



# The Greenlawn Bugle

The Newsletter of American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244

Founded March 15, 1943

March 2019

Volume 13 Issue 1

## Post 1244 Events

### Applebees Fundraiser April 6 8 am - 10 am

Support your post and enjoy a breakfast of pancakes and eggs at Applebees in Commack. Call Dennis at 516-523-9391 for Tickets

### Memorial Day Parade May 27 9:00 am

The annual Greenlawn Memorial Day Parade will step off from Broadway and West Maple Rd at 9 am, followed by a solemn ceremony at Greenlawn Memorial Park.

### Annual Post Cookout May 27 2:00 pm

Our Legion Family and guests will gather for our annual cookout at the Knights of Columbus on Boulevard Ave. Food and beverages free of charge.

### Veterans Appreciation Breakfast June 7

9:00 am - 10:30 am  
Sponsored by the AP Government classes of Harborfields High School  
Bring your memories and memorabilia. The students want to hear your story.  
Harborfields H.S.  
98 Taylor Ave, Greenlawn.

## First Annual Veteran Services Day

A special partnership of the Huntington Opportunity Resource Center (HORC) and American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244 brought about an important event for veterans on February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Dozens of invited veteran service providers, human services providers and nonprofit agencies set up information tables in the South Cafeteria at Walt Whitman High School to provide local veterans an opportunity to learn about the services available to them.

Having all these providers in one location, enabled veterans and their families, to reduce travel time between each service provider and more time in receiving the necessary services that are truly needed.

Lunch was served to all, followed by a

free Chinese Auction of donated gifts. Each veteran received a free ticket to take part in the auction.

Post 1244 members were on hand to assist and greet the visiting veterans.

Many thanks to Michele Foulke, Director of HORC, her staff, and our First Vice Commander Carlo Giordano, Chief Custodian of Walt Whitman High School for handling all the logistics.

Special thanks to South Huntington School Superintendent Dr. David Bennardo and John Murphy, Principal of Walt Whitman H.S. (and a Post 1244 Son's member). Without their enthusiastic support, none of this would have been possible. We are looking forward to making this an annual event for veterans.



Marylin Rivera, representing Suffolk County Social Services flanked by some of our Post 1244 veteran volunteers.

## Boys State and Girls State 2019



Since the mid-1930's the American Legion has been offering the Boy's State and Girl's State program to students across the nation, giving them the opportunity to learn how the government of their state is set-up to operate at state and local levels.

Founded by two Illinois legionnaires to counter the socialist inspired Soviet Youth Pioneer Camps, it quickly spread throughout the country and is now offered in 49 of the 50 states.

Over these eighty plus years, many thousands of students have had the opportunity to actively participate in setting up and operating a fictional government on a state, county and city level, modeled on the state they live in. They work on party platforms, give speeches and run for the various offices or appointed positions on all government levels.

At the end of the week, two of the students from each of the state's programs are selected to attend Boy's or Girl's Nation, and go to Washington, DC, for another week to act as senators from their state.

Our Post has been working hard on this project for the past eleven years to do our part and send as many qualified students from our local high schools to these programs as is fiscally attainable. This is why we are constantly looking at ways to raise additional funds.

Due to our modest success in this area, it looks like we will be sending 20+ students, this year. We will now have given over 100 of our youth this exceptional opportunity. This wonderful program helps to prepare these students to possibly be the future leaders of our nation.

Charlie Armstrong

## Harborfields High School

### Boys State



L-R: Co-Chair Ed O'Shea, Daniel Shenkelman, Jahhel Louis, Maxwell Scharkopf, Alexander Kropp, Austen Debus, Principal Tim Russo, and Co-Chair Charlie Armstrong. Missing from the photo are Michael Panariello, Simon Kapen, and August Kollmer.

### Girls State



American Legion Auxiliary Unit 1244 is sponsoring the Harborfields delegate.  
L-R: Sandy Bohn, of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 1244, Annika Brown (Delegate), Samantha Lustig (Alternate), Tim Russo (Principal), and Charlie Armstrong.

## Boys State and Girls State 2019

### Walt Whitman High School

#### Boys State



Front row, L-R: Colby Goldsmith, Tyler Meyer, Logan Slansky, Joe Feola, Jake Iaccino, Nick DeGaetano, Connor Rankel, Joseph Dowling, and Assistant Principal for Guidance Mr. Corey Blair. Back row left to right: Ed O'Shea and Charlie Armstrong from Post 1244

#### Girls State



L-R: Delegate Samantha Carey, Ed O'Shea and Charlie Armstrong from Post 1244

### Huntington High School

#### Boys State



L-R: Joe Leavy, Chair of Humanities; Ed O'Shea; Joseph Mead, candidate; Craig Haas, candidate; Brenden Cusack, principal; and Charlie Armstrong

## Covanta Energy to Sponsor Flag Day Ceremony

Covanta Huntington will conduct a special Flag Day Ceremony at its facility on Townline Road in East Northport on Flag Day, June 14, 2019.

Covanta Energy in Hempstead has been helping Post 1244 dispose of our worn and tattered American Flags since our member, Allen Schwartz, reminded us that it was unsafe to burn other than 100% cotton flags behind our firehouse. Synthetic flags are known to emit toxic fumes when burned.

I spoke with a friend in the American Public Works Association, who is an official at Covanta, about giving us a dedicated time to burn our flags en masse. He referred me to the appropriate people at Covanta's Hempstead facility and a relationship was born.

Since then, we have been collecting flags and disposing of them once or twice a year with Covanta. This plan, of course, caught on with other agencies and it turned out that Covanta was dedicating many, one hour slots to burn flags

for many of them. They deemed it a necessary community service to install a flag drop box to collect flags from different agencies and burn them all at once.

When they dedicated their box in Hempstead, the veteran community received it so well that it was decided to do one in Huntington as well. The Hempstead event is the impetus for our event on Friday, June 14th.

We hope you'll come and join in the celebration at the dedication of this drop box with all of Suffolk County's veteran community.

Due to space restraints, only 500 tickets are available to this event. To register, please go to **Eventbrite** at:

<http://tinyurl.com/y31dowb9>

Dennis Madden  
**Commander**

## American Legion High School Oratorical Contest

The American Legion High School Oratorical Contest exists to develop a deeper knowledge and appreciation for the United States Constitution among high school students. Since 1938, the program has presented participants with an academic speaking challenge. It teaches important leadership qualities, the history of our nation's laws, the ability to think and speak clearly and an understanding of the duties, responsibilities and privileges of American citizenship.

This year, St. Pius V School junior Leah Pohalski, sponsored by American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244, came in 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Suffolk County, District and Zone contests.

On March 2, Leah placed second in the Department of New York finals held in Albany and received a \$4,000 prize for her accomplishment.

Melissa Barnosky, a senior at Albion Central School in Albion, New York, came in first and is The American Legion New York State Oratorical Champion for 2019.

Each fall, several Post 1244 Legion Family members, conduct a runoff at St. Pius V school among students interested in competing. This is done in the same manner in which the official contest judges will perform.

In recent years, our St. Pius V students have performed exceedingly well in the contest. In 2013, St. Pius V student Caitlin Kennedy won the Department of New York contest and went on to compete in the national competition in



L-R: Department Commander Gary Schacher, Leah Pohalsky and Department Oratorical Chairman Anthony L. Paternostro

Indianapolis. In 2016, Nicholas Honor reached the Department of New York finals and also placed second.

Speaking subjects must be on some aspect of the Constitution, with emphasis on the duties and obligations of citizens to our government. Speeches are eight to ten minutes long. Three to five minute speeches on an assigned topic are also part of the contest. The assigned topic is revealed to each contestant only five minutes before they are to speak.

The poise, eloquence and knowledge displayed by these young people gives us great confidence in this generation of Americans. Greenlawn Post 1244 is proud to be able to give them this opportunity.

## Missing In America Project

### After Action Report Interment of Earl Green, US Army Calverton National Cemetery 13:30 Hours 24 January 2019

The torrential rain did not dampen the enthusiasm of the 24 patriots who attended the interment of PV2 Earl Green today. Veteran Green, who passed away just one week short of his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday, served honorably with the United States Army from 1975-1977. Taps was sounded by Post 1244 bugler Bob Slingo.

After Taps was completed, the Army Honor Guard folded and presented Veteran Green's casket flag to WWII veteran, MIAP volunteer and Post 1244 Legionnaire Vinnie Crimaudo.

Vinnie will present the flag to Jane Messina, the wife of fellow Post member and MIAP volunteer Charlie Messina, for his work with the MIAP and the Northport VA Medical Center. Charlie passed away the night before, succumbing

to his battle with cancer. American Legion Riders Chaplain Mike Williams offered his invocation, followed by my eulogy which included the poem "We Will Find You," dedicated to all of our missing, yet to be found. Chaplain Williams closed our ceremony by offering his benediction.

Before we paid our final respects to Veteran Green, John Caldarelli, MIAP National Representative and I both said a few words about Charlie Messina's exceptional character and work with the MIAP.

Final respects followed, as two by two we rendered slow salutes before Veteran Green's casket. Once again, one of our brothers in arms was respectfully laid to rest.

*Charlie Tritto  
Post 1244 Chaplain  
Missing In America Post 1244 Team*

## Operation Enduring Care



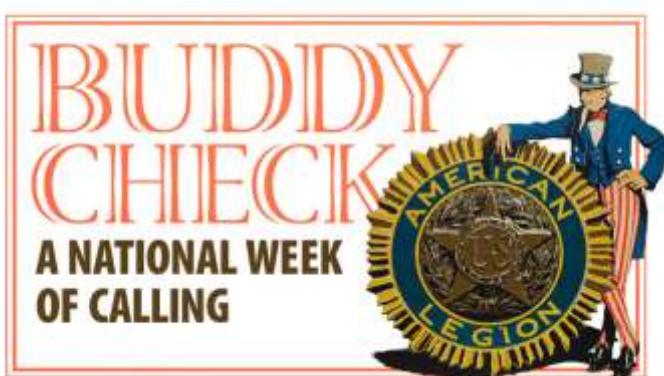
On Christmas Day, Connie and I participated in an unofficial gathering in Building 5 (Gym) of the VA with other volunteers.

We prepared a Christmas dinner for 125 needy veterans and family members, including young children.

Operation Enduring Care provided 6 large turkeys for the dinner. We also contributed nine tables of non-

perishable food, underclothing, socks, T-shirts, pants, shirts and dresses as well as several tables of hygiene and personal care items were available for the veterans to bring home. Your continued support made this a very special Christmas Day for these veterans and their families.

*Al Statton  
Chairman,  
Operation Enduring Care*



American Legion National Commander Brett Reistad has called for a Buddy Check during our National Week of Calling around the Legion's 100th birthday as a way to reach out to members and former members who may need help.

If we haven't seen you for awhile, you may get a call from a fellow member in the near future.

We're just reaching out to see how you are doing and invite you to join us for a meeting, event or activity.

We do hope to find you well, but if not, please let us know how we can help.

## **“Angels” at Christmas**



It is always amazing when two stories become joined completely by chance. You can't make these things up!

Each year, we collect toys and money for our Mark Gajewsky Toy Drive

so that a deserving veteran's family can experience the joys of the season. Donated toys and those we purchase through monetary donations, as well as a supply of Wall Mart gift cards are packed up and brought to Rogerlyn Cipriani, the CEO and Founder of Angels on Main Street in Huntington.

Until now, no one from our post had been there when that family received their presents.

This year, entirely by chance, Service Officer, Michelle Martin was there. She had referred the family to Rogerlyn for assistance. Her article below describes the scene.

We will start collecting toys for our 2019 Toy Drive in October. We are happy to accept monetary donations at any time.



L-R: Cmdr. Dennis Madden; Rogerlyn Cipriani, Past Cmdr. Bob Santo and toys donated by Greenlawn Post 1244

Just indicate “Toy Drive” on the memo line of your check and send to:

*American Legion Post 1244  
PO Box 238  
Greenlawn, NY 11740*

## **Service Officer's Report - “Angels” ... The Rest of the Story**



I joined GreenlawnPost 1244 a year ago and I have to say, this is a great group of veterans. I was warmly embraced by everyone and have always felt welcomed by the group.

Prior to joining, I was naive and unaware of how many wonderful things that

the American Legion does and I have to say that I'm real impressed.

I work for an agency that helps low income veterans in a housing crisis. One of my veterans is a single mother of four. During the holidays she was extremely stressed out wondering how she could afford to be Santa Claus for her children. I didn't know it at the time, but Post 1244 would come through for her.

Through donations from Post 1244 to **Angels for Warriors**, my client received a plethora of gifts for her children. I only wish the members of Post 1244 could have been there to see her reaction. No doubt they would have been as touched as I was. She was overwhelmed with gratitude and tears streamed from her eyes. She could barely stand and we had to pull up a chair so that she could sit down and take it all in. I also cried as it was difficult not to get caught up in the moment.

It is indeed a small world as Post 1244 and my agency both work closely with Rogerlyn of **Angels for Warriors** to create miracles for our veterans. I am a proud member of an awesome team!

**Michelle Martin,  
Post 1244 Service Officer  
Mmartin@sus.org**



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## The Sons of The American Legion



This will be my last year as commander of Squadron 1244 of The Sons of The American Legion.

It has been a pleasure raising money from the public on behalf of our veterans at the Long Island Veterans Home in Stonybrook and I am looking forward to helping out at future events.

**Best wishes to all my fellow Sons!**

We are looking for a current members of Sons Squadron 1244 to lead our squadron for the upcoming year.

If you can spare a few hours a month organizing a few events and activities, please contact Dennis Madden at 516-523-9391 or e mail [dam9245@optonline.net](mailto:dam9245@optonline.net)

*Tony Braccia*

**Commander, Sons of The American Legion**  
[tonyb24@optonline.net](mailto:tonyb24@optonline.net)

## American Legion Riders



March has arrived. The Riders have been spoiled with the nice weather up until now, (Billy had just switched over to his snow tires).

This year, as you all know, is the American Legion's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. There will be numerous celebrations throughout the year. To celebrate, the Babylon Post hosted a nice dinner on March 1, which was enjoyed by all who attended.

March 23<sup>rd</sup>. is the next Vietnam Commemorative Medal Ceremony which will be held at the Long Island Veterans Home in Stonybrook at 2:00 pm.

The American Legion National Commander is coming to visit Long Island this month. The Commander's Dinner will be on March 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at Anton's in Queens at a cost of \$50 per person. Tickets are limited.

With all the sicknesses and injuries the Riders have had, I would like to send a special thank you out to Joe Spinelli and George Barbaro for going above and beyond and picking up the slack. These two men are always there for our veterans whenever you need them, in any weather, day or night. Sometimes "thank you" does not seem like enough.

The planning has begun for the Flag Retirement Ceremony at Covanta which is set for June 14. This is going to be a County Event so mark it on your calendars.

During these cold months, the Riders have been quiet, cleaning their bikes, and getting ready for the roads to get clean. A certain unnamed rider also put a few more horses into his motor and I am sure you will find out who he is in just a few rides. The rest of us will see a lot more of his tailpipes.

**Bruce Blanco, Director American Legion Riders Chapter 1244, Greenlawn New York**

## American Legion Auxiliary



The American Auxiliary has been very busy. Our pancake breakfast fundraiser was a huge success and all enjoyed a wonderful family day.

We are not slowing down though!

On April 7 we will be hosting our 4th Annual Spring Fling Craft Sale and Family Fun Day. Special guest, the Easter Bunny will be joining us and entertaining the kids! We hope to see you all there!

Welcome to new members, Barbara Moreback, Harriet Leavy and Donna Blanco. Welcome to our organization! For information about joining the Auxiliary, please contact Nicole Abbate at 631-745-9336, [chefblanco@gmail.com](mailto:chefblanco@gmail.com) or Mary Walker at 5164462681

*Nicole Abbate*

**Co-President American Legion Auxiliary Unit 1244**



## Congratulations Keith Gunsel

Senior Chief Petty Officer and Post 1244 Legionnaire Keith Gunsel reenlisted on February 24, 2019. Keith has been in the Navy for 24 years.

He was promoted to Senior Chief Petty Officer in 2017 just prior to his last deployment on the USNS Trenton where he served as an Operation Specialist.

Keith enlisted in the Navy in September, 1994. He has served in multiple leadership positions, most recently mobilized as the Senior Enlisted Leader to the USNS Trenton (T-EPF-5) MILDET from 2017-2018.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts in History and Master of Arts in Liberal Studies from Stony Brook University among other educational and professional achievements. In his civilian career, he is a Middle School Social Studies teacher and volunteer firefighter with the Huntington Manor Fire Department.

Sr. Chief Gunsel's decorations include the Navy and Marine Commendation Medal (2 Awards), Navy and Marine Achievement Medal (3 Awards), Good Conduct Medal (2 Awards), Navy Reserve Meritorious Service Medal (5 Awards), the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal (4 Awards), National Defense Service Medal (2 Awards) and a number of service and unit awards.

We are grateful for your service, Senior Chief Gunsel!



Senior Chief Petty Officer Keith Gunsel takes the oath of reenlistment from Lt. Cmdr. Dewey at Naval Air Station North Island on February 26.

## Post 1244 Poppy Drive 2019 - Volunteers Needed

The red poppy is a nationally recognized symbol of sacrifice worn by Americans since World War I to honor those who served and died for our country in all wars.



From the battlefields of World War I, weary soldiers brought home the memory of a landscape transformed by wild poppies, red as the blood of fallen soldiers. The poppy became a symbol of the sacrifice of lives in war and represented the hope that none had died in vain.

It reminds Americans of the sacrifices made by our veterans while protecting our freedoms.

Each year, our teams of Poppy Volunteers offer the American Legion Poppy to the public. A small donation is appreciated, but not obligatory.

All donations received will be used by our American Legion post for programs that support veterans, the military community and their families. The funds raised by our Poppy Drive are essential to our charitable giving to institutions which benefit veterans as well as assistance to



veterans in need.

If you would like to participate, please call Dennis at 516-523-9391. You will be glad you did!

# American Legion Centennial Tribute

By Chuck Bishop, Sons of The American Legion 1244



My father was a proud member of Greenlawn American Legion Post 1244 for many years until his passing in July, 2009. He initially was one of those Legionnaires who

merely paid their dues and received the newsletter. He became an active Post member around the time that Past Commander Santo and Commander Madden began the restoration of Post 1244 to relevance and influence. My brother and I would bring our families out to support Dad as he marched at the Memorial Day Parade each year.

He served in the Marine Corps as a radioman during WWII in the Pacific Theatre for the years from April 1943 to June 1946, with a final rank of sergeant. An interesting footnote is that the famous actor, Tyrone Power flew with the same squadron as my Dad.

My grandfather (his father) served in the U.S. Army during WWI, enlisting in June 1915 and serving to November 1918.

I didn't know all that much about my grandfather's service, just that he was in the Army. He did tell us some stories, but you know how grandfathers do delight in stretching the truth. When I was about 10, I recall him regaling us with stories of how, as a young soldier, he served under General Black Jack Pershing, pursuing Pancho Villa during the "Punitive Expedition" in 1916-1917. I just chalked it up to tall tales from a grandfather.

Recently, I came across my grandfather's military discharge papers. The paper was dried and brittle like old parchment paper. As I read the details, the hairs on the back of my neck stood up; I was reading authentic history!

He served with Battery "B" 104th Field Artillery.

His Enlistment Record indicated eight battles, 4 minor operations, 1 engagement. Specific battles listed were:

- Saint Mihiel, September 12th to September 16th, 1918.
- Meuse Argonne Offensive, September 26th to November 11th, 1918.

I had studied World War I in school and was aware of this battle's significance. The battle cost 28,000 German lives, 26,277 American lives and an unknown number of French lives. It was the largest and bloodiest operation of World War I for the American Expeditionary Force.

I was both humbled and awestruck as I compared my grandfather's Enlistment Record with the history books and saw exact battle dates match up. This was history in my hands.

*'It's the stores making this a sales day that I think has taken something away from this. But maybe that's the way it should be. We shouldn't dwell too much on war. It's important that we do not forget what these men did.'*



IN HIS WORLD WAR I uniform is Bill Bishop, 92. He fought with the Army 104th Field Artillery.

William Bishop, a special guest at the 1988 St. James Memorial Day Parade, wearing his original WWI uniform.

St. James Times. June 2, 1988

His records indicated "Good Horsemanship." A young man from New York City recognized for good horsemanship! His record also listed one engagement which I believe could have been the Pancho Villa Expedition. Maybe my grandfather wasn't stretching the truth after all.

He joined the American Legion in 1919 when it was initially formed in Paris, France. In 1988, when he was 91 years old, he wore his original uniform at the St. James Memorial Day Parade (see newspaper clipping above).

I joined the Greenlawn American Legion Post 1244 in 2016, first as a Son, then as a member of the American Legion Riders. I did not feel that I belonged at first, not having served in the military as a true veteran. I turned 18 in 1972 and the Selective Service had stopped calling numbers that year.

Eventually, I began to see that I could provide value to the American Legion. I didn't serve in the military but I know that I can serve veterans in need. There is much work to accomplish and my work with the American Legion connects me with my father and grandfather. I strive to honor them through this work.



## Final Salute

Charles J. Messina  
January 23, 2019

United States Navy



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

### **A Moment With Chaplain Charlie**



#### **“Calling For Mama”**

*I’ve been volunteering at the Northport VA Medical Center shuttling veterans to and from their appointed clinics for a few years now. This is one of their stories.*

My first run of the day was a Korean War Veteran. Upon my arrival in the Pavilion, I greeted the elderly gentleman of slight build with a smile and a “Korean Vet! Thank you for your service, sir.”

He thanked me for my service as well as he made himself comfortable in the wheelchair. He then turned to face me as we proceeded down the hallway and told me that he “made it,” but a lot of his buddies didn’t. I stopped

mid-transport, and walked around to the front of the wheelchair as he continued his story. I wanted him to know I was listening.

He asked me to pray for them, as he does every night, those soldiers that never came home. Veteran to veteran, I promised that I would. His eyes opened wider. He said he could take the deafening sounds of gunfire, the brutal cold and the artillery exploding around him back there, but it was the horrifying sound of the wounded calling for “Mama” that haunted him to this day.

As we arrived at his appointment, I put my hand on his frail shoulder and wished him well. I told him that I’d pray for him also, along with his fallen comrades. As he thanked me his eyes calmed. I hoped that for that moment, at least, the ghastly calls in his head were silent.

*Chaplain Charlie Tritto*

## Vice Commander's Call to Members



### **“Service Before Self”**

Three simple words to say, but those words carry a huge meaning.

Now, personally, I have spent many years in service to our country, missing a lot of family functions. But that's me. I always felt it was the right thing to do.

I realized that the military life style was not for everybody. But what is for everybody is to be involved in the many functions that Post 1244 provides.

You don't have to be involved in everything we do, just some of them.

It's important to let the community know who we are

and that we are there for them. Their children need to know what we have and continue to do for them.

Ultimately, we need to continue our primary mission for many years to come:

### **“Veterans Helping Veterans.”**

That is why maintaining and increasing our membership is so important and why “stepping up” to help your post is so important.

There is a lot of talent in our ranks.

### **Let's make good use of it!**

Carlo Giordano

## Welcome To Our Newest Post 1244 Members

**Bruce Bosinius**

**Joe Competello**

**Jeff Daly**

**Bob Driscoll**

**Ian Fackiener**

**Fred Lange**

**Bill O’Laughlin**

**Fred Romani**

**Steve Scinta**

**David Silverman**

**Bill Talarek**

**Carl Vitevitch**

their own lives are honored as well as the veterans themselves.

After the sail, we all enjoy a cookout compliments of Centerport Yacht Club as well as music from a live band.

During the year, SailAhead provides opportunities for veterans to experience sailing as an antidote to the emotional damage that can be caused by the military experience.

For more information call Bob Santo at 516-458-7881 or e mail [bobsanto2@verizon.net](mailto:bobsanto2@verizon.net).

## Save The Date for SailAhead

This year's fifth annual “Let's Take A Veteran Sailing” event has been scheduled for Sunday, July 21 at Centerport Yacht Club. Veterans and guests are invited to board one of 50 sailboats and sail for a few hours from Northport Harbor out to Long Island Sound.

This popular event is held each year to promote awareness of PTSD and the high rate of suicide among veterans. Gold Star families of veterans who have taken

## The Commander's Corner



Once again, we find our busiest of seasons staring us in the face and spring is only just about to blossom.

We begin our 2019 season with a few Post trips; first to Kirkups Military Museum, followed the next day by our Post Brunch, both of which are now behind us. Next in line is the Cradle of Aviation trip which we haven't visited in a few years. April will bring us our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Pancake Breakfast on Saturday the 6<sup>th</sup>, where our own Fred Tuccillo will entertain the kids who attend with his "bunny" routine. On April 10<sup>th</sup> we'll elect our new slate of officers for the Legion year 2020. Then, on the 13<sup>th</sup> we're going to join our host Knights for their Knight at the Races at 7:30PM. All of those tickets are sold out, sorry.

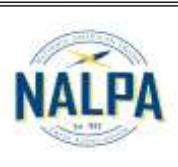
We'll take a break for a brief moment, but on May 8th, we'll have our installation of our new officers. For the rest of May, we'll be busy preparing, of course, for our Memorial Day Parade and the BBQ to follow it. We'll have our friends from the USMMA come to join us once again but we will miss the grilling expertise of our former Vice Commander, Rich Russano, who will be sunning himself,

again, in southwest Florida. Someone will take the reins, I'm certain.

As this will be my final column as your Commander, please let me say that it has been quite a ride over the last four years. I've been most fortunate to have had a wonderful predecessor to help guide me and get me going plus a wonderful and cooperative Executive Committee to assist in the running of this Post. So very many things happen that need no help at all from me because of the officers in this post and I am most appreciative of that fact. The new commander will be as well while he or she gets their own "sea legs." I'm not planning on going anywhere so I will be still very visible within the post, aiding and assisting as much as possible to make the transition smooth and peaceful.

Thank you so much for your confidence over the past several years. It has been an honor to lead this post of so many dedicated veterans, all trying their level best to make life for other veterans as pleasant as can be. Our community, the hamlet of Greenlawn, has so willingly embraced us in all of our extraordinary events, with the help of the Greenlawn Civic Association. I cannot express sufficient gratitude. We have a remarkable relationship with our Greenlawn Fire Department and our 2<sup>nd</sup> Precinct and all of the men and women who man each of them.

Dennis Madden



National American Legion Press Association's First Place Award 2018

New York American Legion Press Association's Best Paper Award

2009-2012-2013-2014-2015-2016-2017-2018



If you have E Mail service and are not receiving Our weekly **E Bulletin** from us, we invite you to let us add you to our list. We will let you know of Post 1244 news of interest, and activities and events you may wish to take part in. **No chain letters, political messages or jokes.** Only "**The News You Can Use.**" *And you can unsubscribe at any time!*

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

***The Greenlawn Bugle: Editor, Publisher, Writer, Photographer and Reporter Bob Santo***

***Contributing Writers: Nicole Abbate, Charlie Armstrong, Chuck Bishop, Bruce Blanco, Tony Braccia,***

***Carlos Giordano, Dennis Madden, Michelle Martin, and Charlie Tritto.***

***Photos by: Chuck Bishop, Mickele Foulke, Bob Santo, Charlie Tritto***

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

### Monthly Meetings

St. Joseph Council K of C 24 Boulevard Ave. Greenlawn. The 2nd Wednesday of each month at 8:00 pm  
**New or potential members always welcome!**



## OUR SUPPORTERS



**Chad A. Lupinacci**  
Supervisor  
Town of Huntington



100 Main Street, Room 200,  
Huntington, NY 11743  
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**Mark Cuthbertson**  
*Councilman*  
*Town of Huntington*



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*Email: [MCuthbertson@HuntingtonNY.gov](mailto: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](mailto:ecook@huntingtonny.gov)



**Councilman Edmund J.M. Smyth, USMCR,**  
Veteran  
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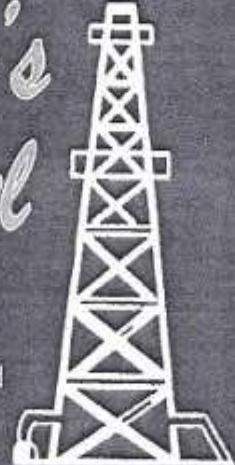
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