



The Greenlawn Bugle

American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244

December 2013

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Upcoming Events

Suffolk County High School
Oratorical Contest
 Saturday, January 11, 9:00 am
 Babylon Post 94

Bowling Tournament
 March 9, 1:00 pm
 Larkfield Lanes
 East Northport

St. Patricks Day Parade
 Sunday, March 9, 2:00 pm

Monthly Meetings
 8:00 pm
 St Joseph Council K of C
 Greenlawn
 Wednesday, January 8
 Wednesday, February 12
 Wednesday, March 12

Veterans Day Marked by Post

For many years, our Post has observed Veterans Day with a brief ceremony at the Veterans Monument in Greenlawn Memorial Park. At times, it has seemed like we were the only ones marking this day on the actual day, November 11th, reserved for this commemoration. On that day, in 1918, at 11:00 am, the fighting of World War I came to a halt. Ever since, we have celebrated the month, day and the hour that peace, once again, descended upon the world.



Photo by Mike Machiarella

Courtney Gallagher sings our National Anthem as elected officials L-R: Councilwoman Berland, Assemblymen Lupinacci and Raia, Legislator Spencer, Supervisor Petrone look on.

In recent years, as our Post has grown both in membership and involvement with

Veterans In The Classroom
During Veterans Day Week, ten veteran volunteers from our post once again spoke before eighth grade students at Oldfield Middle School in Greenlawn about their experiences in the military and about their lives as veterans. Our veterans enjoyed the experience as did the children and teachers. We are grateful to the administration and teachers for this opportunity. Special thanks to Mrs. Buscemi for organizing this program. Pictures of our volunteers and students can be found on page two of this issue.

our community, the number of our fellow veterans and citizens in attendance has grown. This year's event was the best in memory. We were graced with the presence of many veterans and citizens, and, notably, lots of children.

We especially want to thank our elected officials for their presence, including Assemblymen Andrew Raia and Chad Lupinacci, Suffolk County Legislator Dr. William Spencer, Huntington Supervisor Frank Petrone, Councilwoman Susan Berland and Councilwoman-Elect Tracey Edwards.

At exactly 11:00 am, our color guard, under the direction of Sgt. at Arms Charlie Armstrong, presented the colors at the monument. All present then recited the "Pledge of Allegiance."

Honorary Post Chaplain Father Dimitrios then gave the invocation.

Courtney Gallagher, once again, thrilled those assembled with an inspiring rendition of "The Star Spangled Banner."

After remarks by Commander Santo and Vice Commander Madden, Post Chaplain Al Shaw captivated us all

with his reading of Medal of Honor Recipient Audie Murphy's poem, "Freedom Flies in Your Heart Like an Eagle." No one could have recited that poem better!

As is our custom, wreaths were placed at the memorial in honor of our deceased comrades who could no longer celebrate Veterans Day with us. That honor fell to World War II Veteran Wilton Reeves and Auxiliary President Fran Hubbs who placed their wreaths at the monument and rendered a **Veterans Day Marked by Post 1244**

(Continued from page 1) salute to all veterans who

(Continued on page 9)

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: 631-673-8704 or Email: Post1244@verizon.net

Veterans In The Classroom Oldfield Middle School November 2013



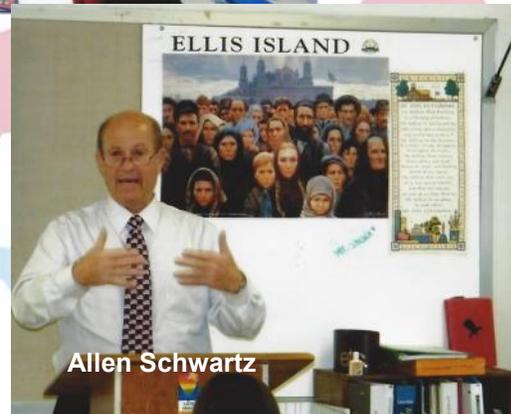
Robert E Lee



John Caldarelli



Chuck Holt



Allen Schwartz



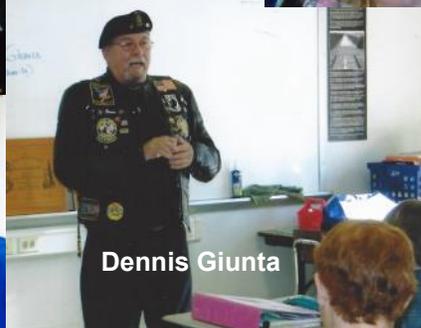
Gil Harris



Steve Labate



Tom Freeman



Dennis Giunta



Mike Mayette



Domenick Gargiulo

MISSING IN AMERICA PROJECT



From Ancient Rome to Post 1244

There are any number of gifts bequeathed to us from our ancestors across the pond, our language for one, full of the elegant and noble words of French and Latin, recipes of all manner of foods and pastries, inventions, ideas and religion. Today, however, we will dwell on a simple word given to us by the Ancient Romans. We will then pursue this word into areas that are relevant to the American Legion and this Post in particular. The word is "columbarium," which originally meant compartmentalized housing for doves and pigeons.

The wall of the columbarium had little niches to receive the birds. However, the Romans being the most practical people of the ancient world, decided that they could put the columbarium to better use, particularly after Nero got through with his fiddle. The ashes generated from the great fire of Rome may have been the causal factor for the eviction of those poor birds from their cozy niches. Whatever the reason, the Romans perceived a new need for the columbarium. The deed was done and they then started to store human remains in the form of ashes in these columbaria. There are now columbaria all over the world for the explicit use of the cremated remains of humans. There is only one place in the world where there are columbaria, where their use is not known. These columbaria are located in the Caves of Israel. There are no bones, no ashes, no bird droppings, but there are niches.

How is this relevant to our Post, you ask? Well, our Post is the vanguard American Legion Post in New York State for the Missing in America Project (MIAP), and the mission of MIAP is the recovery of the abandoned, cremated remains of American veterans. This said, what better segue than the word columbarium. Our journey began in Ancient Rome, and as Rome had their Legions, so does America in the form of our own, grand, "American Legion." The Preamble to the American Legion's Constitution States the following, "For God and Country we associate ourselves together for the following purposes." This is then followed by ten postulates. For the relevance of this tale, we shall only focus on the fifth one. Which states: "...to inculcate a sense of obligation to the Community, State and Nation." When individuals, or groups internalize a sense of obligation, there is a reciprocal meaning that walks hand in hand with the concept. That an obligation is a two way street, is not apparent at first sight, but one side is readily obvious. The other side subtle, and not at all clear. However, the game is afoot, and we are committed to play.

Post 1244 is not intimidated by diversity, but welcomes it. We shall always go into the fulcrum. Under the obligation of the four Pillars of the American Legion, Post 1244 will endeavor to do and dare as never before.

We have now arrived at the point of our journey. One of the many ways Post 1244 maintains its support of the Con-

stitution of the American Legion is through partnering with other patriotic people and groups to achieve our goals. This is the story of one such American who stayed the course to recover the remains of our abandoned Veterans.

J.P.DiTroia, President of U.S. Columbarium, and Fresh Pond Crematory in Middle Village, N.Y., wears many hats and is committed to the community. His list of credentials is one that every American would be proud of. He has demonstrated that he is a "Man for All Seasons" concerning the community. He endeavors to give back to the community. I have singled him out for his commitment to our veterans.

This story began approximately one year ago in a veterans post in Queens. I had gone there to speak about MIAP. I was fulfilling the mission of MIAP in expanding our teams in New York State. A columbarium owner approached me and asked if I could help him. He said he had about 2,000 cremains, and he felt that some must surely be veterans. I agreed and thus our partnership was born. That following year became a year full of disappointment, despair, and depression. However, Mr. DiTroia dug in, never wavered, never whined, or doubted. Every problem we discussed was solved. Every obstacle, every form of resistance was overcome. He always knew that it was not about him or us, but about the veterans. J.P. has many other issues that he is pursuing concerning the abandonment of cremains, regardless of civilian, or military status. Yet, he paused in his quest to concentrate on the veterans.

As the years go by, no matter how much fog and mist there be in my memory, I shall always remember, J.P. and his brother Danny, striving with our post, for the best funeral these veterans could have. They gladly picked up and wore the mantle of the "Missing in America Project" to bury our veterans with all the respect, honor and dignity that they deserved. In the end, our mission was fulfilled, and our spirit, our determination and our love of Country prevailed.

We must now salute our staunch allies in this endeavor. Missing in America Project, and American Legion Post 1244, salutes The DiTroia family of U.S. Columbarium, and Fresh Pond Crematory. If there are always Americans such as you and your family, the State of the Union will always fare well.

John Caldarelli



BOY'S & GIRLS STATE – 2014



Yes, that is correct, this year, for the first time, we are working with the American Legion Auxiliary, and Post 1244 will be sponsoring a girl from Harborfields High School to participate in Girl's State. Only 360 students are chosen from the junior class of all the high schools across New York state, and Suffolk County has been allocated 22 delegates.

This year, Girl's State will be held at SUNY Brockport from Monday, June 30th to Sunday, July 6th. As with Boy's State, the Girl's State citizens will build the government of a mythical 51st state, from the local level up to the state level. They will participate in campaigns, rallies, speeches, various legislative committees, create bills, and participate in a community service project.

The citizens will come as strangers and leave as friends, confident of their role and duties as citizens in a democratic society. Principal Rory Manning of Harborfields High School has already provided us with the names of six possible candidates, and we will be conducting the interview selection process shortly.

For Boy's State this year, in addition to Harborfields, we are also working with Commack and Half Hollow

Hills West high schools. Boy's State is held at SUNY Morrisville, and this year it runs from Friday, June 27 to Thursday, July 3rd. We have spoken to the principals of all three schools, and Dr. Manning has provided us with eight possible candidates. In order to expand this program, we must continue to get community financial support, and with the help of the high schools we will be reaching out to local business associations and community groups.

The task of choosing candidates for Boy's State and Girl's State is both challenging and rewarding. Virtually all of the candidates provided by the high schools are very well qualified and would fit the program very well. This makes it a challenge to narrow the group down. It is extremely rewarding when we get the positive feedback from the participants after the program is completed. As has often been said of both programs this is "A Week That Shapes a Lifetime".

Charlie Armstrong

Flag Education for Cub Scouts



Respect for and the care of our flag were the topics of Sgt. at Arms Charlie Armstrong's presentation on November 6th to the Cub Scouts of Halesite Pack 178. Charlie also discussed the history of the American Flag and displayed the many versions of Old Glory since our nation's founding.

"The interest level from the boys was high with questions coming in rapid fire," said Charlie.

Among the lessons taught was how to fold the flag properly. After a few tries, the boys were doing a great job.

Charlie frequently volunteers his time teaching both Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts about our national symbol and the importance our flag has for all veterans.



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American Legion Riders Post 1244



A Bucket List Mission

Many of us have a “Bucket List,” a list of things we hope to have done in our lifetime. Domenick Gargiulo, 92, a decorated World War II veteran and Post 1244 Legionnaire, had long watched our American Legion Riders in action at many events. To ride with “The Riders,” became a new entry on his list of “must-do” items.

On October 3rd, Post 1244 Chapter American Legion Riders made Domenick’s dream come true. On that chilly afternoon, Domenick was outfitted like a true Rider from head to toe. He was even wearing a Riders vest with a defiant “Don’t Tread On Me” message on the back. With Dom riding on the back of Bruce Blanco’s bike, the Riders took Domenick on for a grand tour of the area, first to West Neck Beach for a breather, then a ride down Main Street in Huntington, drawing surprised looks from the afternoon shoppers. Then, Domenick was returned home to his family, unscathed and very happy!



Domenick and the Legion Riders posse-up at West Neck Beach.

Turkey Run 2013



Once again, our riders have taken to the highways and byways to bring a smile to the faces of a dozen delighted veterans. On November 23rd, the Riders gathered at the VA Medical Center in Northport where 911-Veterans had organized the annual “Operation Santa Claus Turkeys for Veterans.” The Turkeys were donated by NBTY Helping Hands.

They obtained twelve turkeys, to be brought to the homes of this year’s lucky veterans.

The riders not only provided turkeys, but all the fixings, including dessert, as well as all the excitement always generated by the Riders and their motorcycles. The Riders took part in the turkey Run last year, bringing plump birds to veterans for both Thanksgiving and again at Christmastime. Great Job, Men!



Dennis Giunta (in antlers) Bob Moreback, Victor Ramondetta, Joe Spinelli and John Boll load the unlucky birds aboard Angus” Goose” Kennedy’s all purpose bus.

Bob Santo

A Message From Our New Councilwoman:

**“I am looking forward to working with the post in the coming years
in support of all our Veterans.”**

Tracey Edwards, Councilwoman-elect

Greenlawn Auxiliary Unit 1244



Summer is but a memory, and Fall, with its beautiful foliage, is coming to an end. We all know what winter brings: cold weather and, hopefully, not too much snow.

Our meetings have started up again after the summer recess and we once again are making plans for our 2014 fund raiser. The profits from the fund raiser enable us to continue supporting our Veteran Programs.

We have, to date, given our Holiday monetary donations to the Suffolk County United Veterans home in Yaphank and, of course, the Women's Wellness Center at the Northport VA Hospital. On behalf of our Auxiliary, Nancy Sobina and I visited the Women's Wellness Center on Thursday November 7, 2013 and donated \$300.00 in gift cards to be used for the Christmas Holidays. As always, we were warmly welcomed and introduced to the physicians and staff.

We are a small group of ladies but our members always step up when there is a need.

We are now preparing Christmas gift bags to be filled with specialty items for the women Veterans currently living at United Veterans Beacon House. Special thanks to Sandy Bohn, who has been busy shopping for these specialty items. What a good feeling to know that we will in some small way help make their Christmas a little more meaningful.

Once again, I had the honor, along with our Auxiliary

members, to attend the Veteran Day's service at the Greenlawn Memorial Park Monument Each year the service gives us a new meaning to what Veteran's Day stands for. Commander Bob Santo and Vice Commander Dennis Madden moved us emotionally with their profound words.

We must never forget those Veterans who gave so much that we may live in peace, for our freedom comes at a high cost to those brave soldiers.

On Sunday, November 10th 2013 Anne Madden and myself braved the cold and wind and attended the Veterans Day Wreath Service at the Huntington Town Hall Veteran's Plaza. A little sacrifice for us but worth it, since it was a reminder as to what a sacrifice these Veterans gave for us, so many names on the monuments a chilling reminder of such a great loss to their love ones.

We need to increase our membership and ask if you know any ladies who wish to join our Auxiliary, please have them call me at 631-423-1176. I would be very happy to talk to them about Greenlawn Auxiliary Unit 1244.

On behalf of my officers and members, I want to wish everyone a Blessed Christmas, Happy Hanukah and a New Year filled with good health and peace for all.

Fran Hubbs

President



Community Spotlight:

Greenlawn-Centerport Historical Association

In 1973, growing interest in local history led to the organization of the Greenlawn-Centerport Historical Association (GCHA). The GCHA is a non-profit membership organization with a mission to research, collect, record and preserve the history of the communities of Greenlawn and Centerport, Long Island, New York.

In 1976 when the Harborfields Public Library moved into the former Broadway School building, space was allotted to the GCHA for its headquarters.

In 1989, the Association purchased the c.1750 Suydam Homestead, located at the corner of Route 25A and Centerport Road.

In 2002, the Association received the John Gardiner Farm, located at the corner of Park Ave. and Little Plains Road. At the time, this c.1750 house was occupied by the last generation to live in the house. Herbert Gardiner, the last family member to live here, bequeathed the property to the Greenlawn-Centerport Historical Association. It

was his wish to name it in memory of his father John. The farm, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, is being maintained as a museum complex with a working farm to highlight early farm life in the community.

For more information call (631) 754-118

The Greenlawn-Centerport Historical Association will be running the 35th annual "Antique Show" at Harborfields High School, March 1st & 2nd (Saturday and Sunday.) Needless to say, there are always some great treasures available that weekend. If any members are interested in volunteering at this event please contact Bob Santo at 516-458-7881

Post 1244 Donates to Jacob's Light Foundation

On November 25th, Sgt. at Arms Charlie Armstrong presented a check for \$500 on behalf of the Post to Dorine Kenney of the Jacob's Light Foundation.

Dorine founded Jacob's Light Foundation, Inc. in memory of her son, Jacob Fletcher, who was killed in Iraq on November 14th, 2003. While he served, he made her aware that there were troops who were not receiving mail and packages from home. He requested that she help his troops. What started out as a request became her son's legacy, and through the years, Jacob's Light has supported troops that are not getting support from home. Dorine has come to learn of the needs of troops in forward operating bases, which are far reaching bases that have no access to amenities, and she has addressed their needs as well.

Once a month, volunteers gather to carefully pack boxes with toiletries, food, reading and writing materials, socks, phone cards, bug repellent, batteries, sunscreen and other items that are necessities for our troops. Special items and treats are included for the holidays, as well as seasonal articles. Letters of support and encouragement, in addition to letters and pictures from children, are also enclosed in the packages.

Jacob's Light is in its 9th year of work, and has, to date, sent over 610,000 pounds of comfort items and necessities to our troops. Each year, the November packing includes holiday items and cards and letters to the troops from children.



Sgt at Arms Charlie Armstrong presenting donation to Dorine Kenney

Our Post is proud to support the work of Dorine and the Jacob's Light Foundation.

Operation Long Swamp Cemetery II

A year and a half ago, the Post took on the restoration of Long Swamp Cemetery, a long neglected, historic cemetery in Huntington Station which dated back to the Revolutionary War. Since that time, the vandals, who destroyed most of the historic headstones, have left this burial place alone. This is due in part, to the effort we made that the grave sites be visible from the road and that no natural seating (such as a fallen tree) was left in place. The big American Flag sign erected by Legionnaire Ed Hayde, left no doubt that this place was under our post's protection.

The cemetery is the site of the remains of three Huntington Militiaman: Sgt. John Carll, Pvt. Scudder Carll and Pvt. Joseph Ireland, all members of Col. Josiah Smith's 1st Regiment, Suffolk County Minutemen.

Our cleanup crew this year included 12 Legionnaires as well as volunteers from several community groups, including Boy and Girl Scouts and other interested citizens. We cleared brush, fallen limbs and leaves and reclaimed much of what had been encroached on since last year.

Councilwoman Susan Berland, who is very much a supporter of preserving these historic cemeteries was on



hand throughout, lending encouragement and bringing lots of hot, delicious Pizza donated by Spuntino's Restaurant of Dix Hills. See you all next year!

Flat Screen TV's for Long Island State Veterans Home Patients

Long Island State Veterans Home at Stony Brook University has earned the reputation of being the premier provider of long term care and rehabilitation among the country's 142 State Veterans Homes, as well as, private skilled nursing facilities around the nation.

It is one of the few "teaching nursing homes" in the United States, and one of its missions is to train the next generation of physicians, nurses, therapists, dieticians, social workers and health care providers as it relates to the care of the frail, elderly population. Providing its residents with state-of-the-art equipment and the latest advances in geriatric care, our veterans truly benefit from its relationship with Stony Brook Medicine and Stony Brook University as well.

Federal legislation now provides those veterans who are 70% or more service connected disabled with a VA benefit for skilled nursing care services in any State Veterans Home. These veterans must require skilled nursing care and must meet the admission requirements of the home. With the average cost of nursing home care on Long Island exceeding \$150,000 per year, veterans can access their VA entitlements and utilize them at our home, thereby substantially reducing the financial burden of long term care.

LISVH provides skilled nursing care, short term rehabilitation, palliative care and medical model adult day health care to the over 200,000 veterans who reside on Long Island.

On November 7, Post 1244 presented LISVH with a donation of \$500 to provide patients with flat screen TV's. MIAP Chairman John Caldarelli and 2nd Vice Cmdr. Dennis Giunta made the presentation.

For more information about Long Island State Veterans Home, please call (631) 444-VETS or see their website: <http://www.listateveteranshome.org>



L-R MIAP Chairman John Caldarelli, Joseph Lapietra, Deputy Executive Director of the Long Island State Veterans Home and 2nd Vice Cmdr. Dennis Giunta



Operation Paperback

Under the direction of Service Officer 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 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.

Our service members and their families make sacrifices every day for our country. It takes so little to let them know that they are appreciated. When you donate to Operation Paperback, you will let America's military know that you appreciate their service and their sacrifices.

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. Contact Donna at 39DPIP@Gmail.com or call Cmdr. Bob Santo at 516-458-7881.

A New Greenlawn Bugle Supporter

We are proud to acknowledge with this issue, the following new Supporter of the Greenlawn Bugle:

Edward Jones

David A Warren, Financial Advisor
79 Broadway, Greenlawn NY 11740
631-754-8441

Happenings

have gone before us. Our post bugler, Allen Schwartz,



Photo by Mike Machiasella

L-R: Legionnaires Rudy Sobina, Wilton Reeves and Ralph Phillips stand at attention.

played “Taps” in their memory. Father Dimitrios inspired us with the words of his benediction and Leona Schwartz led us all in “God Bless America.”

After lingering in the plaza for a while, enjoying the warm weather and greeting friends, old and new, we all headed to Applebee’s in Commack for a hearty lunch, provided free to all veterans on this special day. Over 50 of us managed to sit down together to dine and enjoy each other’s company.

Later on, a contingent of Post 1244 members, including

representatives of the American Legion Riders visited with veterans residing at Atria Assisted Living in Huntington Station. These included our own WW II Veteran Milton Blackman. We enjoyed hearing of their experiences in both war and in peacetime. We passed out American Flag pins to all as well as letters of thanks written by local school-



Photo by Tom Mangin

L-R: New Post 1244 member Peter Barrett and Legionnaires Robert E. Lee, Cmdr. Bob Santo and Rudy Sobina

children. Many thanks to all who helped us on that fine day and all who came out and participated with us.



A

Photo by Tom Mangin

Chaplain Allen Shaw

highlight of our Veterans Day Ceremony was Chaplain Shaw’s inspired reading of a poem by Medal of Honor Recipient Audie Murphy. Audie was America’s most decorated WWII soldier. This poem was written in 1968, three years before his death at the age of 45.

Freedom Flies in Your Heart Like an Eagle

*Rusty old helmet, rusty old gun,
They sit in the corner and wait.
Two souvenirs of the Second World War
That have witnessed the time and the hate.*

*Mute witness to a time of much trouble
Where kill or be killed was the law.
Were these implements used with high honor?
What was the glory they saw?*

*Many times I've wanted to ask them...
And now that we're here, all alone,
Relics all three of that long ago war. . .
Where has freedom gone?*

*Freedom flies in your heart like an eagle.
Let it soar with the winds high above
Among the Spirits of soldiers now sleeping.
Guard with care and with love.*

*I salute my old friends in the corner.
I agree with all they have said . . .
And if the moment of truth comes tomorrow,
I'll be free, or by God, I'll be dead!*

Audie Murphy, 1968

Town to Accept New Names on Vietnam Wall

Huntington Supervisor Frank P. Petrone has announced that the Town is reopening the Vietnam Wall in Veterans Plaza at Town Hall and will begin accepting names to be added to the monument for the first time in five years. Originally unveiled in 2003, the wall currently lists the names of 1,112 Vietnam War veterans who live or lived in Huntington. That includes persons on the original three plaques and those who were added in the subsequent five years before the wall was closed in 2008 and a fourth plaque was installed.

Recently, Supervisor Petrone noted, representatives from the Huntington High School Class of 1964 preparing for their 50th reunion next year approached him about the possibility of reopening the wall to add names of about 20 of their classmates. The Supervisor determined that there was room for the wall to accommodate additional names.

“This seemed to offer the perfect opportunity to reopen the wall to all Huntingtonians who would like to see their name or that of a loved one added to the list of those who served our country honorably in Vietnam,” Supervisor Petrone said. “We are proud to honor all of our veterans with the recognition they so richly deserve.” The names will be collected throughout 2014 and the dedication of the new list will be part of ceremonies marking the 40th anniversary of the war’s end in 2015.

The Vietnam memorial was a project of the Town of Huntington, Veterans Advisory Board and the Vietnam Committee.

Supervisor Petrone thanked the members of the Huntington High School 50th Reunion committee: Lou Pagano, chair; and Jay Cavanagh, Bill Hren, Diane (Ducy) Tiernan, Rich Marrone, Bonnie (Jujuico)



In the photo: seated, (l-r): Bonnie (Jujuico) Williamson, Angel (Osso) Bruno and Mario Buonpane, chairman, Veterans Advisory Board. Standing (l-r): Jay Cavanagh, Bill Hren, reunion committee chair Lou Pagano, Supervisor Frank P. Petrone, Diane (Ducy) Tiernan and Rich Marrone

Williamson and Angel (Osso) Bruno. The reunion will take place in September 2014.

To be eligible, a person must have lived in Huntington for six months at any time in their life. An application form must be completed and a copy of the veteran’s DD214 submitted, along with a \$15 donation to defray expenses. The Town of Huntington will continue to collect names and will have the unveiling of the new plaque in 2015, to honor the 40th anniversary of the end of hostilities of the Vietnam War.

Please contact Carol Rocco, (631) 351-3012 for an application and additional information.

Flag Retirement at Huntington Manor FD

Thanks to the efforts of 2nd Vice Cmdr. Dennis Giunta and Sgt. at Arms Charlie Armstrong, there was no shortage of flags to be retired on the Saturday after Veterans Day at the Huntington Manor Fire Department. Over 500 flags had been collected since our last ceremony back in June.

Our Old Glory Flag Box has been touring all 10 of the Town’s public libraries for a month at each one.

Our ceremony began with a color guard from the Sea Cadets of New York LPD-21 Division of the Naval Sea Cadet Corps. They were led by Chris Baransky, recently promoted to the rank of Chief Petty Officer. Chris is the first cadet to achieve this rank in his division since its inception. Chris was also a Post 1244 delegate to Boys State last year. The cadets were very sharp!



Thanks to Donna and Joe for setting up and tending to the fire long after the ceremony was over.

Due to the large number of flags we have been collecting, additional venues will soon be added.



Vice Commander's Call to Members

My goodness, time certainly has flown by this year. Here we are preparing to celebrate the holidays once again and the Post is larger than ever before and growing every month.

Our Editor, Commander Bob Santo, has his work cut out for him each quarter, trying to fit all the new members' names in our WELCOME section. Thanks to all of you who manage to spot a veteran around town and in the grocery store or even the dealership while having your car serviced. This is a Post concerned about our Veterans. Thank you all for that.

This year has seen many of our Committees make great strides forward in their efforts to help and support our veterans, but none as important as our MIAP group under the guidance of John Caldarelli. We cannot thank you enough for these efforts in behalf of our abandoned brothers.

Our Riders have followed the MIAP lead and have given unselfishly to our own brothers and to veterans far and wide, from Welcome Home escorts to Final Rest escorts and in all types of weather. This is the work that

few of us get to see but is so important to so very many. It is immeasurable to the families of the fallen. The words "Thank You" seem so inadequate here, but Thank You, anyway.

It is a great honor for me to be associated with all of you; those regulars at our meetings, those not so regulars and those I have never had the privilege of meeting but still maintain their membership in our Post. We are a brotherhood, indeed, and will continue to be concerned for our brothers and sisters until our very last breath. That is the life of a veteran and I am pleased to continue with you all at my side.

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukah, and a very Healthy and Happy New Year to you all. God bless our Veterans, God bless America and God, please continue to bless this Post.

Just ask!

Dennis Madden

Welcome To Our New Members!

Legionnaires

Robert Augeri
 Peter Barrett
 Burton Bellask
 John Boll
 Anthony Calabro
 Allan Carb
 Vincent Crimaudo
 Daniel D'Aries
 Charles Delsalla
 James Dinan
 Leonard Duany
 Hutch Dubosque
 John Eaton
 Michael Fannon
 Jon Goldstein
 Carl Grasso
 Kenneth Gray
 Thomas Gunsell

Frank Holden
 Carl Landstrom
 Charles Levato
 Samuel Thomas Mackey
 Phil Martorelli
 Patrick Mazzeo
 Thomas McGrath
 Matthew McKay
 Kenneth McKenna
 Bob Moreback
 Michael Nicollette
 Richard Pruitt
 George Raiser
 Christian Rhein
 Joseph Reda
 John Roeckell
 James Rowland
 Richard Russano
 Walter Sadlowski

Thomas Senenfelder
 Daniel Shea
 Clarence Simpson
 Neil Singer
 James Spatola
 William Sullivan
 Frank Tooker
 David Vadala
 Richard Ward
 Mike Williams

Sons of The American Legion

Paul Gargiulo



Bob Santo

Commander's Corner

Another year is drawing to a close, and it is one we can all look back on as a year filled with successful programs, service to our fellow veterans and our community, a growing membership and anticipation for the bright future of our Post.

Our Veterans In The Classroom project has entered its third year at Oldfield Middle School and we have already been invited back for Veterans Week in 2014. We now have our Old Glory Flag Box visiting all eleven public libraries in Huntington. We have collected so many unserviceable flags that we are looking for a third fire department to help us dispose of them. Our Auxiliary continues to support the Women's Wellness Center and other programs at the Northport VA. Our Boys (and now Girls) State program has grown to eight high school juniors each year. We continue to sponsor students for the Suffolk County Oratorical Contest, and have our own essay contest in three high schools. And each year, we donate to more local charities benefitting our veterans in need and their families. The American Legion Riders are always out there, rain or shine, welcoming home our servicemen and women back home and honoring those who have left us. Our Veterans Day Ceremony this year was the finest we have ever conducted.

Who would have thought a few years ago, that we would join with The Missing In America Project and conduct one of the largest inurnment's of abandoned veterans in US history, and which included two veterans of the Civil War?

One of the great benefits of publishing this newsletter, is that every three months, I am forced to slow down (but never stop), and reflect on what we have accomplished in the preceding few months. I hope that, in reading this paper, more than a few of you will join with me in appreciating what we have done, what we have become, and what lies ahead for us and for our successors. Thank you to all who have helped to bring us to this point. I look forward to continuing our journey together.

"Things do not happen. Things are made to happen." John F. Kennedy



Taps Has Sounded

Henry J. Honaski
United States Navy

September 13, 2013



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Thank You for your Continued Service*



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A year before the Cuban Missile Crisis began, President Kennedy and Premier Khrushchev viewed Berlin as the major battleground of the Cold War --- their Gettysburg, Stalingrad and Waterloo all wrapped into one.

The author, Donald J. Farinacci, is a lawyer, military history writer, Vietnam Era veteran, and Member of Greenlawn Post 1244

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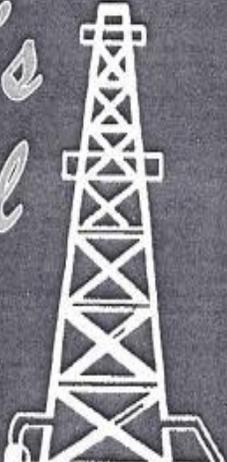


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