



THE GREENLAWN BUGLE

American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244

December 2015

Volume 9 Issue 4

Veterans Day 2015



Photo by Tom Mangin

This old bronze plaque on the back of the monument reminds us of the origin of Veterans Day. The names of Greenlawn's WW I soldiers are affixed to the plaque.

Once again, our Post 1244 American Legion Family met at the Greenlawn Memorial, on a mild November morning; on a day originally meant to celebrate the peace that finally came to Europe in 1918; "the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month" of 1918." Today, this day is set aside to celebrate and reflect on the service and sacrifice of all American Veterans, of all generations. Today, the number of veterans is dwindling as the military becomes smaller and the older veterans pass away. It's estimated only 7 percent of the U.S. population are veterans, with 1 percent currently serving. That is a small number of people who are asked to carry a large burden on behalf of our nation.

We were joined by family and friends, elected and appointed officials and many citizens of our community.

At the sacred "Eleventh Hour," our color guard stepped forward and formed up alongside the Greenlawn Monument. After Father Lou gave his inspirational invocation, we recited "The Pledge of Allegiance" and listened to our talented friend Courtney Gallagher sing "The Star Spangled Banner."

Commander Dennis Madden delivered a stirring speech reminding all of the day's significance and the often forgotten sacrifices made by our men and women in uniform. Vice Commander Kevin Farrell read "What Is A Veteran" by Father Denis E. O'Brien, USMC.

A wreath laying ceremony was conducted in memory of those who gave their lives for our country. WW II Veteran Vinnie Crimauddo and Commander Madden placed a wreath from the Post at the base of the Greenlawn Memorial Monument. Nancy Sobina and Madelaine Santo presented a wreath from our American Legion Auxiliary. This year, we were honored by other organizations presenting wreaths: the Greenlawn Civic Association, the Greenlawn Lions Club, the Greenlawn Centerport Business Association and Boy Scout Troop 32.

After all the wreaths were presented and at the command "Present Arms," Harborfields High School Junior Hannah Bartfield rendered a beautiful rendition of "Taps" as all present saluted.

After concluding remarks by Commander Madden, Father Lou gave the Benediction. Leona Schwartz then sang the first four lines of "God Bless America," and was then joined in singing by everyone in attendance. Andrew Schild, who has provided his services to the Post for the past five years, provided a selection of patriotic music as the crowd lingered awhile in the park to greet old friends and reminisce.

Then, it was off to Applebees in Commack, a favorite for Veterans on this and other days. Each year, the Applebees chain provides a free entrée to any Veteran. This year, we are able to reserve a section of the restaurant for our members and any other Veterans who wanted to join us. There were an estimated 50 Veterans in our section, far more than we had figured on. The staff at Applebees was more than welcoming as usual.

Special thanks is due to Andrew Schild, of ProAudio LI Productions, for the musical accompaniment and to Courtney Gallagher for singing our National Anthem (Courtney will be in college on Veterans Day next year - we will miss her). Also Hannah Bartfield on trumpet for "Taps" and, of course, Leona Schwartz who always leads us in "God Bless America."

We were grateful for the presence of our elected officials: NY State Assemblyman Andrew Raia, Brian Finnegan representing Assemblyman Chad Lupinacci; and Town Councilmen Mark Cuthbertson and Eugene Cook. Thanks also to our new 2nd Precinct Commander: Inspector Christopher Hatton for attending. We hope to see everyone, once again, next year.



Photo by Mike Machiarella



Photo by Tom Mangin

Leona Schwartz

Missing In America Project Post Burial Report



October 27, 2015

Long Island National Cemetery

This report will cover the interment of ten abandoned Veterans and one spouse. Three of the Veterans were of the Jewish faith and the rest were of the Christian faith. Of all the Veterans funerals I have presided over for MIAP, this one was the most difficult and most complicated. It started out with MIAP partnering with Charles Spencer of Long Island Area Dignity Memorial and soon escalated to a national level. Then a change of time. Then again, a change to a different time and venue. No problem, for this newly formed team was up to changes. However the date and time would change again. Fate was not aware that it was messing with the seasoned warriors of MIAP and Dignity Memorial. We dug in and prepared to meet the whimsy of the gods. We finally arrived at a date that everyone could live with, October 27, 2015 at Long Island National Cemetery. That, however, was only the beginning. Next we had to get a Rabbi, or Cantor for that date. The date was our greatest obstacle. Finally a personal friend, Cantor Leonard Holtz agreed to come down from Connecticut to deliver the Jewish service, alongside our Christian Chaplain.

Chaplain Michael Williams of Greenlawn Post 1244 agreed to take off from work to fulfill the Christian service. Next, we had to pin down the Color and Honor Guards. The Honor Guard was easy, but getting a Color Guard became a Herculean ordeal. Our MIAP "special forces unit" was up to the task, however. The fire apparatus for our flag arch was provided by Greenlawn Fire Department and East Northport Fire Department.

Chaplain Williams' perseverance assured us of the three bi-plane fly over. The Coast Guard Auxiliary Band graciously accommodated us on that day. Thank you, John Sasso and fellow musicians. The Gold Star Mothers were graciously in attendance and received one of the flags, as did a representative of the Jewish War Veterans.

The Honor Guard, under the skillful direction of Major Robert Byrnes was as efficient as ever, a proud sight indeed, as was the greatest Taps player that I have ever encountered, Mr. Louis Di Leo. We were afforded some fine remarks by N.Y. State Senator Phil Boyle. Our Keynote speaker and joint flag presenter was Major

General Anthony Kropp. His words were stirring and inspirational to the audience.

The MIAP team carried the urns and circulated through the crowd to see that everything ran smoothly. Since joining the MIAP team they have attained the status of MIAP's "Special Ops" team. Their age is not a deterrent, nor are the barriers that rear up before them. Thank you MIAP team.



Our Post 1244 American Legion Riders, under the leadership of MIAP Road Captain and Chapter President Bruce Blanco, are in a class all their own; always a true pleasure to watch. Patriot Guard Riders of New York also accompanied our Post 1244 American Legion Riders. County Chaplain Thomas Bergin dispensed the urns to our MIAP team. Thank you Tom.

A somber moment went through the assembly when John

Caldarelli recited the name of each Veteran, as Robert Santo, Past Post 1244 Commander tolled a bell, with a finality that was both sad and beautiful. Much of the splendid setting around the Flag Circle was due to the new Cemetery Director Mr. Roderick Thomas's gracious involvement. Special recognition must be given to our incredibly effective and brilliant genealogist, Mrs. Ann Marie Martin. Her work with this group of Veterans has been superb. While obviously these funerals are collective efforts, certain groups must be looked upon as having a causal effect to the overall support involvement of these missions.

We must take into consideration the American Legion's resolution to make MIAP a viable part of it's initiatives. Where would things be without Charlie Spencer and Dignity Memorial Funeral Homes? Surely many Funeral homes carry their own weight with these funerals, but Dignity Memorial is always there to pick up the slack. Last on our journey of gratitude is the Missing in America Project who started this long pilgrimage to the sacred ground of a Veteran's cemetery

**"Let us remember. while the light lasts,
And in the darkness let us not forget"**

John Caldarelli

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

The names of the Interred Veterans and Spouse can be found on Page Three

MIAP Interred Abandoned Veterans and One Accompanied Spouse

Edgar I. Akin,
WAGR, U.S. Army, WW I
Henrietta Akin, Spouse

Bruce Brinig,
TSGT, U.S. Army, WW II

Thomas Michael Croley
SN, U.S. Navy, Vietnam

Theodore Kaplita
SP4, U.S. Army, Vietnam

Douglas Christopher McClellan
SP4, U.S. Army, Vietnam



Frank John Muccino
1st LT, U.S. Army, WW II

Robert Neifeld
RMSN, U.S. Navy, Korea

Eugene Reichenthal
TEC4, U.S. Army, WW II

Walter Rosenberg
PFC, U.S. Army, WW II

William Raymond Tolbert
PFC, U.S. Air Force, Korea

Long Island National Cemetery October 27, 2015

MIAP Post Burial Reports

Fredrick W. Loescher Veteran's Cemetery
Spring Valley, NY
October 1, 2015

◆
George Ingersoll Hackinbacker, U.S. Army, WW I
Daniel Cuthbert Bull, U.S. Army, Korean War
Joseph Edmund Huckins, U.S. Air Force, Vietnam

Calverton National Cemetery
Calverton, N.Y.
October 8, 2015

◆
George Foster, U.S. Army, Vietnam

Crimson Coaching

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

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or email info@crimsoncoaching.com to set up a
complimentary consultation about your child's needs.

American Legion Riders Announce New Officers for 2016

American Legion Riders Chapter 1244 has announced the results of its recent elections of officers for the 2016 year. They will be installed at our regular Post Meeting on January 13th, 2016

President: Bruce Blanco
Vice President: Brian Gerken
Treasurer: Tom McAulliff
Secretary: Ken Kirsch

Sgt. at Arms: Bob Woessner
Road Captain: John Boll
Chaplain: Mike Williams
Historians: Bob Glanzman / Mike Williams

BOY'S & GIRLS STATE

THE WEEK THAT SHAPES A LIFETIME

A Bit to know about Boy's State

It is hard to believe that the Boy's State program was created about 80 years ago in Illinois. It's like a well kept secret! How many of you were familiar with it until recently? It was developed as a counter to the "Young Pioneer Camps" (the name of a youth program based in the Soviet Union), which were described as either fascist or communist inspired political indoctrination camps. The idea was to stress the importance of a democratic form of government and provide a method to help maintain it through a non-partisan perspective.

Boy's State is held in 49 states (excluding Hawaii). The program in each state varies a bit, but in general all are set-up similar to how their individual State Legislature is 'supposed' to function. New York State is broken down into 10 counties with 3 cities per county. The students are all assigned to a fictitious political party – either the Nationalists or the Federalists. They learn which city and county they are in, either on the bus or upon arrival at the Boy's State facility (which for the last number of years has been held at SUNY Morrisville). They then participate in party caucuses to develop their party's platform, and select candidates to run for the various city, county and state offices – right up to Governor. The students then assume the responsibilities of these elected or appointed offices, and operate their government with the guidance of an adult volunteer staff! In addition to the government aspect of the program, there are other activities such as band, newspaper, and athletic competition.

The students are selected from the junior class of their local high schools. The principals or guidance departments provide a list of potential candidates to the local American Legion Post, who then conduct the interviews and make the selections. Over the past few years, Post 1244 has been able to send students from Harborfields, Walt Whitman, Commack, Half Hollow Hills East & West, St. Anthony's, and Chaminade high schools. Nationwide, about 20,000 boys attend Boy's State each year, with about 1,000 from New York, and 50 to 60 from Suffolk County. Originally, Post 1244 was sending two students each year to Boy's State; however, due to fund raising and local community support we have been able to continue to grow this number. Last year we were able to send 13 students to Boy's & Girl's State.

Boy's State is an achievement that is recognized by many colleges, universities, and military academies in their entry selection process. Additionally, Samsung Scholarship opportunities are offered to the attendees for ten \$20,000 and eighty-eight \$1,000 scholarships. One of this years \$20,000 scholarship winners was from Bayport, NY. Some of the famous Boy's State alumni include: Neil Armstrong, Bill Clinton, Rush Limbaugh, Jon Bon Jovi, Michael Jordan, Mark Wahlberg, Tom Brokaw, Garth Brooks, and Chris Christie.

Each year, two outstanding participants are selected from each of the states Boy's State programs to go to Washington to represent the state in Boy's Nation as Senators. This is similar to Boy's State, but the emphasis is on the study of the federal government.

Boy's State provides training in practical citizenship, leadership and character development, by teaching youth to understand and appreciate our democratic form of government – it is "a week that shapes a lifetime".

Charlie Armstrong Post Chairman, Boys and Girls State



Sail Ahead: Healing Wounded Veterans Through Sailing



We have concluded an exciting warm weather sailing season, which included many important firsts. Our first sailing for Veterans from the Northport VA on June 22nd; a sailing of over 80 Veterans and their families on August 22nd from the Centerport Yacht Club; four outings from the US Maritime Museum on the sloop Priscilla; the beginning of the Vet Skipper training program this summer and multiple outings conducted by the Duclay family throughout the season.

On November 19th, we met with representatives from the Northport VA Recreation Therapy Department. Director Susan Pisano, Assistant Director Patrick Campbell and recreation therapist Katherine Poppe. They expressed a desire to work with and support Sail Ahead as a regular program of the VA's Adaptive Sports Program going forward. The first event in this program

will be on June 15th out of Northport. Other VA outings will also be planned.

The Waterfront Center in Oyster Bay will provide a US Sailing Keelboat Certification Program. We hope to be able to certify 15 Veterans this season.

There are many other events in store for the 2016 season, not the least of which will be similar to our Centerport Yacht Club event last August. On August 6, this time with at least 125 Veterans and family members sailing from Northport Harbor. Save that date!

Meanwhile, Winter Sailing begins in Oyster Bay, providing an exhilarating experience for the hardest Vets.

More details to follow as the 2016 Sail Ahead Season approaches. Stay Tuned!!

For more info see: the website www.SailAhead.org

Annual Holiday Party a Big Success!



American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244 held our Annual Holiday Party at Nocello's Restaurant in Northport, December 9. Planning for the event began in August by a committee of Post members, led by Rich Russano. This was the first time in recent memory that we held our party away from our usual meeting place at the K of C, and it was a most enjoyable evening.

Thanks to the efforts of the committee, Partygoers had the opportunity to win prizes in our Chinese auction. We offered a large variety of products and services which were donated by businesses and our many friends in the community. Rich and his wife, Jama organized and prepared the prizes beautifully. Everyone in attendance was given a free gift bag. All funds raised will be used to support the post and its programs.

Thanks to all who participated! We are looking forward to next year's Holiday bash!

American Legion Riders: Still Riding - Still Serving



The ALR Corner

The American Legion Riders share a primary goal: to honor and ensure dignity and respect at memorial services honoring fallen military heroes and for those who serve and

have served in all past and current conflagrations.

We have successfully completed over 150 missions to date, and each and every mission is completed at the Rider's personal expense. With support of our understanding family we are able to represent Post 1244 at honor missions; welcome home missions; deployment missions; memorial ceremony missions; and Missing in America Project missions;

The Help On The Homefront program is our way of giving back to those who have served in defense of this nation. This program assists wounded veterans and their families in need. It includes visits to VA hospitals, repairing or refurbishing homes of injured veterans, and more. It is our intention and vision to secure a place in our communities that will continue to honor and assist these heroes with the dignity and respect they deserve. They are true American heroes who must overcome their disabilities. They are our friends, family members and neighbors; it is an honor to be in their confidence. This confidence must not be taken lightly. This program means a great deal of comfort to the Veterans who sacrificed and are now faced with living a very different life than the rest of us.

Some of our 2015 ALR Missions were: Greenlawn, Huntington, & NYC Veterans Day parades & ceremonies; Huntington Fall Festival; Veterans Day fundraising event. Special thanks goes out to our many community supporters who fund ALR's missions; A special birthday visit at which Dominic Gargiulo was made an honorary ALR Member. He was presented with a riding vest and 'patched' on his 95th birthday; A.B.A.T.E.—American Bikers Aimed Toward Education.

Just last month A.B.A.T.E. presented it's Community Service Award recognizing ALR for its continued contributions to Long Island; Our annual Turkey Run to support those who struggle financially, and the annual Veterans In The Classroom Program at Oldfields Middle School facilitated through the efforts of Founder and Past Director Dennis Giunta. Nassau Community College hosted a Veterans Day Gala catered luncheon event honoring 150 Veteran students, faculty and staff and invited veterans organizations. The event was catered

by Rider and Treasurer Chris Argento, professor and executive chef, and his catering students and faculty.

Not all missions require motorcycles. Each month for the past three years Chris Argento has been 'walking' throughout Penn Station personally honoring Military & Law-Enforcement personnel. .

The ALR has one thing in common besides motorcycles. We have a resolute respect for those who risk their very lives for America's freedom and security including military heroes; law enforcement; firemen & first responders; and honorably discharged veterans. The ALR does not care what you ride, what your political views are, or whether you're left or right. It is a requirement that you are a Legionnaire, Son or Auxiliary member. Moreover, it doesn't matter where you're from or what your income is - you don't even have to ride. We want you!

We are a volunteer organization and participate when we can. From several of our many distinctive members, we would especially like to thank 'PT' Tommy Imerti, for his contributions requiring 30,000 miles/yr. traveling in his "Cost of Freedom Is High" – eye-catching, artistically & patriotically decorated PT Cruiser. Mike Williams, our Chaplain attends many missions for ALR, AL Post 1244, and the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #11; John, Boll, our Road Captain has the task of coordinating missions safely and effectively....and each expertly executed! Dennis Giunta, ALR Founder, George Barbero, 'Mr. USMC'; Joe Spinelli, Herb Walker, Rick & Isabel Decoteau, Bob Moreback, Ken Kirsch, Bob Glanzman, 'Historian' & 'Captain America', Tom McAuliffe, 'Tailgunner', Vic Romondetta, Honda-Man, Angus Kennedy, 'The Mayor', and Bob Woessner, Sgt. At Arms all go 'above and beyond'....and let's welcome our new members Billy Bartasek, Craig Lanigan, and John Pettit who are taking lead with vigor!! Congratulations Riders!!

To all military and civilian service personnel who have served and/or are currently serving, at home and abroad, so that we may enjoy the freedoms you unquestionable protect for us, we wish you to know we honor and support your unselfish devotion to Duty, God and Country. We look forward to your safe return. Anyone sharing these same values are welcomed and invited to join us.

Thank you for your service!

**Submitted by: Chris Argento, RD, CEC
RVN 66-67 US Army 39th Combat Engrs**

VETERANS IN THE CLASSROOM 2015



Chris Argento



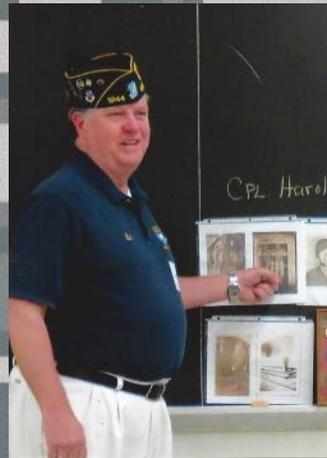
Mike Williams



Dennis Giunta



Ray Bohn



Ed Hayde



Allen Schwartz



Stephen Labate



Chuck Holt

Once again, Oldfield Middle School invited our veterans to speak to the eighth grade classes, during the week of Veterans Day, about their experiences in the military and as veterans after their military service was over. The American Legion believes that our military veterans are living textbooks of American History. Their accounts of experiences while in the uniform of the United States Armed Forces should be preserved and shared with others, especially with students in America's schools. The Veterans in the Classroom program is intended to involve the members of Post 12144 in the academic curriculum. American history is something we all share, and there is no one better to help tell that story than someone who's had a great part in shaping it. Thanks to Mrs. Sandra Buscemi who does a great job coordinating this program with our Post each year. Post Advocate Judge Dennis Giunta worked with our volunteer Veterans and Mrs. Buscemi to be sure everything went well.

Good News!!!



Welcome Hailey! Born to proud parents Danielle and Jim on Halloween. She is the Granddaughter of Legionnaire and American Legion Rider Chris Argento and his wife Peg.

Welcome Kristiana! Born to proud parents Nicole and Sal. She is the Granddaughter of Son of The American Legion and American Legion Rider Bruce Blanco and his wife Donna.

Coming Events

Sunday January 3
1:00 pm
Town of Huntington
Inauguration of Elected Officials
Walt Whitman High School

◆
Saturday January 9
9:30 am
American Legion High School
Oratorical Contest
Babylon Post 94
(Post 1244 is sponsoring three
contestants)

◆
Wednesday January 13
8:00 pm
Monthly Membership Meeting
American Legion Riders
Installation of Officers
Pizza and Refreshments to Follow

Post It!

Hello, International Climate Control Center, can we assist you? Yes, thank you...I have a new set back thermostat, anybody there know how to program the darn thing?



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Under the direction of Legionnaire Donna Boyle, our Post has been partnering with **Operation Paperback**, sending hundreds of books to active duty military around the world since April, 2012. Operation Paperback is a non-profit organization that collects gently used paperback books nationwide and sends them to American troops overseas, as well as veterans and military families here at home. Since 1999, they have shipped over 1.9 million books to locations around the globe.

We will accept paperbacks as long as they are in good condition at any of our meeting nights. If you are unable to bring them to one of our meetings, please let us know and we will make arrangements to pick them up or receive them from you at another time.

Many thanks to Donna and Joe for all their efforts! Contact Donna at 39DPIP@Gmail.com or call Past Cmdr. Bob Santo at 516-458-7881.

Remembering World War II



Domenick Gargiulo



As we commemorate the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, it is fitting that we recall the bravery of the men who flew "the Hump," a deadly air journey over the Himalaya Mountains in the China Burma India Theater.

Domenick John Gargiulo was born on October 12, 1920 in Massa Lubrense, Italy.

Domenick was the youngest of four children born to parents Arturo and Marie. In the 1800's in Italy it was difficult for Arturo to support his family so he left his wife and children behind and came to the United States in the hope of obtaining a piece of the American Dream and providing a better life for his family. He eventually saved enough money to bring his family to America. Domenick was five years old when he met his father for the first time.

In his last year at Haaren High School, he participated in a cooperative program in which he attended school for one week and spent the next week at North Beach Airport (now called LaGuardia Airport) getting acquainted with aircraft servicing and maintenance. In 1939 he studied aircraft and engine maintenance at the Stinson School of Aviation in Long Island City. Then in 1941 he worked on military aircraft performing maintenance and repair for the United States Civil Service Division.

In 1942 Domenick enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps. After enlisting in the Army Air Corps. He trained at Parks Air College, East St. Louis, IL on aircraft maintenance. Domenick flew as a Flight Engineer on a C46 Curtiss Wright Commando for over 360 hours over the Hump (the Himalaya Mountains) from northern Assam, India to South West China B-29 Airbases, bringing supplies such as gasoline and bombs. These missions were very dangerous. Domenick was awarded the Air Medal and the Distinguished Flying Cross for over 120 flights. He also received the World War II Victory Medal, the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal and the Good Conduct Medal. Domenick served his country from 1942 to 1945 and was honorably discharged.

After returning home from the war, Domenick attended CCNY and received a Bachelor of Science Mechanical Engineering Degree. He got a job with Curtiss Wright Corp. and worked for nine years designing and developing an 18 cylinder turbo-compound

reciprocating engine, the J-65 jet engine, and the Navaho Ramjet Missile. During this time, he met his future wife Rose and in 1952 they married. Domenick and Rose had four children, Laura, Paul, Michael, and Annemarie and they were happily married for 61 years.



Domenick also worked for Arde Inc. designing, developing and manufacturing a solid propellant vectoring rocket nozzle for the 1st stage Minute Man Missile. Then Grumman Aerospace Corp. where he designed, tested, and assisted in the development of the Lunar Module, the F-14 Tomcat Navy Fighter, the A-6 Intruder Navy Attack Bomber, the X-29 Forward Swept Wing which was an experimental aircraft. He also assisted in research of the Tokomack Fusion Reactor at Princeton University

Domenick leads by example. His daughter, Annemarie remembers the many valuable life lessons he taught her and her brothers and sister such as: "Get an education, work hard, love God, your country, and family, and always have a few dollars in your wallet." One of his favorite sayings is, "If you can't say anything nice, then



don't say anything at all." Domenick recently celebrated his 95th birthday with family, friends and fellow Post 1244 members. He was made an honorary American Legion Rider and presented with his biker vest.

Many thanks to Annemarie Lenio for her help with her father's story.

"Catch A Lift"



Many times I have Veterans ask "what am I entitled to?" There are many benefits that veterans are entitled to. I like to tell all my clients when this question arises that being a Veteran is a benefit in itself and there are many small

businesses and government agencies that offer either discounts or supplements to various groups of veterans. This is a perfect example of that.

CATCH A LIFT was started as a memorial to Cpl. Chris Coffland and founded on his lifelong philosophy that through physical fitness you can achieve your highest potential for a healthy mind and body.

His dedication and mindfulness to physical fitness was part of a daily regimen his entire life. He actively encouraged others to participate as well, so that they could lead a healthier and well balanced life.

Everyday Coffland would say "I'm gonna' catch a lift" ; his way of saying, he was off to the gym. In keeping with Coffland's commitment to fitness and his dedication to the wellness of others, CAL will assist wounded veterans to become physically and mentally fit again through gifted gym memberships.

MISSION

To help wounded post 9-11 service members start and maintain their healing process, both mentally and physically, through physical fitness by providing them with gifted gym memberships or home gym equipment, anywhere in the United States.

FACTS

- Research has shown that early intervention through physical fitness results in successful rehabilitation for wounded veterans.
- Returning veterans Post 9-11: 53,000+ wounded, 320,000 with TBI and over 400,000 with PTSD
- Suicide rate amongst returning veterans: 22 per day; that is 1 veteran every 65 minutes. (DVA 2/2014). Over 30% of returning veterans have considered suicide.
- 120-150 minutes of exercise weekly greatly improves overall health, helps to control weight, reduces the risk of heart disease, strengthens bones and muscles and

improves mental health.

WHAT DOES CATCH A LIFT DO?

For wounded veterans post 9-11, CATCH A LIFT will pay for yearly gym memberships. If the wounded veteran's requires assistance from their VA Caregiver, their membership will be granted as well. CATCH A LIFT also provides in-home gym equipment, if the vet is unable to attend a gym. See VET APPLICATION for more information.

HOW CAN I HELP?

Make a donation. Donations are our largest source of funding. You can donate easily on our secured DONATIONS page at any time. For your convenience, donations can be made through our secured payment link, using a credit or debit card. Checks can be mailed as well. Catch A Lift is a non-profit 501(c) 3 organization, TAX ID#27-3901149.

Become a volunteer. You can volunteer by helping spread local community awareness, sponsoring a fundraising event or participating in a fundraising event. Click on our VOLUNTEER page and become involved today.

Become a Corporate Sponsor. Sponsorship opportunities are available by visiting Contact Us .

CATCH A LIFT is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization, TAX ID#27-3901149. After your donation is submitted, a confirmation will be sent and act as your receipt. Please print a confirmation and retain for your tax records.

HOW TO APPLY

Please see the VET APPLICATION page for all directions on applying.

WHAT GYM CAN I USE?

Any gym in the United States may be chosen by the veteran with the exception of Planet Fitness facilities which do not accept any form of payment that Catch A Lift offers.

It is the veteran's responsibility to provide the gym information and contact person on the application form. CATCH A LIFT will grant the yearly membership for the wounded veteran and if needed, the VA CAREGIVER, in compliance with the gyms and CATCH A LIFT's criteria.

For More Information go to:
<http://www.catchaliftfund.com/catch-a-lift-veterans/>
Or call: 1-855-GYM-4VET

Sean Lyons
Service Officer, American Legion Post 1244
Veterans Service Officer, Suffolk County Veterans
Service Agency 631-853-VETS

Vice Commander's Call to Members



MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS BENEFITS ... just ask Ray Bohn!

Okay, so we are gathered at the Greenlawn Memorial Park Monument during our Veterans Day Ceremony and Brother Ray Bohn confronts me face to face. He starts talking with exuberance about his recent experience with the Veterans in the Classroom Program at Oldfield

Middle School, coordinated by Brother Dennis Giunta.

He keeps me in lock step, nose to nose, and our arms entwined. ***I am not going anywhere!***

“Allen”, he says, “I had such a great time. I never did this before...the kids were great...I could have stayed the whole afternoon”. I, too, am a presenter in my third year, so I tell Ray how I bring my Navy uniform, a 2010 Census shirt and a pair of dark sunglasses to note my service with NSA. You would think we were two kids sharing the joy of some secret big adventure. And maybe we were.

I think, also of Brother Charles Armstrong, who beams with joy, as he watches our sponsored students from the Boys and Girls State programs tell about their life-changing experience and thanking our Post Members for the opportunity. And Brother John Caldarelli, Chairman of our Missing in America Project, bringing closure to the fallen and in some cases their families. The list of Greenlawn Post 1244 Veteran and Community projects goes on and on.

So now that you have paid your dues in all respects, it is time to reap the benefits. Join us at a meeting, an event, or sign up to be part of a new project.

Ask Ray...he will tell you **MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS BENEFITS.**

Allen Schwartz
1st Vice Commander
Membership Chairman

Welcome New Members!

American Legion

Robert Hever
Alexander Janow
Marissa Little
Clem Novak
Walter Rabe
Kevin Tagg
Bernard Vollkommer

American Legion Auxiliary

Shannon King

Sons of The American Legion

William Bartasek
Michael Bonaserra
Brian Finnegan
Chris Leogrande
John Petit



Greenlawn Bowlers Honored

The 66th annual American Legion Bowling Tournament was hosted by the Warren E. Eaton Post 189 at Family Recreation Lanes in Norwich, NY during April and May.

Bowling Chairman Ray Bohn accepts award from Commander Madden at our October 14th meeting. The team of Bohn & Cola from Greenlawn Post 1244 grabbed top honors in the Doubles Event with a score of 1470, edging out Thomas & Brown from LeRoy Post 576 who took second with 1469. Greenlawn Legionnaire Joe Joyce placed 2nd in the Singles Event.

Operation Enduring Care

You will find a flyer in this issue of the Bugle asking for your help in securing food for the veterans and families served by the Northport Veterans Residence at the VA. Al Statton, Army Veteran, Firefighter and Post 1244 member has been collecting food and comfort items for the residents and food pantry for the past few years.

The need is great, especially at this time of year. Please read the enclosed flyer and help in any way you can.

Thank you

THE COMMANDER'S CORNER



Thanksgiving is behind us and the Christmas and Hanukkah holidays are just ahead. My goodness, how time does fly! Before you know it, we'll be finalizing the plans for our BBQ in May. It's true, I guess, that "time waits for no man." The year 2015 has proven to be a milestone year in this Post's history. We've experienced a change of command and a party to celebrate the service Bob Santo provided us; we had another great BBQ to kick off our summer season and a banner year for our Boys and Girls State programs, driven by Charlie Armstrong and Ed O'Shea. We participated in the, first ever, Sail Ahead program for veterans with PTSD and will again this coming year. If you weren't there, please consider it this time around. Our Missing in America Program, offering a final bit of dignity to our brothers and sisters in arms, has been very busy under the guidance of our Chairman, John Caldarelli, and we have been more than obvious at the many community functions this season. Of course, our American Legion Riders Chapter has been anywhere and everywhere and display our "colors," brilliantly, each and every time.

Unfortunately, we also lost the guiding hand of our

Auxiliary Unit, Fran Hubbs, this year. While they "regroup," in her absence, after this crushing blow, we offer whatever we can to help carry on Fran's work and the group's programs. The Auxiliary is truly an asset to this Post.

This, dear friends, is an ACTIVE Post! Thank you for your participation in the events you could attend. Please consider us in the future if some other event grabs your fancy. You will not be disappointed, I assure you.

Now, after our first, annual Holiday Party outside of the Post, we must give thoughts to the first of the new year and what is in store for us during the winter months.

We hope to have one or two "day trips" for the group, so watch our Weekend "E News" from Bob for the details on each. Of course, we'll be making plans for the outdoor weather again, beginning with the St. Patrick's Day parade in Huntington in March.

So, get comfortable, buckle up and prepare to join us for any and all the events you can make. For now, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and may we all experience a most joyous holiday season and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Dennis Madden



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

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The Greenlawn Bugle: Editor and Production Manager, Bob Santo
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Contributing Writers: Chris Argento, Charlie Armstrong, John Caldarelli, Sean Lyons, Dennis Madden, Allen Schwartz, Bob Santo
Proofreading, Photography, Envelope Labeling, Stuffing, Circulation and Morale Officer: Madelaine Santo



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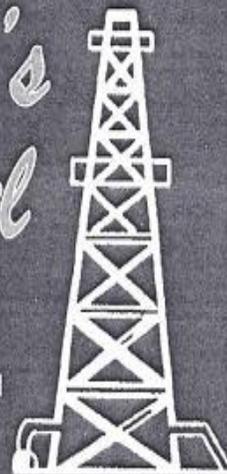
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