



The Greenlawn Bugle

American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244

June 2011

Volume 5 Issue 2

♦ Winner Best Paper Award American Legion New York State ♦

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Upcoming Events

- Sundays June 26, July 10, July 24, Aug 7:
Suydam House Veterans Exhibit
1:00-4:00 pm
- Friday June 24, Korean War 61st
Anniversary Ceremony— Hauppauge
- Wednesday, July 13 Monthly Meeting
- Wednesday, August 10 Monthly Meeting
- Thursday Sept 1, Fireman's Fair Parade**
- Wednesday, Sept 14 Monthly Meeting

* See Our Award Winning *
* Website *
* www.Post1244.org *

Our monthly meetings are on the second Wednesday of each month at 8:00 pm sharp, Knights of Columbus, 24 Boulevard Ave. Greenlawn.

Come early and get to know us! For more information call:

631-673-8704 or e mail

Post1244@verizon.net

Memorial Day 2011

This Memorial Day proved to be one for the records. In the morning, we came close to having the parade cancelled due to weather, but it went off after a 15 minute delay. It drizzled a short while but we were no worse for wear. The community came out and



Our marchers looked sharp despite the rain

were well represented in spite of the rain and gave their all for the groups involved. At the ceremony in Memorial Park, we had a few minutes of moderate rain, but we survived.

Our weapons carrier, "CPL BILL", didn't make it for this parade as it is still without cover, but the canvas has been located and will be on and standing tall in short order. While we did have a loaner Jeep convertible from our friends and Huntington Jeep again, we had to "hide" it at one of the homes so as not to get it wet.

Later that day, our Post BBQ came off without a hitch and was attended by 66 of us. Brothers Giunta and Freeman on the grill and a few extra hands setting up and the meal was colossal hit. While we did run out of hotdogs, we had plenty of burgers and everything else. What a day! As an added bonus, we got to see brother Hal Stillway for the first time in a long time. Hal, you'll remember, has been dealing with severe health issues since Thanksgiving. He can't say enough about the well wishes of the Post and the members and he seems to be on the mend and gaining ground.



WW II Veteran Milton Blackman places the wreath



We ended the day with a great gathering of our Legion Family

Commander Santo took the opportunity of the gathering to present Joe Pipia a certificate of appreciation for his contributions of time and effort to get our weapons carrier, the "CPL BILL" ship shape. Joe even took the wheel of the 3/4 ton truck in this year's St. Patrick's Day parade.

The Post formally congratulated brother Kevin Farrell and his fiancé Carol on their recent engagement with a wonderful cake. They were overwhelmed with the recognition. We wish them well and many, many years of health and happiness. As are all of our

BBQ's, this was another well attended, wonderful day of laughs and friendship. If you haven't made one yet, you owe it to yourself to come. If you are a member of this Post, you belong with us to celebrate our comradeship and our service to this country. Yes, indeed, Another great

Dennis Madden

Happenings



L-R LI AFA Chapter Pres. Fred DiFabio, Babylon Supervisor. Steve Bellone, Mike Bonchonsky and Congressman Steve Israel

Mike Bonchonsky Awarded Medal

Legionnaire Mike Bonchonsky was awarded the Jubilee of Liberty Medal on June 4th at the Long Island Chapter of the Air Force Association's annual Recognition and Education Awards Luncheon. Mike was one of three WW II veterans to be so honored. The medal was presented to Mike by Congressman Steve Israel at the luncheon which was held at the 56th Fighter Group Restaurant at Republic Airport. The medal, authorized by the French Government, is awarded to veterans who served in France during its liberation following the Normandy Invasion.

Mike was an armorer on B 26 Martin Marauders with the 34th Bomb Squadron, 17th Bomb Group, 9th Air Force. He is working on his memoirs and we are looking forward to reading of his experiences.

Memorial Day 2011 by Legionnaire Tireak Tulloch

I can honestly say that my Memorial weekend started the weekend before. I was in attendance at Yale University's Senior Class of 2011 closing ceremonies for my younger cousin who's going on to Harvard for medical school. On Sunday May 22nd, which was their class day, I witnessed Tom Hanks give one hell of a speech as he talked to this class. What grabbed me emotionally and stood out in my mind was his call to action to these graduates to support the new generation of returning combat veterans. His words were powerful, but the fact that he said it to a non-veteran crowd stood out even more. "Let's provide for them their place free from fear, by educating them if they can learn, by employing them as they transition from soldier back to citizen, and by empathizing with the new journey they are starting, even though we will never fully understand the journey they just completed. We all will define the true nature of our American identity not by the parades and the welcome home parties, but how we match their time in the service with service of our own."



Tireak with another proud Marine, NYPD Commissioner Ray Kelly

That set the tone within me for the upcoming holiday weekend. On Friday, May 27th, I joined my fellow coworkers at LIRR's annual Memorial Day ceremony with our LIRR Veterans Association. LIRR President Helena Williams has always been a huge supporter of the annual ceremony and has been to every ceremony in her current position as agency President. After this ceremony concluded, I made my way to Calverton National Cemetery to pay my respects to Sergeant Major Mike Curtin, who was a former 1stSgt of my reserve unit of Alpha Company, 6th Communication Battalion in Amityville and a member of NYPD's ESU on that fateful day of 9/11. After rendering my salute and while heading back to my car, I came across another Marine, Sergeant James Parham, just two rows in front of the Sgt Maj. He was a member of Port Authority Police Department on that day of 9/11. I rendered my salute to him as well and hit the road. I then made my way to Long Island National Cemetery to pay my respects to Gunnery Sergeant Matthew Garvey, who to those in my unit we referred to as Gunny Highway (similar in demeanor to the character in Clint Eastwood's Heartbreak Ridge). He was the operations chief and also a member of FDNY's Squad One on that fateful day. I remember September 15, 2001 vividly as it was my 22nd birthday and while reporting into my reserve unit, I also learned of his fate as the Navy Chaplain led us in prayer.

On Sunday, May 29th, I joined my fellow American Legion members in Huntington, as the town had their ceremony with a special guest of honor. Marine 1stLt James Byler, who lost both his legs and both pinky fingers due to an IED in Afghanistan, was the hometown guest speaker. I had the honor to speak to him and his mother after the ceremony. It was funny as his mom told me she thought I was a Marine because of the way I carried myself while talking to her son. It felt good to hear that after being out for a couple of years now. The next day was just as big as I represented Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America on the deck of the Intrepid with the annual wreath laying ceremony. I was paired up with another Marine, NYPD Commissioner Ray Kelly as we threw the wreath honoring those we have lost in the recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. I also met the command staff from Marine Forces Command who came up for the event. I then ended my day in Cypress Hills cemetery attempting to find the grave of Sergeant Major Dan Daly (Two Medals of Honor and a Glen Cove native). I ran out of time as the cemetery was closing, but will find him on my next trip.

Overall, I do feel fortunate and honored to be able to participate in such ceremonies. A friend of mine told me of how she felt of me being able to go to many places for my fellow veterans. I don't consider it a vacation on any level, but a way of continuing my duty.

Happenings

Post 1244 Officers Installed for Legion Year 2010-2011

On May 11, the newly elected officers of Post 1244 were installed for the 2011-2012 year. Officiating were Suffolk County Commander Robert Bruggemann, 10th D Chaplain Paul DeVaul, County Chaplain Tom Bergin, County Vice Commander Joe Regina, Child Welfare Chairman Anna Gilpin and County Sergeant at Arms William Farley.

The newly elected officers are:

Commander-Bob Santo
 1st Vice Commander and Finance Officer-Dennis Madden
 2nd Vice Commander-Dennis Giunta
 3rd Vice Commander-Kevin Farrell
 Adjutant-Ed O'Shea
 Service Officer-Donna Boyle
 Sgt-at-Arms-Charlie Armstrong
 Chaplain-Allen Shaw
 Public Affairs Officer and Historian-Allen Shaw
 Judge Advocate-Tom Freeman



Sgt. at Arms Charlie Armstrong Doubly Honored



Vice Commander Madden, and Commander Santo awarding Charlie the Post honors.

At our April 13 meeting, Charlie was presented the Post 1244 Legionnaire of The Year Award by Commander Santo. He has stood out in every possible way as Sgt. at Arms, Boys State Co-chairman, a top fund raiser and membership recruiter.

On June 11, at the Suffolk County American Legion Convention in Babylon, Charlie was again honored as 2011 Suffolk County American Legionnaire of the Year for his contributions to his community, state and nation as well as his fellow veterans. Congratulations, Charlie. Well done!



SC Cmdr Bruggeman and LOY Chmn Barzac present Charlie with the County Award.

Local Greenlawn Businesses Support Boys State

Over the last few years our Post has been able to send a couple of boys from Harborfields High School to the annual American Legion Boys State program. In an effort to be able to offer this opportunity to more boys, we decided to reach out to the local business community for additional financial support. Ed O'Shea and I took to the streets of Greenlawn to visit local merchants to make them aware of the Boys State program and what it is all about, and to ask for their aid. The reception we have received has been excellent and very sincerely appreciated. It is nice to have these businesses show interest in the students of our local high school. We encourage our members to patronize them. To date, the following businesses have stepped up to help us grow this program:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AT&T, 110 Broadway • ASA Allstate Abstract, 52 Broadway • Blue Bell Distributors, 8 Gates St. • Broadway Auto Parts, 48 Broadway • Green Garden Kitchen, 51 Broadway • Greenlawn Service, Inc., 96 Broadway • Grooming on Broadway, LLC, 70 Broadway • Healy's Inn, 54A Broadway | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Huntington Colonial Travel Agency, 50 Broadway • Law Offices Kelly, Sackman, Spollen & Upton, 52 Broadway • S & S Chemical, 44 Broadway • State Farm Insurance, 9 Boulevard Ave. • Volmer Adair Agency Insurance, 44 Broadway • Wee Creations, 67 Broadway |
|---|---|

Charlie Armstrong

Happenings

American Legion Riders (ALR) Post 1244 Chapter

For those of you that may not know us or what we do, I will give you a very brief introduction. The American Legion Riders are motorcycle enthusiasts who are also Regular Legion Members, Sons of the American Legion members or American Legion Auxiliary members. We have Chapters in well over 550 Posts nation wide and we have an ALR presence in 48 States.



Our Mission Statement is :

* To participate in parades and other ceremonies which are in keeping with the Aims and Purposes of the American Legion.

* To promote motorcycle safety programs and to provide a social atmosphere for American Legion members who share a common interest.

* To use our Association to promote and support the programs of the American Legion.

Our Greenlawn chapter was formed in 2010 and now has 9 members. We meet informally, for now, at our Post's regular monthly meeting on the second Wednesday of each month and you can also find us at almost every other Post function.

We also attend, (in conjunction with the Patriot Guard Riders):,

1. Funerals for both present and former military veterans.
2. Welcome Home Ceremonies for Veterans
3. Motorcycle Rallies and Runs to benefit numerous Veterans causes and functions, just to name a few.

Many of the members of our chapter have well over 20 missions of various kinds under their belts and are making our presence known.

If you would like to find out more about our Chapter or the ALR in general, please drop me an email at : dendelion@aol.com. **"BE SAFE OUT THERE"**

Dennis "DRACC" Giunta

Navy Veteran from Centerport Wins B 17 Raffle

Once again we are pleased to report that we had a very successful raffle. After much hard work on the part of all involved and a high level of participation, the winner of our annual fund raising raffle was selected at our Post meeting on May 11th. Kerry Connelly, a member of the Greenlawn-Centerport Historical Association, was the lucky winner and took flight on the B-17 Flying Fortress on May 28th, from the American Airpower Museum at Republic Field. On learning that Connelly had once been a Navy plane captain who had worked on Lockheed P-2V Neptunes, the flight crew offered him an honored spot in the jump seat in the cockpit right behind the pilot. Besides having a great view from the cockpit, Kerry was able to communicate with the tower at Republic Field.

The weather was perfect for the simulated bombing run by the 'Yankee Lady' over Jones Beach

Kerry thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to step back in history and imagine what it may have been like to embark on a dangerous mission to help bring about the destruction of the enemy's war machine.

Welcome New Members of Post 1244!

Legionnaires: Milton Blackman, Robert Browne, Tom Imeri, Gerard Iversen, Stephen Labate Jr.,

Erik Liebenstein, Courtney Nagle, Neil Rohrbacher, Richard Spennelli, William J. Upton

Sons of The American Legion: Chris P. Chiofalo, Brian Madden Jr., David J. Mangone, Philip Mangone.

Thank You, Larry Cornelia for your generous support of our Memorial Day Cookout!



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"You Earned It"

by Donna Boyle, Post Service Officer

Correcting or replacing Military Medals and/or Records

Military Medals

Medals earned while in active service are issued by the appropriate military services when requested by veterans or their next of kin. Requests for replacement medals, decorations, and awards should be directed to the Veterans' branch of the military. National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) will verify awards. Please note the processing time may be extensive, so start early. Requests are made on Standard Form 180, "Request Pertaining To Military Records," with all required documents.



Military Records

If discharge or separation documents are lost, veterans or the next of kin of deceased veterans may obtain duplicate copies by completing forms found on the Internet at www.archives.gov/research/index.html and mailing or faxing them to the NPRC. (Standard Form 180 may also be used.)



Correcting Military Records

The secretary of a military department, acting through a Board for Correction of Military Records, has authority to change any military record when necessary to correct an error or remove an injustice. A correction board may consider applications for correction of a military record, including a review of a discharge issued by court-martial.

Applications should include all available evidence, such as signed statements of witnesses or a brief of arguments supporting the correction. Application is made with DD Form 149



Harborfields Veterans Appreciation Breakfast

At what has become an annual occasion, the AP U.S. Government & Politics Classes at Harborfields High School, invited all local veterans to a Veterans Appreciation Breakfast on June 3rd. Having attended this event for the past 5 years, I can say that each year the students are more involved and interested than the year before. They were genuinely eager to hear of our experiences in the military and were very open to discussing their opinions on national and world affairs with us.

The event opened with a talented student vocal group's rendition of the Star Spangled Banner. Veterans of WW II, Korea, Vietnam and the Gulf Wars were able to share their experiences and mementos with the eager students.

Special thanks to AP teacher Patty Taylor for once again bringing the students and veterans together, and to Harborfields principal Dr. David Bennardo and Deputy Superintendent Diana Todaro for their words of welcome to us all. We look forward to next year's event.



George Henry Award Presented to Local Students

Post 1244 has presented the **George W. Henry Memorial Award for Excellence in American Studies** to two local students: **Margaret Hovestadt** of St. Pius V School, Melville and **Caitlin Lyons** of Harborfields High School, Greenlawn.

Each student received an award of \$250. We are glad to be able to aid in their pursuit of higher education and hope they will continue to show an interest in and an appreciation of our form of government.

Happenings

Flag Retirement Ceremony

The efforts of Vice Commander Dennis Giunta and Sgt. at Arms Charlie Armstrong were very evident on Sunday morning, June 12, as we gathered to retire well over 500 American flags at the Greenlawn Fire Department. The flags had been collected over the past year via our Old Glory Traveling Flag Deposit Box which had visited numerous local schools, libraries and businesses. Flags had also been given to us by neighbors and friends and even by the NY State Office of General Services in Hauppauge. We are happy to provide this service to our community and to promote respect for the symbol of our great country.

We were led in the Pledge of Allegiance by Tom Callan of Troop 32. Vice Commander Madden contributed a reading "Mike's Flag" from a speech by MOH recipient Leo K. Thorness. Gerry Callan from Troop 32 read the stirring "I Am The Flag" just before we committed the flags to the flames.



Boys Scouts from Troop 32 and Cub Scouts from Den 5, Pack 225 assisted us in the ceremony and burning of the flags. We are very grateful to the Greenlawn Fire Department and Chief Scott Dalrymple. Assisting us Sunday morning were Assistant Chief Mike Zeis and Fire-



fighter Eric Proctor who carefully handled the burning of the flags in his turnout suit.

Domenick Gargiulo Visits WW II Memorial

On the morning of June 4, Post 1244 Legionnaire Domenick Gargiulo and over 50 of his fellow WW II veterans left MacArthur Airport for Washington DC to see the National WW II Memorial. The veterans, all of whom traveled free of charge, were greeted as they arrived at MacArthur Airport by members of the Patriot Guard Riders.

Domenick was struck by the incredible welcome that the veterans received wherever they went. In addition to the WW II monument, he was also impressed by the new Air Force monument in Arlington, Virginia. Domenick was a veteran of the China-Burma-India campaign and served as a flight engineer aboard C46's. He was awarded the Air Medal and Distinguished Flying Cross among other honors.

For more information about Honor Flight Long Island call (631)702-2423.



Domenick with his volunteer guardian Tamara Snyder at the WW II Memorial

Veterans Stand Down Sets Record

The Suffolk County Veterans Service Agency conducted its fifth annual Countywide Veterans Stand Down on the campus of Brentwood Suffolk County Community College on April 29th.

More than 100 Volunteers showed up along with many representatives of organizations designed to help those veterans in need of services. Federal, State, County and Private Agencies were in attendance, offering help to those needing aid in health, addiction, employment, financial, housing, education, taxes or VA benefits.

Veterans were offered free haircuts, eye glasses, some clothing and a sandwich, a brown bag meal, a dental checkup and blood pressure checks. More than three hundred showed up to seek aid...the most ever in the five years of the event.

Post 1244, for the fourth year in a row, provided escorts for needy veterans. This year, Tom Freeman, Charlie Armstrong, Ron Capototo, Ed O'Shea and Allen Shaw performed the duty. We hope to see more Greenlawn members at next year's Stand Down.

Allen Shaw

Vice Commander's Call to Members



Recently, our Installation of Officers was held at our Post and we had several dignitaries from the County present to view the proceedings. Immediately afterwards, during the introduction of these guests, one of them, the Division 1 Commander, Joe Regina, was kind enough to say that it is our Post that has "inspired" him to greater effort for the causes of the veterans of Suffolk County. These words choked me up because I have never heard such praise for a like minded group of folks before. On reflection, having witnessed other Posts and their activities in the County, we are a shining star and our members, as representatives of this Post, all exude the same interests, helping veterans. I don't think you'll find another group so willing to give of their time and effort to aid another comrade.

This year, we also make our mark, once again, by being the first Post to have 100% of our goal membership prior to the end of the calendar year. Currently, we stand at 115% of that goal and are the 11th largest Post in the County, up from our position of 35th some six years ago. Veterans want to come here and the list of transfers into our Post is testament to that fact. All we do, all of our events, our visibility in the community and the County have caused people to notice.

I have "tagged" us as the "little Post that could, and did" in all of my dealings with other Officers of Posts we see regularly. Perhaps they think I'm a little showy, but our reputation precedes us. We ARE the little Post that could and DOES, and now, we're not so little.

Thank you for all of YOUR efforts to make this Post the rising star in the County. You should feel very proud to wear the Legion cap that has GREENLAWN on the side panel. WE, brothers and sisters, have arrived ! Let's stay the course and help it flourish, committing ourselves to our brother veterans. Thank you.

Dennis Madden

American Legion Auxiliary News



As the Auxiliary year closes, it's the time of year the temperatures soars and daylight stretches out, that we take a summer break, but before we break I must look back and reflect on and thank our members for their generosity, support and dedication to our purpose of being an American Legion Ladies Auxiliary, that is to honor and thank our Veterans for our freedom and keeping us safe from harms way.

On June 1st our Auxiliary held their Installation of Officers and were proud to host the Suffolk County American Legion Auxiliary President, Carole Bruggemann and her installing team who impressively installed the 2011/2012 Officers.. Also in attendance were the American Legion Suffolk County Commander Robert Bruggemann, Robert Santo American Legion Post 1244 Commander and Vice Commander Dennis Madden. Special thanks to VFW Post 1469 Commander Bruce Brenner for allowing our Auxiliary to use his Post building for our Installation. I feel most honored to be reelected President and look forward to working with an outstanding board of Officers. As a team we look to a successful coming year .

Being more experienced with the Poppy Program this year, many members were able to hand out Poppies in front of stores, Home Depot, churches, and parade routes. Because of their diligence and with monies collected this year and last we were able to give monetary donations to four Veteran Programs, the Yaphank Homeless Shelter, the Beacon House United Veterans, a direct donation to Lt James Byberg, and the Suffolk County Veterans Standown. My thanks to my members who I can always count on for their enthusiasm and never saying it can't be done.

On April 16, 2011 our Auxiliary held their second annual Dance and Chinese Auction Raffle Fund Raiser at St. Joseph's Knights of Columbus Hall, Greenlawn, N.Y. The affair was a huge success due to the unity and hard work of our members, each donating generously of their time and monies. Of course we could not do this without the support of the Worthy Commander Bob Santo and the members of the Post who supported our affair. Thanks go out to the St. Joseph's Knights of Columbus for the use of their hall and Toni Grant for the music. My personal thanks to the Vice Commander Dennis Madden and his wife Ann who hosted the American Legion Suffolk County Commander Robert Bruggemann and his wife Carole, the American Legion Auxiliary Suffolk County President at their table during our dance.

Special thanks to our members who proudly marched with the American Legion Members of Post 1244 at the Memorial Day Parade and attended the Ceremony. I was humbled and privileged along with Madelaine Santo to place a wreath from the Greenlawn American Legion Auxiliary at the monument.

This coming year one of our goals is to increase membership in our Auxiliary to collectively continue our support of our Community and Veteran Programs. We welcome any and all new members, if interested please call Fran Hubbs at 631-423-1176 Carolyn Polakos will head up our membership Committee and has already started her recruitment efforts.

Fran Hubbs, President

Commander's Corner



Thank You

I want to take this opportunity to thank the membership for giving me another term as commander and for placing your trust and confidence in me and your newly elected officers. Our Post has been blessed with some of the finest men and women I have ever had the pleasure to work with. Your Post officers are very talented and passionate about the mission of the American Legion. They care very much about you, their fellow veterans, and about our young people who are the future of this great country. They are uniformly grateful for the opportunity to serve, once again, their fellow veterans their community, and our nation.

Bob Santo

This past year has been the best membership year in memory. The efforts of Vice Commander Madden continue to pay off. We now stand at 115% of our goal for the 2010-2011 year. But again, this is no one man job. "Just Ask" is not just a slogan, but is the easiest and most fun way of increasing our numbers. When you see that veteran in line at the supermarket wearing a cap showing his or her service era, "just ask." It is no more difficult than that. You will be surprised at how often you will learn that they were, like many of you, just waiting to be asked.

Finally, we depend on our members to spread the word about our Post, to turn out in force for parades and ceremonies and to be sure that the community knows we are out there. You are the face of the American Legion. It is the job of each of you to make this the post that every veteran wants to be a part of. If you are a member who we seldom see at our activities, please know that we greatly appreciate your membership and invite you to join us when time and circumstances permit. As always, I am available for any veteran, member or not, who has a question or needs our help. My cell phone is 516-458-7881. Please call with questions or suggestions. Wishing you all a great Legion Year ahead!

Bob

American Legion Pride

We have had a great reaction to our Greenlawn Post 1244 Auto Decals (exterior) that you can attach to your car. We recommend that you place it on the lower left part of your rear windshield. They are 4" X 5" and are very durable. Show your pride in our American Legion Post! Decals can be ordered by sending a check for \$6.00 each to American Legion Decals c/o PO Box 238, Greenlawn NY 11740.



Taps Has Sounded

John Hulyo. September 4, 1932- April 1, 2011 United States Army. Korea

In Memoriam

Alyssa Ann Aquafredda. February 10, 1986—March 23, 2011

Alyssa, granddaughter of Legionnaire Robert F. Smith and his wife Jeannette.

Marie Rizzo. May 20, 1920-March 28, 2011

Marie, wife of Legionnaire Jim Rizzo and the mother of Legionnaire Tony Bracia's wife, Regina.

The Greenlawn Bugle is a quarterly publication of American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244, Inc. For information on how you can support the Greenlawn Bugle and our Post, please contact Commander Bob Santo at 516-458-7881

Our mailing address is PO Box 238, Greenlawn, NY 11740



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American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244

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*Best wishes to
American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244
Thank You for your Continued Service*



U.S. Representative Steve Israel
2nd District, New York



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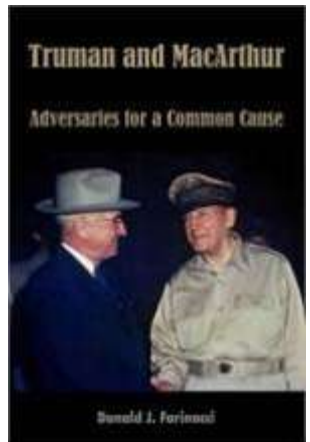
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The author, Donald J. Farinacci, is a lawyer, military history writer, Vietnam era veteran, and member of Greenlawn Post 1244



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ANDREW P. RAIA
MEMBER OF ASSEMBLY
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