



# The Greenlawn Bugle

September 2017

The Newsletter of American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244

Volume 11 Issue 3

## Post Happenings

### Stand Down For Homeless Veterans September 29 9 am-2 pm

Volunteers are needed at Northport VA Medical Ctr. to participate in escorting veterans who are greatly in need of our support. On hand will be many representatives of social service institutions able to help our homeless Vets or those in danger of becoming homeless.

### Long Island Fall Festival October 7 and 8 11 am- 6 pm

Each year, we take this opportunity at Huntington's Heckscher Park, to meet the many hundreds of visitors to this event, the largest in the northeast. We will have a membership and information booth on Prime Avenue.

### Veterans Day Ceremony November 11 11 am - 11:30 am

Join us for a brief ceremony celebrating Veterans Day at Greenlawn Memorial Park. We will be joined by our neighboring Legion posts plus many community groups, scouts and citizens.

### Monthly Meetings

St. Joseph Council K of C  
24 Boulevard Ave.  
Greenlawn 8:00 pm

The 2nd Wednesday of each month.

## Let's Take A Veteran Sailing 2017

Our partner SailAhead's 3rd annual "Lets Take a Veteran Sailing" event got off to a great start, with beautiful weather, and a decent wind at the Centerport Yacht Club.

The purpose of this annual event is to spread awareness of the PTSD problem and of Veteran suicide throughout the country. We also want to make the community aware of SailAhead's mission to use sailing as a healing platform to help Veterans with the physical and emotional consequences of war.

This year's event was dedicated to the memory of Ryan James Day, Army Ranger, who took his life on December 15, 2014 at the age of 21. Ryan's family and the families of several other victims were invited and attended this year's sailing as guests of SailAhead.

SailAhead has now taken on a new mission - honoring the family members left behind after a veteran suicide and recognizing the incredible sacrifice they have made.

The opening ceremony featured a Marine color guard and flag line by our American Legion Riders and the singing of the National Anthem and "God Bless America." SailAhead's 219 flag represents the 219 veterans who take their own life every ten days minus the one we hope to save. To help visualize what 219 veterans looks like, a rope having 219 knots was brought out on the field. Volunteers were asked to come forward and hold a knot on that rope. This was a very meaningful moment for all.

SailAhead carries the name tapes of 219 suicide victims on every mission in honor of their 219 "mates," actual veterans who took their own lives.

50 Sailboats plus several powerboats and a helicopter taking aerial photos were involved in this year's event. Over 300 participants, including 200 veterans and their guests, took part.

We concluded the three hour sailing with a BBQ courtesy of our host, the Centerport Yacht Club.



New York American Legion Press Association's Best Paper Award 2012-2013-2014-2015-2016-2017

## Boys and Girls State 2017



The Boy's & Girl's State programs this year have been particularly satisfying. Not only were we able to send seventeen students from four of our local high schools (Harborfields, Walt Whitman, Huntington, and Commack), we also had our first student selected to attend Girl's Nation. Brenda Mendez, of Walt Whitman High School, was selected by her peers to spend a week in Washington as a 'senator' from New York in the national program.

We had nine of the students attend our August meeting (the remaining eight will be at upcoming meetings). Each of them took a few minutes to tell us about their experiences at Boy's & Girl's State, what it meant to them, what they got out of it, and the friends they made.

In addition to learning more about how government works and running for various state, county, and city offices, they were exposed to many speakers from various government levels, such as, a state assemblyman, a college president, a congresswoman, a Marine Corps Colonel, a village mayor, a county legislator, a fire chief, a school superintendent, a county sheriff, and various other guest speakers.

We then presented them with Proclamations and Certificates of Merit from the Town of Huntington, Suffolk County and New York State.

We are looking forward to begin the process all over again for the 2018 year, and hope to be able to once again increase the number of qualified students we will be able to send to this "week that shapes a lifetime".

**Charlie Armstrong**  
Post 1244 Sgt. at Arms  
Boys and Girls State Co-Chairman



Nine of our Boys State and Girls State delegates attended our August 9 meeting to share their experiences with the members. Lots of proud parents attended as well. Pictured with the delegates are NY State Assemblyman Andrew Raia, Suffolk County Legislator Dr. William Spencer, and Assemblyman Chad Lupinacci. In all, our post sponsored 2 girls and 15 boys this year for "A Week that Changes a Lifetime."

# Americanism

## The “I Am an America” Monument

Perhaps, in your travels, you have noticed the small, slightly askew, rustic flag pole on the front lawn of a private residence in Melville. At its base is a small granite monument, dedicated in 1947, with the inscription declaring that: “I Am an American Day Movement was organized here in May, 1938 by Helios Foundation, Inc.”

The monument and its American flag first caught my eye about ten years ago.

I never gave it much thought, however, until the summer of 2012. I noticed that the flag was no longer serviceable and the pole was in danger of tipping over. Intrigued by the inscription on the monument, I set about to learn the history of the movement marked by the monument.

With the assistance of our Huntington Town Historian Robert Hughes, I learned that the first “I Am an American Day,” was originated by Mrs. Paul d’Otrenge Seghers in May of 1938 on what was then called Sunnyhill Farm.” Mrs. Seghers, a native of Poland, came to the United States in 1919. She had lost her husband, her only child and her fortune through the hands of the Communists. She found shelter and protection from persecution in the United States of America.

Grateful for the opportunities her new country provided her, she decided that her mission in life should be to propagate Americanism and show her appreciation to her flag and country for the privileges, opportunities and freedoms which she now enjoyed in her blessed land.

A year later, in 1939, New York City news tycoon William Randolph Hearst suggested the creation of a holiday to celebrate American Citizenship. Not only did Hearst have a wide readership of his many daily newspapers, but he had significant political connections. In 1940, Congress designated the third Sunday in May as “I am an American Day.” President Harry Truman presented the resolution, setting aside this date in honor of the American people, especially those who had recently become



citizens of the United States.

Despite the claims of Hearst, the local newspaper clippings I have on hand attest to the fact that the honor of creating the day belongs to Mrs. Seghers and the Town of Huntington.

The day was celebrated at Sunnyhill Farm with national and international dignitaries for twenty years from 1938 to 1957 at the house which still stands at 2500 New York Avenue. The monument was dedicated there on May 18, 1947.

In 1953 “I Am an American Day,” became “Citizenship Day” and is now celebrated alongside “Constitution Day” on September 17<sup>th</sup> of each year.



In 2012, we replaced the tattered flag with a new one and braced the old flag pole to prevent it from pitching over. Our post always has a supply of serviceable flags turned in at our mobile flag deposit box and, for the past five years, these have been helpful in keeping the flag pole supplied with flags. At one point, with help from Sgt. at Arms Charlie Armstrong, we gave it a new coat of paint, and installed a halyard and links to attach the flag. Last year, Commander Madden and I made some more repairs after the pole tipped over in a storm. We hope the repairs will last a while longer.

In 1957, Joseph W. Cermak, Supervisor of the Town of Huntington proclaimed May 19, 1957, as “I Am an American Day” in the Town of Huntington.

So, fellow Huntingtonians, go ahead and officially celebrate Huntington’s “I Am an American Day” on the third Sunday of May each year.

*Bob Santo*

## American Legion Auxiliary



It's that time of year again. The Greenlawn Auxiliary is starting up meetings after our summer break. We'll be meeting on the second Wednesday of the month. Our meetings officially kick off at 7:30pm but we encourage members to arrive as early as 7pm for socializing and snacks. Many thanks to the Harborfields Public Library who always manage to find space for us.

Anyone interested in attending is welcome to reach out to us so we can direct them to the right meeting room. We look forward to another great year and hope to see many of you there!

Shannon King  
Unit 1244 President  
ALA1244Greenlawn@gmail.com

## Post 1244 Holiday Party 2017



Members and guests of our Greenlawn American Legion Family are invited to enjoy dinner and refreshments at our third annual Greenlawn Post 1244 Holiday Party. Please join us in celebrating the season on Wednesday Dec 13, 2017 from 6 pm to 11 pm at the beautiful "Mac's at The Meadow" restaurant, (formerly The View) at Crab Meadow Golf Course in Northport.

This will be a Post 1244 event, including the Sons, Auxiliary, American Legion Riders and Legionnaires.

Enjoy a festive evening of great food, music and dancing.. Please don't miss this opportunity to spend a convivial evening with your fellow Post 1244 Family

members. If you are new to our post, come and meet us!

Last year's party was a such great success, we expect many more of you will want to attend this year. As is our custom, all proceeds from this event will be donated to a local charity, yet to be determined.

We will soon begin collecting items and gifts for the Chinese Auction that has been such a great hit at each year's event. If you know of an individual or business who would like to contribute a gift of a meal for two, dry cleaning ,a car wash or anything we could include in our raffle, please contact Vice Commander, Rich Russano at 631-796-3013 or e mail him at rxr@econatura.com.

Please remember, all proceeds will go to helping our fellow veterans, active duty military and their families. Every little bit helps.

Free Gift Bag for each couple. Chinese Auction, Door Prizes

**Tickets are \$50 per person  
RSVP and payment by Nov 15 to:  
American Legion Post 1244  
PO Box 238  
Greenlawn NY 11740**



## St. JOSEPH COUNCIL #4810 KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

**631-754-9488 Rentals / Membership**

**Our newly refurbished hall is available for all your special occasions.  
Call now and reserve! 631-754-9488**

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 Past Commander Bob Santo at 516-458-7881

## MIAP Activity Report

This past summer has been fairly quiet for the Missing In America Project. at Post 1244, due to a plethora of unrelated occurrences. However, unrelated as they may be, they still had an impact on MIAP's progress. This does not mean, however, that the M.I.A.P team's membership was not striving to advance the standing of our success in our mission. Unfortunately some of the issues led to confusion with in our ranks.

Clearing the air has led to partial success, but was time consuming in the process. Some one once said to me, "John don't let the perfect be the enemy of the good." Therefore, in this endeavor, our stalwart membership has pushed ahead in our mission. Our fantastic genealogist Ann Marie Martin, now lives in Florida, however, she still works with us. In that capacity, she has researched over 800 crematories and funeral homes in New York City and nearby counties. This is a prodigious and successful undertaking by our Ann Marie.

We are carrying on the mission in New York by creating 200 flyers to be sent to those institutions. They will be mailed to crematoriums those targeted boroughs

and counties by our supportive Post 1244, without which we would be hampered in our progress. If we do not hear from them in an appropriate time, we will then follow up with a phone call. These calls will be made by our MIAP team.

With due diligence we shall endeavor to stay the course. Our optimism is based on the sheer numbers we are targeting. We shall continue northward in New York State until the Royal Canadian Mounties stop us.

Our work with the New York City Department of Veterans Services is resuming after a prolonged delay.

On September 21st at 1:30 pm, we will provide honors to an unclaimed U.S. Army veteran, Mr. Howard Johnson, at Calverton National Cemetery. All are welcome to attend and pay their respects.

*John Caldarelli*

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

## From a Proud Member of Our MIAP Team

On a personal note, I have been a member of Post 1244 for about six years, ever since I got a call from Dennis Madden to give up my national membership and join the post. I have never had a brother and now I have many brothers who all enjoy the same things I do.

About four years ago, I attended my first MIAP burial at Calverton with Bob Santo. I was so moved by the military honors bestowed on a vet who had no family. Post 1244 was his family. I heard at one of the Post 1244 meetings that John Caldarelli was looking for volunteers and I joined his group.

I now have six close brothers who live and breath MIAP and I am proud to be one of those who give their all to the MIAP.

For any Post 1244 member, if you have never experienced an MIAP burial, you need to come and give your fellow vet his final honors.

*Vinnie Crimaudo*  
Post 1244 MIAP Team

Block Parties | Fund Raisers  
Community Events | Sweet  
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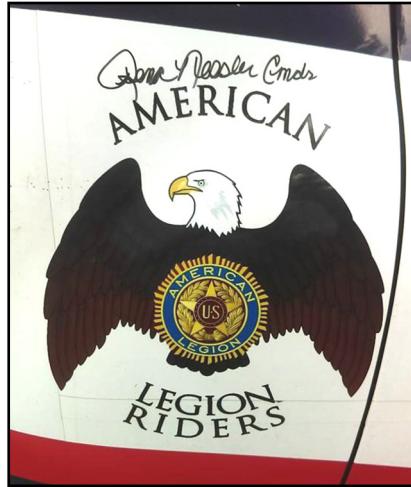
## American Legion Riders



American Legion Riders Chapter 1244 President, Bruce Blanco, has been appointed Director of American Legion Riders for Suffolk County. Somehow he will find time to add this new job to his already busy schedule. His goal as Suffolk County Director is to have the individual post chapters work together. Some of the local chapters are pretty small in terms of active members. This will help those chapters to learn, grow and ultimately fulfill their mission.

The escort on September 10, for newly elected Department of New York Commander Rena Nessler, American Legion Auxiliary President Patricia Hennessey and Sons of The American Legion Commander William Clancy III. Our Chapter 1244 and several other Suffolk County chapters took part. Over 60 American Legion Riders participated, making for a visually and acoustically dramatic motorcade.

The ALR chapters assembled at the Seatauket Fire Department and proceeded to the Long Island Veterans Home in Stony Brook where Commander Nessler and her group were touring the facility and interacting with the residents. After their visit, they were met at the entrance circle of the home by the assembled riders. Bruce greeted the delegation on behalf of the American Legion Riders.



The door of "PT Tom's" Cruiser was autographed by our new Department Commander

**Post Decals Are Now Available**  
your pride as a member of American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244  
These long lasting vinyl decals can be displayed on your rear windshield.  
They are available for \$6 at our monthly meetings or just e mail us at  
[Post1244@verizon.net](mailto:Post1244@verizon.net) to order yours.



Post 1244 riders Vic Ramondetta and Tom Imerti then presented Cmdr. Nessler with a very special American flag. This flag has special meaning due to the recent tragic events in Texas. The flag had been flown over Houston's Department of Public Safety during Hurricane Harvey. The badly damaged flag was then flown briefly over the White House in Washington, D.C.



Some of our Post 1244 Legion Riders at the Legion Family Visitation Dinner on September 10. Note the new white shirt and black tie dress uniform worn by most riders that evening.

Exactly how our Post 1244 ALR Director managed to obtain the flag shall remain a mystery. However, Bruce did replace that flag in Houston with a new one.

The riders then organized a motorcade for the Department of New York Delegation to Joseph Loeffler Post 1006 in Brentwood for the evening's Legion Family delegation's visitation dinner. Suffolk County's American Legion Riders were well represented at the affair.

**American Legion Riders Chapter 1244 is sad to report that our brother Ken Kirsch and wife Peggy are relocating back to Michigan.**  
**We wish you good luck, good health and much happiness. We enjoyed sharing many good times with you and we will miss you both.**

## The Gold Star - A Symbol of Honor

American Gold Star families are immediate relatives of members of the U.S. Armed Forces who have been killed in combat or in support of certain military activities.

The U.S. Department of Defense issues Gold Star Lapel Buttons to immediate family members of a fallen member of the military killed in the line of duty. The department also issues the Next of Kin of Deceased Personnel Lapel Pin for family members of those who die on active duty, although not in combat.

Some families display flags with a gold star emblem, indicating a family member has been killed in a military operation. A flag with two gold stars, for example, shows two service members from a particular family were killed.

Some families choose to display the banners, also known as service flags, throughout the year as a solemn tribute to their fallen family members. The rectangular flags are white, bordered in red, with a gold star overlapping a larger blue star.

The Gold Star first appeared on flags in 1918, when families would pin a gold star over the blue service star hanging in their window to indicate that their loved one had been killed overseas. At that time President Wilson also authorized mothers to wear a gilt gold star on the traditional black mourning arm band to signify they lost a child in the war.



### The Gold Star Lapel Pin.

Designed and created in 1947 to be presented to eligible surviving family members of service members who died while deployed in support of Overseas Contingency Operations, or who died from wounds sustained in theater (Public Law 80-306). The Gold Star lapel pin consists of a gold star on a field of purple surrounded by laurel leaves.



### Next of Kin of Deceased Personnel Lapel Pin.

Consists of a gold star on a gold background surrounded by four oak sprigs. It was approved in 1973 for the primary next of kin of service members who lose their lives while serving on active duty or while assigned in a Reserve or National Guard unit in a drill status, and is authorized for issue retroactive to March 29, 1973. The widow or widower, each parent, each child, stepchild, child through adoption, brother, half-brother, sister, and half-sister are entitled to receive and wear these pins in recognition of their loss and the sacrifice of their loved one.



### The Gold Star Service Banner

Some families display flags with a gold star emblem, indicating a family member has died while in the military. A flag with two gold stars, for example, shows two service members from a particular family died.

The rectangular flags are white, bordered in red, sometimes with a gold star overlapping a larger blue star. The flags were initially flown by families during World War I between 1914 and 1918.

In a proclamation issued September 24, 2015, President Obama said that most Americans can't fully comprehend the price Gold Star family members have paid: "Their sleepless nights allow for our peaceful rest, and the folded flags they hold dear are what enable ours to wave. The depth of their sorrow is immeasurable, and we are forever indebted to them for all they have given us."

# Customs and Courtesies

## The Legion Cap



The left side (emblem side) of the cap is reserved only for the Legion emblem, city, county, district, or state lettering.

If desired, the following items may be placed on the right side of the cap:

- a) Additional lettering, restricted to either the name of a post or to an officer title, such as Past Commander.
- b) Cap insignias or badges for past or present officers.
- c) Consecutive membership insignia, membership stars, and/or other Legion or military service decorations.

The Legion cap should be neat and orderly in its appearance.

The Legion uniform cap should be worn by its members only when in attendance at official Legion meetings or ceremonies or as official guests at patriotic or other civil functions or by individuals when officially representing The American Legion on public occasions.

A member is considered to be in uniform if wearing an official Legion uniform cap. Therefore it is not proper to wear the cap while eating a meal at an official Legion or civic luncheon or dinner.

The cap should be worn in a place of worship only by the Guard of Honor, Color Guard, and Commander of same while in marching order or standing guard. When

The American Legion, like the military in which we all served, instills pride in its members because of its history, mission and the respect it has earned in service to the community, state and nation.

A reflection of that pride is visible in the customs, courtesies and traditions we hold dear. Adherence to them connects us with all American Legionnaires, past and present.

returned to and seated in pews, the cap should be removed.

Legion posts marching in formation into a place of worship should uncover at the door, hold the cap with the right hand over the heart until the arrival in the pews and commanded to take seats, remaining uncovered during the entire service. At the close of the service, upon command, the post shall arise, the members holding the cap with the right hand over the heart will march out of the place of worship and recover after marching through the door.

Legion members not in formation will uncover upon entering the place of worship and remain uncovered during the entire service and will recover after leaving the place of worship.

When at a funeral, the cap should be held over the heart as one approaches the casket and is not at any time worn in a place of worship (except by the Guard of Honor, Color Guard, or Commander of same while in marching order or standing guard.) At the graveside, the cap should be held in the right hand over the heart during the entire service. In cold and inclement weather, the cap should not be worn.

In Legion meetings, the cap should be worn except during moments of the Pledge of Allegiance, prayer, and when standing in silent reverence in memory of departed comrades, when the cap should be held with the right hand over the heart.

Female members of the Legion should wear their caps in the manner prescribed for female personnel of the armed services.



# Bernard Vollkommer

## August 22, 2017

# United States Army Air Corps World War II

For their sense of duty continues to preserve our past, safeguard our present, and sustain our future.

# Do You Have Your Discharge Document?

Legionnaires, I was contacted last week by a friend who has a friend whose father just passed away. He is a veteran, having fought in WW II. His wish was to be buried in a military cemetery with honors. On mentioning this to the Funeral Director while making his arrangements, they were asked for his DD 214 or his Military Discharge Papers because he was from WW II, in order to facilitate such a request. Of course, they didn't have it ... had never seen it and had no idea where to look for it.

Unfortunately, at this late time, there is no easy, expedient way to procure a copy to enable a burial in a military cemetery. Long story short, they hadn't planned on anything but a military cemetery so now they had to rush out and buy a plot in a private cemetery to bury their dear father.

getting out of this alive ! “

Don't be the next story around town about how a veteran couldn't be buried in a military cemetery. I have it on good authority that "None of us are

*Dennis Madden*

## 75th Anniversary Party - Save The Date

It was March 15, 1943. On that date American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244's charter was signed by the National Commander of the American Legion.

The United States had been at war with the Axis Powers for well over a year. In a few years, millions of American GI's would be coming home. Our newly formed American Legion Post would be ready to receive them with open arms.

In recognition of our founding members and all those who have come after them, we are planning a 75th Anniversary Party on March 14, 2018 from 6:00 to 10:00 pm at the Woodbury Country Club. Tickets will be \$50 per person.

The Woodbury Country Club, a prestigious venue here on Long Island, is known for its 5 Star kitchens and has agreed to host this event for us at a generous rate. Tickets for this event can be purchased at \$50 per person and will include at full, top shelf cocktail hour, appetizer, salad, choice of prime rib, chicken or salmon, vegetables and potato and dessert. Cash bar will follow the cocktail hour.

Additional details will follow.

We hope many of our members, friends and community partners will attend and help us honor our past, embrace the present and celebrate our future.

## Veterans to be Eligible to Use Post / Base Exchange Online

The Department of Defense has announced a policy change that will extend limited online military exchange shopping privileges to all honorably discharged veterans of the military. The new benefit will apply only to online shopping at the exchanges, not at brick-and-mortar stores. Purchases are free of state sales taxes.

The veterans online shopping benefit will be effective as of this coming Veterans Day, November 11. While shopping privileges exclude the purchase of uniforms, alcohol and tobacco products, it includes the Exchange Services' dynamic online retail environment known so well to service members and their families. This policy change follows careful analysis, coordination and strong public support.

More than 165,000 honorably discharged veterans

have been verified since June to receive the new veterans online shopping benefit. VetVerify.org is the first step in the eligibility process. Veterans who register through VetVerify.org will receive notification of their acceptance as eligible online shoppers, or, if their records are incomplete, will receive guidance on the steps they must take to update those record.

Part of the profit from the sales at exchanges goes to support morale, welfare and recreation programs at military installations and to improve brick-and-mortar stores.

Veterans must apply for eligibility online at: [www.VetVerify.org](http://www.VetVerify.org)

## Photo Corner

L-R: Vinnie Crimaudo, Adjutant Ken Carlson and Past Cmdr. Bob Santo manned the membership and information table at the Huntington Awareness Day "Unity in the Community Fair on September 9.

We are happy to say that two new members signed up that day: Charlie Caputo and Ron Worrell.

Our newly formed color guard of Legionnaire Ed Hayde and Sons Brian Hackett and Paul Shields led the Awareness Day parade from Huntington High School to the Stimson Middle School fair grounds.



## Vice Commander's Call to Members



The 2018 membership year drive is slightly ahead of last year when we achieved 100% by December 1st. Several members do not understand that the "Legion Year" is July 1st to June 30th. Thus, the 2018 year started on July 1, 2017.

If you have paid your dues, thank you. If not, please do your best to get us your \$45 as quickly as possible so we may mark you paid and send your 2018 membership card. The monies we receive go a long way

in funding veterans needs.

Further, as a result of transfers, expiration's and deaths, we are "down" over 10 members on our roster. We need each of you to accept the challenge of recruiting one new member by the end of this year. Our post is making every effort to get new members by manning booths at many venues in our community.

This year's theme from our newly elected National Legion Commander is "Family" Let's show the Greenlawn Post 1244 family's spirit and brotherhood !!

**Just ask!**

*Richard Russano*

### Welcome To Our Newest American Legion Members!

#### American Legion:

**Robert Bishop**  
**Charlie Caputo**  
**David Cussen**  
**Shea Cussen**  
**LTC Edward T. Diamantis**  
**Jason Fisher**  
**Kevin J. Julien**  
**Brian Rooney**  
**Ron Worrell**

#### Sons of The American Legion:

**Richard Bailey**  
**John E. Murphy**  
**Richard T. Russano**  
**Peter S. Russano**  
**Christopher R. Russano**  
**Michael K. Russano**



### Operation Paperback

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](mailto:39DPIP@Gmail.com) for more information

## The Commander's Corner



As we enter the second quarter of our 2018 year, we have several items on our agenda already accomplished. We have made contact with and spent time with the Reserve Units in the Armory in Farmingdale. We planned and executed an event on August 14 at Adventureland for the children of those Active and Reserve units, several of whom are due to deploy in November. Joining us that night were the children of troops from another Reserve unit in Garden City. It was the first of several of these events that we are in the process of planning.

Each of our monthly meetings has brought the membership one presentation or another that we hope you find interesting and informative. Our next few will feature the graduates of our Boys and Girls State programs for this past June. Charlie Armstrong's and Ed O'Shea's efforts to raise funds enabled us to send a total of 17 high school juniors this year. Our post is second in Suffolk County in providing this opportunity to the students who will be our future. They will give us their feelings on their week away learning the inner workings of government and their first contacts with the military who provided chaperone services.

Membership renewals are well underway and we are beyond the 50% mark as we should be at this time. If you haven't renewed, please make that a priority. It is easy to renew online at [www.legion.org/renew](http://www.legion.org/renew) or by

simply writing a check. None of us would let our LILCO bill go this long. Please help us be in first place again this year. We need to be all done by Thanksgiving in order for The American Legion Department of N.Y. to process by year's end. Please, don't be "that guy or gal".

Our Fall outdoor events are fast approaching. The Greenlawn Firemen's Fair will already be in the books by the time you read this. Huntington's Fall Festival follows quickly by the Columbus Day weekend, the second weekend in October. We have elected not to march in the Columbus Day parade.

On Nov 11, a Saturday this year, our Veteran's Day event will be the largest ever. We will hang our invitation banner again, earlier than normal, and we have invited the two surrounding posts, Northport and Huntington to join us as well. Many invitations have been prepared for our elected officials, none of whom will speak, and for other veteran supporting groups in our immediate area. Traffic control is being addressed as I write this article. Of course, immediately following the ceremony, we will retire to Applebees in Commack for our annual luncheon. The meal is "on them" but we do ask for a \$10 donation per person to cover our drinks and tip as always.

Watch our calendar online at [www.post1244.org](http://www.post1244.org) and come out to join us when you can. Thank you for your renewal of your membership with this post and for your concern for our veterans everywhere. Thank you also, for your service to this great country of ours. It is my honor to be associated with you all.

*Dennis Madden*

**Our Monthly meetings are the second Wednesday of each month at 8:00 pm, Knights of Columbus,**

**24 Boulevard Ave. Greenlawn. Come early and get to know us!**

**For more information call: 516-523-9391 or Email: [Dam9245@optonline.net](mailto:Dam9245@optonline.net)**



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 1244 news of interest, and 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!** Just send an e mail to: **[Post1244@verizon.net](mailto:Post1244@verizon.net)**. We'll do the rest .

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***Richard Russano, Bob Santo***

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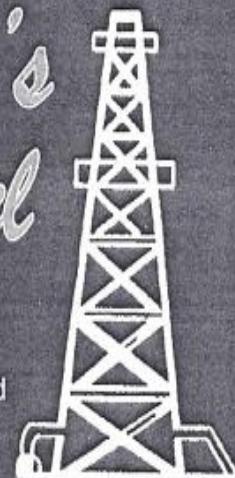
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