THE GREENLAWN BUGLE

LEGION Greenlawn Post 1244

Spring 2023

Boys State / Girls State 2023

Harborfields High School



Boys State L-R: Rory Manning (Superintendent Harborfields School District), Ed O'Shea, Karson Ramautar, Jack Poller, Bobby Constantatos, Joseph Dissler, Aaron Park, Gregory Bonk, Marie Netto (Principal), Hal Dieterle, Charlie Armstrong.



Girls State L-R: Charlie Armstrong, Brooke Farasciano (Alternate), Anna Duff (Delegate), Hal Dieterle and Ed O'Shea.

Walt Whitman High School



Boys State L-R:Andrew Connolly, Jack Fischer, Alexander Seeloff, Jaren Smullian, Shaun Murphy, Kieran Davis, and Romel Farquharson. In the middle of the back row is Corey Blair, Asst. Principal, and Head of Counseling, Ed and Charlie



L-R Charlie Armstrong, Nayira Kabarajian (Alternate), Corey Blair, Asst. Principal, and Head of Counseling, Eliana Montague (Delegate), and Hal Dieterle.

Huntington High School

Charlie Armstrong, Brenden Cusack (principal), Aiden Wheeler, Ed O'Shea, Nikolai Luluwich, Hal Dieterle, David Goldstein, and Joe Leavy (Chair of Humanities).

Boys and Girls State 2023



We are slowly progressing back to where we were just before Covid struck. Twenty-one students from 5 local high schools have been selected to participate in the 2023 Boy's & Girl's State programs later this year. This is an increase from the 19 we were able to send in 2022.

The schools have welcomed us back into their buildings to interview the students, and they have presented us with a large number of well qualified candidates. The selected students are now in the process of preparing and submitting all of the necessary paperwork, which requires a lot of effort.

One of the major difference we are now experiencing is the cost per student. It was pretty stable for a number of years, but thanks to Covid and many other things going on in the world today, the tuition cost has

increased by over 25% in the last couple of years. This has resulted in requiring extra efforts on our part to raise the funds to cover the increased tuition cost. Fortunately, our community sees the benefit of having our young people learn how government is supposed to function, and continue to be generous in helping us fund the programs year after year.

This year's 'Citizens' from Harborfields, Walt Whitman, Huntington, Commack and Chaminade High Schools will once again board the buses in late June and early July to go to the SUNY campuses in upstate New York where they will meet other 'Citizens' from all over the state to create a government of a mythical 51st state.

Charlie Armstrong Chairman Boys State /Girls State

Operation Enduring Care



"Operation Enduring Care" is very actively providing donated hygiene items to the VA inpatients of Building 64, Building 92, and the Community Living Centers every two weeks, as well as Beacon House Veterans Residence.

Donations to "Operation Hope," a program of Island

Harvest, for homebound veterans are being made as resources are made available to us.

The collection is becoming a reliable and ongoing resource due to the hard work of our American Legion Post members. They continue to support the collection with their volunteer time, advice and willingness to seek donations to assist our veterans in need. This extra effort is not only appreciated but valued.

Due to the restrictions of the COVID-19 Virus, monetary donations are preferred. Access to areas of the VA Medical Center is still restricted or closed. Storage of some donations such as used clothing is a

problem. Monetary donations allow the purchase of items as needed without the worry of expiration dates, delays requiring extended storage or awaiting appointments for someone to receive the items.

Due to the current economic and changing social conditions, there are many veterans suffering extreme hardships. Being able to be responsive, reliable and timely are exceptionally import to ease the ongoing hardships.

On a personal basis, I am dealing with my cancer. I have two more cycles of chemotherapy which total 10 hours. The side effects are becoming harsher and myself weaker. All of the effort of our volunteers both inside Post 1244 and our community, have given me confidence and reassurance that "Operation Enduring Care" will continue to provide the best resources for our veterans in need, while I fight this monster. I thank our volunteers and donors for making our promise to assist our veterans a reality.

Albert A. Statton III Chairman Operation Enduring Care

St. Pius V Student Excels at Department of New York Competition

Mary Kennedy, a senior at St. Pius V School in Melville, finished in 2nd place at the Department Finals on Saturday, March 4. The contest was held at the Crown Plaza Desmond Hotel in Albany. This was Mary's second trip to the State Finals.

For her achievement, Mary was awarded a \$4,000 scholarship.

While this was Mary's last competition in the High School Oratorical Contest, her younger sister Maureen, who competed in the County and District contests this year, will be participating in next year's event.

Mary was sponsored by American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244



Mary being congratulated by Dept Commander David R. Riley Sr.

Post Service Officer - You Earned It!



Camp Lejeune Water Contamination

Have you served at ness Camp Lejeune during you any time during the period of August 1953 or conthrough December, you 1997? If so, I am sure your that you have seen a lot you.

of advertisements about contacting an attorney to file for benefits. There are things that you should know prior to filing a claim.

First and foremost, you do not need an attorney if the following is true: You have served at Camp Lejeune or MCAS New River for at least 30 cumulative days from August 1953 through December 1987; and you have been diagnosed with one of the following illnesses:

- Adult Leukemia
- Aplastic anemia and other myelodysplastic syndromes
- Bladder cancer
- Kidney cancer
- Liver cancer
- Multiple myeloma
- Non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- Parkinson's disease

You can file a claim for water contamination at Camp Lejeune whether you are a Veteran, a Reservist or a Guardsman.

How do I file a claim?

- Step 1. Gather evidence proving that you served at Camp Lejeune during this time period for 30 consecutive days or more (likely listed on your DD214; you can also provide any Medals, decorations and/or campaign awards);
- Step 2. Contact an Accredited Veterans Service Agency (Suffolk County Veterans Service Agency will assist you for free. They can be reached at 631-853-8387, leave a message as they work remotely)
- Step 3. Show medical documentation of ill-

ness. If you have been treated at the Northport VA, you can go to Release of Information on the 1st floor of Building 200 and request those medical records or contact the VA that treated you to find out how you may obtain them. If you are not using the VA, your treating physician can provide these records to you.

Contact an Accredited Agency! It's important that you have the assistance of an agent who is accredited to work on VA claims.

What is the difference between a VA claims agent and a VSO?

It is important to know that VA-recognized VSOs (Veteran Service Officers), and their representatives, always provide their services on benefit claims free-of-charge. Unlike VSOs, VA-accredited attorneys and agents may charge you a fee for their representation and are best used for the purpose of appealing or requesting additional review of an adverse VA decision.

Do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions.

Winter is almost done and it's time to start thinking about plans and projects. The world's favorite season is Spring, a time when anything seems possible!

Fondest Regards,

Michelle Martin

Service Officer

American Legion Post 1244 Tel. # 631-361-1216 Fax # 631-239-1970





Spotlight on The Community

An Interview With Carol Rocco - Huntington Veterans Affairs Coordinator



Q: What positions did you have before becoming Veterans Affairs Coordinator?

A: "I served as the secretary to the Town of Huntington Director of Human Services starting in 1981. At that time there were no divisions within that department.

In 1987, by Town Board Resolution under Supervisor Toni Rettaliata, the Veterans

Advisory Board was created. In the years ahead, subsequent divisions were formed within the Department of Human Services: Veterans Affairs, Minority Affairs, Senior Citizens, Persons with Disabilities and Women's Services. Veterans Affairs is composed of one member from each veterans organization which meets within the Town of Huntington. This division meets monthly, and I became the Veterans Affairs Coordinator of this newly formed division."

Q: What caused you to want to work with veterans?

A: "What drew me to be part of this newly formed veteran's group, was the wonderful, dedicated veterans who were so ready to volunteer to serve the town of Huntington for the welfare and benefit of our local veteran residents.

Their dedication and loyalty to make this board a success was so impressive; I was just drawn into their enthusiasm. Victor Martinetti, Mario Buonpane, Michael Colamonico and Bill Amadio were men of action and determination to create the Veterans Plaza with monuments honoring Huntington's veterans. I always felt honored to be in their presence. A labor of love."

Q: What is your favorite part of your job?

A: "My absolute favorite part of Veterans Affairs is the satisfaction of assisting a veteran and their family in need and being successful in the process, knowing I was able to provide help with needs whether it is a simple task or complicated. It is so gratifying beyond words."

Q: What are your future goals?

A: "I guess it is my personality to achieve goals and the satisfaction of working with our wonderful present board members for the betterment of the men and women who served our nation. It is my honor and privilege to be able to, in some small way, serve the needs of our Huntington veterans. As a keynote I am proud to be part of the Veterans Advisory Board from its inception to date 37 years. Our present Veterans Advisory Board is strong with an exciting future to continue to honor and preserve their legacy and the respect of all veterans.

Mary Flatley

Annual Veterans Appreciation Breakfast

Suffolk County Legislator Stephanie Bontempi, NY State Assemblymen Steve Stern and Keith Brown will be sponsoring a Veterans Appreciation Breakfast at 9:00 am on May 19, 2023 at Huntington American Legion Post 360.



Half Hollow Hills Library Veterans Testimonial Project



Veterans Testimonial Project

Be a part of your Community's rich history. Share your military experiences with future generations. We are looking for U.S. Veterans to share their memories and stories. All interviews will be recorded and added to the Library's collection and archived with the Veteran's History Project at the Library of Congress. To participate in this important initiative, call our librarian, Joe Brown, at 631-498-1234, or e-mail jbrown@hhhlibrary.org.



American Legion Riders



Good March 2023 to all. I hate to say it or even think it, but the winter of '23 has been a good one, especially if you are like me and do not like the cold weather. I just set up my snow plow and ready to go, so you guys can thank me for no snow.





You see, the Riders try to find some time to do a flag retirement ceremony. This was upstate at Angus's estate, where we got to chop down a tree, make a fire pit, say a few words of wisdom and retire some flags which we had replaced on Veterans homes.

Now the Riders need your help! We need some new riders. So I you know of <u>anybody</u> who would like to join us please tell them to contact us and join all the things we do to keep Post 1244 going forward.

Vinnie, it is time for you to get off the back seat, learn to ride and lead us down the road. You did say when you grew up, well now that's as tall as you're going to get.



Then you said you would have to ask your mother if she would let you ride with us, well, it's time!

Last month we had to say good by to Rich Bailey. Yes, we lost Rich to the state of Tennessee. Now Tennessee is known for some good whiskey, Dolly Parton, and well I guess I can stop right there.

Rich just needed a place he could fly a Rebel Flag. All I have to say is that it's going to be one hell of a commute for when we have missions.

So I hope all are doing well. Remember, if you haven't heard from someone in a while they are only a phone call away..

Bruce Blanco, Director American Legion Riders Greenlawn Chapter 1244

Sons of The American Legion



Hello SAL members. Spring is finally here.

Hoping this year with Covid now in the past a bit we can get out more and do a little more for our veterans than we have in the past few years. Please watch for upcoming events and fundraisers.

And, as usual, if any one has any ideas please call me.

Angus Kennedy
Commander, Sons of The
American Legion
angus.kennedy@bgis.com
516-241-1399

The Greenlawn Bugle Spring 2023 Volume 17 Issue 1 Page 8

Election of Officers

Nominations of officers for the 2023-2024 Legion Year were accepted at the March 8 meeting.

Elections will be conducted at our next meeting on April 12, 2023.

All officers are elected for one year terms, so all positions are open.

Non -elected committee chairs and other positions such as Judge Advocate and Service Officer will be appointed by the incoming Post commander.

The installation of officers will be conducted by a team from Suffolk County American Legion led by Past County Commander Mike Pankowski at our May 10th meeting

Post 1244 Elected Officer Candidates

Commander - Trisha Northover

1st Vice Commander - Carlo Giordano

2nd Vice Commander - Fred Tuccillo

3rd Vice Commander - Steve Scinta

Adjutant - Ed Hayde

Finance Officer - Bob Santo

Chaplain - John Carr

Sgt. at Arms Chad Ryals

Book Drive for Northport VA Medical Center



We are looking for donations of appropriate books to fill the bookshelves in the waiting rooms at the Northport VA Medical Center.

Hardback books or paperbacks in good condition are preferred. No magazines.

We can also use puzzles/board games and DVD's.

Contact Sean Delle 631-208-7004.

Members please bring your books to our next monthly meeting, or call Sean to arrange a pickup if you cannot attend.



April 3 - May 1

East Northport Public Library 185 Larkfield Road, East Northport

<u>May 1 – July 5</u>

South Huntington Public Library 145 Pidgeon Hill Road, Huntington Station

July 5 - August 1

Huntington Public Library - Huntington Station Branch 1335 New York Avenue, Huntington Station

August 1 - September 1

Huntington Public Library - Main 338 Main Street, Huntington

September 1 - October 2

Harborfields Public Library 31 Broadway, Greenlawn

 Any flags dropped off at the libraries when the Flag Drop Box is not present will be sent to the South Huntington Public Library for Collection.



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Columbia Terrace Veterans Preference Housing

The Huntington Community Development Agency has announced that there are still several affordable units available at Columbia Terrace, a Veterans preferred housing development, located at the corner of Lowndes Avenue and Columbia Street, Huntington Station.

The sales price for a 2-bedroom 2-bathroom unit is 253,250.00, and a 1-bedroom 1- bathroom condo is \$233,250.00.

Please feel free to contact the Agency with any questions at 631-351-2884

Please see: https://huntingtonny.gov/columbia-terrace for all details



Long Island Cares Veterans Project

Long Island Cares understands the challenges faced by returning soldiers and their families as troops transition from the front lines to the home front. To help veterans from both Nassau and Suffolk Counties facing financial hardship and food insecurity as they assimilate back into civilian life, we offer several veterans' service programs:

Military Appreciation Tuesdays: Hosted each week at Long Island Cares' pantries located in Huntington Station, Bethpage, Hampton Bays, Lindenhurst, and Freeport, this is a chance for veterans and their families to access food, as well as personal care items, household products, pet food, and school supplies when available. All veterans are provided with information and resources pertaining to veteran-specific benefits. We are grateful to have B.N.Y. Mellon Wealth Management as the sponsor of this critical program.

Mobile Pantry: Delivers nutritious groceries to homebound, disabled veterans unable to access their local pantries.



VetsWork: Assistance that can help veterans build job skills (i.e. cover letter and résumé writing), aid in their job search process, and facilitate real workplace experience through various volunteer and training opportunities.

Community Outreach Initiatives: By collaborating with both the Nassau and Suffolk County Veterans Service Agencies and the Northport VA Hospital, we are able to support events such as Veteran Stand Downs, which provide vital health and social services to veterans of all ages and circumstances. In addition, our services are made available to various community organizations providing counseling, homeless outreach, and emergency assistance to veterans in need.

For more information regarding our Veterans Project, please call: 631-582-FOOD (3663)

The Greenlawn Bugle Spring 2023 Volume 17 Issue 1 Page 10

Flag Education and Respect

The United State flag is considered to be a living symbol representing a living country. This reference was added to the Flag Code in 1976 in response to the strong feelings of respect and reverence accorded by many of our citizens.



In addition, the flag represents the many freedoms, rights, and responsibilities not entrusted to the citizens of any other country in the world. Therefore, the proper display and use of the United States flag is the responsibility of every American citizen.

Chad Ryals, an Iraq and Afghanistan veteran, and Post 1244 member, took the opportunity to share with



the children of Cub Scout Pack 278 in his neighboring Glen Head, the respect we veterans feel toward our national colors.

Besides demonstrating the mechanics of folding the flag, Chad also educated the kids (and their parents) in the meaning of the stars and stripes and each of the flag's colors.

Unique among nations, America is not held together by a shared ancestry, but we are held together by a set of values. The nation and its values are symbolized by the flag.

Our Post promotes educating the citizenry in the proper way to display and care for this symbol of our national ideals and aspirations.



The Commander's Corner

Eagle Scout Court of Honor

On January 7, 2023 the Post attended an "Eagle Scout Court of Honor" hosted by Troop 78 in Murray Hall of St Patrick's Church. Five young men were elevated to Eagle Scout.



L-R: Richard Zboray, Jack Josefowski, Harry Larson, Cmdr. Donna Boyle, Nate Bernich and Nick Fracasso

Achieving Eagle Scout status is historically only attained by 4 percent of all those young boys who enroll in the scouting program at any time. It was my honor to present a "Good Citizenship Citation" to Nathaniel Bernich, Nick Frecasso, Jack Jozefowski, Harry Larson and Richard Zboray.

Fun Facts:

The first Eagle Scout was Arthur Eldred of Oceanside NY on August 21, 1912.

The youngest person to be initiated was Victor Holt Jr in April of 1921 at the age of 12. Victor went on to become the president of Goodyear Tire Company.

In February of 2019, girls were officially permitted to join Scouts BSA and, In March of 2021, the first class of girls were inducted as Eagle Scouts.

Donna BoylePost Commander
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THE GREENLAWN BUGLE

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

You can unsubscribe at any time!

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

Thank You Sponsors!

The Greenlawn Bugle is made possible by its many sponsors.

When you see a sponsor, please be sure to let them know how much we appreciate their support!

The Greenlawn Bugle Spring 2023 Volume 17 Issue 1 Page 12





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



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Councilwoman Town of Huntington



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Salvatore Ferro

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Town of Huntington



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATION AND YOUR SERVICE



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

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Thank you for your service!

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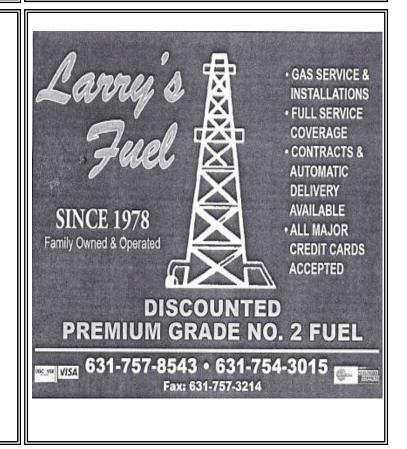
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775 Pulaski Rd Greenlawn, NY 11740 Phone: 631-757-6100 Maria Selvaggio, Assistant Treasurer, Branch Manager

167 Walt Whitman Rd Huntington Station, NY 11746 Phone: 631-547-5370 Kathleen Benoit, Vice President Branch Manager







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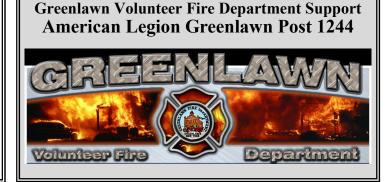




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