



The Greenlawn Bugle

The Newsletter of American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244

Founded March 15, 1943

September 2019

Volume 13 Issue 3

Boys and Girls State 2019

Post 1244 Events

Monthly Meetings

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

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

Feel free to invite a friend.

**New Members are
Always Welcome!**

Long Island Fall Festival October 12-13

One of the largest festivals
in the Northeast hosting
thousands of visitors from
across Long Island and the
Tri-State area.

We will have a membership
and information booth.

Come visit us!

Veterans Day Ceremony November 11 11 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.

Post 1244 Holiday Party December 11 6 pm - 10 pm

Cinque Terre
Ristorante Italiano
Sit Down Dinner, Music,
Dancing
\$50 per person



Boys and Girls State Recognition Night
Council members L-R Joan Cergol and Mark Cuthbertson join Supervisor Chad Lupinacci in congratulating this year's citizens.

The 2019 Boy's & Girl's State program is now history, and we now prepare to begin the search for candidates for the 2020 program.

2019 saw us able to send a total of 22 students to this excellent program, up from 20 the previous year. As we look to the future of our country, we strive to send more students to help them become better citizens. At this time, we are well positioned to continue moving in this direction as we approach 2020.

At our August meeting, we enjoyed hearing from a large number of our 2019 alumni, telling us about their experiences. The students told us about running for various offices such as County Executive and State Legislature - and winning; and also running for offices - and losing.

They were appointed to other posi-

tions in the state, county and city governments. They introduced bills that passed and some that failed. They made new friends from all over the state and they got to speak in front of new faces. They learned about the democratic process, and the efforts that must be made to insure that 'democracy shines.'

Hopefully, they will retain this knowledge and be able to make use of it as they move into adulthood and take over the reins of America.

One student noted that "I more fully understand what it means to be an American. I understand our obligation to voice our opinions and vote on government issues. I understand how lucky we are to have the freedoms we do. And I understand the sacrifices made by so many

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Boys State and Girls State 2019

(Continued from page 1)

brave men and women to protect these freedoms.” Another student said, “it was a once in a lifetime experience for me and I’m glad I was able to attend. Thank you American Legion for allowing me to experience this program.”

Year after year we hear comments like this from the returning students, which makes us look forward to beginning the process of sending another group of young adults to the 2020 Boy’s & Girl’s State program!

Proclamations were presented to each student by our local elected officials including Assemblymen Andrew Raia and Steve Stern, County Legislator ‘Doc’ Spencer, Huntington Supervisor Chad Lupinacci, Town Board members Marc



Cuthbertson, and Joan Cergol, Town Clerk Jo-Ann Raia and Receiver of Taxes Jillian Guthman.

Representatives of Congressman Tom Suozzi, and of Legislators Susan Berland and Tom Donnelly were also on hand to congratulate the students.

Charlie Armstrong

Boys and Girls State Co-Chairman

A Matter of Honor

Interment of Marine Lance Corporal

Richard Joyce

Calverton National Cemetery

August 14, 2019

While at Calverton National Cemetery to participate in a PGRNY flag-line last week, I stopped into the Administration office to say “Hi” to some of the staff I’ve come to know over the years. Our conversation quickly turned to the number of interments they do for unclaimed veterans each month. I asked if they could notify me of any that they had scheduled going forward. Perhaps I’d be able to round up some Post 1244 members, Riders, MIAP volunteers, civilians and other patriots that understand the importance of, indeed the honor of, rendering military honors to forgotten American veterans; honors they each had earned and deserve. They agreed.

Fast forward. On the morning of August 13, 2019, I received such notification for two veterans. They were scheduled to arrive at Calverton the following morning. I contacted both Funeral Homes and realized that only one had completed all requirements to ensure a successful ceremony. A Marine honor guard and casket flag were requested and CNC would sound Taps. We arranged to meet that hearse in the staging area adjacent to the Administration building at 1130 hours the following morning for noon Honors.

Our six Post 1244 members, including two of our Post Riders, met the hearse that arrived along with several members of the Catholic War Veterans of NY. I delivered an invocation and eulogy, and the commander of the Catholic War Veterans offered closing thoughts and a benediction. I’m proud to say, the honors went off flawlessly, until the flag recipient, who claimed he was the deceased veteran’s caretaker, realized he was at the wrong chapel!

He returned the flag to me and sought to find the correct chapel to honor his friend. The flag will soon be donated by our Post to Calverton National Cemetery in Honor of Marine Lance Corporal Richard Joyce and flown along their Avenue of Flags.

Although our Brother in Arms died with no family or friends to claim him, or lay him to final rest, he was surrounded by fellow veterans who refused to allow him to be forgotten. He may now, and forever, rest in peace.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charlie Tritto

Chaplain,

American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244

SailAhead - Healing Wounded Veterans Through Sailing 2019

Let's Take a Veteran Sailing 2019



SAILAHEAD

opportunity to experience the healing effect of sailing.

SailAhead's mission is to use sailing and the ocean as a therapeutic platform to help heal PTSD-suffering veterans and to spread awareness of PTSD and veteran suicide. SailAhead also seeks to honor and remember those who have taken their lives as well as acknowledging their loved ones who have been left behind.

For the past 5 years, SailAhead and the Centerport Yacht Club has organized "Let's Take a Veteran Sailing," an event involving up to 50 sailboats and volunteer skippers and crews. This annual event is dedicated to Ryan James Day, SPC US Army, 75th Ranger Regiment, 2nd Battalion. Ryan took his own life in December 2014.

SailAhead has adopted the name tags of 219 veterans

In 2015, we first came to know Sean and Kilian Duclay, their grassroots organization "SailAhead," and their very supportive family. Since that time, the organization has provided many hundreds of veterans the opportunity to experience the healing effect of sailing.

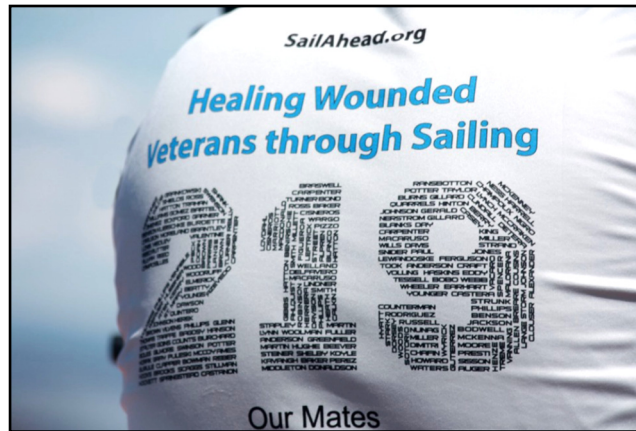
who have perished due to the emotional effects of their military service. They are our "Mates." They are carried out to sea in every SailAhead event. The number 219 represents the 220 veterans lost to suicide in this country, every 10 days. minus the one veteran we hope to save.

On July 21 this year, after a brief remembrance ceremony, dedicated to Ryan and our 219 "Mates." nearly 200 veterans and their guests boarded 50 sailboats for an afternoon of sailing on Long Island Sound. It is hard to describe the tremendous sense of camaraderie and mutual understanding among all the veterans who participated, but that

feeling was everywhere. Despite the brutal summer heat, once we set sail, the heat was forgotten, replaced by a sense of calm and the joy of sailing!

After a few hours on the water, we were ready for a great meal, great entertainment, reuniting with old friends and meeting new friends.

This SailAhead event is now being repeated in Tacoma, Washington (Home of the 75th Ranger Regiment) each summer. This year, in Tacoma, we had 18 sailboats and over 70 veterans and guests.



Samaritan Village Outing on The Oyster Sloop "Priscilla"

On Thursday, July 25, nine military veterans who are currently in treatment at Samaritan Village met at the Snapper Inn in Oakdale for an afternoon of sailing on the Great South Bay.

Their vessel, which dates back to 1888, was the oyster sloop "Priscilla."

The trip, arranged by SailAhead with the Long Island Maritime Museum, was a welcome break for the veterans who thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon.

After Sean Duclay spoke to the group about the mission



of SailAhead, one veteran said that he had lost two friends recently to suicide. Immediately, the significance of this outing became clear, as veterans came forward with personal stories of their attempts to end their lives, or of the struggles they were facing, including the one common denominator among them all, a sense of utter abandonment.

Jim Romaine, the captain of "Priscilla," is a Cold War veteran himself, and his compassion for the veterans did not go unnoticed. He
(Continued on page 4)

SailAhead - Healing Wounded Veterans Through Sailing

Samaritan Village Outing

(Continued from page 3)

shared his military stories with the veterans. They all laughed together at some of his more amusing experiences in the military. In fact, everyone left the boat with wide grins, and a new energetic outlook to face the challenges ahead. One veteran, a recovering alcoholic, declared that he would start a veterans AA group, to try and help his

brothers and sisters, and to prevent them from facing the challenges he had to go through.

Samaritan Daytop Village pioneered programs to help veterans suffering from substance use, post traumatic stress disorders and other life challenges. Today, they operate three residential treatment facilities for veterans including the nation's first exclusively for women veterans.

Special Forces Outing August 17

On Saturday August 17th, a fleet of 5 sailboats and RHIB (Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat) from SailAhead and the Sagamore Yacht Club took Special Operation veterans sailing. There were 2 Recon Marines, and 6 US Army Rangers who had been through all kinds of deployments, from Panama, Afghanistan and Iraq, to Mogadishu, Somalia.

There are around 3,500 active duty Rangers at any given time, and they are a super elite force. They are constantly deployed, and each Battalion, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, take turns deploying to combat zones. They are a formidable fighting force and are, therefore, very often in combat.

The sailing served as a sort of informal reunion, where Rangers came from near and far (as near as Long Beach and as far as Washington state!) for a day of healing. Two Rangers, Janero and Ron, hadn't seen each other for 19 years! They can be seen here reuniting. Because of the intense nature of their deployments, Rangers generally have a difficult time trying

to reintegrate into civilian life. Life seems banal and generally boring, without any high stakes missions to accomplish, civilian life can often cast a dangerous feeling of uselessness or purposelessness like a shadow over everything they do.

Sailing provides a mission. The mission is to get from point A to point B safely, all while having a great time! The guests were able to relate to each other on their military experiences while sipping a beer and adjusting the sails. Sailing provides the experience of living so completely in the moment, that all stressors melt away and become the background of the landscape, blurry and a mere afterthought. The short 3-hour sail ended

with a raft up, where the skippers, crew, and veteran guests could all eat, swim and talk together under the beautiful setting sun. Thank you to those men, and thank you Sagamore Yacht Club for hosting such a magnificent event.



Post Decals Are Now Available

Display 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 to order yours.



Legion Act Signed Into Law

Millions of Veterans Now Eligible For Membership

The **LEGION ACT** opens the door for approximately 6 million veterans to access American Legion programs and benefits for which they previously had not been eligible.

“Recognizing the service of these wartime veterans is the right thing to do and it is long overdue,” National Commander Brett Reistad said. “The families of those who were killed or wounded during these wartime acts should take pride in knowing that we recognize their sacrifice and service. Moreover, we are proud to welcome any of the six million living veterans from the previously unrecognized

periods into our organization and call them ‘Legionnaires.’”

Now that the legislation has been signed, The American Legion’s eligibility criteria immediately changes from seven war eras to two: April 6, 1917, to Nov. 11, 1918, and Dec. 7, 1941 to a time later determined by the federal government. No other restrictions to American Legion membership are changed.

American Legion Auxiliary Eligibility Changes

Eligibility Dates: Due to the provisions of the LEGION ACT, eligibility in the American Legion Auxiliary has also been affected.

Membership in The American Legion Auxiliary shall be limited to the grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses, and direct and adopted female descendants of members of The American Legion, and to the grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses, and direct and adopted female descendants of all men and women who were in the Armed Forces of the United States during any of the following periods: April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918; and any time after December 7, 1941; or who, being citizens of the United States at the time of their entry therein, served on active duty in the Armed Forces of any of the governments associated with the United States during any of said periods, and died in the line of duty or after honorable discharge; and to those women who of their own right are eligible for membership in The American Legion.

Male Spouses: The American Legion has voted to extend membership in the American Legion Auxiliary to male spouses of U.S. veterans and service members.

During The American Legion National Convention in Indianapolis in August, delegates of The American Legion voted to replace the word "wife" with "spouse" in their constitution and bylaws, opening up membership in the American Legion Auxiliary. Follow this link to read more about this change and the opportunities it brings to ALA membership

Why are The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary making this change? Currently, 1.9 million women veterans are living in the United States, and 9% of the U.S. military is female. By 2045, it’s estimated that 18% of the U.S. military will be comprised of women.

“As we welcome eligible male spouses into the American Legion Auxiliary, we gain another perspective on the needs of military families — enabling the Auxiliary to support even more veterans, servicemembers, and their families,” said 2019-2020 American Legion Auxiliary National President Nicole Clapp.



Weekly Veterans News - Let's Stay In Touch!

If you have E Mail service and are not receiving Our weekly **Veterans News** from us, we invite you to let us add you to our list. We will let you know of Post 1244 news of interest, and activities and events you may wish to take part in.

No chain letters, political messages or jokes. Only “The News You Can Use.” And you can unsubscribe at any time!

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

Service Officer's Report - You Earned It!



VA Means Test

A lot of Veterans are unaware of how the VA decides payments and co-pays.

As of 2015, the VA no longer considers assets in their eligibility equation which has decreased the number of Veterans who are low income but were required to make copays on their healthcare.

The VA now only considers a Veteran's gross household income and deductible expenses from the previous year. Veterans no longer need to do a means test to report income changes because the VA and Social Security have streamlined their processes to work in collaboration and Social Security reports your earnings annually to the VA.

It is important to note, however, that there are times when it's advantageous for Veterans to report their changes as soon as possible to the VA. Veterans who have a decrease in income should not wait for Social Security to report their earnings at the end of the year. You should also report added dependents and any new medical insurance

that you may have obtained, such as Medicare (including out-of-pocket medical expenses), so that the VA can adjust your eligibility tier accordingly which can save you money.

Finally, all Veterans should update changes to their address, phone number and name. Keeping your information accurate allows the VA to better inform you of updates to benefits and services.

To update your information, you will need to complete VA Form 10-10EZR (Health Benefits Renewal Form) online at va.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction; call 1-877-222-VETS (8387) Monday through Friday between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. ET, or you can use the self-service kiosks that are available at most VA health care facilities.

Please feel free to ask for my assistance if you need to make any changes to your VA demographics. I can help you obtain, complete and submit the VA Form 10-10EZR.

Michelle Martin

Service Officer

Email: Mmartin@sus.org

Greenlawn Bugle Recognized

This year, our quarterly newsletter *The Greenlawn Bugle* received awards from our two parent press associations.

The National American Legion Press Association presented us with a second place "Jack R.C. Cann Publication Award" (last year, we were awarded first place).

We also were awarded a third place "Mary B. Howard Award" for our website <http://post1244.org>

Our state organization, The New York American Legion Press Association awarded *The Greenlawn Bugle* a first place award in their state-wide Best Paper Contest. We have won that award nine times in the past 11 years.

Thanks to all who continue to help make The Greenlawn Bugle a prize-winning publication!



Past Suffolk County Cmdr. Mike Pankowski accepting the award on our behalf at the National Convention in Indianapolis



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The Sons of The American Legion



On September 8, The Department of New York Commander, the Sons Detachment Commander and Auxiliary President visited Suffolk County. Our new Sons of The American Legion Detachment Commander is

Dennis George.

Along with the many issues he discussed, he also laid out his focus for this year which is on membership, accountability, support of the American Legion's programs, and increased communication. Please

remember we are an important part of the American Legion Family. So please keep his message in your thoughts throughout the year. If possible, please get involved a little more this year. Your participation will make a huge difference. I hope to have a Fundraiser in October so please watch your weekly Veterans News for an upcoming date. Thank you.

Angus Kennedy

Commander, Sons of The American Legion
angus.kennedy@cbre.com

American Legion Riders

An MIAP Mission Like No Other



The American Legion Riders give honor to those forgotten. This story started last month when we had our MIAP ceremony for five of our forgotten heroes.

After the ceremony our own Herb Walker was approached by a woman. She said she had a friend who had been in the Army and had passed away in 2012. His two sisters, who were not well, were unable to provide more than a basic cremation. The veteran's remains sat on a shelf in a garage, forgotten, since 2012.

The whole story was very touching. At this time, Mike Williams became involved and ran with it. He got the Missing In America Project, Congressman King and others involved.

With Herb's contact and Mike's drive to get this veteran a proper funeral he deserved we were able to give this forgotten hero a proper military funeral.

The members of Post 1244 came together and got the word out. On August 22, 2019, the funeral for Joe Walicki, U.S. Army veteran was held at Calverton National

Cemetery. Standing in at this ceremony were between 40 and 50 men and women who paid their respects to this fallen hero.

We all have to remember that this all started as a conversation with a stranger.

Linda, who was the friend of Joe Walicki was brought to tears when she met the Riders who escorted them out to Calverton. She cried again when we pulled into the parking lot at Calverton and she saw so many who were there for the sole purpose to pay respects to a man who had fought for this country.

Remember this all started with 1 act of kindness. Thank you to all who think of others.

Bruce Blanco

Director, American Legion Riders
Chapter 1244, Greenlawn New York

Operation Enduring Care



Al and Connie Statton have been busy with the monthly distribution of comfort items to patients at the Community Living Centers at Northport VAMC. These items have either

been donated or purchased with the generous donations of individuals and organizations.

We responded to an appeal from the Veterans Medical Center Golf Course for donations of used clubs and bags for veterans who need equipment to use on the course.

Patti Nardelli, a new member of our American Legion

Auxiliary, took the initiative and has been contacting golf clubs and others in the area. The result of her efforts have been the donation of hundreds of golf clubs were donated.

We have received these from the Town of Huntington Parks and Recreation, the Town of Oyster Bay Golf Course, Bethpage State Park Black Course, and many individuals around town. Patti has received promises of clubs and equipment from several other golf courses and continues to reach out to others.

We were also asked for donations of men's suits for the clothing room in Building 62. We are gratified by the response from our members and others. It has been so good that we have been asked to hold off for a while.

Suicide Awareness & Remembrance Flag



According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, an average of over 20 Veterans commit suicide every day in the United States. This is a conservative estimate and goes back decades, with an increase after 9/11. We lose an estimated 7300 Veterans in just one year. That is more than all of the casualties from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan combined, going back to 2001. Despite the VA's claim that Veteran suicide is its top priority, it remains a devastating epidemic.

A study released by the Government Accountability Office last December showed that the VA spent only \$57,000 of a \$6.2 million dollar allotment for suicide prevention media outreach for fiscal year 2018. The VA spent less than 1% of its allotment. This clearly shows our government is falling woefully short in its attempt to make a difference in the Veterans suicide crisis.

There are, however, small nonprofits working to combat this epidemic, most of which are veteran-owned. These nonprofits across the country vary in size and location from Mission 22 in Oregon to Stop Soldier Suicide in North Carolina. These nonprofits raise awareness, work on suicide prevention, and help Veterans and their families cope with this epidemic. Now there's a new nonprofit right here in New York established by, Air Force Veteran, Kevin Hertell.

Hertell, is the founder of The Veterans Suicide Awareness & Remembrance Flag Corp. After a lot of hard work, Kevin has designed, and gone into production of the SAR Flag, or the Suicide Awareness and Remembrance Flag.



Kevin Hertell with the SAR Flag at a recent meeting of American Legion Post 1244

The SAR Flag was created to Honor The Fallen and their Families and to provide hope to living Veterans by showing that we care as a nation and that efforts to help are underway. It is Kevin's mission to have the SAR Flag officially recognized through Congress and unite nonprofits across the country in their common goal.

When asked why he created the Flag, Kevin said, "When I first learned of the Veteran suicide epidemic, I was heartbroken, and I felt compelled to do something about it. My father is a suicide survivor, and my cousin, an Air Force veteran, committed suicide a few years ago. For these reasons and more I spent about a year creating the symbol which is now the SAR Flag." He went on to say that he is working with representatives from Congress in his district on Long Island to get the flag recognized as an official symbol, on the same scale as the POW flag. Kevin says, "The POW flag, made for prisoners of war, is the only other flag besides the American flag to fly at the White House. We need to get the SAR Flag there too."

The SAR Flag is currently flown by businesses, Gold Star families, (who have had a Veteran family member pass away), and others. The Flag is proudly flown in New York, Texas, Missouri, California, and the state of Washington with more to join in support.



Kevin Hertell displaying the SAR flag during the July 21 sailing from Centerport Yacht Club

For more Information, please go to:
www.sarflag.com

What The American Flag Means to Me

Cristina Vieytez. June 14, 2019

Having been brought up by two resilient immigrants, stubborn in their search for a better future for their four young daughters, I quickly inherited the love for this country that my parents so proudly wore day in and day out.

Newlyweds with a newborn child, my parents left all that they loved and all that loved them, left El Salvador, and set off into the unknown. As the story goes, they planned to stay only until my Dad had finished medical school and had intentions of returning home afterwards.

As you might imagine, they stayed. I am oftentimes struck with sadness for them, in leaving behind everything in exchange for a country that might not give them everything in return. But with this, I carry a flaming inspiration that emanates from both the courage of my parents and the successes they were able to make, despite being immigrants.

The American Flag embodies what it is exactly that ignites immigrants to pick up and leave without ever knowing what's in store. A shot in the dark. There came a point where I realized that my life, my household, the conglomerate of Spanish and English I speak at home, is different from the narratives of most of my classmates.

Yet, I am unapologetic in claiming my identity because this nation builds the space for immigrants to chase dreams and creates so much hope for those who have taken that shot in the dark. And while my classmates may not be able to relate to my exact identity, they each claim their own. The American Flag represents the concoction of such varied backgrounds, languages, and customs.

Twenty three years and three daughters later, and my mom and dad have developed a network of love and support so that no matter where, culture can still be celebrated.

This country, founded on the migration of cultures and the coexistence of so many diverse populations, makes me feel empowered as a member of the Latino community. Diversity lives here.

America is where immigrants come to claim freedom, to restart, to follow passions so to me, the American Flag embodies the mixture of hundreds of cultures and with that, the adaptability of the nation in being able to make



Cristina Vietez at the Covanta Energy Huntington
2019 Flag Day Ceremony

space for such large cultural identities.

In claiming my cultural identity, I am exercising my privilege as an American. However, I must understand that not everyone in other parts of the world also has this privilege. Each morning when my classmates and I recite the pledge, I look at the flag, in all its nobility, and give thanks that because this nation was permitting, I was able to learn and grow, shielded from war and poverty. The pride I see in my parents' eyes as they watch their daughters receive a higher education than they would have ever been able to in El Salvador, only solidifies my bond to the American Flag - stars, stripes and all.

On June 14, 2019, Hundreds of veterans, guests and local elected officials celebrated Flag Day at the inauguration of Covanta Huntington's Flag Retirement Program.

Veterans groups will now be able to bring the many unserviceable flags they have collected, to the facility where they can be properly and honorably be destroyed.

Cristina Vieytez of Commack High School was the winner of the essay contest "What the American Flag Means to Me." She read this personal and touching essay at the June 14 Ceremony



A Moment With Chaplain Charlie



"A Real Blind Date"

It started like a typical day in Escort Services. Idle chatter among the guys as we waited for runs, checking our phones for emails or messages, thumbing through the 3 newspapers our crew chief brings in for us each

morning...a typical day.

My first few runs were also typical; ER to X-RAY, Pavilion to the lab, in-patient to MR. Charles then handed me one of his ubiquitous green sheets with from and to info, veteran's name, last four and whether a wheel chair was needed. It read: "32D to CT scan."

32D is the Dialysis suite. Never a fun place for me to visit, and a helluva lot less fun for the patient. When I arrived, I found him waiting for me outside an office, conversing with one of his nurses. I asked for his name to confirm I had the right vet. Yup, it was him. He bid the young lady a fond farewell, turned to me and said he was ready to go.

It was then that I noticed he was blind. Both eyes looked like they had been through major trauma. My gut told me he was a Vietnam vet, but I didn't ask. He was certainly more upbeat than I expected as we negotiated the hallways on our way to the Radiology Suite.

He said he's been asking that nurse friend of his to leave her husband and marry him, but she has been courteously rejecting his offer for years. In fact, when he first started working with her, he asked if she wanted to go on a "real" blind date! As we spoke, I realized I was with someone special. I was escorting a blind, end stage renal disease (and God knows what else his CT scan would find), elderly gentleman who managed to cultivate the kind of attitude more of us are in dire need of.

When we got to the Radiology Suite, I thanked him for serving and said that I knew tomorrow would be a better day for him. He smiled, shook my hand, thanked me for MY service and said it was a pleasure to meet me. No sir. The pleasure was all mine.

Chaplain Charlie Tritto

Vice Commander's Call to Members



And so it begins, the 2020 dues year.

July 1, 2019. The checks start coming in the 2nd week of July. More checks, then even more in the 3rd and 4th week.

Online renewals are doing well. I am processing members like crazy. I start to think we may make our 100 percent goal early, this time.

Then, August comes and everything slows to a snails pace.

Maybe one or two checks and an online renewal per week.

All my hopes and dreams are crushed.

Let's go, people! Get on the ball and send me your membership dues!

Carlo Giordano
1st Vice Commander
Membership Chairman

Welcome To Our Newest Post 1244 Members

Joseph Ammenwerth

Glorious Artis

Jacob DeLauter

Ken Hinsch

Richard W. Klein

Richard Silecchio

Charles W. Towse

Matthew Trudden

Joseph Wittleder

Korean War Veteran Gets His Medals

Korean War veteran William James Wason received his missing medals in a ceremony on August 16.

The Air Force Veteran had misplaced some of them over the years. Others were never received. So his daughter and son took on the task of coming up with them for him.

They worked through Congressman Tom Suozzi's office. The family had them all mounted, framed, and wrapped for his birthday.

When Post 1244 Adjutant Ken Carlson and Sgt. at Arms Charlie Armstrong presented them to him, he was very surprised and ecstatic, to say the least.

He also received a citation from Tom Suozzi's office.

Ken and Charlie were delighted to have the honor of presenting the medals to James and to be a part of such a special 89th birthday surprise.



L-R: Sgt at Arms Charlie Armstrong, William Wason and Adjutant Ken Carlson

The Commander's Corner



I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable summer.

I know many of the post events are in support of funerals and internments. I also understand that many find these events upsetting, as well as rewarding.

So here is a list of a few additional activities the post has planned for the fall.

There will be a booth set up at both Huntington Awareness Day, September 14th and Fall Festival on October 12 & 13 in Heckscher Park. We are working to

schedule Supervisor Lupinacci to attend our October 9 meeting to provide the post with an update on the Conte Community Center, our future post home.

We also have our Veterans Day event, on Veterans Day right in Greenlawn. We will be starting our annual toy drive at the October meeting and are planning a spectacular holiday party on December 11th.

I hope at least one of these activities interests you.

If not, please contact me to suggest an event you would be interested in. (39dpip@Gmail.com)

Donna Boyle

Post Donates to American Legion NEF

The American Legion's National Emergency Fund is set up to quickly and efficiently provide money to affected Legion Family members and posts. A full 100 percent of donations to NEF are turned into grants. Donations are not used to cover administrative and promotional costs.

The fund, created in response to Hurricane Hugo in 1989, has provided more than \$8 million in direct financial assistance to American Legion Family members and posts. By providing this emergency funding, NEF has prevented damaged posts from closing and enabled American Legion Family members to recover from tragedy.

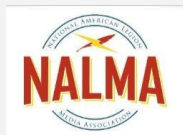
NEF helps those affected by well-known disasters such as Hurricane Katrina and Superstorm Sandy and lesser-publicized tragedies such as flooding in South Dakota or Illinois, or wildfires in the southwest.



Post 1244 Cmdr. Donna Boyle presents a check for \$500 to Dept. of New York Cmdr. Mike McDermott at the Dept. Visitation on September 8, 2019

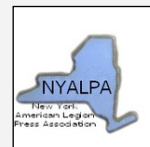


The Greenlawn Bugle



**National American Legion Media Association
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***The Greenlawn Bugle: Editor, Publisher, Writer, Photographer and Reporter Bob Santo
Contributing Writers: Charlie Armstrong, Donna Boyle, Bruce Blanco, Sean Duclay,
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Photos by: Charlie Armstrong, Maureen Early, Bob Santo, Charlie Tritto,
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



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



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



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raiaa@assembly.state.ny.us



Steve Stern
Member of Assembly
10th District
Suffolk County



630 New York Avenue Ste. D
Huntington, NY 11743
(631) 271-8025
Fax (631) 424-5984

sterns@assembly.state.ny.us



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

15 Park Circle, Suite 209
Centerport, NY 11721
(631)854-4500
Fax (631)854-4503



Susan A. Berland, Esq.

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATOR
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