



The Greenlawn Bugle

The Newsletter of American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244

June 2020

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Memorial Day 2020



L-R Charlie Armstrong, Assemblyman Steve Stern, Dennis Madden, Carlo Giordano, Al Statton, Cmdr Donna Boyle, Hal Dieterle, Bob Santo, Ed Hayde. Steve Scinta, Alex Janow, Bruce Blanco and Nicole Abbate.

Memorial Day 2020 arrived in the midst of the most serious public health crisis in the past 100 years.

We were, however, determined to recognize those who gave their lives for our nation with a brief ceremony at Greenlawn Memorial Park on the morning of May 25. Attendance was, of course, minimized and masks were worn to protect one another. The color guard took up their position and Commander Boyle called our squad to order.

Wreaths were placed at the monument by Past Commander Dennis Madden and Auxiliary Co-President Nicole Abbate.

Together we observed a moment of silence. "Taps" was then sounded and the ceremony was concluded.

Later that afternoon, a smaller group of us gathered at Long Swamp Cemetery, a little-known cemetery just south of Jericho Tpke. in Huntington Station. This small cemetery on Barkers Lane contains the remains of three of our first American Veterans.

They were three Huntington minutemen of the American Revolution. We presented a wreath in honor of Sgt. John Carll, Pvt. Scudder Carll, and Pvt. Joseph Ireland.



Long Swamp Cemetery on Memorial Day
Ed Hayde, Bob Santo, Carlo Giordano Jr., Michelle Martin Carlo Giordano Sr. and Cmdr. Donna Boyle

Nine years ago, our post adopted this cemetery as our own. It had fallen into complete disarray over the years. Most of gravestones had been toppled and broken and trash littered the grounds. We persuaded our town leaders to see that the grounds were cleaned up and we pitched in to do our own clean up and brush removal.

Legionnaire Ed Hayde and his wife Deb have posted a sign indicating that the cemetery is under the care of Post 1244, and erected a flag sign, above, at the garden area they created and maintain.



*We cherish, too, the poppy red, that grows on fields that valor led
It seems to signal to the skies, that blood of heroes never dies.
Moina Michael*



Boys State and Girls State 2021



As regrettable as it was to have to cancel this year's Boy's and Girl's State programs due to the Covid-19 virus, we did have the noteworthy opportunity to meet with and interview a number of outstanding students who soon will be in leadership positions in the fields they choose.

We had a great mix of kids from Harborfields, Walt Whitman, Huntington, Commack and St. Anthony's High Schools – 25 in all. Many are members of the National Honors Society, are involved in student government, are in Scouting, or taking various AP classes. They are involved in many different clubs at school, such as choir, debate, robotics, virtual enterprise. Many are involved in football, basketball, baseball, hockey, junior firefighters and the local library. Along with all of this, some are working part-

time jobs, all the while maintaining grade levels that allow them to qualify for Boy's and Girl's State.

After high school, several have expressed interest in the possibility of attending one of the military academies. They all plan to attend college with various majors – political science, engineering, law, business, pre-med, economics, education, etc. We had a nice representation of our future citizens. It would have been great for them to have experienced Boy's and Girl's State!

We now await the possibility of offering this opportunity to the next class of high school juniors.

Charlie Armstrong
Boys and Girls State Co-Chairman

A Soldier Has Died

Many hearts and lives have been broken
Many tears have been wiped from our eyes,
Many angels have mourned and wept sadly
For you see, a Soldier has died.

No more letters would be sent to her hero
By his young wife of nearly eight years,
For the words of a visiting Chaplain
Have confirmed her very worst fears.

The birthday card sent to her Daddy
By the six-year-old girl he adored,
Had come back unopened months later
For her father had died in the war.

She'd no longer be able to hug him
Or have him tuck her in bed at night,
For he'd died protecting her freedoms
Her brave Father who's gone to the light.

She and Dad were to walk down the aisle
But quite sadly, it never will be,
He won't be at the church to give her away
For he's been buried with honors, you see.

Mom still sets him a place at their table
Though his smile has long since been gone,
And now carving the bird on Thanksgiving
Falls each year on his young teenage son.

Yes, this is the price that some have paid
Right here, in the U S of A,
The greatest nation on earth that is second to none,
Where we live free, and thrive, and play.

So, let us never forget our fallen
When we drop to our knees and pray,
And give thanks to our heavenly patriots
Who for our tomorrows, gave their todays.

Charlie Tritto

Chaplain

American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244

A Moment with Chaplain Charlie



My last column left you hanging with my unknown cancer prognosis so I owe you an update. I'm happy to report that at the moment, my cancer is in remission. I will need to take periodic follow-up scans for the next 5 years but I'm good with that. Will just continue to take this thing one

day at a time....but so far, so good. Thanks once again for your kind thoughts and prayers....Now, on to my column I call, "The Great Quarantine of 2020."

During the great quarantine of 2020, I decided to attack the armoire that my better half has been using to store "important papers" since Moby Dick was a guppy. All of the envelopes contained within, were labeled by year and service provider.

I don't know how she did it, but she knew where every invoice we had ever paid was in that armoire. The thing was so packed with these "critical" items that there was no longer room for a paper clip! Well, I had enough. I broke out my trusty shredder and went to work. Pay stubs from the 1980's....zapped, tax returns from the 1990's....in IRS heaven, invoices from department stores that have been

belly up for decades....gone, water bills from 20 years ago....deep sixed. The list goes on. Really? I was on a mission!

Soon, however, my demo mentality was replaced with nostalgia as I viewed stuff I realized was indeed priceless. I began to understand why she placed them so carefully and lovingly in that wooden vault. The invoice from our daughter's wedding, along with the guestlist and what she got from each. The letter from the bank in 2001 saying our mortgage was finally paid in full, greeting cards from me and homemade cards from the kids since the 1980's, the canceled check from the limo we had on our wedding day in 1973, and even the invoice for the bedroom set we ordered from First Rapids Furniture in the Bronx in 1972!

There were countless other slices of our lives that Diane and I relished reliving that day. For a little while, we were young again! Truth be told, though I'll never admit this to her, sometimes clutter is good!

Charlie Tritto

Chaplain

American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244

Final Salute

Donald R. Corie US Army
April 15, 2020

Michael Broderick US Army, US Coast Guard
April 26, 2020

**Their sense of duty continues to preserve our past,
safeguard our present and sustain our future.**

Operation Enduring Care



During these trying times, Operation Enduring Care is currently providing hygiene, personal care and donated items to our area veterans in need.

Every two weeks, we provide personal hygiene items to the Hospice Unit in Community Living Center 4.

As the restrictions on activities and purchases of items subside, support is ongoing for a collection to prepare for the re-opening of the Beacon House Northport Veterans Residence at Northport VA Medical Center. We will provide the residents with non-perishable food and snacks as well as personal hygiene items, socks, underwear, blankets, DVD's and other items.

We also provide items for the annual Christmas Dinner at the Northport VA Medical Center for 100 veterans and families in need.

We are now collecting funds to provide new televisions to both the Critical Care Unit and ICU at the Northport VA Medical Center. There are currently not enough TV's for all the patients in the CCU and many of the TV's in the ICU are not in good working order.

We previously donated 25 thirty-two inch TV's to the Hospice Unit at Community Living Center 4.

All donations are welcome. One hundred percent of

what we collect is spent to help our veterans in need.

We are currently welcoming donations of :

- Antiperspirant / deodorant
- Shaving Cream (male & female)
- Razors (male & female)
- Alcohol-free mouthwash
- Toothbrushes, toothpaste
- Bars of soap, body wash
- New, packaged underwear both male and female in sizes medium, large and extra large
- New, packaged men's and women's socks medium, large and extra large

Monetary donations in any amount are especially welcome and can be sent:

Payable to:
American Legion Post 1244
Memo line: Operation Enduring Care
PO Box 238
Greenlawn, NY 11740

Al Statton
Chairman
Operation Enduring Care

HSBC Bank Donates to Operation Enduring Care

On June 23, we were pleased to accept a generous donation from HSBC Bank in the amount of \$1,000 for Operation Enduring Care.

Jill Saltarelli, Vice President and Senior Branch Manager at the HSBC Bank in Commack presented Al Statton with four \$250 Visa gift cards.

This donation comes at a particularly important time, as we prepare to provide for the re-opening of the refurbished Beacon House Veterans Residence at the Northport VA Medical Center in Bldg.10

We are incredibly grateful for the support of HSBC Bank!



L-R: Bob Santo, Jill Saltarelli, Al Statton

Flags for Families

The recent Covid-19 quarantine affected all of us in one way or another. For veterans, it denied our right to be laid to rest with the military honors we earned and deserve. Furthermore, it prevented the families and friends of our fallen from attending those honors as a group. The sounding of Taps, and the ceremonial folding and presentation of the revered casket flag would have to wait until a future date, or perhaps, not happen at all. Something had to be done.

Recently, a program that a Home Hospice manager in West Virginia began several years ago came to our attention. She donates 3'x5'

American flags to several funeral chapels in her area. She asks that the flags be presented to the next of kin of all deceased veterans their facility would be preparing for final rest. These flags would not replace the government provided casket flags which denote *national* appreciation for a loved one's honorable service. Rather, they would show the respect and appreciation our *local* community has as well for their loved one's time in uniform.

In late April, we adopted a similar program as an ongoing Post 1244 initiative. On April 30, flags were distributed to four funeral homes that service our local community; A.L. Jacobsen, Brueggemann, M.A. Connell and Nolan. Each of the directors embraced this initiative and looked forward to participating in the program.

Their representatives were asked to present a flag to the family of each departed veteran they serviced, Legion member or not. To date, 30 flags have been distributed. As the program matures we will encourage other American

Legion and VFW posts to participate. Stay tuned for future updates....



“Service to God and Country”

Chaplain Charlie

You Earned It!



As a Service Officer for American Legion Post 1244, I provide answers to questions on VA benefits and other benefits that veterans may be entitled to. I am not limited to just VA benefits as I also have a working knowledge of all types of programs on Long Island, including Senior Programs, low-income programs, etc.

If there is a need of any type, I am the person that a veteran may want to contact as I am very resourceful. If I cannot answer your question, I will certainly point you in the right direction.

I am proud to serve our veterans!

Michelle Martin

American Legion Post 1244 Service Officer

Cell: 646-937-2940

Email: mmartin@sus.org

Long Island State Veterans Home COVID-19 Donation

The current COVID-19 crisis has created a shortage of much needed supplies for our health care workers who have been on the front lines.

On learning that the Long Island State Veterans Home at Stony Brook University was in need of special coveralls to protect their staff, Post 1244 responded. Despite the shortage of PPE. We were able to locate and order 96 of the coveralls online. We received the shipment on May 1st.

Two days later, Commander Boyle delivered them to Jonathan Spier, Deputy Executive Director of the facility.

Executive Director Fred Skanga wrote to thank the post: "As we confront this unprecedented community pandemic, it's great to know that the American Legion Post



Cmdr. Boyle and Deputy Ex. Director Jonathan Spiers

1244 is standing side-by-side with us to defeat this terrible illness."

The COVID-19 emergency has created a need for thousands of local families who have suddenly lost their jobs.

In addition to our donation of PPE to the Long Island State Veterans Home, we also made substantial donations to Long Island Cares, Island Harvest and Helping Hand Rescue Mission to assist in the food crisis.

Congratulations Keith Gunsel



Post 1244 Legionnaire and Senior Chief Petty Officer Keith Gunsel has been selected for Master Chief Petty Officer in the Naval Reserve.

Keith enlisted in the Navy in September, 1994. He has served in multiple leadership positions.

In his civilian career, he is a Middle School Social Studies teacher and volunteer firefighter with the Huntington Manor Fire Department.

Congratulations, Keith and thank you for your continued service to our country.



Senior Chief Petty Officer Keith Gunsel takes the oath of reenlistment from Lt. Cmdr. Dewey in 2019

To all Legionnaires, Auxiliary members, Riders and Sons:

The Covid-19 pandemic has made our 2020 fundraising efforts extremely difficult. This was not something that could have been foreseen.

We are so grateful for the efforts of many members of our Legion Family who have purchased or sold our 2020 Raffle Tickets.

Still, we have a long way to go to make up the shortfall we have encountered.

In light of the pandemic, and the food emergency it has caused in our community, we have made additional substantial donations to the food banks "Long Island Cares" and "Island Harvest" as well as Huntington Station's "Helping Hands Rescue Mission." We even provided The Long Island Veterans Home with badly needed PPE coveralls.

You can help your post with a \$20 donation (and a chance to win one of our great prizes).

This year's prizes will be:

First Prize: Samsung 50" LED UHD 4K Flat Screen TV with HDR'

Second Prize: Samsung Galaxy Tab E - 9.6" -16GB

Third Prize: Bose® - Soundlink® Portable Bluetooth® Speaker II Soft Black.

Fourth Prize: Dinner for two at Red Restaurant in Huntington Village.

Fifth Prize: Northport Engeman Theater - Two tickets to any show (except Saturday)

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

Please help support our programs for veterans, families and children

Please make checks payable to

"American Legion Post 1244"

PO Box 238 Greenlawn NY 11740

We will fill out your tickets and send the receipt part of the ticket to you.

Drawing will be on September 9, 2020 at our monthly meeting.

Winners Need Not Be Present

Call Bob Santo at 516-458-7881 or e mail bobsanto2@verizon.net for any questions, concerns or suggestions

Post 1244 Monthly Meetings

St. Joseph Council K of C 24 Boulevard Ave. Greenlawn

The 2nd Wednesday of each month at 8:00 pm

Operation Hope

Upon receiving a cancer diagnosis, a person's life is forever changed. The full suite of human emotions bombards one's mind, and the fear of an uncertain future pervades one's thoughts. Some opt to keep their diagnosis private while others wear it on their sleeve.

Words of encouragement from friends and family go a long way in easing the physical and psychological pain of those battling this disease. However, no one can truly understand what their loved one is feeling, unless they've been through it themselves. Our participants have. We feel each other's pain because we've walked in each other's shoes.

This enables Operation Hope to provide an additional level of support in the form of empathy, understanding and solidarity. It can provide participants with another set of ears to express their frustrations and another shoulder to lean on. The takeaway here is knowing you are not alone. Therein lies the value of Operation Hope.

Participation in the program is strictly voluntary and open to all post members who have ever been diagnosed with any form of this dreaded disease. The format of the program remains flexible, and is meant to accommodate the needs of the individual participant. Some may enjoy the comradery that group settings provide, while others may prefer one-on-one discussions with a fellow participant or Post Chaplain. Naturally, items discussed among participants should be considered confidential and not be discussed outside the group.



An Operation Hope lapel/hat pin will be given to each participant free of charge. Additionally, Operation Hope T-shirts may soon be available for purchase. Stay tuned for details.

If you would like to be included in the group, please contact me at your earliest convenience via e mail at **Chaplain1244@Gmail.com**, or on my cell phone at **631-786-3842**. As always, thanks for your fellowship, and God Bless You All!

Chaplain Charlie

Commander Boyle Honored by Legislator Tom Donnelly

"I was privileged to recognize and honor Command Sergeant Major Donna D. Boyle of Huntington Station last week during the inaugural Women's Veterans Appreciation Day "zoom" ceremony. I look forward to honoring her in person in the future.

Raised in Western Pennsylvania, Command Sergeant Major Donna Boyle joined the United States Army in 1978 under the GI Bill and used it to earn a Civil Engineering degree. She served as a Field Artillery Surveyor in Field Artillery units from 1978 to 1986, a Survey Party Chief in an Engineer Brigade and as the First Sergeant of Combat Heavy Engineer unit from 1986 to 2003. She then served as an instructor and the Sergeant Major of a Training unit from 2003 until her retirement in 2007.

CSM Boyle was awarded the "Legion of Merit" in 2007, a military award of the United States Armed Forces that is given for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services and achievements.

Amongst the numerous other awards she received were a Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medals, Army Achievement Medals, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal and Kuwait Liberation Medals from both Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

A member of American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244, CSM Boyle has served as commander since 2019. She also serves on the Town of Huntington Veterans Advisory Board.

CSM Boyle moved to Huntington in 2004 when she married Joseph H. Pipia III, a lifelong Huntington resident. Her husband has been a member of the Huntington Manor Fire Department for nearly three decades. They are both volunteer instructors for the New York State Department of Conservation, teaching hunting safety and bow safety courses."

Tom Donnelly, SC Legislator 17th District

Spotlight on Helping Disabled Children of Active Duty Service Members

Disabled Childrens Fund

Today's U.S. all-volunteer military is made up of people who tend to be older, and more likely to be married, than those many of us served with. This means that there needs to be more services available for family members. This is especially true when a Soldier, Sailor, Airman, Marine, or Coastguardsman has a disabled child. To help active duty parents meet those challenging needs, the Army started the **Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP)** in 1979. During the 1980s, the other branches of the Armed Forces also adopted the program. In 1985, the EFMP became a DOD-wide program.

It has expanded to go beyond just the medical needs of disabled dependents to include advocating for the children to gain enrollment in appropriate special education courses and services from the school districts. It also runs "Quality of Life" programs that can help these children reach their full potential, while at the same time providing some respite periods for family member/caregivers.

While the clinical services are usually adequately funded, the Quality of Life side of the EFMP mission often experiences shortfalls. Programs at several installations have been forced to look for outside sponsorship to obtain additional financial support. One of the organizations that has stepped in to help is the **Disabled Children Fund, which is led by Post 1244 member Jack Walsh.** This charity is

currently partnering with the EFMPs at Fort Gordon, GA; Fort Hood, TX; and Joint Base San Antonio (TX), which covers Fort Sam Houston, Lackland Air Force Base and Randolph Air Force Base.

Jack said it's not surprising that Disabled Children's Fund, or DCF for short, got involved with helping military kids, as their majority of their board of directors are retired military, or former military spouses. In fact, two of the board members have children currently on active duty. When they learned of the financial needs of many EFMP activities, they began reaching out to different installations.



A fun day for the kids at Fort Hood supported by Disabled Childrens Fund

The activities they have helped support so far include a specially designed safe and educational full-day of fun activities to celebrate Halloween at Fort Sam Houston, a performing arts workshop series and recital at Fort Bragg, and a painting art program at Fort Gordon. In addition, for various times during these activities, the parents can relax and have some refreshments, knowing that their kids are safe and being well cared for.

Disabled Children's Fund is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. It is a member of America's Best Charities, and has won the Gold-Level Award from GuideStar for accountability and transparency. You can learn more about our work, or help support our efforts, on our Facebook Page: Disabled Children's Fund, or our website: www.disabled-child.org, or you can write to us at: Disabled Children's Fund, PO Box 4712 Crofton, MD 21114. Or, you can take the "old school" approach and call Jack at 631.368.0417.



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American Legion Riders



Hello to all!

I hope everyone is doing well. During these trying times, the Riders have been keeping safe distances while supporting our Veterans and their families.

The funeral homes and National Cemeteries have adjusted their policies in accordance with CDC guidelines and we have been doing our funeral escorts with respect to these policies. Our Riders have been coping and ensuring safety while providing the same exemplary services that is expected of us. We have been keeping our motorcycles at a 6' distance as we ride. We practice social distancing and proper personal care and we demonstrate extreme caution, as the health of our members and those around us are paramount.

A new "function" that we have been performing is birthday parade rides for a few of our Hero's throughout Nassau and Suffolk. We also have done thank you rides for our health care workers. These rides are our way of letting our Heroes and their family members know that, even though we cannot gather, you are still the most important reason that we do the things we do.

When the Riders say "we are all in this together" we mean it! Please stay safe. Should ANY member or Veteran need any assistance, be it physically, emotionally or otherwise I urge you to reach out. We, the Riders, are here for you.

Bruce Blanco

Director

Legion Riders Chapter 1244

Bruce Blanco's "Drive-By" Birthday

In a sign of these unusual times we are in, folks have been forced to take unusual measures to recognize graduations, weddings and birthdays in pandemically safe ways.

ALR Director Bruce Blanco was the beneficiary of this new wave of celebrating milestones this April, when his family arranged a "drive-by" birthday parade in his honor of his 60th birthday.

Motorcycles, cars, clowns (on foot) and clowns not on foot and a 2 1/2 ton army truck were all part of the parade that went by Bruce's house.

Next year, we are expecting something akin to the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade...only on wheels!



Sons of The American Legion



Dear fellow Sons of American Legion :

I hope all of you are doing well during these unprecedented and trying times. At this time I ask you to talk to your family friends and neighbors to take a moment and really remember what the flag means and how our fathers, mothers, grandparents, sons and daughters fought to give us what we enjoy each and every day with some people take for granted. Talking with one person may spread to 2

then 3 and so on.

If you have any issues or ideas please reach out to me ASAP. THANK YOU

Angus Kennedy

Commander, Sons of The American Legion

angus.kennedy@cbre.com

516-512-1196

Vice Commander's Call to Members



Well, Post 1244 Legionnaires, it's time to renew your membership in our fine post.

The Legion membership year begins on July 1, 2020 and ends on June 30, 2021. The easiest way to renew your membership is to go online at

www.legion.org/renew.

You will just need your membership number (on your Member ID Card) and a credit card. The process takes all of 5 minutes. Each year, more members take

advantage of this quick and easy method to maintain your membership.

While you are at it, why not invite a fellow veteran to join? Many of us joined once we were asked to join. We would love to hear from any and all of you on ways we can attract and keep new veteran members. Especially our post 911 veterans!!

Wishing you all a safe and healthy Legion Year 2021. I hope to see you all at our next meeting on July 8.

**Just
ask!**

Carlo Giordano
1st Vice Commander
Membership Chairman

Save These Dates

July 8, 2020

Our next meeting is on Wednesday
July the 8th at 8:00 pm
So let's meet under the stars.
Plan on bringing a face covering.



The location will be the K of C Hall across from the Greenlawn Firehouse.
We will hold our meeting outside in the backyard.
Bring lawn chairs & bug spray.

September 7, 2020

Our Post 1244 Annual Picnic
Will be held on September 7th at the same location

Watch the Veterans Weekly E-Newsletter for more information and updates.

Donna Boyle, Post Commander

The Commander's Corner



Hi again! I hope this finds you safe, healthy and happy. I am assuming every member's life has been different these last few months. Remember back in January when I suggested accepting and embracing change? I did not have this type of change in mind. Who would

have thought that you would need to wear a mask to do your banking.

Members of the post were able to do a few things this Memorial Day. All the ceremonies were limited to 10 people so we adapted and overcame. I played TAPS at a very small ceremony we held at The Long Swamp Cemetery. I know that TAPS was not written at the time of their service, it is from the Civil War, but the 3 Revolutionary War soldiers buried there understood the sentiment.

May is normally "Poppy" season but we are adjusting our calendar so if you can support the Post by doing a Poppy campaign or by buying tickets for our annual raffle please let me or another officer know. If these past few months have caused you hardship, please reach out to us. Maybe the post can help. We have some amazing members who can assist in a lot of different ways.

I expect we will be able to hold a meeting in July, bring your bug spray and join us for a meeting outside in the backyard.

Our Posts party planners extraordinaries are going to try and have the Memorial Day picnic on Labor Day September 7th. Please try and join us.

Stay safe and healthy until next time,

Donna Boyle
Post Commander

AMERICAN LEGION GREENLAWN POST 1244 AND ALL VETERANS SAY THANKS



I think almost everyone knows May is Poppy Month. This year has been a real challenge to our post's Poppy Campaign. I want to say "Thank You" to the Huntington Manor Fire Department for their very successful and moving Memorial Day ceremony on the 25th and their support of our Poppy Campaign during the last week of May. All the money raised by Poppy donations goes to support local veterans.



Donna Boyle
Post Commander



The Greenlawn Bugle

National American Legion Press Association First Place
Award 2018; Second Place Award 2019

New York American Legion Press Association's Best Paper Award
2009-2012-2013-2014-2015-2016-2017-2018-2019



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Copy Editor, Envelope Labeling, Stuffing, Circulation and Morale Officer: Madelaine Santo



OUR SUPPORTERS



Chad A. Lupinacci
Supervisor
Town of Huntington



100 Main Street, Room 200,
Huntington, NY 11743
CLupinacci@huntingtonny.gov
631-351-3030



Mark Cuthbertson
Councilman
Town of Huntington



Huntington Town Hall
100 Main Street, Huntington, NY 11743
<http://HuntingtonNY.gov>
Email: MCuthbertson@HuntingtonNY.gov
(631) 351-3172 - Fax (631) 673-3379



*Thank you to our
Veterans
and their families for
serving our country.*

Councilman Eugene Cook
Town of Huntington
631-351-3174
ecook@huntingtonny.gov



Councilman Edmund J.M. Smyth, USMCR,
Veteran
Semper Fi
esmyth@huntingtonny.gov
631-351-3175



Joan Cergol
Councilwoman
Town of Huntington



100 Main Street
Huntington, NY 11743
(631) 351-3173
jcergol@huntingtonny.gov

*Proud member of
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Kevin S. Orelli
Superintendent of Highways
Town of Huntington



Highway Operations Center
30 Rofay Drive
Huntington, NY 11743
(631) 499-0444

Village Auto Body



85 Broadway
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OUR SUPPORTERS



Steve Stern
Member of Assembly
10th District
Suffolk County



630 New York Avenue Ste. D
Huntington, NY 11743
(631) 271-8025

sterns@assembly.state.ny.us



William R. Spencer, MD
Suffolk County Legislator
18th Legislative District

224 Wall St., Suite 303
Huntington, NY 11743
(631)854-4500
Fax (631)854-4503



www.greenlawncivic.org



**The Greenlawn
Civic Association**
P.O. Box 332 - Greenlawn - Long Island - New York - 11740

**We join you in support of Our Troops.
We thank them for their dedicated service
and sacrifice for our Country.**



Susan A. Berland, Esq.
SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATOR
16th Legislative District

6080 Jericho Turnpike – Suite 307
Commack, NY 11725

631-854-5100
Fax: 631-854-5103
susan.berland@suffolkcountyny.gov



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Branch Manager

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Phone: 631-757-6100

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