

The Greenlawn Bugle ♦ Post 1244



♦ Winner Best Paper Award American Legion New York State ♦

June 2010

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Memorial Day 2010

Inside This Issue

MEMORIAL DAY 2010	1
HAPPENINGS	2-5
YOU EARNED IT	3
VICE COMMANDER NOTES	5
ARE YOU IN THE PICTURE?	4
COMMANDER'S CORNER	6
TAPS HAS SOUNDED	6
SPONSOR PAGES	7-10

Upcoming Events

- July 14: 8:00 pm Monthly Meeting
- August 11: 8:00 pm Monthly Meeting
- September 2: Fireman's Fair Parade
- September 6: Labor Day Cookout.



See Our Website
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, get to know us! For more information call:

631-673-8704 or e mail

Post1244@verizon.net

This year's Greenlawn Memorial Day Parade was truly impressive. Our Post 1244 Legion Family turned out in the greatest numbers in recent memory to honor those who died in order that we could continue to enjoy our lives in freedom. Members of our American Legion Auxiliary Unit and Sons of The American Legion Squadron joined us as we led the march down Broadway to the Greenlawn Memorial.



Veterans, Firefighters, Boys Scouts, Girls Scouts and hundreds of other citizens paused on that sunny holiday morning to reflect on the price of freedom. It was heartening to see so many children participating in the parade and ceremony. Greenlawn Fire Chief Greg Moran and Chaplain John McKenna conducted the memorial service. Taps was played and wreaths placed at the monument. The Greenlawn Fire Department Firing Squad fired a 21 gun salute in memory of our fallen.

That afternoon, Post 1244 members enjoyed a cookout at the home of Legionnaire Mike Bonchonsky. There was plenty of music, food, refreshments and fun to be had. Vice Commander Dennis "DRACO" Giunta somehow managed to keep up with the line of folks at the grill.

At 3:00 PM our group fell silent as we participated in the National Moment of Silence to remember our fallen. Readings by Commander Santo and Assistant Chaplain Shaw and a flawless rendition of "Taps" by Comrade Allen Schwartz gave special meaning to the moment.



Earle Emmons and Robert E. Lee

Later on, Post Troubadour-in-Chief Robert E. Lee had everyone's attention as he sang many of Al Jolson's most memorable songs and, before long, he had the crowd singing along with him.

Thanks to Mike Bonchonsky for his hospitality and to all who contributed to a wonderful day!



The National Moment of Remembrance asks Americans to pause wherever they are, whatever they are doing, for a moment of respectful silence on Memorial Day at 3 p.m., local time, to honor those who died in the service of our nation. The Moment helps us see beyond the picnics and parades, the ballgames beaches and barbecues of Memorial Day to bond as Americans in an act of national unity out of respect for those precious souls who gave their all. The National Moment of Remembrance, officially established by Congress, helps restore the "memorial" to Memorial Day, reclaiming it as the noble holiday it was meant to be. In this shared remembrance, we connect as Americans as together we give honor to those to whom honor is due."

Happenings

Post 1244 Officers Installed for Legion Year 2010-2011

On May 12, Officers of Post 1244 were installed for the 2010-2011 year. Officiating were Suffolk County Commander Robert Shadler, County Historian and Past County Commander Paul DeVaul, and County Sergeant at Arms William Farley.

The newly elected officers are:

- Commander-Bob Santo
- 1st Vice Commander and Finance Officer-Dennis Madden
- 2nd Vice Commander-Dennis Giunta
- 3rd Vice Commander-Kevin Farrell
- Adjutant-Ed O'Shea
- Service Officer-Donna Boyle
- Sgt-at-Arms-Charlie Armstrong
- Chaplain-Donald Hope
- Public Affairs Officer and Historian-Allen Shaw
- Judge Advocate-Tom Freeman



National Medal of Honor Day March 25, 2010



James McDonough, Jr. Director,
New York State Division of
Veterans Affairs

American Legion Post 1244 was represented along with Veterans Organizations from Nassau and Suffolk Counties at Long Island National Cemetery, Farmingdale, N.Y. to honor those who have been awarded the Medal of Honor and are now interred there.

Why March 25th? Congress chose this date because it was on this day in 1863 that the first Medals of Honor were presented to six members of Andrews Raiders in the War Between the States.

Twenty recipients of the Medal of Honor are interred at Long Island National Cemetery. Currently, 32 Medal of Honor Awardees are buried in all Long Island Cemeteries

The first laid to rest there was Thomas Mitchell, Landsman, U.S. Navy. Serving on board the USS Richmond in the Shanghai River, Mitchell rescued M.F.Caulan, First Class Boy, from drowning on November 17, 1879.

The most recently interred is First Lieutenant John Warren. He was awarded the nation's top medal for his actions in Tay Ninh Province, Vietnam when the platoon he was commanding came under attack. Warren fell on an enemy grenade to shield others from the blast, an act that cost him his life.

Attending the ceremony from Post 1244 were Commander Bob Santo, Judge Advocate Tom Freeman and Historian Al Shaw.

Allen Shaw



Congratulations

- ★ Robert E. Lee has announced his engagement to Zoraida Gomez. The couple are planning a December wedding.
- ★ Ed and Maureen O'Shea on the birth of their granddaughter Grace Catherine 8 lbs, 2 oz.
- ★ Mike Bonchonsky on his Honor Flight trip to the National WW II Monument in Washington, DC.



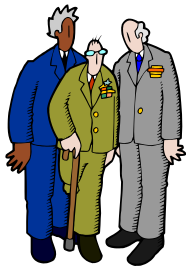
Touro Law Veterans and Service Member's Rights Clinic

Providing free legal assistance to veterans and service members and their families, from when service members enter active duty or are deployed, while they are on active duty or deployed, and after they return to civilian life.

For more information contact: John A. Gresham, Director at 631-761-7080 (vetsclinic@tourolaw.edu).

"You Earned It"

by Donna Boyle, Post Service Officer



YOUR DD-214

The most important military document for those who have been discharged, separated or retired is the DD214--your discharge paperwork. (Before January 1, 1950, several similar forms were used by the military services, including the WD AGO 53, WD AGO 55, WD AGO 53-55, NAVPERS 553, NAVMC 78PD, and the NAVCG 553.) You should keep multiple copies of it. (Provide your spouse a copy and have them put it some place they can find it in an emergency.)

This is proof of your military status, whether you are retired, separated or discharged. It contains the nature of your discharge, and what your status is with the National Guard or a Reserve Unit.

The lack of a DD214 form will bring your VA processes to a halt, but fortunately you can get a replacement copy by writing to the National Personnel Records Center. Enclose a completed form SF-180 along with a letter stating the reason for your request, your name, rank, social security number.

How to get Standard Form 180 (SF-180)

- Use the eVetRecs request system (<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/evetrecs>)
- Write to : The National Personnel Records Center 9700 Page Avenue St. Louis, Missouri 63132
- From a local Veterans Administration office

If you are not able to obtain SF-180, you may still submit a request for military records. Your request must contain enough information to identify the record among the more than 70 million on file at NPRC (MPR). Certain basic information is needed to locate military service records. This information includes:



- The veteran's complete name used while in service
- Service number or social security number
- Branch of service
- Dates of service
- Date and place of birth may also be helpful, especially if the service number is not known
- If the request pertains to a record that may have been involved in the 1973 fire, also include:

Place of discharge

Last unit or assignment

Place of entry into the service, if known

Local Students Awarded Academic Prizes

Post 1244 has presented the George W. Henry Memorial Award for Excellence in American Studies to two local students: Paul Nunez of St. Pius V School, Melville and Jacob Axelrod of Harborfields High School, Greenlawn



Each student receives a scholarship of \$250. We are glad to be able to aid in their pursuit of higher education and hope they will continue to show an interest in our form of government.

Post 1244 Bulletin Board—Are you in the picture?



B17 “Yankee Lady” Raffle

On the morning of May 29th, Post 1244 Legionnaire and raffle winner Joe Vitello took off from the American Airpower Museum at Republic Airport aboard the vintage Flying Fortress for a 40 minute ride over Long Island. Joe said that he got a good feeling for what it must have been like to fly a mission in the Flying Fortress which helped win WW II for the Allies. The “Yankee lady” which was seen in the skies over Long Island for much of the Memorial Day Weekend never saw combat in WW



Harborfields Students Host Veterans Appreciation Breakfast



Legionnaire Chuck Holt and Students

The AP Government Classes at Harborfields High School hosted dozens of Post 1244 and other local veterans at the Annual Veterans Appreciation Breakfast on May 21st. Veterans shared their photos, souvenirs and stories with the many students. All were eager to learn about life in the military and how our experiences have shaped our lives and view of the world. Students shared their views and goals with the us. We were all impressed by them. Thanks to Patty Taylor and the fine students of Harborfields High School.

Auxiliary Dance and Fund Raiser a Big Success



Our brand new American Legion Auxiliary Unit had it's first big social event on April 24th and it was a huge success! The Dance and Fundraiser at the St. Joseph Council, Knights of Columbus featured food, refreshments, raffles and door prizes. Versatile entertainer Tony Grant provided an evening of musical delights for every taste and had many couples up and dancing the night away.



Auxiliary President Fran Hubbs said the event owed its success to the teamwork of the Auxiliary members who were so generous with their time and effort. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening. Special thanks to Joseph Ferrandina of the K of C who spared no effort to see that everything went well. Post Commander Bob Santo said that the members of the Post are already looking forward to next year's party.

Commander's Corner

Getting It Right



Bob Santo

Sometimes we need to take a moment to point out when our elected officials really get something right. Such is the case of the bill introduced this month by Suffolk County Legislator Steve Stern and passed unanimously by the Legislature on June 8th.

This law, prohibits demonstrations at funerals in the County of Suffolk. According to Legislator Stern, this legislation was made necessary because of protests nationwide by members of a fringe group, the Westboro Baptist Church, who have disrupted military funerals at churches and cemeteries with disrespectful and abusive signs and verbal assaults upon military families grieving the loss of their loved ones who died in service to our nation. The Greenlawn Bugle reported on this group in our article on the Patriot Guard Riders in our April 2010 issue.

"I am profoundly disturbed that legislation is required to ensure respect, dignity and compassion for our military families who have made the ultimate sacrifice to protect our nation and it's way of life, Legislator Stern said. "This outrageous cruelty has no place in Suffolk County and I am proud to stand with our military, our veterans and their families on this initiative to respect our fallen heroes and their families."

The need for this law was borne out on Friday, June 11. Members of the Westboro Baptist Church, reacting to the passage of this bill threatened to disrupt the funeral of 1st Lt. Joseph J. Theinert on Shelter Island. Fortunately, their demonstration never came to pass.

The Greenlawn Bugle hopes that other localities will soon follow the example of our legislature.

We are grateful to Steve Stern and the Suffolk County Legislature for a job well done!



Steve Stern and supporters of the legislation.

Taps Has Sounded

William H. Roberts

June 2, 2010

Served with the 1st Army, 2nd Armored Division

"Hell On Wheels"

1951-1963



WWII Army of Occupation, National Defense and Good Conduct Medals

Retired member of the IBEW Local 25. Loving father of Nancy (Rudolf) Sobina, Linda (Chuck) Smith, William III (Eileen), Warren (Elizabeth) and the late Wendy Dillon. Adoring grandfather of 8, great-grandfather of 7. He is loved and will be missed by many nieces, nephews and friends.

A Post Everlasting Ceremony was conducted at the Suffolk County Convention of the American Legion on June 12th. The names of all Suffolk County Legionnaires who passed away since the 2009 Convention will be read. The following Post 1244 Legionnaires were inducted into the Post Everlasting of The American Legion:

William J. Bishop July 31, 2009

William A. Polakos September 16, 2009

Christos "Chris" Gineros March 11, 2010

John Pellegrino March 26, 2010

William H. Roberts June 2, 2010