



The Greenlawn Bugle

American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244

December 2011

Volume 5 Issue 4

♦ Winner Best Paper Award American Legion New York State ♦

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Upcoming Events

Wednesday, Dec 14 8 pm Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, Jan 11, 8 pm Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, Feb 8, 8 pm Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, Mar 14, 8 pm Monthly Meeting

Saturday, March 24, 7 pm Auxiliary
Fundraiser / Dance

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★
★ See Our Award Winning ★
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★ www.Post1244.org ★
★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Our monthly meetings are on the second Wednesday of each month at 8:00 pm sharp, Knights of Columbus, 24 Boulevard Ave. Greenlawn.

Come early and get to know us! For more information call:

631-673-8704 or

e mail

Post1244@verizon.net

Post Celebrates Veterans Day

Our Post once again commemorated Veterans Day on November 11th, the day in 1918 on which the armistice ending the “War to End All Wars” was signed. The date became known as Armistice Day until June 1, 1954, when it became a day to honor American veterans of all wars. We are the only Post in the Town of Huntington to always have a ceremony on the actual date of the 11th.

It was another cool, crisp, early Fall day, at the Greenlawn Memorial Monument, with gusty winds to add to the challenges faced by our color guard. WW II Legionnaire John Johnson and Auxiliary president Fran Hubbs were given the honor of presenting wreaths at the Greenlawn Monument in honor of all our comrades who are no longer in our ranks. Al Schwartz rendered “Taps” in their memory. Rev. Dr. Dimitrios Moraitis and Rev. Father Lou Nicholas of St. Paraskevi Church provided an inspirational invocation and benediction.

After remarks by Commander Bob Santo and Vice Commander Dennis Madden, and a benediction by Fr. Moraitis, all present sang a heartfelt “God Bless America.”

Finally, in appreciation of his annual participation in our Veterans Day ceremony, Fr. Moraitis was given a certificate making him Honorary Chaplain of our Post along with a white cap with the emblem of The American Legion.

Then we were off to Applebees in Commack for a great lunch courtesy of the Applebees chain. The staff, headed by Joan Suydam could not have been more welcoming. Our group of over 40 veterans was joined at the restaurant by many other veterans taking advantage of the restaurant’s generous gesture of thanks to our nation’s veterans.

The occasion provided a great recruiting opportunity for the Post and we took full advantage of the chance to meet many other veterans.

Special thanks are due to volunteers Andrew and Evan Schild who provided a great sound system as well as the patriotic music for our ceremony.



Commander Santo Presents Certificate and cap to our Honorary Chaplain Rev. Dr. Moraitis



Wreaths being presented by L-R: John Johnson, Fran Hubbs and escorted by Vice Commander Dennis Madden

Photos by Mike Machiarella and Madelaine Santo

Happenings

Oldfield Middle School Hosts WW II Veterans



Mr. Shade, Commander Santo and Domenick Gargiulo with some of the Oldfield students.

Seventh and Eight Grade Students at Oldfield Middle school had a chance to learn history from those who helped to make history.

Legionnaires Milton Blackman, Mike Bonchonsky and Domenick Gargiulo spoke to the students of Mr. Jeffrey Shade's social studies classes on November 9th and 10th, describing their experiences in the European and Pacific Theaters of World War II. They were accompanied by Commander Bob Santo and Sgt. at Arms Charlie Armstrong.

Domenick, a highly decorated veteran of the China-Burma-India Theater talked about his tour as a flight engineer for three years aboard C-46 transports flying missions over the Himalayan Mountains, in support of the Chinese in their war with Japan. Dom was awarded the Air Medal and the Distinguished Flying Cross.



Mike Bonchonsky explains what an "armorer" is.

Mike described his experiences as an armorer for Martin Marauder B-26 medium bombers in North Africa, Italy and during the liberation of France in 1944. Mike was recently awarded the French Jubilee of Liberty Medal by the government of France for his role in the Liberation of that country at a ceremony of the Air Force Association.

Milton, a member of the famed 82nd Airborne Division, described the brutal conditions of the Battle of the Bulge during the winter of 1944-1945. This battle was the last major offensive mounted by the Nazis. Milton was wounded in action and received the Purple Heart in recognition of his sacrifice.



82nd Airborne Division Veteran Milton Blackman

The students seemed interested in all aspects of the life of a soldier in wartime: the deprivation, homesickness, cold, heat, boredom and terror experienced by those both on the front lines and rear echelon. They seemed surprised by how young these men were when they were called to defend their country.

Our veterans were impressed by the students and their questions and were touched by the many thank you cards they were given by the children after their presentation.

We hope that Oldfield Middle School invites us again next year. We have many veterans who would be glad to share their stories with the students.

Federal Benefits for Veterans

Veterans and their families can find information on important subjects in the online publication "Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors."

Information on claims, pensions, healthcare, life insurance and burial and memorial benefits are covered.

The web-based version is located at: http://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book.asp

Veterans are encouraged to contact an experienced and highly trained service officer for information on claims and other matters. Service officers know the meaning and application of the laws, rules and regulations and how they apply to individual veterans and their families. We are fortunate to have the **Suffolk County Veterans Service Agency** in nearby Hauppauge. Their team of service officers are always ready to assist you with any questions and claims.

Call the Suffolk County Veterans Service Agency **(631) 853-VETS** for more information.

Happenings

Legislator Steve Stern Honored



L-R: Tom Ronayne, VFW Post 1469 Commander Bruce Brenner, Legislator Stern, Post 1244 Commander Bob Santo, Congressman Steve Israel and Judge John J. Toomey Jr.

Local veterans took the opportunity after the Town of Huntington Annual Veterans Day Wreath Ceremony to honor Suffolk County Legislator Steve Stern for his steadfast support of the veterans of Suffolk County since he took office in 2005. As Chairman of the Veterans and Seniors Committee, he has promoted legislation of great importance to our veterans and their families. Among his many achievements 2010, Steve authored legislation to protect military funerals in Suffolk County from the hateful protests by a group of fanatics that had arisen across the United States. This law became effective in 2010.

Steve has also been the driving force in the restoration of the Little Red Schoolhouse in Elwood. We look forward to one day occupying, as stewards, this historic building.

Commander Bruce Brenner of VFW Nathan Hale Post 1469 and Bob Santo, Commander of American Legion Post 1244 presented Steve with Certificates of Appreciation at the Huntington Vietnam Memorial on the Village Green. We were joined by Congressman Steve Israel, Tom Ronayne, the Director of Suffolk County Veteran Services and Judge John J. Toomey Jr. presiding judge of Suffolk

County. We were joined by Congressman Steve Israel, Tom Ronayne, the Director of Suffolk County Veteran Services and Judge John J. Toomey Jr. presiding judge of Suffolk

Car Show at Northport VA Nets Vets Trophies



The Long Island Corvette Owner's Association's 5th Annual Car Show in October brought trophies to three Post 1244 Legionnaires. Dennis Giunta for his 2002 Yamaha Warrior motorcycle, Charlie Armstrong for his 1956 Ford Crown Victoria and Bob "G Man" Glanzman for his 1989 Corvette "Captain America." We also brought our 3/4 ton "CPL BILL" Army weapons carrier to the show to attract and entertain our fellow veterans. It's a great "conversation piece."



Greenlawn Post Retires Hundreds of Flags

On the morning after Veterans Day, we once again gathered behind the Greenlawn Fire Department to ceremonially retire nearly 500 American Flags with dignity and honor. Our Old Glory Flag Box has served as a depository for so many flags this year, that we have had to have two ceremonies in order to retire the nearly 1,000 flags we have collected so far this year. At our June ceremony, over 500 flags were retired.

We were joined by several Boy Scouts and their families at the ceremony, and they assisted us in carrying to the burn barrel, the worn, faded and no longer serviceable flags. Assistant Chief Mike Zeis insured that no one was placed at risk of burns or smoke inhalation.

Our Old Glory Flag Box has been on an extensive tour of the community this year, spending time at numerous schools, public libraries and businesses, affording the public a means to dispose of their old flags in a respectful manner. The Flag Box will be on display from January 3rd to January 31st in the lobby of half Hollow Hills Library on Vanderbilt Parkway and from February 1st through March 5 at the half Hollow Hills Library on Sweet Hollow Rd. in Melville. In March, we will once again, be bringing Old Glory to many of our local schools.



Greenlawn FD Asst. Chief Mike Zeis looks on as Vice Cmdr. Giunta and a boy scout bring flags to the flames.

Photo by Alan Shaw

Happenings



American Legion Riders (ALR) Post 1244 Chapter

Honor – Strength – Courage

The On-going Mission: to provide food, clothing and shelter for the men and women of the United States Armed Forces who have responded with Honor, Strength, and Courage to the needs of our country.

Post 1244 Director Dennis Giunta has announced that our ALR Chapter is now working with other Long Island ALR Chapters to start a joint effort to promote the American Legion and the American Legion Riders.

At our Post meeting on November 14th Director Giunta announced the presentation of a Special Recognition Award, which will from time to time be presented to Riders who go above and beyond the call of duty. These Riders form the backbone of our Chapter and are the reason we are becoming the best Chapter on the Island. Our first award of an American Legion Rider Belt Buckle goes to **Bob Glanzman** for his outstanding contributions to the Chapter and the Post.

We have redesigned the back of our vests with much larger lettering so we will be more visible at the parades and functions we attend. Election of officers will take place at our Dec. 14th Meeting.

If you qualify to join the American Legion, The Sons of The American Legion or Auxiliary and want to ride with our chapter of the American Legion Riders, contact DRACO at dandelion@aol.com or 631-754-4281.



American Legion Auxiliary News

The leaves have fallen from the trees and Fall has turned to Winter once again. We now look forward to the Holidays and not for a moment should we forget the homeless Veterans and their needs for clothing, food and a place to stay warm.

The ladies of Post 1244 Auxiliary stood proudly alongside the members of Post 1244 during the Veterans Day service at the Greenlawn monument in Greenlawn. I felt very humble and proud as President of the Auxiliary to be part of this ceremony and place a wreath at the Memorial. It was a very moving ceremony and Commander Robert Santo gave a very moving talk about Veteran's Day, what it means and how we should never forget the meaning of this day. We enjoy our freedom at a high cost to the men and women of the Armed Forces who served their country and gave their lives that we may enjoy Peace and Freedom.

I am very pleased to say the Greenlawn Auxiliary donated with the financial help of the VFW Post 1469 and the Auxiliary of 1469 over \$ 300 dollars worth of new clothing to the Homeless Shelter in Yaphank, New York to be used as Christmas gifts. Also our Auxiliary donated over 15 gift bags of toiletries to the women Veterans through the Wellness center at the Northport VA Medical Center. A donation has been sent to the Department of New York Ladies Auxiliary's Program to assist children of Veterans who are in need of organ Transplants. I think none of us realized the need until we were informed of this Program.

Teri Fay Vice President is still selling the Flag of Honor and the Flag of Heroes which contain the names of those who lost their lives on 911. If any one is interested, please contact Teri at 631-757-9247. These flags would make a worthy Christmas present.

Please mark down the date of March 24, 2012, as we will have our Annual Fundraiser/Dance at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Greenlawn, N.Y.

Our Auxiliary is thriving but we are in need of new members to help us grow and to be able to carry on our Veteran Programs. Please contact Carolyn Polakos 631-368-2405 or President Fran Hubbs 631-423-1176 if you know any interested ladies.

Our ladies extend a special thank you to Post Commander Bob Santo and Legion members for their support and their kind invitation to again share in their Christmas meeting. The ladies will of course out do themselves with bringing the desserts.

I take this opportunity on behalf of myself, our officers and members to wish everyone a very Blessed Christmas, a Happy Hanukah and a Happy, Holy and Healthful New Year. Pray that our men and women of the Armed Forces be returned to their families very soon and those remaining be safe from harms way.

Fran Hubbs, President

“You Earned It”

by Donna Boyle, Post Service Officer

NEED A JOB? CHECK OUT THE “Hire Heroes Act”

This is a NEW Benefit for Unemployed Veterans

The “VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011” was recently signed into law. It includes a “Veterans Retraining Assistance Program for unemployed Veterans. The details of this act are still in development but it will be a joint venture between the VA and the Department of Labor (DoL).

The start date being published is July 1, 2012. The goal is to retrain Veterans. Returning Veterans have been identified as a demographic that is hardest hit by current economic conditions.



The program will offer 12 months of training assistance to unemployed Veterans.

To qualify you must

- Be between the ages of 35 and 60
- Be unemployed (as determined by DoL)
- (special consideration is provided to Veterans who have
- been unemployed for more than 26 weeks)
- Have an “other than dishonorable discharge”
- Not be eligible for any other VA education benefit program
- Not be in receipt of VA compensation due to unemployability
- Not be enrolled in a federal or state job training program

There are Limits:

- Only 45,000 will qualify during fiscal year 2012,
- An additional 54,000 between October 1, 2012, and March 31, 2014.
- Veterans may receive up to 12 months of assistance (at the full-time payment rate under the Montgomery GI Bill)
- Applications will be submitted through DoL
- Benefits are paid by VA.
- DoL will provide employment assistance to every Veteran (upon completion of their program.)
- Veterans will need to be enrolled in a VA approved program.
- The program must lead to an Associate Degree, Non-College Degree, or a Certification, and train the Veteran for a **high demand occupation.**



See your local Department of Labor Office (unemployment) for more information.

Need a Hand?

Please let us know if you are a veteran in need of assistance. You may be a senior on a fixed income, or an unemployed younger veteran with a family. There may be resources available to help you. Please call me at 516-458-7881. Your situation will be held in strictest confidence.

Bob Santo

Happenings

Dignity Vietnam Memorial Wall at Northport VAMC



Once again, we were honored to have the Dignity Vietnam Memorial Wall brought to the Town of Huntington from October 28-30. An escort of Motorcyclists including Our own American Legion Riders and Patriot Guard Riders escorted the wall from Citi Field in Queens to the Northport VA Medical Center on Monday the 24th. This was the first time it has been staged at a VA Hospital. The Wall was erected in the recently added Vietnam Veterans Memorial Garden at the hospital.

Members of our post were among the over 200 volunteers who assisted at the Wall providing hospitality, food service and other assistance to the thousands of visitors who came to pay their respects at this important and meaningful memorial to the 58,627 men and women who perished in the Vietnam War.

After the Northport VA, The Wall was transported to the Intrepid Air and Space Museum in New York City for three weeks, the first time it ever visited Manhattan.

Photo by Mike Macchiarella

Our First American Veterans. Don't They Deserve Better?



The Grave of Pvt. Scudder Carll

Barely visible from heavily trafficked Jericho Turnpike in Huntington Station, is a small cemetery officially known as "Long Swamp Cemetery." Last year, I came across this burial place on one of my walks around the area where I have lived for over thirty years. Designated as a Historic Cemetery by the Town of Huntington, the cemetery contains 55 graves, although, sadly, only four grave markers are still standing. These mark the graves of three patriots and veterans of the American Revolution: **John Carll**, **Scudder Carll** and **Joseph Ireland**. They all served in the 1st Regiment of **Minute Men**, Huntington Militia, under **Col. Josiah Smith**.

The fourth gravestone is for **Sarah**, the wife of **Robert Jarvis**. She died in November, 1780 at the age of 39. She is the daughter of another one of our American Revolutionary Patriots.

All the other gravestones have been vandalized in recent years by local youth who use the cemetery as a hangout. Beer cans and food wrappers are usually found scattered on the ground. All about are the shattered remains of what were once the beautiful gravestones of our earliest Huntington citizens. The grounds are overgrown with weeds, vines and underbrush.

I have stopped there numerous times and picked up the trash scattered near the graves of these honored dead, and I know there is at least one other anonymous citizen who I have yet to meet, who also does the same from time to time.

This hallowed ground, the final resting place of some of our first American Veterans, is no less important than our Long Island National Cemetery, Calverton National Cemetery or even Arlington National Cemetery.

With almost 60 Historic Cemeteries in the Town of Huntington, it is impossible to maintain them all as well as they should. I spoke with our Town Historian, Robert Hughes, about the conditions there. He indicated that he would be willing to work with us to restore the cemetery.



Litter, Beer Cans and the Graffiti-marred Remains of Grave Markers

I would like to organize a team of Legionnaires, Sons of The American Legion, Auxiliary and other Patriots to remedy this problem. Are you willing to spend a few hours this Spring honoring these heroes by helping clear brush, prune a few trees and restore their final resting place to a place of peace and dignity? No experience necessary. Please call me at 516-458-7881 or e mail post1244@verizon.net. **We owe them no less than this.**

Bob Santo

Vice Commander's Call to Members



Well it seems that we have been successful, once again, in making our quota and are eligible for the Membership Award for 2012. As soon as the tallies are made at the Dept. level, I'm certain that the Commander will be advised of this achievement. Thanks to ALL of YOU for making this possible. This is the 7th year in a row for the "little Post that could ... and DOES". Thank you also, for supporting this Post in all we do; for turning out for our various events when you are able and for joining us as a group when we gather for some fun.

Not long ago, we were a Post of 80 members, and meetings had only five or six members. In fact, that was in 2005. Since then, we have managed to grow to a Post of nearly 200 members and our "regular meetings" draw more folks than a County meeting of 47 Posts ! I marvel at how involved so many of you are and how warmly we receive each and EVERY new member to our Post. I am proud, indeed, to be a member here and more proud, still, to be an officer of the Post. Wherever Bob and I go, representing this Post, our reputation precedes us. Everyone knows of Post 1244, Greenlawn and it is an honor to represent you all.

This seems like an appropriate time, also, to be thankful for our many blessings: freedom, prosperity, health, family and friends. But while all this celebrating is going on here at home, there are volunteers "manning the walls" protecting all that we hold dear, far, far from home. Let us not forget them and THEIR families, who also sacrifice for this country, that we may have these blessings. God bless and keep them safe.

May this season of wonder find you and yours safe and well. Happy holidays and a prosperous New Year, one and all.

Dennis Madden



Welcome New Members of American Legion Post 1244!

American Legion:	American Legion:	Sons of The American Legion:
★ Richard Buckley	★ Charles Messina	★ Serge Dei
★ Bob Edel	★ John Nolan	★ Christian Lenio
★ Anceo Francisco	★ Tony Perez	★ Nicholas Lenio
★ Bob Hamilton	★ Victor Ramondetta	★ Connor Madden
★ Michael Ianuzzi	★ David Schwartz	★ Anthony Mangone
★ Jerry Jacobus	★ Martin Thompson	★ William T. Perks
★ Ronnie Kort	★ Brian Ward	★ Robert Woessner
★ Sean Lynch	★ Jerry Weiss	
★ Martin "Skip" Meise		



Congratulations

Post 1244 Legionnaire Donald Farinacci's book "**TRUMAN AND MAC ARTHUR, Adversaries for a Common Cause**" has received the first place Gold Medal Award for the best book on the Korean War in the national competition co-sponsored by THE MILITARY WRITERS SOCIETY OF AMERICA and the Korean War Institute of GRACE-LAND UNIVERSITY, with campuses in Missouri and Iowa.

Don has also just published a gripping Cold War thriller "**The Alemagne Deception.**" Those of us who served during the so-called Cold War appreciate how much it impacted our lives and how often the clandestine and often violent struggle between the US and the Soviet Union nearly led us into a third World War.

Commander's Corner



It is a pleasure for me to extend my best wishes to the members of our Post, our Sons Squadron and Auxiliary Unit and their families during this festive season. As we celebrate this season, we should also take a moment to remember how fortunate our country is to have such remarkable men and women in our armed forces who have served so courageously and so selflessly. In the next few years, thousands of service members will coming home to be returning to civilian life once more.

It is our duty to aid them in every way as they seek to take up where they left off, much as many of us had to many years ago. I call upon each of us to find some way to serve them as they have served us.

There will be many opportunities in the coming year for us to help. Whether by donating to veterans charities, helping the Post raise funds for veterans rehabilitation through our Poppy Drive or volunteering at our Northport Veterans Administration Hospital. The annual Suffolk County Veterans Stand Down in April is a chance for us to help those who are most vulnerable: the homeless veterans or those in danger of becoming homeless. We will try to make you aware of these opportunities as they come up.

Best wishes to all of you for a Merry Christmas, a Happy Hanukah and a great year in 2012. May God bless our great country and each and every one of you, and may God bless our service members around the world and their families at home.

Bob Santo

Help us Stay In Touch



If you have E Mail service and are not receiving E Mails from us on a regular basis, we invite you to let us add you to our E Mail broadcast system. We will let you know of Post news of interest, activities and events you may wish to take part in. Our promise: no chain letters, political messages or jokes. Only "**News You Can Use.**"

American Legion Pride

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



Taps Has Sounded

Henry E. Lubben Jr.

Juy 14, 1931 - November 3, 2011

Korea

John J. Spagnoli

July 5, 1920 - November 11, 2011

World War II

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
American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244
Thank You for your Continued Service*



U.S. Representative Steve Israel
2nd District, New York



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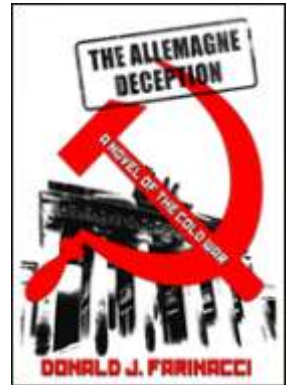
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A New Cold War Thriller

"a pulse-pounding blend of action, history, and old fashion adventure," which... "may be one of the hottest novels ever written on the Cold War", award-winning novelist, Jeff Edwards .

Available at Amazon.com

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



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