



# The Greenlawn Bugle

American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244

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## Pius V Student Advances to NY State Oratorical Contest

Elmont Memorial Library was the scene of the Zone 2 contest on February 1st between the 10th and 2nd District finalists in the American Legion High School Oratorical Contest. Students representing Suffolk, Nassau, Queens, Brooklyn and Staten Island competed for a chance to participate in the New York State and possibly the national finals.

**Sarah Bogen from Pius V School, Melville, sponsored by Greenlawn Post 1244 was the first place winner.** Second Place - Allana McAuliffe from Bishop Kearney High School, Brooklyn, sponsored by Flatlands Post 391. Third Place - Giovahni Verdieu from Midwood High School, Brooklyn, sponsored by Bayside Post 1157. Fourth Place went to Jaclyn Schess from Syosset High School, sponsored by Eugene S. Smith Post 175.

Special mention is due to **Claire Pohalski**, also from Pius V, who placed 2nd in the Suffolk County Contest and 3rd in the 10th District Contest.

The purpose of The American Legion High School Oratorical Scholarship Program – “A Constitutional Speech Contest” is to develop knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States on the part of High School students. Other objectives of the contest include the development of leadership, the ability to think and speak clearly and intelligently, the preparation for acceptance of the duties and responsibilities, the rights and privileges of American citizenship.

Sarah will represent her school and our Post at the New York State Legion Contest on March 8th in Albany, NY.

The Oratorical Contest presents



L-R: Claire Pohalski, Cmdr. Santo and Sarah Bogen at the Suffolk County Contest January 11th. Claire and Sarah, both from Pius V School placed among the top contestants in the County, District and Zone Contests

participants with an academic speaking challenge that teaches important leadership qualities as well as the history of the Constitution of The United States.

Young orators earn some of the most generous college scholarships available to high school students. Over \$138,000 in scholarships can be awarded each year. The overall national contest winner gets an \$18,000 scholarship. Second place takes home \$16,000, and third gets \$14,000. Each department (state) winner who is certified into and participates in the national contest's first round receives a \$1,500 scholarship. Those who advance past the first round receive an additional \$1,500 scholarship. The American Legion's National Organization awards the scholarships, which can be used at any college or university in the United States.

Congratulations to all the students who participated. They are all winners!

**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**

## Heroes Walk Among Us

Every day, in every way, we are mingling with our brothers and sisters. They are our neighbors, fellow workers, friends and people we interact with in a constant, and hopefully, a rewarding way. Usually we don't know much about them, we assume we do, but we really don't. They are familiar and basically likeable, and that is good enough for us. Man is a social animal and is comfortable with this relationship, as it fits nicely with our communal psyche. We rarely think about if they are predators, thieves, deviates, or heroes, whether they are funny, or morose, good or, evil. Life would be tedious if we spent our time in this manner. We subconsciously choose not to know. The question goes begging, would our life be richer if we did? Sometimes yes, sometimes no.

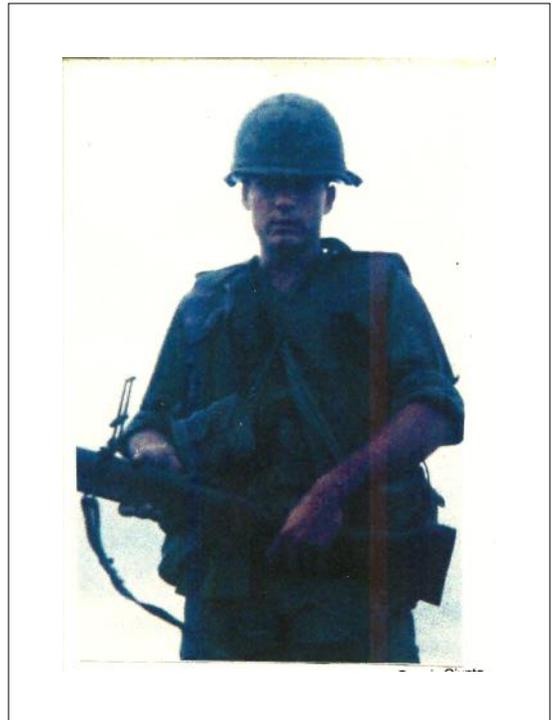
Sun Tzu, the wise and ancient Chinese warrior/philosopher said something that was popularized by the "Godfather" movie. Keep your friends close, and your enemies closer. I would take issue with that philosophy, if we were warriors and criminals a sound approach, however, most of us are just ordinary folk. Therefore, I would submit, every now and then, it is a rewarding endeavor to know more about our casual acquaintances. Through the years I have found, that there are many extraordinary people around me. People that I take in a causal manner, people which one takes for granted. Throughout my life I have learned to look for clues that may indicate some of these exceptional people, looking for these clues has become second nature to me.

I feel compelled to share these observations with you at this moment in time. The last several years of our American Legion meetings, one legionnaire has consistently revealed very positive clues to his worth as a human being. A key to understanding a person, is to know their history, the complexity involved in dealing with the many facets of an individual's personality can lead one astray. Their history will tell you what they have done, while their personality will show you what they want you to see. At times they will run parallel, however, most times, there will be a divergence.

The legionnaire that I am referring to is Dennis Giunta. He has that exceptional quality, wherein the personality and the actions, for the most part run parallel. A very refreshing and pleasant condition. Though I choose this person, it does not mean that there are not other outstanding legionnaires in our Post, it just means that he has been the most obvious and therefore the most easily identified.

Dennis was born in Brooklyn, N.Y. in 1946, the son

of a career Navy Chief Petty Officer. His father was the inspiration for him to serve our Country in the Military. was R.A. that means Regular Army, which means that he volunteered. Shortly thereafter he was sent to Vietnam. We are already seeing the seeds of the hero starting to bud. During his stay in Vietnam, he saw combat as a door gunner for a Medevac helicopter. A communications specialist, he was wounded by shrapnel from mortar fire. He did not document the incident at the time, and he paid for it later. The Army did not recognize the wound without the documentation, a



common occurrence in times of combat. During this legionnaire's time in Viet Nam he was constantly exposed to Agent Orange, however he was regularly told not to worry about it, as it was completely harmless to humans. At this time he was called back from a mission in the Delta that he was on, and told that his father was very ill. The Red Cross arranged for him to go home, but, unfortunately, his Dad died before he arrived home.

He was granted a hardship discharge for the few remaining months of his service. He immediately got a job to support his mother and two younger brothers. Everywhere he turned, there was adversity confronting him. There would be no respite for him, yet he strove on undaunted and resolved, he wasted no pity on himself.

*(Continued on page 7)*

**Girls State Candidates Chosen**

Our first foray into Girl’s State went very well. Dr. Rory Manning, Principal of Harborfields High School, provided us with a list of six exceptional candidates to interview. Donna Boyle and I conducted the interviews in December, and made the difficult decision to arrive at one Delegate and one Alternate for this year’s program. Both of the young ladies have since completed and submitted all the required paperwork.

So now all that remains is the orientation luncheon at the beginning of June, and the program itself which begins on Monday, June 30<sup>th</sup>.

We are still in the process of choosing the Delegates from Harborfields High School for Boy’s State, with Ed O’Shea and myself having conducted the interviews during the week of February 24<sup>th</sup>. As above, the seven candidates provided by Dr. Manning were all well qualified. In a further effort to raise funds to allow us to send additional Delegates, the Greenlawn Centerport Historical Association was kind enough to provide us with a booth at their annual Antiques Fair, which was just held in Harborfields High School.

We also interviewed and accepted a candidate from Half Hollow Hills East High School. He expressed an interest in attending the U.S. Naval Academy, and wants



L-R: Charlie Armstrong, Katherine Ryan (candidate), Lauren Majid (alternate), Donna, Boyle and Principal Dr. Rory Manning.

to be a career military officer.

We recently met with the Guidance Department of Walt Whitman High School, which could lead to the possibility of additional candidates from this school, too, for this year’s program. More and more people are becoming aware of this unique educational program and its value, and it is our goal to accommodate as many qualified students as we can.

*Charlie Armstrong*

**USS Intrepid Bus Trip Update**

Legionnaires, since many of our members do not have email or have chosen to keep those addresses to themselves, you may not be aware of our upcoming trip to the Intrepid on Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. The trip will begin at the Dunkin Donuts parking lot on Pulaski Rd and Broadway. Assembly will be at 8:45 AM and the bus will leave at 9AM Sharp.

This will be a School Bus, seating 44 adults, rather than a Motor Coach, which would be too expensive. We will arrive at the Intrepid about 10 AM and will have until 2:45 PM to peruse the ship, the store and have lunch at the McDonalds on site.

At 2:45 we will assemble and board the bus for our return trip which leaves at 3 PM Sharp. The trip will cost \$50 per person, payable beforehand, by check payable to American Legion Post 1244 and sent to



Dennis Madden at 5 Nagle Lane, Commack, 11725. Members first, but anyone is welcome to join us. Please contact Dennis by email at [damm9245@optonline.net](mailto:damm9245@optonline.net) to express your intention or call him at 516-523-9391. This trip is a “GO” so firm up your plan to attend and let us know how many in your party. Thanks.

### Post Plans Annual Memorial Day Cookout

For the benefit of some of our “senior” members without email capabilities and for all of our newer members, our Annual Memorial Day Parade and Post BBQ will be taking place on Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014. For the parade, we assemble at W. Maple Ave and Broadway in Greenlawn, at 8:30 AM. For those who cannot march, ( about a mile on level ground ), we will have vehicles to ride in, so please come and join us.

At 2 PM, we will meet in the rear yard at the Post, 24 Boulevard Ave, Greenlawn, for our Post BBQ. Everything is supplied by the Post with the exception of lawn chairs, so bring your own. It is essential that you let us know how many will be in your party (this is a FAMILY BBQ) so we may adequately prepare. Naturally, there is plenty of time at this point, but begin making your plans now for this fun filled day of camaraderie. This event is what makes our Post one of the best on the island. We are a Legion family.

When you know your headcount, please communicate



with Dennis Madden at [dam9245@optonline.net](mailto:dam9245@optonline.net), or at his home at: 631-499-3569. We'd like to know by mid May so we have time to do our shopping and staging of supplies for the event. Don't be shy! You're a MEMBER, so come out and enjoy with us and let your family meet our family. See you there !

### *Jazz Cabaret Night* *A Salute to Our Veterans*

The Harborfields Central School District has invited all veterans to the Annual Jazz Cabaret Knight on Thursday, March 20, 2014. The students in Harborfields High School's Leadership Class will serve a special dinner at 6:00 pm in the Oldfield Middle School auditorium.



At 7:00 pm, music students will perform to give our thanks to those who have served our great nation. Members of our families are invited to attend.

This is wonderful evening of entertainment by some of the best young people you will ever meet! We hope to see dozens of Post 1244 hats in the audience that night.

Please contact Lorri O'Malley at 631-754-5320 Ext 319 for your complimentary tickets. Don't miss this event!!

**Congratulations !**  
**Past Commander Roland Algerio is celebrating**  
**60 Consecutive years as a member of**  
**American Legion Post 1244 !!**

# American Legion Riders Post 1244



American Legion Riders (ALR), representing American Legion Post 1244 Greenlawn, NY, completed 119 Missions in 2013. We are often asked, “Why ride a motorcycle”? Our response has many versions, but the best I can personally relate to, is ‘what’ my son, Damon Argento, had tattooed on his arm: **“Because I Can”!** It’s ‘because we can’ that the ALR ride with **strength and honor**.

Every rider knows and has experienced that force, a silent voice calling from afar, which compels us to “saddle-up” for our next journey to serve. Most people don’t ride motorcycles; therefore, we may be considered an elite branch of ‘veteran service volunteers’, placing ourselves in harm’s way at every mission. This unselfish drive finds us riding for a variety of reasons ranging from: passion, desire to serve, respect and honor for veterans, love of God and Country, keeping personal memories alive for a close or cherished relation, feeling the exhilarating spirit of freedom, and a living memorial to display admiration and recognition for those who have served, currently serving and for those who will serve.

One of the most diverse experiences about riding is that nothing feels quite like riding a motorcycle. The adventure of being in harmony with a two-wheeled 675+ pound machine is nature’s pure oxygen stimulation, and perhaps the willingness to be exposed to associated hazards involved innocently intensifies mission satisfaction. “You’re completely in contact with it all. You’re in the scene, not just watching it anymore, and the sense of presence is overwhelming.” (Robert Pirsig, Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance).

ALR share a bond, a brotherhood of unwavering tradition, that sets us apart from the rest of the motoring world, in that we feel strongly associated to our community, and that consciousness provides us with a distinctive commonality in the riding world. Riders know to recognize another rider as he or she passes by pointing a finger or a wave of the hand. Doesn’t matter when we are traveling solo or in a large group, riding a motorcycle is an outlet which permits us to maintain our individual personality while representing the American Legion. We are all different, but the same.

What better way to write mental memories than on a motorcycle? The sense of freedom feels absolute on two wheels rather than four wheels. Remember, riding doesn’t transport you to a destination, it is the

destination. There is an established unspoken mental and emotional, connection with riders, and an overwhelming sense of trust while riding staggered or abreast. We are completely in active contact with our physical motor skills, environment, and machine.

Do you wish to feel the prestige of being in an internationally recognized organization, and you are no longer able to ride because of disabilities? Well in the spirit of ALR Brotherhood, disabled Brothers and Sisters are welcomed to join, be part of our outstanding organization, and participate without riding. We invite you to check out the ALR Brotherhood for yourself, and join in our celebrations.

If you liked what you have read, are interested in joining us, please contact us. By the way, we do not discriminate because of what you ride, though we do love Harley’s, we don’t care about what you ride.

Ask any biker why a dog puts their head out the car window! The answer is in the wind; the answer my friends - it’s in the wind!

## **ALR 2013 Mission Statistics:**

- ◆ **119: Total 2013 Missions**
- ◆ **Increase Post 1244 ALR Membership: up 21%**
- ◆ **18,712 miles ridden in support of 119 separate events**
- ◆ **2,380 Community Service Hours**
- ◆ **35 Funerals, Escorts, Flag-lines**
- ◆ **27 Community Events: M.I.A.P.(Missing in America Project); H.O.T.H; (Help On The Homefront) A.B.A.T.E. (American Bikers Aimed Toward Education); Local Parades; Local Turkey Runs;**
- ◆ **05 Deployments**
- ◆ **10 Welcome homes; send offs; honor flights.**

**For further membership information contact ALR today:  
516 383-1135; E-mail: [ALRpost1244@gmail.com](mailto:ALRpost1244@gmail.com)**

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



## Greenlawn Auxiliary Unit 1244

Snow, snow everywhere but we can dream of Spring which will arrive none too soon.

Because of the inclement weather, many meetings have been cancelled, thus making it a quiet winter for getting programs started.

Our Auxiliary sends out thoughts and prayers to the families of deceased Post members Wilton Reeves and John Watson as well as to our Auxiliary member Dorothy Hyne on the loss of her husband Walter Hyne.

Our Auxiliary will once again run a 50/50 Raffle as our yearly fundraiser. Last year, with the support of our members and the support of the Post, it was a huge success. This year, we will have lots of raffle tickets for Memorial Day at the Annual Picnic, no running out of tickets this year. The winning ticket will be pulled on May 26, 2014 at the Picnic and will receive half of the proceeds and as an added bonus 6 raffle baskets will be given out to lucky winners. We appreciate all the support you can give us with this endeavor. The raffle monies received is used for our Veteran donations and community programs.

At our March meeting, the Auxiliary nominations of Officers for the years 2014/2015 will be held. Our Officers are a dedicated group of ladies who never cease to amaze me with their willingness to serve and make our Auxiliary a proud part of Post 1244. If any of our mem-

bers have not served as an Officer but may be interested, please attend our March meeting on March 12, 2014 or call me at 631-423-1176.

Once again, for Easter we will be making our annual donations to the Women's Wellness Center at the Northport VA Hospital, the United Veterans Beacon House and we will donate Supermarket gift cards to Boots on the Ground NY. Food Pantry which helps feed Veterans. Thanks to a dear friend's generosity, I will also deliver 6 crocheted lap robes to the Women's Wellness Center at the Northport VA for their patients next week.

As always we are looking for new members, if you know anyone who might be interested in joining Greenlawn Auxiliary 1244, please call me at 631-423-1176. I would be happy to explain the purpose of our Auxiliary and how we as an Auxiliary help our Veterans and men and women of the Armed Forces.

Thanks to our Auxiliary member Karen Argay, seven boxes of books were given to Legion member Donna Boyle for Operation Paperback. Donna heads up this Program for Post 1244 with such diligence.

On behalf of my Officers and members we want to wish everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day, Happy Passover and a Blessed Easter to all.

*Fran Hubbs, President*



## Community Spotlight:

### WELCOME TO RSVP SUFFOLK: 42 YEARS OF SERVICE!



RSVP's mission is to provide diverse volunteer opportunities for people 55 and older who wish to remain active and make a difference in their communities.

Whatever your interests or skills, RSVP can find you a community service program that will make you feel more essential and help make a difference in someone's life. Over 900 RSVP Volunteers "gave" 118,000 hours of service to a wide variety of NOT-FOR-PROFITS in 2013 throughout Suffolk County. We are delighted to be partnering with Greenlawn Post 1244 in serving our community needs.

RSVP offers many free programs that older adults may benefit by: Telephone Reassurance (a daily phone call to elderly homebound adults by another senior to check on their well-being and

chat). The Community Computer Connections takes donated computers, refurbishes them under a Microsoft Refurbishing license and returns them at no charge to low-income families and individuals who can't afford to purchase this technology. Living Healthy with Better Choices is a licensed 6 week workshop series that assists older adults with managing their chronic conditions.

RSVP also offers a Diabetes Self-Management Program workshop series and the RSVP Speakers Bureau is available to give power point presentations on Seniors Scams, De-Cluttering Your Life, Medication Management and Medicare Social Security Primer.

For further information on any of these programs or to volunteer please call 631-979-9490 or visit our website: [www.rsvpsuffolk.org](http://www.rsvpsuffolk.org)

### Heroes Walk Among Us

*(Continued from page 2)*

His greatest challenges were yet to come. He was part of the great package sent to Cape Canaveral with the Lunar Module program, for the Apollo 12 mission to the Moon. There is the old adage, "That which goes around, comes around." It was time for our him to pay the piper, for all that harmless exposure to Agent Orange. Our unwary warrior developed Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, ischemic Heart Disease, Chronic B- Cell Leukemia, Diabetes Mellitus Type 2 and Peripheral Neuropathy. What a kick in the head from something that is "harmless" to humans. Some people when confronted with these obstacles to a healthy life, would just sit down and give up, others would strike out in rage once the betrayal was realized. However, our man chose to assert himself to gain justice and help for him and his exposed comrades.

He also made a commitment to not allow this cruel twist of life make him a dysfunctional and bitter member of society. Surely a hard bone to chew, however, he did it, somehow calling on those genes that were bequeathed to him from ancestors who are now lost in the mist of time. His silent and steady courage with a calm resolve, helped him to endure and continue on. No one truly knows the pain, sickness, and worry about his obligations. There are countless words that I could share about this man for, in the end, that is all that he is. Yet that is what makes him a true hero. Shakespeare observed in King Lear" As flies to wanton boys, are we to the gods. They kill us for their sport."

How truly awesome, then, is this legionnaire's heart. Beside serving his country in time of war, where he was contaminated with Agent Orange, wounded with shrapnel, and missed his beloved father's death, he has since fought the veterans cause concerning Agent Orange. As a Legionnaire he started the Flag Retirement initiative, and launched our American Legion Riders chapter, which has become an outstanding part of our Post. This rider does not hesitate for missions to honor our veteran brothers and sisters. He is there at our Post's events, riding his motorcycle, come rain, or shine. He regularly volunteers for the Jacobs Light packing. He has attracted the young and old to the American Legion Riders. He volunteers for Vets in the Classroom, touching the hearts and minds of our youth. He doesn't think he is a hero, nor a patriot, nor a guiding light, but he is this and more.

Lastly, I would like to thank him for his gift of inspiration concerning "The Missing In America Project," For the rest of my life I shall be indebted to him for that inspiring moment. There are, heroes that walk among us. At our next meeting look at the legionnaire beside you, and let your heart linger awhile and you may see another Dennis Giunta beside you.

*John Caldarelli*

### Post Donates "Sweats For Vets" at Northport VAMC

Our annual donation of 40 sweat suits was made at VA Voluntary Services at the Northport VAMC in December. Commander Bob Santo and 2nd Vice Commander Dennis Giunta did the shopping this year, scouring the shelves at Target and Walmart stores for the best prices and quality for our veteran patients at the VA.

We packed up the suits, tops and bottoms matched by size and coordinating colors so that the staff at VAVS will have no trouble providing them to patients who need a comfortable outfit to relax in, and perhaps to go home for a visit with family.

Jennifer Pohl of VA Voluntary Services accepted the shipment and thanked the Post for providing these comfort items for our fellow Veterans at the VA.



L-R Dennis Giunta, Bob Santo and Jennifer Pohl



## Missing In America Project Activity Reports

MIAP and Greenlawn Post 1244 regularly conduct honors services for veterans who have died with no known next of kin. We work with the NYC Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs and Dignity Memorial Funeral Homes to be sure that all veterans receive the honors to which their service entitles them.

Post Burial Report  
James M. Traynor  
December, 23 2013  
Calverton National Cemetery

As I drove out to Calverton National Cemetery, I was concerned about the amount of attendance at this inurnment. The weather, was cold and biting, the only thing moving were the huge White Tail Hawks circling above me, as I drove on the Long Island Expressway. Some of the American Legion escorts were sick and I felt sympathy for them, but they came regardless. I was particularly proud as they came from Post 1244, which is my Post.

The starkness of the woods bordering the LIE appeared as sentinels giving Nature's flag line to our honored Veteran. Arriving at the cemetery we went through the routing ritual, and continued on to the burial Pavilion.

The service setup was accomplished with the regular efficiency that is a hallmark of Calverton. Charles

Spencer and Robert Surges of Dignity Memorial Funeral Homes spoke, as did Post 1244 MIAP Chaplain Allen Shaw. I gave the eulogy and our beloved poem " Go Gently."

Our charge, Veteran James Traynor was born in the village of Daisley, Scotland, and was a member of the F. Pugliese, AMVETS Post 48, and American Legion Ronkonkoma Post #155. Veteran Traynor lived alone in Lake Ronkonkoma, Long Island. He was dearly beloved by his Post's members, and will always be remembered.

The need for the services of MIAP came from a request of AMVETS Post 48 member George Stondell. MIAP and Post1244 quickly responded to their needs. MIAP will always be their for our Veterans, as will Post 1244. Dignity Memorial has always been there for our Veterans; testimony to that fact was their immediate response when called upon for help and support. Neither MIAP, or Dignity customarily handle our departed veterans in this manner, however, the veterans always come first, regardless the reason, the rhyme, and that's the way it should be.

Post Burial Report  
George Paul Csanadi  
January, 29th 2014  
Calverton National Cemetery

The Polar Vortex had been hitting the North East with a vindictive slap every few days, with snow and bitter winds. Winter was being particularly vicious, arranging cold mean and windy days, for us northeast folk. It did not treat the rest of the Nation with any kindness either. This was the day for our abandon Veteran George Csanadi interment.

George was 53 years of age, was a marine, and lived in the Bronx. More than this information is lost in the mist of time, if there are any kin, they may not know, or chose not to come forward. However, Missing in

America is not shy, nor reluctant, but proud of our new family member.

It was so cold the military honor guard did not show up. Undaunted, Post 1244 immediately stepped forward, MIAP's staunchest allies in New York State in the personification of Commander Bob Santo, and Judge Advocate Tom Freeman who took the Honor Guard positions. They folded our Flag accompanied by Taps. Our charge missed nothing due him in his last presence on this earth.

Our group of veterans cold and shivering, still stood tall to render their final salute, our American Legion Rider flag line maintained their positions until everyone left the pavilion. We finally all left, worn and haggard from the biting cold and relentless wind, but with warm hearts and high spirits, that we had kept the commitment due Veteran George Paul Csanadi.



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## “You Earned It”

### VA TO ISSUE NEW ID CARDS

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is implementing a newly redesigned, more secure Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC) to replace the Veteran Identification Card (VIC), which was issued in 2004.

In 2010, VA initiated a redesign effort to remove the SSN from the barcode and magnetic stripe on the VIC to improve the protection of Veteran’s private information in conformance with the Social Security number reduction and security mandates throughout the Federal Government. VA is preparing to implement a new Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC).

The new cards are distinguished by additional security features, which better protect the Veteran’s personal information and have a different look and feel. In addition to being more secure, the card offers enhanced features -- transforming it into a Health Identification Card. Similar to a typical health insurance card, the VHIC displays the Veteran’s Member ID, a new unique identifier, as well as a Plan ID, reflecting the Veteran’s enrollment in VA health care.

As part of a phased rollout, in February 2014, the card will be offered to newly enrolled and other Veterans who have not been issued a VIC. Then, in early April, VA will begin a three month effort to automatically issue the more secure VHIC to each VIC cardholder. VA recommends Veterans safeguard their VIC as they would a credit card, and cut up or shred the card once it is replaced.

While a VHIC is not required to receive VA health care, VA wants all enrolled Veterans to have a card that protects their personal information.



#### New Card Features:

- **Secure** – Redesigned card contains new identifiers – a Member ID and Card Number eliminate the need for the Veteran’s SSN to be on the card
- **Personalized** -- Displays emblem of Veteran’s branch of service, and identifies if the Veteran was disabled from a service-connected condition, is a former POW or recipient of a Purple Heart or Medal of Honor
- **Accessible** – Braille “VA” helps visually impaired Veterans to recognize and use the card
- **Interoperable** - Can be used to look up Veteran’s health records at VA and Department of Defense health care facilities when arrangements are in place.
- **Anti-Counterfeiting** – Microtext helps prevent card reproductions
- **Compliant** -- Meets national standard for health identification cards
- **Informative** – Displays VA phone numbers and emergency care instructions

#### Facts:

- Enrolled Veterans use the VHIC within VA health care facilities as proof of identity and to facilitate check-in to appointments.
- The Plan ID displayed on the VHIC is a unique number issued to VA by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and identifies the health plan offered to enrolled Veterans. Starting in 2016, this number will be used by doctors and hospitals to assist them when they send in health related claims for payment to VA.
- Veterans can continue to use their VIC until their VHIC is received. VA health care applications have been enhanced to read both the new VHIC as well as the old card. VA communications to Veterans will advise them that upon receipt of the VHIC, to destroy their VIC either by cutting up the card or by shredding it.

- To receive the VHIC, the Veteran must show appropriate identification document(s) and be enrolled in the VA health care system.
- Starting February 21, 2014, VA will process VHIC requests for new enrollees and other enrolled Veterans who do not have a VIC.
- Production of the replacement VHICs will begin in early April 2014 and will be automatically mailed to Veterans who have been issued a VIC. All cards are expected to be replaced within three months. Enrolled Veterans can get more information by calling 1 -877-222-VETS (8387), by visiting their VA medical facility Enrollment Coordinator or online at:

[www.va.gov/healthbenefits/vhic](http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/vhic)

# The Veterans Creed

I am a United States military veteran.

I mastered the weapons, tools, and techniques of war and security and I make no apology for this proficiency.

I became a leader by my willingness to both serve and subordinate myself -- to my superiors, the mission, and the needs of my team.

Foremost among first responders, I earned the ribbons of a volunteer, endeavorer, defender, warrior, rescuer, problem-solver, and model citizen.

I am the visible conscience of a nation with regard to the costs of war and freedom's true price.

I do not fail to support another vet who crosses my path with any need, large or small; he or she may have wounds or hardships that few others would understand.

I am part of the eternal flame of memory, of my brother and sister veterans who died in service to our country.

Honor, courage, and commitment define me to this day. I maintain my readiness, health, and fitness in order to serve again, should my community or nation call.

In all of the remaining moments of my life, I will be a steadfast guardian of American ideals, freedoms, and history.

**I am a one-percenter of the noblest order.**

**I am ... an American veteran.**



By Stephen Michaelson



## Operation Paperback

Under the direction of Service Officer 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 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.

Our service members and their families make sacrifices every day for our country. It takes so little to let them know that they are appreciated. When you donate to Operation Paperback, you will let America's military know that you appreciate their service and their sacrifices.

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. Contact Donna at [39DPIP@Gmail.com](mailto:39DPIP@Gmail.com) or call Cmdr. Bob Santo at 516-458-7881.

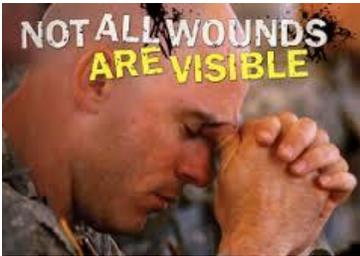


## Vice Commander's Call to Members

With the printing of this article, our winter for 2013 – 2014 is about to be history. We are a short time from our Spring agenda

and the Post has much to do in the next few months. A look at our website and calendar of events will give you a much better idea of the specifics, but let us not forget that we are primarily a VETERANS organization and we are here to help veterans.

Many of us have come in contact with our newest veterans and said not even a word of thanks for their service. No sense denying it, we all know it to be true.



We have to get beyond our own embarrassment and speak out to these guys and gals, to let them know that their sacrifices have been noticed and appreciated, especially by us who know best from whence they come, as veterans, and that a place exists where they can find comfort from their own thoughts and help to deal with and extinguish the pain they've brought home with

them.

We all have heard that these young men and women are taking their own lives at a rate never seen from past wars. In the Middle East conflicts, some 8,000 have been killed since 2001 but the suicide totals are in the 20,000 range and climbing every month. Right here in Suffolk, 12 have attempted suicide since Thanksgiving; 6 succeeded. We, as veterans, need to open up and help comfort our younger returnees to help with this national problem. If not US, then WHO? If not NOW, then WHEN?



Will you join me, please? We belong to the largest veterans organization in the world and are one of the finest Post's within that group. Reach out to anyone with a service cap or a camo backpack or a service lapel pin. You know who they are. You can tell by the haircut or the way they carry themselves.

Take a moment from YOUR busy day to engage them in some conversation and let them know who we are and what we do, and that we are here to help; not judge. They will know by your sincerity that you care and are concerned. Soooo, stand up, dear brothers and sisters and reach out to our "younger siblings". It's up to each and every one of us. We can help, and, hey, .... It's what we do !! Thanks.

*Dennis Madden*

## Welcome To Our Newest Members! Joe Bonin, John Gorney and Frank Ostroff

### A New Greenlawn Bugle Supporter

We are proud to acknowledge with this issue, the following new Supporter of The Greenlawn Bugle:

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## Commander's Corner



*Bob Santa*

**Post Home Update.** On January 28, Vice Cmdr. Dennis Madden, Sgt, at Arms Charlie Armstrong and I met with Huntington Town Supervisor Frank Petrone to discuss the future James Conte Community Center and the space in the facility that will be dedicated there for our Post Home. Mr. Phil Ingerman, Director Intergovernmental Affairs for the Town was also present.

Consultants have completed their work on determining the extent of remediation that is required and engineering firm has produced some conceptual layouts.

The big obstacle, right now, is funding for the expensive asbestos abatement that will be required as well as other restoration work that will have to take place. It is hoped that we will be able to obtain some funding from NY State for much of this work.

We will be meeting with Mr. Petrone and Mr. Ingerman in the next few weeks to see what we can do to move the process along. I will keep you all posted. This is a very important step for our post and all its members. We are one of the very few American Legion Posts on Long Island whose membership is consistently growing, and we now have one of the largest memberships in the County. Yet we have no home to call our own. There is nothing more important to our future than this project and the benefits we will be able to bring to the local community and its veterans and their families.

**Volunteers Needed.** We are approaching Poppy Season. We have over 5,000 poppies to be distributed in April and May. 100% of the funds we receive from the donations we receive will be used to fund our charitable efforts for the coming year. If you can spare a few very enjoyable hours in the bright spring sunshine engaging your fellow citizens for this worthy cause, call Vice Cmdr. Dennis Madden at 516-523-9391.



## Taps Has Sounded



**Wilton C. Reeves**  
United States Army Air Forces WW II

January 22, 2014

**John G. Watson**  
United States Army Air Forces WW II

February 16, 2014

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 Commander Bob Santo at 516-458-7881  
Our mailing address is PO Box 238, Greenlawn, NY 11740

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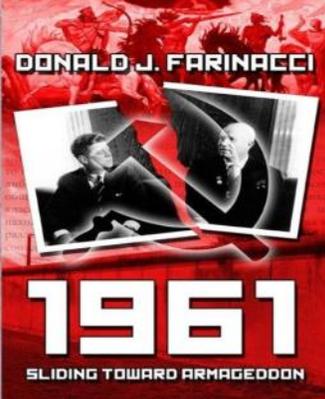
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The author, Donald J. Farinacci, is a lawyer, military history writer, Vietnam Era veteran, and Member of Greenlawn Post 1244

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