

THE GREENLAWN BUGLE



Greenlawn Post 1244 September 2022

Operation Enduring Care Awarded Homeless Veterans Outreach Award



L-R Post 1244 Cmdr. Donna Boyle, Operation Enduring Care Chairman Al Statton, Bill Wolf of Port Jefferson Post 432, Past County Commander Roby Johnson, and Suffolk County Commander Steve Antonnaci

At the September 9, Suffolk County American Legion meeting, Operation Enduring Care was awarded the prestigious **American Legion Michael Guty Homeless Veterans Outreach Award** for its efforts on behalf of our homeless veterans at the Northport VA Medical Center. Post 1244 legionnaire Al Statton accepted the award from the Suffolk County leadership.

The award was given by the American Legion Department of New York.

Since 2009, Al and Connie Statton have been providing essentials to the residents of the Northport VA, including those at the homeless shelter now managed by United Veterans Beacon House. The program became a project of Post 1244 in 2016 and has been one of our most important post programs ever since.

(More on the man who inspired this award on page 7)

Boys and Girls State

We had another very interesting challenge this year in getting the Boy's & Girl's State programs back up and running as a live in-person educational experience. In 2020, the programs could not take place due to Covid, and in 2021 the program was held virtually.

Our input this year consisted 15 boys who ventured off to SUNY Morrisville and 4 girls who did the same to SUNY Brockport for the intense one week class. We originally had 21 students, but the day before, the bus departed to Boy's State, two of the boys, (twins), tested positive for Covid, and could not make the trip.

It is hard to believe that we have been doing this program for 14 years now. Since we started in 2009, we have been able to send more than 150 students, and it would have been a much higher figure had Covid not knocked out the 2020 program completely. We actually had 25 students all selected and ready to go that year, now we are working to build it back up again. Preparations for the class of 2023 will begin in November when we ask the various high schools to give us a list of prospective candidates for us to interview.

For those of you that don't know, the Boy's & Girl's State programs began in the mid-1930's at a Legion Post in Illinois, and spread throughout the U.S. They were started to counter the Soviet Union-sponsored "Young

Pioneer Camps" that had made inroads in the U.S. The founders wanted to teach the nation's youth to understand and appreciate our democratic republic form of government. The students learn about the democratic process, and the efforts that must be made to insure that 'democracy shines'.

A key element of the Legion is "Americanism." and to this end we sponsor a number of programs that look to address the future of our country and its form of government. Among them are Boy's & Girl's State, Veterans in the Classroom, Oratorical Scholarship Contests and Scouting.

Who knew that Samuel Alito would become a U.S. Supreme Court Justice, or that Neil Armstrong would walk on the moon, or that Bill Clinton would become President, or that Jane Pauley would become a famous news anchor, or that George Pataki would become Governor of New York, or that our own 1958 alumni Jerry Asher would become a New York State Supreme Court Judge? Maybe one of these students will be on the list of famous Boy's & Girl's State alumni. We look forward to getting the 2023 process started!

Charlie Armstrong
Boys and Girls State Chairman



**Boys and Girls State Night at Greenlawn Post 1244
Our 2022 Boys and Girls State Citizens and the Elected Officials and dignitaries who visited to congratulate them.**

Operation Enduring Care



“Operation Enduring Care” is currently, quietly, very active. The upcoming change of seasons, requires different kinds of donations to assist our fellow veterans in need.

In spite of our moving forward from the past restrictions due to COVID-19, we are being asked to provide more, provide more often and be responsive more quickly. Being prepared with the appropriate required and acceptable items, allows us to do so.

We will need new bedding, both “twin” size and “full” size as those receiving these items are now allowed to keep them. This includes new pillows, new sheet sets, as well as new or lightly used blankets. While we once accepted used bedding, it was often unacceptable for donation. Going forward, only new bedding can be accepted.

We are limiting winter clothing to an “as needed basis.” We have received clothing that has sat in a closet or dresser for years was not suitable for donation.

We will be asking for non-perishable foods such as tuna, peanut butter, jellies, corned beef, coffee and snacks through food drives. We will be asking for members to assist as volunteers.

We are also looking for volunteers to ask for donations at different shopping areas. No sales, just requesting cash or item donations.

Our collection is our collection if the whole post is willing to provide. To be our legacy, it must become a Post 1244 project.

The recognition and awards, show there is an audience. Our work together provides the platform. Thank you for all of your support.



Al and Connie Statton were presented with a proclamation by Councilman Sal Ferro at the September 13 Town Board Meeting

Albert A. Statton III
Chairman
Operation Enduring Care

November 13 Car Show to Benefit Operation Enduring Care

Hundreds of classic, antique and collector cars will gather at Walt Whitman High School on Sunday, November 13 from 9 am to 2 pm, to collect needed donations for Operation Enduring Care.

The event, sponsored by the Centurion Cruisers Car Club and American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244 will provide an opportunity for the community to support veterans in residence at the Northport VA Medical Center. Needed are personal care and comfort items, bedding and bath items as well as gift cards and cash.

Operation Enduring Care tote bags and t-shirts will also be on sale. All proceeds to benefit Operation Enduring Care.



Sgt. at Arms Charlie Armstrong's '56 Ford Crown Victoria

Post Service Officer - You Earned It!



Good News for 2023!

As we approach the final quarter of 2022, it's time to start looking forward to what's new and exciting coming up in 2023!

This Fall the VA will be adjusting the 2023 VA disability compensation pay rates to line up with the estimated COLA increase set by the Social Security Administration. The purpose will be to help offset the rising costs of inflation. The pay is expected to increase by 8.9% beginning in January 2023. This applies to those of you on Social Security as well! This will hopefully give some relief to all of us who are struggling with the high prices for everyday items and necessities.

Please note as a reminder, these are not the only benefits that you may be entitled to from the State of NY.

Summary of New York Military and Veterans Benefits: New York offers special benefits for Service members, Veterans and their Families **including property tax exemptions**, New York National Guard Tuition Program, Military Service Recognition Scholarship, compensation for state active duty, employment assistance, civil service preference, special vehicle license plates, as well as hunting, fishing licenses and New York State Parks privileges. Eligibility for benefits may depend on residency, military component, and Veteran disability status.

Regarding the property tax exemptions. Veterans in Suffolk County are eligible to file for a property tax exemption in 2023. Anyone who is interested in applying for the property tax exemption must obtain an application from the Suffolk County Veterans Agency by calling 631-853-8387. After completing the application, it must be submitted to the local tax assessor's office. I am more than happy to assist with this, and I will give you more extensive information of what you are eligible for and how to go about it at the end of this year. If you have internet access, the website is: (<https://veterans.ny.gov/content/property-tax-exemptions-veterans>). I will be sure to go over this *before* tax season begins.

"Fall has always been my favorite season. The time when everything bursts with its last beauty, as if nature had been saving up all year for the grand finale." – Lauren DeStefano

Sincerely,

Michelle Martin
Service Officer

Phone # 631-233-9961 Email: mmartin@uvbh.com

Post 1244 Flag Tradition Continues

Fourteen years ago, Post 1244 acquired an old Postal Service mail deposit box, with the help of then NY State Assemblyman Andrew Raia, to be used to collect unserviceable flags from the community.

Not having a permanent location for it, we installed wheels and had the box repaired and decorated at no cost to the post by a custom motorcycle builder in Bay Shore .

Initially, we placed the box at numerous schools throughout the Town of Huntington. Now, we circulate the box for a month at each public library in the Town of Huntington. Residents can drop off flags at any time at any of our 11 libraries.

Every month, Sgt. at Arms Charlie Armstrong and volunteer Rick Tierney, empty and move them to the next library. They then drop off the flags at Covanta Huntington for an honorable disposal.



Holiday Party

American Legion

Greenlawn Post 1244

Thursday, December 15, 2022

6 pm to 10 pm

at

Huntington American Legion

Post 360

1 Mill Dam Rd.

Huntington, NY 11743

Enjoy music, dinner, dancing, and open bar. Celebrate the season with our American Legion Family.

Chinese Auction, 50 /50

Call Donna at 631-942-2156 to arrange to donate a basket for the auction

Tickets are \$40 per person.

RSVP and payment by

November 24 to:

American Legion Post 1244

Po Box 238

Greenlawn, NY 11740

For more information

contact Dennis at:

Email: dam9245@optonline.net

Or call

516-523-9391

Donations of new, unwrapped toys for our Post 1244 Annual Toy Drive will be greatly appreciated. Cash donations are also welcomed.



Proceeds from our 2022 Holiday Party will benefit



ANGELS FOR WARRIORS

Coming Events

**Long Island Fall Festival
Heckscher Park
October 8-9
11:00 am - 6:00 pm
Post 1244 Membership / Information Table**

**Monthly Meeting October 12.
Food and refreshments 7:00 pm
Meeting at 8:00 pm
Holiday Card Photo Night**

**“Army - Navy” Football Game
Fred Amore Championship Cup
October 29, 1:00 pm
Harborfields H.S.
vs.
Deer Park High School
All Veterans Welcome**

**Town of Huntington
Veterans Day Wreath Ceremony
November 6, 10:00 am
Town Hall Veterans Plaza**

**Monthly Meeting November 9
Food and refreshments 7:00 pm
Meeting at 8:00 pm**

**American Legion Post 1244
Veterans Day Ceremony
November 11, 11:00 am
Greenlawn Memorial Park**

**American Legion Post 1244
Holiday Party
December 15, 6-10 pm
(See p.5 for details)**

Memories

Joseph - My World War II Veteran Neighbor



He was my neighbor. He was a World War II veteran who proudly wore his purple heart around his neck. His name was Joseph and he used to sit by his front window each day. As I passed, I would wave - often eliciting a smile from him.

Recently, Joseph passed away. In the civilian world he was a pilot. So too did one of his daughters become a pilot. At his wake, several pilots attended paying tribute to Joseph's skills both in the military and during his private career.

As a token of the family's affection for me they gave me Joseph's beloved wall clock. It chimes every hour on the hour reminding me of his presence. Joseph was a dignified individual possessing a profound spirit of love. He is

sorely missed at our apartment complex.

Truly, Joseph is now soaring with the angels at peace in his new home.

Mary Flatley
U.S.M.C.

The Man Behind The Micheal Guty Veterans Outreach Award

Flamme Kusek Post 15 in Jewett City, Connecticut maintains the post's American Legion Veterans Housing Initiative provides rent -free apartments for 16 homeless veterans in the upstairs of its post home.

In 2012, Post member Michael Guty donated \$800,000 to the post's project.

A retired power plant worker, Guty lived a modest and frugal life, driving an old pick-up truck and spending his free time in his garden. His family immigrated to the United States from Ukraine in the 19930s and settled in nearby Canterbury, Conn., where they ran a chicken farm

"They're going to have an endowment sitting there giving them operating funds for the next 30, 40 or 50 years," said Carl Brown, vice president and treasurer of ALVHI

Guty died in 2014 at the age of 92. This modest and



Bill Czmyr (left) the post member who was the driving force in creating ALVHI is seen with Michael Guty who donated \$800,000 to the project. (Photo credit: Carl Brown)

generous man leaves behind a legacy that will continue to serve his fellow veterans for many years.



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American Legion Riders



A visit from the American Legion Department Commander David Riley Sr. along with N.Y.S. Riders Director Ed (Cowboy) Morris to Suffolk County, Sons of The American Legion Timothy S. Van Patten II and Auxiliary President Nancy Babis..

On Sept 14th the Riders of Post 1244 along with the Riders of Post 651 were asked to meet up with the American Legion's Dept. Commander and escort him on his trip through parts of Suffolk County.

We met up in Hauppauge at the H. Lee Dennison Building. The Department Commander, Sons of the American Legion Detachment Commander, Auxiliary President and Legion Riders Director and other dignitaries were there. The Legion Riders director was given a proclamation from Suffolk County. The Riders presented the department commander as well as Legion Riders Director Morris with a special American Flag.

From Hauppauge, the Legion Riders escorted Commander Riley and his entourage over to the Lt. Michael Murphy Museum, where the commander was given a tour through the museum by Lt. Michael Murphy's father. After a few hours at the museum, the Legion Riders continued on with the last stop being Post

1006 in Brentwood where there was a ceremony followed by lots of food and drinks. The American Legion Riders of Post 1244 always try to make Post 1244 stand out just a little . I can tell you we do and the commander will not forget us in the near future.



L-R SAL Commander Timothy S. Van Patten II, Auxiliary President Nancy Babis, David R. Riley, Department Commander and Suffolk County Legislator Trish Bergin.



Suffolk County American Legion Riders and the Department Commander's visitation entourage. Legion Riders NY Legion Riders Director is front row center wearing that cowboy hat.

2022 Raffle Fundraiser

There is still time to enter our annual Raffle Fundraiser. This year's prizes are:

- 1st. Prize 58" LED 4K UHD Smart Fire TV
- 2nd Prize JBL FLIP6 Portable Waterproof Speaker
- 3rd Prize. Bella Pro Series 8 Qt. Digital Air Fryer
- 4th Prize. Engeman Northport Theater 2 Tickets
- 5th Prize Suntino Restaurant \$40 Gift Certificate

The drawing will be on Wednesday, November 9, 2022 at our regular monthly meeting.

Tickets are \$5.00 each or 6 tickets for \$20.00

Just send your donation to:

**American Legion Post 1244
PO Box 238
Greenlawn, NY 11740**

We will fill out your entry stubs and we will mail the other part back to you as your receipt.

We will need your phone number or e mail address to notify you,

Questions? Call Bob at 516-458-7881

Thank you for your support!

American Legion High School Oratorical Contest

It has been our pleasure for many years to be sponsors of students competing in the American Legion High School Oratorical Contest,

For many years, we have been pleased to sponsor students from St. Pius V School in Melville, many of whom have captured 1st place in the county, zone district and NY State competitions.

The American Legion Oratorical Contest exists to develop deeper knowledge and appreciation for the U.S. Constitution among high school students.

Since 1938, the program has presented participants with an academic speaking challenge that teaches important leadership qualities, the history of our nation's

laws, the ability to think and speak clearly, and an understanding of the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship.

This year, we will again be sponsoring 3 students from St. Pius V School. The first competition will be:

Saturday December 3, 2022

Place: Feustel Kurdt American Legion Post #1120
80 Herbert Avenue, Lindenhurst, New York 11757

Time: 9:30 am – 12 noon

We look forward to seeing you there!

There is Now a Face for Every Veteran on The Vietnam Veterans Wall

With assistance from hundreds of volunteers across the nation, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) has created the Wall of Faces, a website featuring at least one photo of each of the 58,281 servicemembers who died in the Vietnam War.

The VVMF is asking the public to continue providing high-quality images, and stories, about those who perished during the war. Submission details are available at:

<https://www.vvmf.org/submit-a-photo/>



Courtesy of Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund

Post 1244 Bowling Team Keeps on Rolling

Back in the day, bowling and Greenlawn Post 1244 went hand in hand. We always fielded a great team, (sometimes more than one team) and did well at both the County and Upstate tournaments. It's great to know that tradition is still being upheld to this day.

Jonathan Bohn, a member of our Sons squadron and son of Legionnaire Ray Bohn offers his take on this year's tournament:

“This past April we went to the American Legion Bowling Tournament in Lowville, NY. It was the first time going to the tournament in 2 years due to COVID and it was great to be back.

Our team consists of Joe Joyce, Eric Gineros, my dad, and myself. Joe Joyce is a 93 year old World War 2 veteran and still a great bowler! Our team always has a great time up there and I'm convinced there's some magic in Lowville. The first time we bowled there 5 years ago, I bowled my first 300. This time I made a 7-10 split. Our team also bowled very well.

Everyone in town is always happy to see the Greenlawn Post and makes us feel at home. Thank you to Richie Turk and everyone else who worked hard to put the tournament together.”



L-R Ray Bohn, Jonathan Bohn, Joe Joyce, and Eric Gineros

The Annual New York State American Legion Family Bowling Tournament takes place over four weekends in April and May, 2022, in Lowville, attracting bowlers from posts, units, squadrons and chapters across the Department of New York.

Sons of The American Legion



Hello, all.

Not much to report at the moment. I hope everyone is well.

We are going to have a Son's meeting on October 26th.

Please watch your emails for time and location.

Angus Kennedy

Commander

Sons of The American Legion
Squadron 1244

angus.kennedy@bgis.com

516-241-1399



Post 1244 Weekly Veterans News - Let's Stay In Touch!

If you have E Mail service and are not receiving Our weekly **Veterans News** 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.

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Just send an email to: **Post 1244@verizon.net** . We'll do the rest!

Membership



Recently, my wife and I went on a cruise to the Bahamas and it was wonderful!

I highly recommend it.

In case you have concerns about COVID, I will tell you that the ship's crew kept everything spotless - cleaning and washing walls, floors, elevators, railings, etc. Also, we were required to wash our hands before eating. Sanitizer stations were everywhere.

One night, they made an announcement for all veterans to be on the promenade deck at 7:30 pm. The captain of the ship gave a heartfelt speech honoring all veterans. Then there was a moment of silence, followed by "Taps." The National Anthem was then performed by a woman with a powerful voice.

Being out at sea with no land in sight brought back memories of my time in the Navy aboard an aircraft carrier. I thought about the guys I served with and the job we did while attached to an aircraft squadron. I also

thought of the ports we went to and the stories we shared about home.

Well, enough about that. Back to membership.

It is going fairly well, but I would like to see it pick up a little more.

On a good note, we have transferred several Post 001 members into our post over the past few months..

So, if you see any new faces at our meetings, please welcome them!

Carlo Giordano

1st Vice Commander
Membership Chairman
(631) 470-7843
Cgiordano9@optonline.net

Welcome To Our Newest Post 1244 Members

Harvey Allen
James Brandeburg
Fernando Campo
Denise Crutchfeld-Spearmon
Frederick Dwyer
Richard Francis

Kevin Killela
George Kuebrich
James Means
William O'Loughlin
Sherman Rothberg
William Stegman



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The Commander's Corner



Hi Everyone,
I hope your summer has been a GREAT one. Here at the post we have tried to host something for our members at least once a month. As you can see while reading the Bugle the post has both sponsored and attended various events. If you

have an event you would like us to host or attend, Please reach out and let me know.

We have a few more events scheduled. Please visit the post website for more information. The weekly email that is sent has a lot of information on events here on Long Island. Check it out.

You can scroll through it in just a couple of minutes and learn all about opportunities for Veterans.

The book drive for veterans who visit the Northport VA appears to be very successful. I was there for an appointment last week and Sean D. had stocked the shelves with a lot of books but there were only about 4 left. If you have a book you want to donate just bring it to any meeting.

Meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the

month. We have a social hour/dinner starting at 7:00 pm before the meeting that starts at 8:00 pm. Please come and join us.

The Post historian Mary Flatley. will be reaching out to some of you by phone. Please take her call. She will be asking a few questions and requesting a photo of you from when you were serving as well as a current photo. Her goal is to update the post's "Pride in Service" album. The album is a record of every post member.

It's time for my annual reminder Please make a copy of your DD214 and give it to the person who will be handling your funeral arrangements. You knowing where to find it will not help them at the time of your passing.

I hope to see everyone at our October 12 meeting which is "picture day" for our annual holiday card.

Donna Boyle

Post Commander

631-942-2156

39dpip@gmail.com

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and their families for
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ecook@huntingtonny.gov



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**Suffolk County Legislator
Stephanie Bontempi**
18th Legislative District



224 Wall Street, Suite 303
Huntington, NY 11743
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Thank you for your service!

Stephanie.Bontempi@suffolkcountyny.gov



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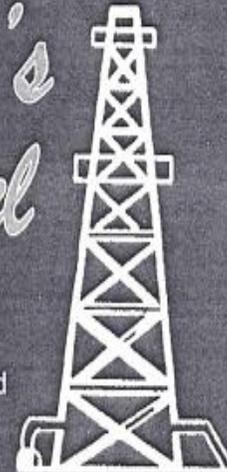
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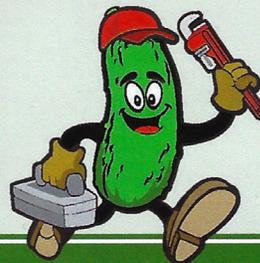
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