warriors.

### What Are Your Skill Sets?

Legionnaires, this year I would like to compile a list of all the talents we have in our Post Family. Just what did you do, or are doing, to earn your living?

This list is not for any potential labor to be performed (unless, of course, you'd like it to be for you), but to find a "pool" of expertise, so that one might call on you for advice, or to examine a potential quote. Just to be sure we're not being "ill served" in any work we hire out. Just for that. Period.

If I were to hire a plumber, for instance, and he quoted \$1500 to replace a hot water heater, I could ask someone who knows if that is too much or just right. Or if I needed a roof done, or new tires, or collision repairs and so on. It will only be a pool of experience to tap into.

So, if you're interested in participating in this endeavor, please email me at [dam9245@optonline.net](mailto:dam9245@optonline.net) and give me a brief overview of that talent you could add

to our pool.

For me, well I've been in heavy truck and equipment repairs for 52 years. I'm a heavy diesel engine specialist, for any make or model of commercial diesel engine, from small 2" bore engines and up through huge, 24" bore engines. Any industrial, on or off highway, commercial or pleasure marine diesel engines. The diagnosis and proper repair procedure is my "wheelhouse."

So, that is how simple an explanation your experience description can be. Please help us by adding your own. "Vets helping Vets," once again. Hey, ... it's what we do! Thanks in advance, for your participation in this project.

*Dennis Madden*

## First Person Account - WWII's Aftermath in Asia



military service and graduate in December 1945. I further asked in what branch of service I was going to and he said "Army" for a two year enlistment. Both options were approved.

In December, I went to New York Naval Headquarters and signed up for the Navy. I agreed to a 3 year enlistment. I left for basic training in February, 1946 and was sent to Camp Peary, Virginia for Naval Training. It was most interesting that Camp Peary was a Prisoner of War camp and housed thousands of German naval POWs. The trusted ones were working in the kitchens and serving us our meals. Many others were doing camp cleanup. The restricted ones were behind bars and fences.

Upon completion of basic training in April, 1946, the entire camp was sent to Treasure Island, California, a point of embarkation for all military personnel. Two troop transports were loaded with sailors, Marines and naval officers. We left California for the Far East – destination unknown. As the ships neared Japan, a typhoon was encountered which broke loose sea mines. We found ourselves in the middle of them. The ship's crew was good at shooting at them and destroyed seven mines.

By the end of April, we arrived at Tsingtao, China. To my amazement, there was Admiral Halsey's 3rd Fleet with many destroyer escorts, destroyers, cruisers, battleships and aircraft carriers – about 50 ships in total. We were the new replacements to relieve many who were set to be released and go home.

The first week of May, the task force left Tsingtao for naval training such as carrier guard duty, air sea rescue, bombardment, antiaircraft shooting, etc. In early June, our squadron of four destroyers was assigned to Hainan Island, which was a Japanese prisoner of war camp housing thousands of POWs. Troop transports were there and we helped to load the POWs for shipment back to Japan. That duty lasted about a month. My next assignment was back to Tsingtao to help many of the important dignitaries who were leaving the mainland and going to Formosa,

which is where the Chinese set up the new Republic of China. Mao, the Communist leader, was coming down from the west and the north and slowly pushing the Nationalists out of China. Mao finally took over all of China by 1948-1949.

In early 1947, we were assigned to Korea duty. We were sent to the Yellow Sea, between China and Korea, just south of the 38th Parallel. It was Coast Guard duty and our squadron of destroyers had a contingent of Korean military men on our ships. We were assigned to different areas to stop spies, check ships carrying contraband or anything that would be of South Korean interest. China was sending supplies to Korea, just before the start of the Korean War. We had captured spies and boats, arrested the crews and sunk any ships we captured with contraband.

My ship left the China / Korea area in March of 1947 and headed back home with stops in Guam and Hawaii.

We arrived in Puget Sound Naval Base in mid-April for dry dock repairs and replacement of new radar, sonar and gun barrel changes. We left there by early June and remained on in the West Coast area doing training and surveillance from Mexico to British Columbia. In December 1947, a directive came from the Department of Defense stating that it was going to downsize the Navy and put many ships in mothballs since the threat of war was over. It further stated that all personnel who had one year or less of service left, could be honorably discharged while agreeing to sign up for five years of reserves.

I took the option and was discharged from military duty. I received the China, Korea and WWII Victory medals.

My ports of call in China were Tsingtao, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Amoi, Taku, Hainan Island and Formosa. In Korea they were Pusan and Jinsen. Also Guam and Hawaii.

Aboard ship I was a Seaman 1st /Class. My duties were helmsman and starboard lookout. In port I was coxswain on the small boats running liberty parties to shore or getting ship supplies. At GQ I was in a 5" gun mount throwing the hot, spent shells out the rear door.

**Vincent Crimauo, Seaman 1st Class**



## The Photo Corner



Our very own Gill Gil Harris (left) whose culinary skills are well known at Post 1244, competed at Atria Assisted Living's Watermelon Cooking Challenge with his very own original recipe for watermelon preserves.



Tony Corrente, member of our Sons of The American Legion Squadron enjoys the cheers of the crowd at the Greenlawn Fireman's Fair in our 3/4 ton truck "CPL BILL."

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## Congratulations!

**Carlo T. Giordano, Sr. - Honored.** Vice Commander Carlo Giordano will be among the inductees into the South Huntington Hall of Fame on Saturday, September 24th at Walt Whitman High School. A Class of 1977 graduate of Walt Whitman High School, Carlo entered the Navy and was trained in the field of aircraft hydraulics and airframes. On completion of his training, he was assigned to Attack Squadron 176 on aircraft carrier USS Independence. He achieved the rank of 3rd Class Petty Officer and was responsible for nine airmen and the flight readiness of fifteen A-6 aircraft.

After the Navy, Carlo worked for Grumman Aircraft and South Huntington Schools. With over 30 years of service to the district, since 2001, he has been the Chief Custodian at Walt Whitman High School.

Carlo has always felt a deep responsibility for our country. In 1996 he joined the 106th Combat Rescue Wing, Air National Guard. While with the Guard, he served in Operation Noble Eagle WTC at Ground Zero, Operation Southern Watch in Kuwait, and Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. He retired as Master Sergeant and is currently a very active member of American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244.

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**Rudolf "Rudy" Sobina - Retired.** Legionnaire Rudy Sobina, a 34 year member of the American Legion, entered active duty with the US Navy in 1966. Deployed with the carrier USS Franklin D. Roosevelt. Achieved the rank of Petty Officer 3rd Class before leaving the US Navy in 1971. In November 1971 he joined the LIRR Police Department, then transitioned to the MTA Police. He served a combined 30 years while working patrol for 9.5 years and detective for 20.5 years. He retired in 2001 to answer a recall to duty.

In 1988, Rudy reentered the US Navy Reserve as an intelligence specialist and progressed to Command Chief Petty Officer of Intelligence Area 16 - Naval Air Station Willow Grove, PA.

He was recalled to active duty in 2001 after "911" and served at the Defense Intelligence Agency and the Pentagon. At DIA he was assigned to the Joint Intelligence Task Force - Counter Terrorism as the Senior Officer on the North American Command watch desk. He left active duty in 2004 and subsequently retired from the US Navy in 2006 after 26 years of service.

Rudy signed on with the TSA in 2005 as one of the first 100 Surface Transportation Safety Inspectors. Rudy retires to spend more time with Nancy, his wife of 42 years as well as family and friends. We look forward to seeing more of Rudy when he is not traveling, camping, hunting and fishing. Enjoy your well deserved retirement!

## *Congratulations on Your Wedding!*

Legionnaire Candace Mills has married Philip Baldwin.

Candace is the daughter of Legionnaire Rudy Sobina and Auxiliary member Nancy Sobina.

Pictured are Candace with her new family: Son Albert, Husband Philip and step daughters Lindsay, Charlotte and Brianna.



Have some good news to share? We would love to help you celebrate by including your event in the next issue of the Greenlawn Bugle.

Just send an e mail to [post1244@verizon.net](mailto:post1244@verizon.net) or call Bob at 516-458-7881

## American Legion Scholarships



Parents and Grandparents. You may be surprised to learn that the American Legion Family (Legion, Auxiliary, Sons and Riders) offers a number of scholarships and other resources to assist young people in their pursuit of higher education. There are opportunities for everyone, including relatives of wartime veterans and participants in Legion programs. For a summary of each scholarship and links to details and applications please see this link: [www.suffolkcountylegion.org/scholarships](http://www.suffolkcountylegion.org/scholarships)

## Veterans Crisis Line



1-800-273-8255  
PRESS 1

The Veterans Crisis Line connects Veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring Department of Veterans Affairs responders through a confidential toll-free hotline, online chat, or text. Veterans and their loved ones can call **1-800-273-8255** and **Press 1**, chat online, or send a text message to **838255** to receive confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Support for deaf and hard of hearing individuals is available.

## Vice Commander's Call to Members



As a first year Vice Commander, I recently attended a membership seminar run by the American Legion Department of N.Y. for downstate Posts. I was most impressed by the fact that, including Post 1244, there is a huge attrition of members. The foremost reason is simply that our aging members are going on to Veteran's heaven. Our Post loses six to ten every year.

To reverse this trend, I believe the solution is right in front of us. We must recruit new members and Sons. Each of us has to lose the apathy and make the effort to

add new blood to enable our Post to continue and enhance the work we do for Veterans and our community. The reality is the fact that we are no longer "the fastest growing Post on Long Island." But with your efforts we can regain our momentum.

**Just ask!**

As a suggestion, how about you volunteering to make recruiting calls to Post 1 members?

There are over 200 potential candidates within 5 miles of Greenlawn. Let me know of your availability. Perhaps those who have recruited new members can share their story of how they achieved success. Please remember-- YOU are the American Legion.

On the lighter side. I once heard a Veteran relate to his age by saying "Each morning I wake up and stretch my arms, If my knuckles don't hit wood, it's a great day!".

*Richard Russana*

### Welcome To Our Newest American Legion Members!

#### American Legion:

**Kenneth Carlson  
Philip Compton  
Donald R. Corie  
Howard J. Eckstein  
Brian P. Gilroy  
Richard N. Silecchio**

#### Sons of The American Legion:

**Michael Norton  
George Raab  
Edward B. (Woody) Ryder**

## About The Sons of The American Legion



Founded in 1932, The Sons of The American Legion exists to honor the service and sacrifice of Legionnaires. S.A.L. Members include males of all ages whose parents or grandparents were eligible for American Legion membership.

At all levels, Sons support the American Legion in promoting a wide variety of programs. They assist their Posts in activities such as Veterans programs, Veterans Administration home and hospital visitation, Children and Youth projects and fund raising.

Since 1988, the Sons have raised more than \$6.9 million for The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. Members have volunteered over 1.3 million hours in Veterans hospitals throughout the country and raised more than \$2,500,000 that has gone directly to VA hospitals and VA homes for a variety of items, including TV's, radios, medical equipment and clothing for patients.

**Membership Eligibility Requirements: All male descendants, adopted sons and stepsons of members of the American Legion, and such male descendants of veterans who have died in service during WWI, WWII, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Lebanon, Granada, Panama, the Persian Gulf War and the War on Terrorism during the delimiting periods set forth in the American Legion Constitution, or who died subsequent to their honorable discharge from such service, shall be eligible for membership in The Sons of The American Legion. There shall be no forms or class of membership except an active membership.**

## THE COMMANDER'S CORNER



As we prepare to wind up yet another outdoor season we still have a few events to get through before we put the CPL BILL to bed for the winter. Coming up quickly, we have the Huntington Awareness Day, then Columbus Day, the Huntington Fall Festival and our annual Vets in the Classroom week.

Each of these have been fun events for us as a Post, and have given us more much needed exposure to the community and our high school children. The Fall Festival helps us get the last of our poppies out to the community and swells our coffers just a tad more allowing us to do more for our brother and sister Veterans.

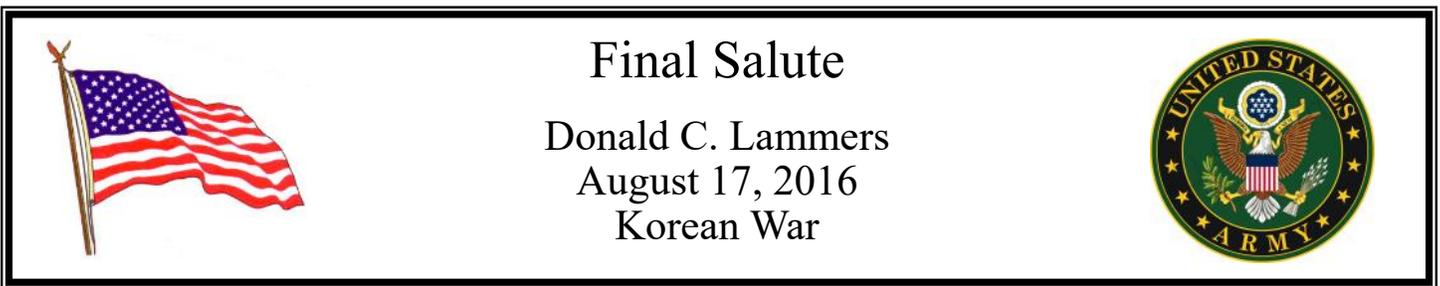
The highlight of the year for us in the community is our Veterans Day ceremony at the Greenlawn Memorial Park on November 11<sup>th</sup> at 11AM, a Friday this year. Plans are in process right now to have a banner across Broadway alerting the community and inviting all that

they can spare 15 minutes to honor Veterans everywhere. Each of the last several years, we have seen the community's participation increase. They know that we're here and they show their support.

As a Post, we can show our interest in Greenlawn and the Town of Huntington only by our participation in their events as well, but we need your help to do that. Please come out and join us if and when you can so it's not always the same group of Vets towing the line. Lend a hand if you can. Come meet your fellow members and spend a few hours with us showing our pride in our Veteran status.

We are the 7% who have worn the uniform of our country when asked to come to her aid. You served and you deserve the accolades and appreciation of our friends and neighbors. Come on out and have some fun this season. I'll be looking for you.

*Dennis Madden*



**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](mailto:Post1244@verizon.net)**



If you have E Mail service and are not receiving Our weekly **E Bulletin** from us, we invite you to let us add you to our list. We will let you know of Post 1244 news of interest, and activities and events you may wish to take part in. **No chain letters, political messages or jokes.** Only **"The News You Can Use."** **And you can unsubscribe at any time!**

**American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244 is a tax exempt veterans organization under section 501 ( c ) (19) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to the Post may be deductible.**

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 Past Commander Bob Santo at 516-458-7881

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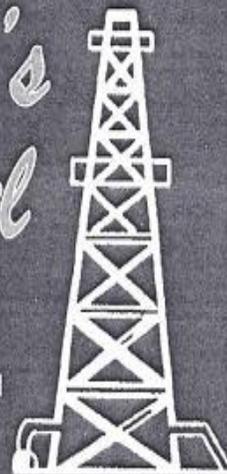


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and sacrifice for our Country.**

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*Councilman*



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