

# THE GREENLAWN BUGLE



Greenlawn Post 1244

Fall 2023

## Boys and Girls State Night



Our post became involved with Boy's & Girl's State 15 years ago, and I am happy to say that over this time we have been able to select over 200 students to be delegates. We would not have been able to do this without the continued help and support of our local government officials and business community.

Boy's & Girl's State began almost 90 years ago when two American Legion members from Illinois, took notice of the Young Pioneer Camps, affiliated with the Communist party USA, around the United States. The legionnaires determined that if we wanted to keep our democratic/republic form of government, then our young people must get the opportunity to learn how it

functions. Over the years, Boy's & Girl's State became a nationwide program, operating separately in each state. Since then, thousands of students have gotten the opportunity to create a fictional 51<sup>st</sup> state, set up under the structure of the state where it is being held. They run for city, county, and state offices, and hold many other elected and appointed positions. They learn how government is supposed to function, and the efforts that go into it. They also develop long- lasting relationships with the other students they meet.

At our August meeting, 12 of the 21 students that went to Boy's & Girl's State this year were able to join

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Boys and Girls State 2023

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*(Continued from page 1)*

us, and we heard about their experience and what they thought of the program.

Some examples:

“Thank you for not only giving me the knowledge and social skills to succeed in life, but for also giving me great friends.”

“Amazing opportunity and I learned something from every speaker.”

“The best experience of my life.”

“An incredibly valuable experience; I gained a great deal of knowledge about the US Government, as well as teamwork and public speaking skills.”

“I would tell anyone who had the opportunity to go that they should 100% jump at the chance.”

“Something I will never forget and will serve as a learning experience in the future.”

“I learned about political parties and how elections are run.”

“Was better than I ever could have expected, and I met so many amazing people.”

“Overall one of the best experiences anyone could have. The first day you are nervous, but by the last you are sad to leave.”

After the student’s presentations, local elected officials made some comments and presented them with proclamations and citations. We also heard from the American Legion’s 10th District Boy’s State Chairperson, Jim Beecher and retired NY State Supreme



**Assemblyman Steve Stern presenting a check representing grant for \$10,000 which he obtained for our Boys State and Girls State program.**

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Court Judge, Jerry Asher (a 1958 Greenlawn Post 1244 Boy’s State alumni).

At the meeting’s end, NY State Assemblyman Steve Stern presented the Post with a symbolic check for \$10,000. This represents a grant he was able to obtain to help fund the 2024 Boy’s & Girl’s State program for our Post.

*Charlie Armstrong  
Chairman  
Boys State /Girls State*

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## Veterans Testimonial Project

Half Hollow Hills Community Library Dix Hills Branch

Be a part of your community’s rich history. Share your military experiences with future generations. We are looking for U.S. Veterans to share their memories and stories. All interviews will be recorded and added to the library’s collection and archived with the Veteran’s History Project at the Library of Congress. All participating veterans will receive a personal copy of the recording as a DVD.

To participate in this important initiative, call our librarian, Joe Brown, at 631-498-1234 or e mail [jbrown@hhhlibrary.org](mailto:jbrown@hhhlibrary.org)

# Support Operation Enduring Care

The mission of Operation Enduring Care is to provide care and comfort items to our local veterans residing at the Northport VA Medical Center as well as all veterans in our community.

## Supporting Homeless Veterans in Transitional Housing

- Providing non-perishable meals.
- New blankets, quilts, and bedding.
- Underwear, socks, and comfort items

## In-Patient Resident Veterans

Personal care and hygiene items, light blankets, sweatshirts, and clothing for residents of the community living centers: Nursing Home, Hospice, Palliative Care and Rehabilitation.

## How You Can Help

- Donations of shampoos, body wash, shaving cream, razors, toothpaste toothbrushes, deodorant, denture tablets and hairbrushes are always appreciated as are new underwear, t-shirts, and bedding.
- Monetary donations in the form of cash, check or money order allow us to continue our mission.

Please make checks payable to:  
**American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244**  
**PO Box 238**  
Greenlawn, NY 11740  
Memo Line: "Operation Enduring Care"



For more information  
contact Al Statton at:

(631) 835-3851

Email  
Stat405@yahoo.com

Thank You for Your Support!

# Post Service Officer - You Earned It!



## Veterans Advantage VetRewards Card Benefit Program

Have you heard of the VetRewards Card Benefit Program? It's a great program that offers Veterans a plethora of discounts and savings. Though not for all veterans, it could very

well be beneficial to many of you. Read on to decide for yourself!

### ***IS VETERANS ADVANTAGE WORTH IT?***

The big question you have to ask yourself is whether or not you need to pay for a membership to take advantage of these offers. Some companies currently offer military discounts without membership in the VetRewards Card program. However, not all companies offer military discounts to all military members, past and present, and their family members. In fact, many companies only offer these discounts to current military members with a valid ID.

Add in the fact that Veterans Advantage has negotiated some exclusive discounts, and you can see there is some value in joining this program. The key question that only you can answer is how much you will use this program and if you believe you will get value from it. This will be a personal decision. But at roughly \$60 for an annual membership (or \$5 a month), it doesn't take much to recoup your initial membership cost.

This program can have added value, especially since family members can participate. For a few dollars a month, the annual membership can save members on services they normally use and on brand name products they buy.

The 30-day trial may be the best resource for determining whether the program is worth the annual fee.

### **Benefits of the VetRewards Card:**

Members will receive a Veterans Advantage ID card in the mail accompanied by a benefits booklet that outlines the program's benefits and lists the many US corporations that participate.

***VETREWARDS CARD PLAN OPTIONS & PRICING –***  
[HTTPS://THEMILITARYWALLET.COM/VETERANS-ADVANTAGE-CARD-BENEFITS-PROGRAM/](https://themilitarywallet.com/veterans-advantage-card-benefits-program/)

### **Primary Member Plans**

30-Day Trial – only pay a standard \$4.95

Month-to-Month: \$9.99 per month for primary subscriber

1 Year: \$59.95 — \$4.99 average per month paid in full upon enrollment

24-month extension: \$3.75 average per month paid in full upon enrollment – a 25% savings

48-month extension: \$2.92 average per month paid in full upon enrollment – a 42% savings

***THERE IS A FREE VETERANS ADVANTAGE PLAN THAT GIVES YOU ACCESS TO CERTAIN MILITARY DISCOUNTS, A JOBS & CAREER NETWORK, AND FREE VETERANS ADVANTAGE EVENTS.***

The paid membership gives you all of the above, plus exclusive VetRewards Deals, a VetRewards ID Card, discounted travel insurance, and VIP member assistance.

### ***How can I save money with the VetRewards Card?***

#### ***State and Federal Benefits:***

Every state and even some municipalities offer a variety of benefits for program members. There are also federal benefits provided through the card and Veterans Advantage members will receive a compilation of State, Local and Federal Benefits online and sent by e-mail so they can remain informed and up to date.

The program's website (<https://www.veteransadvantage.com/>) offers extensive information about the rewards program and provides 24/7 member support services online or by phone.

Each month, a new partnership company is put in the spotlight that showcases the discounts being offered by the many participating retailers and businesses. Additionally, there are various resources, articles, and news topics to benefit Veterans, active members, and family members available on the website.

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Veterans Advantage VetRewards (Continued from page 4)

Enrollment in the annual membership or 30-day trial program can be completed online and activated instantaneously.

You are eligible to participate in the VetRewards Program if you meet any of the following criteria:

1. Active Duty or Retiree
2. Current or former Guard or Reserve
3. Immediate family member of a former military member (spouse, father, mother, sister, brother, daughter or son of the current or former servicemember)

Here are just *some* of the discounts that the VetRewards include:

<u>AT&amp;T Wireless</u>	Alaska Airlines	Diamond Resorts
<u>Verizon Wireless</u>	JetBlue Airlines	1800 Flowers
<u>T-Mobile</u>	Hawaiian Airlines	Ford Cars & Trucks
Verizon Fios	Lufthansa Airlines	Lincoln Automobiles
<u>Dell Computers</u>	Avis Car Rental	Target
Samsung	Budget Car Rental	
Lenovo	Hertz Rental Car	
American Airlines	Greyhound Buslines	
United Airlines	NY Times – Print or Online	

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Summer is coming to a close and Fall will soon be upon us.

Autumn is like spring when every leaf is a flower.

It glows upon us like a beautiful golden sunset every year!

*Michelle Martin*

**Service Officer**

American Legion Post 1244

Tel. # 631-361-1216

Fax # 631-239-1970



**Cheers !**



## Spotlight on The Community

### Assemblyman Steve Stern, NY10th District

**What were your jobs prior to entering public service?**



As a student I was an intern for Congressman Tom Downey, and worked with the Select Committee on Aging, which ignited my lifelong passion to serve the most vulnerable in our community, which I have brought to my work as an elected official.

After graduation from law school, I worked as a partner in the law firm of Davidow, Davidow, Siegal and Stern, where I focused on serving seniors and protecting the interests of families with children with special needs.

**What was your first government job?**

In 2005, I was honored to be elected to represent the 16th Legislative District in the Suffolk County Legislature. The County Legislature has a 12-year term limit and during my entire tenure, I served as the Chairman of the Veterans and Seniors Committee.

During my time in the Legislature, I was most proud to sponsor the “Housing our Homeless Heroes” legislative initiative to ensure that no one who has gone off to war to protect the ground we stand on comes home to sleep on it. I was also proud to pass the Protect Our Fallen Heroes Act to protect military funerals and ensure funding for the Joseph P. Dwyer Peer to Peer Veterans program to address the absolutely unacceptable crisis of veterans’ suicide.

It has been the greatest honor of my life to work with and for the brave men and women who protect our great nation and their families, and I continue to serve veterans as a member of the New York State Assembly

Committee on Veteran’s Affairs, passing legislation to protect veterans from predatory lenders, providing employment opportunities and increasing access to vital information.

As Assemblyman, I am proud to have provided funding for the Greenlawn American Legion Post #1244 Boys’ and Girls’ State Program, which provides a unique opportunity to learn about our government, promotes civic awareness and participation in our communities to our outstanding young future leaders.

**What prompted you to want to work on veterans issues ?**

Suffolk County is home to the largest veterans population in New York State, and it is incumbent upon all of us to not just wave the flag and lay wreaths on Memorial Day and Veterans Day, but to take meaningful action to ensure that all of those who served have the opportunity to pursue an education, buy a home, receive needed health care and mental health counseling and receive the recognition they have earned.

Until no veteran is homeless, battling PTSD alone, or struggling to adjust to civilian life, I will remain steadfastly committed to work to address these needs.

**What are your goals as an Assemblyman?**

My goals as your strong voice in Albany are to protect our safety, grow jobs and opportunity, ensure that all of our precious children receive a world-class education and the opportunity to reach their highest potential, protect our precious environment and sole source aquifer now and for generations to come and preserve the suburban quality of life we have all worked so hard to achieve and which we all cherish.

*By Mary Flatley*

# SailAhead: Healing Wounded Veterans through Sailing

In its ongoing mission to empower veterans through the therapeutic embrace of the open water, SailAhead celebrated a series of remarkable events this year. These gatherings not only commemorated the organization's impactful work but also expanded their reach to touch more lives than ever before.

## 7th Annual Event at Centerport Yacht Club: A Resounding Success

SailAhead's flagship event, the 7th Annual Gathering at the Centerport Yacht Club, was an awe-inspiring testament to the organization's dedication. Nearly 40 boats, manned by passionate volunteers, came together to take 140 veterans and guests on a memorable journey through the waves. The event showcased the healing power of sailing and the sense of community it fosters.

## Expanding Horizons: Buffalo Harbor Sailing and Sea Cliff Yacht Club

This year, SailAhead proudly introduced two new events to its calendar, broadening its impact across the country. Buffalo Harbor Sailing welcomed 40 veterans and their guests aboard nine boats, providing an opportunity for veterans to experience the therapeutic benefits of sailing in a new region.



Weekly Sailing on the Classics

At the Sea Cliff Yacht Club, seven boats set sail with 30 veterans, exemplifying how SailAhead's mission knows no bounds. These gatherings offered veterans a unique platform to connect with nature and one another, fostering a sense of healing and camaraderie.

## Remembering LCpl Michael Blanco: The 5th Annual Tribute at Babylon Yacht Club

Of all the extraordinary events, one stands out as a beacon of remembrance and resilience: the 5th Annual Tribute to LCpl Michael Blanco at the Babylon Yacht Club. This event, which has become a cherished tradition, pays tribute to the memory of USMC LCpl Michael Blanco, who tragically lost his life to suicide just



Sailors and veterans including American Legion Riders at the 5th Michael Blanco Memorial Sail

before his 19th birthday. Eight boats, crewed by dedicated Babylon Yacht Club members, took 30 veterans and guests on a poignant journey, honoring Michael's legacy and the broader mission to support veterans battling mental health issues.



Setting Sail in Buffalo. One of nine participating sailboats.



One of the eight participating sailboats from the Babylon Yacht Club

## American Legion Riders



June was a rough month for the Legion Riders, with the passing of our own P.T. Tom Imerti

P.T. Tom's brother John drove up from the Carolina's on June 24th for the funeral for Tom. The funeral was held at St. Patrick's Church in Glen Cove.

The priest conducting the service had also been in the military, and that made it much more special, ending the service with the playing of taps. P.T. Tom will be missed by all. We were able to donate P.T. Tom's famous car with all the signatures from the missions we've been on, the car will be sitting on the lawn of the American Legion Post in Port Jefferson.

Also in June, our Riders were asked to attend a very special wedding at the Northport V.A.

One of our veterans at the V.A. returned home injured and is now in critical condition. Well, what made this day so very special was he did not know he was getting married!!!! His girlfriend, who has been by his side for many years since his return, planned this day and the wedding with the assistance of the Northport V.A.,

From the moment his wife-to-be was escorted down the road of the V.A, through the arches set up by the fire dept, until we saw him being brought out by his caregivers at the V.A. every moment was so very special. Just an amazing day for one of our hero's.

Now, summer has officially ended. Not that I want it to, but you can feel it in the air. The Riders are not looking forward to putting on long sleeve shirts and heavy jackets. On Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> our very own George Barbaro took part in an annual event with 22PAC. This is an organization that brings awareness to the 22 + veterans we lose every day to suicide.

On this day, George, along with other veterans in 15 kayaks made the trip from Bridgeport Connecticut to Port Jefferson. Yes, you heard that right! With the use of his pedals and paddles he traveled 22 miles across Long

Island Sound. Everyone knows if it was me, I would have been on the ferry going across but it was George. George has done this at least 2 times already and shows no signs of slowing down. At approximately 5:30pm, George - along with all the other kayakers hit the shore



of Port Jefferson to be greeted by the American Legion Riders of Post 1244 along with about 100 other people supporting this very important cause. We enjoyed a very nice BBQ with all these incredible people. We are giving George about a week to recover from this event, LOL.

Another event worth mentioning was the **Veterans Resource and Stand Down** at the H.

Lee Dennison Building. The weather was hot and the lines were long, for many of our veterans in need. Look at the picture and see if you spot any familiar faces , like



where's Waldo but this guy is wearing a black vest and a F.D baseball cap. It was a long day but a good one, we assisted many of our needy Vets pack up and find their way out the door. Did you find Waldo yet.?

**Bruce Blanco, Director  
American Legion Riders  
Greenlawn Chapter 1244**



## This and That



### Greenlawn Bugle Ideas Welcome

Do you have an idea for  
our newsletter?  
Please contact Bob  
Santo at  
post1244@verizon.net  
or 516-458-7881

To subscribe to our weekly email "Veterans  
News" Contact Bob at the email above.



### July 5 – August 1

Huntington Public Library - Huntington Station Branch  
1335 New York Avenue, Huntington Station

### August 1 – September 1

Huntington Public Library - Main  
338 Main Street, Huntington

### September 1 – October 2

Harborfields Public Library  
31 Broadway, Greenlawn

### October 2 – November 1

Elwood Public Library  
1929 Jericho Turnpike, Elwood

### November 1 – December 1

Commack Public Library  
18 Hauppauge Road, Commack

### December 1 – January 2

Cold Spring Harbor Library  
95 Harbor Road, Cold Spring Harbor

- Any flags dropped off at the libraries when the Flag Drop Box is not present will be sent to the South Huntington Public Library for Collection.
- The Northport American Legion Post 694 also has a drop box year round at 7 Woodside Avenue, Northport.

Information provided by the  
Northport-East Northport Public Library

All Libraries in the Town of Huntington Will Accept Flags

## Book Drive for Northport VA Medical Center



We are looking for donations of appropriate books to fill the bookshelves in the waiting rooms at the Northport VA Medical Center.

Hardback books or paperbacks in good condition are preferred. No magazines.

We can also use puzzles/board games and DVD's.

Contact Sean Delle 631-208-7004.

Members please bring your books to our next monthly meeting, or call Sean to arrange a pickup if you cannot attend.



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## Vice Commander's Message on Membership



Greetings Post 1244:

I would like to use this article to explain the difference between calendar year and fiscal year.

Calendar year goes from January 1st to December 31st of any given year. A fiscal year starts from a

specific month and runs for one year. Which brings me to membership.

The American Legion fiscal year is from July 1st to

June 30. That means we are now collecting membership dues for 2024.

To all members who have already paid their dues I say "Thank You - Well Done."

However, we do have a small group of members who have not yet paid their dues.

I urge you to please take the time to go online or send us a check for your membership.

*Carlo Giordano*

1st Vice Commander

631-487-4776

CGiordano9@optonline.net

## Renewing Your Membership Online

Members can go to [www.legion.org/renew](http://www.legion.org/renew) and click "Renew Now" to safely and conveniently pay their dues. Once a member enters the information requested, he or she can set the account for automatic annual renewal, as well as select the option to receive email renewal notices instead of notices through the mail. If the membership is current, he or she may still choose to sign up for automatic annual renewal and/or to receive renewal notices by email only.

Automatic renewal can also be set up by calling the toll-free American Legion customer service line at (800) 433-3318.

Of course, you may still renew by sending a check for \$50 to:

Carlo Giordano, 1st Vice Commander

202 East 23rd St.

Huntington Station, NY 11746

## Welcome New Members of Post 1244

Eugene Leavy

Scott McCord

Renato Muzzi

Joseph Saggio



# Operation Enduring Care Remember our Veterans

## Drive with Supplies Benefit Car Show



Hosted by the Centurion Cruisers Car Club  
and American Legion Post 1244 Greenlawn

DATE **Sunday, November 12, 2023.** rain or shine

TIME **Starting at 9am until 2pm**

WHERE **Walt Whitman High School**

**301 West Hills Road Huntington Station, New York 111746**

**\$20 donation per vehicle**

**Superintendent's Choice Award - Principal's Choice Award- Veteran's Choice Awards**

**We're collecting donations to benefit in-patients and Community Living Centers at the Northport V.A. Hospital, United Beacon House shelter and other transition and rehabilitation programs. ITEMS NEEDED:**

Men's & women's personal hygiene products including shaving cream, razors, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs, brushes, hand & body lotion, soap, nail care, etc...

Bedding and bath items including socks, gloves, slippers, knit caps, scarves, t-shirts and undershirts, new bath towels & washcloths, new twin & full size bedding, etc...

Cash and gift card donations are greatly appreciated too!

Breakfast and lunch available at location by:



**Operation Enduring Care** tote bags & t-shirts for sale

For more info contact: **Hank 516-650-9095** or **Charlie 917-337-2234**

## 8th Annual Holiday Party Party

**Please join us for our 8th Annual Holiday Party on December 14, 2023, from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM at Huntington American Legion Post 360.**

**This year, we are celebrating the holiday season with a festive evening of food, drinks, music, and dancing. We will have a cocktail hour with hors d'oeuvres, and open bar. Food will be from Mario's restaurant.**

**We will also have a Chinese raffle and 50/50 to add to the fun. We hope you will join us to celebrate the holidays with your fellow veterans and friends.**

**Please RSVP by November 25**

**RSVP and payment of \$40 per person to:**

**American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244**

**PO Box 238**

**Greenlawn, NY 11740**

**Questions? Email [Post1244@verizon.net](mailto:Post1244@verizon.net)**

**We look forward to seeing you there!**

## THE GREENLAWN BUGLE

*The Greenlawn Bugle: Editor, Publisher Bob Santo*

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**When you see a sponsor, please be sure to let them know how much we appreciate their support!**



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*Thank you to our  
Veterans  
and their families for  
serving our country.*



**Councilman Eugene Cook**  
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Stephanie Bontempi**  
18<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



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*Thank you for your service!*

Stephanie.Bontempi@suffolkcountyny.gov



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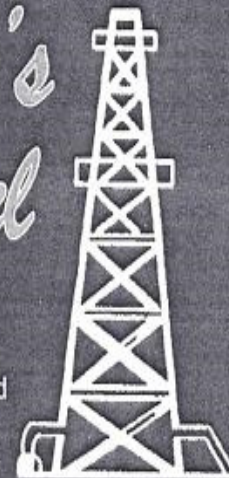
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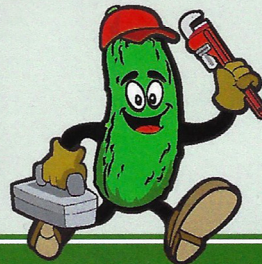
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