



The Greenlawn Bugle

March 2016

The Newsletter of American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244

Volume 10 Issue 1

Post Happenings

Cradle Of Aviation April 9

We'll be visiting the Cradle of Aviation on this day. Interested in the history of aviation? This is the trip for you! Meet us at the Greenlawn Dunkin Donuts at 9 am and we'll carpool to Garden City.

Lunch will be at the Museum's cafeteria. You will want to see the latest film in the museum's Cinemax theater.

Post Brunch April 10

Join us for a delicious Sunday brunch at 10:45 am at Nocello's Restaurant, 843 Ft. Salonga Rd. in Northport.

Always a great get-together for our Legion Family. Cost is \$20 Per person, \$10 for children. Bring your appetite!

Memorial Day May 30

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

At 2 pm, we will all gather for our annual cookout at the Knights of Columbus on Boulevard Ave. At 3 pm we will observe the National Moment of Remembrance. A \$5 donation is requested to help defray the cost. See you there!

Remembering a Hero

Anthony L. Mangano, a native of Greenlawn, was born April 12, 1972. He died in Kandahar City, Afghanistan on June 21, 2008 of wounds sustained when his vehicle encountered an IED and came under small arms fire. Also killed were Lt. Col James J. Walton, Sgt. Nelson D. Ramirez-Rodriguez and Sgt. Andrew Seabrooks.

Sgt. Mangano was assigned to 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry, New York Army National Guard, Geneva, N.Y

Anthony first served in the National Guard from 1991 to 1994 and chose to rejoin the New York Army National Guard. In 2007, he re-enlisted for another three year tour, with the intention of joining a unit that was going into combat. He was placed in the C Company, 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry based in Leeds County, New York. After find-



ing no positions left assigned to war, he joined the New York Army National Guard 101st Cavalry in Geneva, New York. From there, he was deployed to Afghanistan to train Afghan police and national army members.

Anthony was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Army Forces Ribbon, the Combat Infantry Badge, the New York State Conspicuous Service Cross, the Purple Heart and the Combat Action Badge. He was posthumously promoted to the rank of sergeant.

He operated a construction company in Windham, New York, earned an associate degree from Columbia-Greene Community College and had served as a police officer in upstate Cairo Police Department.

On June 21, 2011, Irving Place in Greenlawn, where he had lived with his mother, Constance, was dedicated as "Anthony L. Mangano Way."

He is survived by his mother Constance, his sister Jeanne Renneberg, brother Michael and wife Tatiana.



June 21, 2011. Constance Mangano, assisted by Huntington Town Councilman Mark Cuthbertson unveils the newly named street named after her deceased son, Spec. Anthony L. Mangano

Gearing Up for Boys and Girls State 2016



This is the time of year for Boy's & Girl's State that is the most challenging, exciting and rewarding for us.

Starting in the late Fall, we ask the guidance departments and principals of the various high schools to provide us with a list of boys and girls names from the junior class that they feel would both qualify and who would be interested in participating in the programs. We then schedule a day for face to face interviews at the high schools with each of the candidates. This is where one of the challenging parts comes in, while all the students are highly qualified to participate, we must select and rate them in a sequential order.

This is necessary as we can only send as many students as our annual funding allows. Last year was a very good year with regard to both students and funding, and we were able to send thirteen students from three different high schools.

In a perfect world, we would be able to send all the students we interview, but the main limiting factors are funding and available space.

At the same time as we start to gather the names of the candidates for both programs, we begin our other challenge which is raising adequate funds to cover the tuition costs. This requires visiting many local businesses and associations, along with many mailings and phone calls soliciting contributions to allow us to have the funds to include as many students as possible in each year's programs.

We are off to a pretty good start for this year's fund raising. However, we must still raise additional funds if we hope to be able to send as many students as we did last year.

Each June, it is very rewarding to meet with the students and their parents at the luncheons prior to their departure to Boy's and Girl's State. Since their selection, they have had time to look deeper into the programs and what they have to offer, and speak with past attendees from their schools. There is a high level of expectation and excitement in all the students prior to their departure on this life changing journey!

Charlie Armstrong

Post 1244 Sgt. at Arms
Boys and Girls State Co-Chairman

Email from Patrick Finn - Boys State 2015 Harborfields High School

Hi, Charlie,

I wanted to reach out and let you know that I have received Congressman Israel's nomination to West Point. I also feel like I need to express how truly grateful I am for you and the American Legion for giving me the experience of Boy's State. The people I met and the things I learned there will stay with me forever-(including the Alma Mater), and I believe are part of the reason I have been able to get to this point as I continue the process of seeking West Point admission.

I thank you again for your patriotism and for the great work that the Legion does.

Regards,
Patrick Finn



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Missing In America Project

Post Burial Reports

Calverton National Cemetery December 10, 2015 Rene Cordova

On this day, members of American Legion Post 1244 Legion Rider's and Legionnaires transported veteran Rene Cordova to Calverton National Cemetery, for a proper military burial. The day was somewhat brightened by the fact it was like a spring day in the month of December.

However, this day saw a minor mix-up that we have never encountered before. A new funeral director was transporting our veteran's remains and there was some confusion about the burial time. What appeared to be an emerging state of chaos was quickly brought back into balance, by the actions of the acting coordinator and the American Legion Riders. They realized that if they did not immediately follow the hearse disappearing down the road, there

would not be a proper funeral for our veteran, a price no one was willing to pay. They jumped into their cars and on their bikes and caught up to the hearse as fast as you can say 'Jiminy Cricket'. This fast action, way ahead of schedule, insured Veteran Cordova a fine military funeral, one that was preordained by MIAP, and the fine support of the members of Post 1244 and American Legion members of other posts.

In conclusion, as always, we honor someone who has given of themselves for our abandoned veterans, unselfishly and with a giving heart. New York MIAP's extraordinarily talented genealogist Ann Marie Martin was given the casket flag as part of veteran's Cordova family.

Frank Ostroff
Acting State Coordinator
Missing In America Project

Calverton National Cemetery Dec.30, 2015 Pvt. Eddie Butcher Milton Copeman

It had been overcast and raining for the past week. The temperature was abnormally warm, and the landscape was eerily foggy with a sense of foreboding in the air. However on our funeral day the Sun had chosen to shine, always a good omen.

The preparation for this funeral was a touch and go affair. There were typos on the paper work and some serious misspellings on the last name of one of the veterans. Everyone involved in this mission had to do a lot of dancing to set it right, but set it right we did. All and all, we had a very nice funeral with a healthy turnout, a great flag line of American Legion Riders with local post members attending. Our MIAP chaplain took up his traditional station at the entrance to the cemetery, standing tall with our nation's flag waving in the wind welcoming all brothers

and sisters into the cemetery.

Despite the bleak weather and biting wind, Chaplain Mike Williams' red cheeks were puffed out into a smile. He is just one more stalwart member of Post 1244's MIAP team. Our charges have no gripes with the veterans whose care they in, they could not ask for more love and honor than they are receiving. Near the end of the of the ceremony, Mother Nature's fickle side surfaced and the weather turned dark and mean looking. Regardless of Mother Nature's attempt at intimidation, all Legionnaires stood tall and proud, secure in the knowledge that they had performed another MIAP mission with honor and respect for our brothers .

John Caldarelli
Missing In America Project
National Representative MIAP (NY)
Suffolk County American Legion MIAP Chairman
American Legion Post 1244 MIAP Chairman

The Missing In America Project "It's The Right Thing To Do"



The purpose of the MIA Project is to locate, identify and inter the unclaimed cremated remains of American veterans through the joint efforts of private, state and federal organizations. To provide honor and respect to those who have served this country by securing a final resting place for these forgotten heroes. If you are interested in joining our team, please contact John Caldarelli at 631-261-3807

Crimson Coaching

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Dr. Dominique Padurano (Harvard '93), founder of Crimson Coaching, has helped hundreds of students reach their academic potential at elite universities and high schools, such as Horace Mann and Scarsdale. Dr. P. holds 4 NYS teaching licenses, a Master's in Education and Ph.D. in History; she and her colleagues work in person or online with students on any academic subject, all standardized tests and college applications. A certified yoga teacher, Dr. P. also specializes in empowering students to overcome test anxiety.

Visit crimsoncoaching.com, call 718-514-0387, or email info@crimsoncoaching.com to set up a complimentary consultation about your child's needs.

American Legion Riders

Still Riding - Still Serving



Having just finished a very busy year with over 150 missions under our belts, the Riders are looking ahead to what we can do to further the Legion mission for our Post, 1244.

We have had many successes with the Patriot Guard, The Missing in America Program and the Sail Ahead program. We have supplied staple items out of our own pockets to the veterans at the VA HOTH missions, have attended VA Barbeques, and Four Chaplains Memorial at the VA Chapel. We have done numerous Wake, Funeral and Honor Guards, Turkey Dinner Distribution runs to needy Vets at our expense.

We represented the Post at the VA Wall of Wars Ceremonies. We were very successful with the Poppy Drive and Veterans Day and Fall Festival Fund raisers. We have more funds available than ever before which we have started to distribute to the Post, Angel Bikes, Boy's State and of course the Legacy program for educating fallen Vets children.

We represent our Post in an exemplary manner and our reputation has grown as well as our membership. We have attracted a younger group of Riders and look forward to even more growth this coming year. We celebrated the Holidays with our members having a Party at the Halesite Post Hall which we rented for the evening.

Other ALR groups and VSO's have reached out to us for support which we always try to accommodate. A little known fact is the average Rider spends upwards of several thousand dollars per year on Insurance, fuel, and motorcycle upkeep which is borne by the individual rider.

We are not and don't aspire to be a Biker gang or drinking club, we are family, mission oriented and wholly dedicated to the betterment of the American Legion and OUR Post 1244.

**Mike Williams
American Legion Greenlawn
Post 1244 Chaplain
ALR Chapter 1244 Chaplain**

American Legion Riders Honored



American Legion Riders Chapter 1244 President Bruce Blanco was presented a plaque by Cmdr. Madden from The American Legion Legacy Fund in appreciation of their generous donation to the fund in 2015. The Riders presented their donation to the fund along with a matching donation from the Post.

The Legacy fund provides scholarships to the children of our military killed in action. Since the inception of The American Legion Legacy Scholarship immediately following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001,

The American Legion offers its support to the children of fallen post-9/11 service members through this annual scholarship.



On behalf of Greenlawn Post 1244's American Legion Riders, President Bruce Blanco received a certificate of appreciation of the Long Island Air Force Association from AFA Chapter President Fred DiFabio.

ALR 1244 has participated in all six Vietnam Commemorative Medal Ceremonies conducted by the Air Force Association.

Also pictured receiving a certificate is Patriot Guard Riders Road Captain Rich Schiraldi.

Healing Wounded Veterans Through Sailing



By Maya, Jennifer, Sean and Kilian Duclay

The Mission of SailAhead as it is written on our brand new website:

“We use sailing and the ocean as a therapeutic platform to help our veterans heal the scars of war. Since the winter of 2013, SailAhead has helped hundreds of brave men and women suffering from various service related physical disabilities and illnesses including but not limited to Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).”

“Our crew of volunteers, skippers and veterans take pride in sailing many types of vessels all year long and in all weather. Our veterans are not just tourists on our boats, they are an integral part of the crew. When headed out on their first voyage our veterans all start as strangers and eventually become sailors through hands-on training. Many have become our close friends!”

“Our commitment to helping our disabled veterans does not stop when we arrive on land. SailAhead also provides a family to those who need extra support when experiencing difficult times.”

I still remember the day Dennis, Bob and Frank first met us in Oyster Bay on a cold Saturday afternoon before we went sailing. We showed them our winter fleet and crew in gear...I am not sure they knew what to think of us then!

Fast forward to today ... The Post and SailAhead are now partners. I'd like to say healing partners to be



more exact. Since then, together, we did our first VA outing, we also worked hard in making our most significant event called “Let’s take a vet sailing”a success with the help of the Centerport Yacht Club.

Along the way some of you have become our friends and as one human being to another, we value your friendship.

Today I can safely say that last year together - we took a minimum of over 150 veterans sailing. We are building, together, a support system, together, for our veterans, together we are making a difference in the lives of local wounded veterans.

I feel proud when I say to you that together, the Post and SailAhead, we are going to take a minimum of 400 veterans sailing this season.

On top of reaching more veterans than ever before, we also accepted some new challenges that I'd like to share 2 with you now:

- We will teach a blind veteran how to sail and make him/her a legitimate crew member.

- We will take PTSD suffering veterans with their service dogs on our boats.

We are confident that we are going to be successful this season. We see more and more individuals and organizations interested in what we do at SailAhead.

We are on an island, with boats all over. Unfortunately there are a lot of veterans on this island that need help. Sailing heals – there no doubt about that.

This partnership between the American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244 and SailAhead is a mutually beneficial relationship. We are happy and proud to be part of your team and together we'll grow strong healing veterans on Long Island!

For more information contact Bob Santo at 516-458-7881 or email Post1244@verizon.net

See our website
www.SailAhead.org



The Veterans Crisis Line connects Veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring Department of Veterans Affairs responders through a confidential toll-free hotline, online chat, or text. Veterans and their loved ones can call **1-800-273-8255** and **Press 1**, chat online, or send a text message to **838255** to receive confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Support for deaf and hard of hearing individuals is available.

Americanism

High School Oratorical Contest

By Bob Santo, Past Commander

Each year, our Post sponsors a high school student from St. Pius V School in Melville for the American Legion High School Oratorical Contest.

The American Legion Oratorical Contest exists to develop a deeper knowledge and appreciation for the U.S. Constitution among high school students. Since 1938, the program has presented participants with an academic speaking challenge. This 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, rights and privileges of American citizenship.

High school students under age 20 are eligible. Competition begins at the post level and advances to a state competition. Legion department representatives certify one winner per state to the national contest, where department winners compete against each other in two speaking rounds. The contest caps off with a final round that decides the three top finishers.

We began with a contest at the school to select the best three students of those who wish to compete. They are judged by three members of the Post's Legion Family. These three then compete in the Suffolk County contest. The winners in that contest compete in the 10th District contest (Nassau - Suffolk and Queens. The winners of the District contest compete in the Zone 2 contest (10th District plus Kings and Richmond County).

This year, we are pleased to report that Nicholas Honor of St. Pius V School was the Zone 2 champion and went on to compete in the Department of New York contest in Albany on March 5th. I was invited to attend the finals and was impressed to see the top five oratorical champions from the State of New York compete.

Speaking subjects must be on some aspect of the U.S. Constitution, with some emphasis on the duties and obligations of citizens to our government. Speeches are eight to 10 minutes long. Three- to five-minute speeches on an assigned topic also are part of the contest. The assigned topic is revealed to each contestant only minutes before they are to speak.



L-R: Past Commander Bob Santo, Nicholas Honor and his proud parents

The poise, eloquence and knowledge displayed by these young people gave me great confidence in this generation of Americans. I am proud to be a part of the American Legion Family which provides them with this opportunity. I never fail to learn new aspects of this important founding document.

Nicholas placed second among the five, and although he will not be competing in the national finals, he did go home with a \$4,000 scholarship.

Young orators earn some of the most generous college scholarships available to high school students. Over \$138,000 in scholarships can be awarded each year. The overall national contest winner gets an \$18,000 scholarship. Second place takes home \$16,000, and third gets \$14,000. Each department (state) winner who is certified into and participates in the national contest's first round receives a \$1,500 scholarship. Those who advance past the first round receive an additional \$1,500 scholarship.

The American Legion's National Organization awards the scholarships, which can be used at any college or university in the United States.

Nicholas has one more year in High School ahead of him, and assured me that he will be competing once again next year!

American Legion Scholarships

You may be surprised to learn that the American Legion Family (Legion, Auxiliary and Sons) offers a number of scholarships and other resources to assist young people in their pursuit of higher education. There are opportunities for everyone, including kin of wartime veterans and participants in Legion programs.

For a summary of each scholarship and links to details and applications please see this link:

www.suffolkcountylegion.org/scholarships

The Chaplain's Corner

Getting Back To God

During these uncertain times it may be a good idea to **get back to God!** With the world in political and economic turmoil and Nature imposing her wrath on the Oceans, the Atmosphere and Terra Firma, and the new illnesses that are popping up worldwide, we need to embrace **Spirituality** as a new way of life.

You don't necessarily have to participate in an organized religion to be spiritual. Talk to **your God** in free moments, be forgiving to your enemies, try doing charitable works, be kind to everyone and follow the Golden rule. If we all followed this path the World could become a better place. When faced with a crisis, react in the manner of **what would a holy man do?**

There is nothing to be gained by anger, hatred, bigotry or dishonesty. Take the spiritual route and be the better person you are. Pray for our infirm members and for our troops serving the world over, possibly in harm's way and away from their loved ones. Remember our POW'S and MIA's also.

Till next time God Bless and be with you!

Mike Williams
Chaplain, American Legion Greenlawn
Post 1244
Chaplain, American Legion Riders
Chapter 1244

Operation Enduring Care

Walt Whitman High School Joins Effort

Dedicated to helping those in need, Operation Enduring Care has been embraced by the students, faculty and administration of Walt Whitman High School.

Al Statton, a long time firefighter with the Greenlawn Fire Department, Army Veteran and Post 1244 member is the driving force behind this effort to supply food and comfort items to the homeless veterans and families in need at the Northport Residence, located at the Northport VA Medical Center. The residence provides hands-on assistance to homeless men and women veterans of Nassau & Suffolk counties.

This program offers housing for up to 90 days and employs a dedicated staff charged with providing a wide array of social services. Permanent housing, employment assistance, job training, occupational therapy, money management, clinical assessment and referral to mental health professionals are issues that come up daily in the program.

Several years ago, Al and his wife, Connie, began collecting needed items from local schools and other local institutions in the area when he became aware of the great needs of those around us who we seldom see.

Post 1244 Legionnaire and twenty year Navy and Air Force Veteran Carlo Giordano, brought this to the



Pictured are Assemblyman Chad Lupinacci, Principal John Murphy, Post 1244 members: Ed O'Shea, Carlo Giordano, Charlie Armstrong and Al Statton III the founder of this project, as well as members of the staff and student body .

attention of the students, staff and teachers at Walt Whitman High School, The generous response from everyone was phenomenal.

A month-long drive was organized and as it drew to a close, it became obvious that at least a truck-load of everything from non-perishable food to personal hygiene items to warm socks had been collected.

Thank You, Walt Whitman High School!

Thank You Holiday Party Donors!

The following Greenlawn Post 1244 supporters donated products and services for our Holiday Party Raffle. We thank them for their generosity which made our Holiday Party such a success.

Advanced Enterprises
Casaro
Eagle Home Products
Peoples Bank
Violife

Northport:

Ace Hardware
Batata Café
Crab Meadow Golf Course
Elements
Elijah Churchill
Gino's
J.W. Engeman Theater
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La Casa
Mamma Mia
New Beginnings Card Store
Nocello's
Shipwreck Diner
The Kitchen Deli
Radio Shack
Venus

Commack / Greenlawn/ Huntington Huntington Station/Dix Hills

Advance Auto
Applebee's
Clubhouse
Dix Hills Bagels
Flowerdale by Patty
Greenlawn Hardware
Home Depot
Johnny D's Pizza
Olio's
Oldfield's Inn
Panera
Pomodoro
Ruvo

*Thank
You!*



Operation Paperback

Under the direction of Legionnaire 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 paperback 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.

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.

Many thanks to Donna and Joe for all their efforts! Contact Donna at 39DPIP@Gmail.com or call Past Cmdr. Bob Santo at 516-458-7881.

2016 Fundraising Raffle

Many thanks to all of you who have helped the Post by selling raffle tickets for our WWII History Flight Experience. We are still short of our goal so we are asking those who have not yet taken part to please help us. Tickets are just \$5 each or six for \$20.

You will be helping to support the Post and all the programs you read about in each issue of the Greenlawn Bugle. This is our only fundraiser where we ask for help from all of our members, active or not.

First prize is a pair of tickets to a D-Day Reenactment Flight on Memorial Day. Second prize is a 40" HD Flat screen TV.

For information or tickets call Bob at 516-458-7881



Good News!!!

Welcome Logan!

Son of The American Legion and American Legion Rider Brian "Pickle" Gerken and his wife Debbie Gerken are the proud grandparents of a baby boy. Their daughter Victoria Lynn Gerken and Louis Perez are the proud parents of Logan Anthony Perez. He was born on January 20th.

He was 21 inches long, and weighed in at 6lbs 13oz

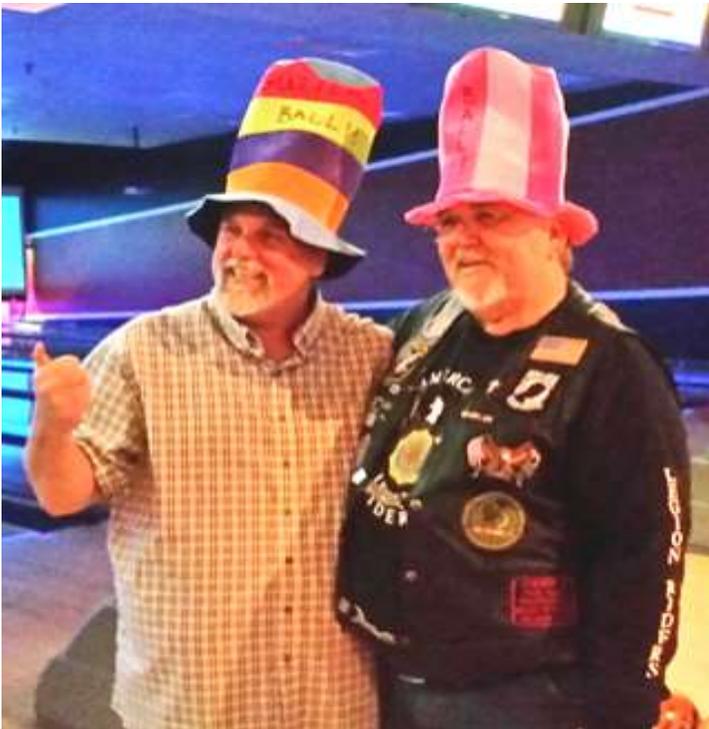
Logan is pictured at left with his "Opa" Brian.

No word yet on when Logan will be joining American Legion Riders Chapter 1244.



Have some good news to share? We would love to help you celebrate by including it in the next issue of The Greenlawn Bugle. Send the details to Post1244@verizon.net or call Bob at 516-458-7881

Best Picture Received by The Editor



This Just Needs a Caption - How About It American Legion Riders?

Post It!

By Allen Schwartz

Whitehouse...Hi, I understand the President will be visiting Cuba in March...any chance he could pick me up a hub cap for a '56 Pontiac Star Chief? click...Hello...Hel...darn they are so hard to find!



A Little Dry Humor
Courtesy of Our Former 1st Vice
Commander

American Legion Department Officer School



This past month myself and two other officers had the pleasure to attend the American Legion

Department Service Officer school for the second time in two years. I feel that we learned more this time, then when I was a rookie a year ago. I would like to take the time to give my perspective of the training and what veterans should do to maximize the opportunity for benefits.

The training was held at the Hilton in Washington DC, during normal business hours. Overall training was to last a week with inclusive Q&A and in depth education in benefits system. As a County Veteran Service Officer I am the liaison between the VA and the veteran. The county has an obligation to serve all constituents in its geographical area, veterans and elderly being among the highest preferred. A veteran service officer is paid by the county to hold an accreditation to plan, prepare and prosecute claims to the department of veterans affairs.

A department service officer plays many roles in a that they can be the first or last line of defense in regards to claim submission. A DSO has access to VBMS (VA CLAIM SYSTEM) and in most cases work inside a regional office. A DSO has the opportunity to speak to a VA adjudicator. A CVSO does not have that opportunity and or social connection. There are some things

that I wholeheartedly agree with the VA, and there are some things I disagree on. One thing I think the VA should do is be more accountable, and be held at a higher standard.

During the training the DSO kept talking on how to get a doctor or adjudicator, to look in to a file or to review the file. Not all veterans have the opportunity or know-how to speak to a civilian at the VA hospital, in regards to Health benefits. Here are some tips on how to build relationships with people at the VA to better help our fellow veterans with benefits.

It is important to establish a relationship with doctors, DSO, VSO, health care professionals in order to have control of the outcome of your entitlements.

- * Mutual interest – people are drawn to those who are similar to themselves or have similar interests; if can you learn what mutual interests you share with the person, be sure to engage them in conversation about it.

- * Ask for their opinions – not only does this show that you value their insights, but you can learn a lot from the prospect by encouraging them to share their knowledge and experience.

- * Gift – this can be anything, physical or intangible, that's designed to make the professional feel important; intangible gifts often come in the form of some type of recognition.

- * Indicate that you care – this is often achieved by demonstrating to

the care professional that you'd like to remain informed. By asking about present situations and the outcomes you are seeking, you will achieve a result similar to when you ask for their opinion. Your enhanced knowledge of the situation allows you to have a more productive communication with the care team.

- * Compliments – it's important to tell them not only what you like but why you like it. Otherwise you may be perceived as disingenuous. The same is true for personal compliments – be sure to focus on the individual's actions and not their traits.

These skills are generally used in sales. However I have found them extremely successful, due to the fact that there are millions of veterans and thousands that attend any one particular VA facility. It is very easy to be labeled as a number or another veteran. If you can establish these skills or the "gift of gab" you won't be at the mercy of your care team. Using these tactics you will know doctors and DSO's on a first name basis and you will be able to set yourself apart and accomplish a lot more due to the connections you have made.

Sean Lyons
Service Officer American Legion
Post 1244
Veterans Service Officer
Suffolk County Veterans Service
Agency 631-853-VETS

Did You Know?

Temporary Financial Assistance

In 2015, The American Legion's Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) program disbursed \$819,971 in grants, benefiting 631 Legion-eligible veteran families and 1,511 children. TFA helps families struggling financially to meet the costs of shelter, food, utilities and health expenses to keep the minor child or children in a stable home environment.

www.legion.org/tfa

Vice Commander's Call to Members

“Please press 1 for...or 2 for...”



“Thank you; your call may be monitored for quality control purposes.” How many times have you heard that familiar refrain? And how many times did you wish someone would actually step in for quality control purposes and solve a problem.

I was having difficulty with connecting to the internet; in all other respects my computer was fine. I called

my cable company and pressed the appropriate numbers and said “agent” 5 times. Finally, I was connected to a technician.

We did all the normal stuff; power up and power down, reset the plugs, power up and power down, and then finally I was told to reload the operating system. No way, and as we closed the call I said out loud, “If anyone is monitoring this call for quality control purposes this

would be a good time pick up!”

A few minutes later my phone rang and it was the Technical Supervisor from the Call Center who heard my plea, imagine! In a few minutes he solved the problem; we compared notes on problem solving techniques and laughed about my “outburst”.

Please note as you read this edition of the Greenlawn Bugle; your interest in our Post is being monitored for quality control purposes. The Executive Committee has included in this Bugle edition a survey that will give you an opportunity to help us shape our future direction.

Our goal is to honor your service in every way we can, and continue to serve our families, community and country! So take a few minutes and complete the survey...we'll all be glad you did!

Allen Schwartz
1st Vice Commander
Membership Chairman

Vice Commander Allen Schwartz Relocating

We regret to announce that 1st Vice Commander Allen Schwartz and his wife, Leona, will soon be relocating to their new home in Connecticut.

Allen was the very first publisher of The Greenlawn Bugle. The first edition was on January 16, 2007. We were still a pretty small Post at the time and the first issue was just two pages. By the end of that first year, the newsletter had grown to 4 pages with a page of advertising.

Allen coaxed the new publication through the first two years of its existence. We are very grateful for his efforts

in creating this means to tell our story!

Allen will also be remembered for playing “Taps” with his trumpet on many occasions. We are not sure his Dix Hills neighbors will miss those practice sessions in the backyard!

Veterans Day will not be the same without Leona leading us in “God Bless America.” Thank you, Leona!

Hopefully, Allen will remain a member of our Post.. He is certainly part of our history. We wish Allen and Leona all the very best in their new home, and we hope they will come back and visit as often as possible.

Welcome To Our Newest Members!

American Legion: Michael Mitek
Melissa Pandolf

Sons of The American Legion: Russell Ostroff



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 news of interest, 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 e mail to: Post1244@verizon.net and we'll do the rest

THE COMMANDER'S CORNER



Legionnaires, we are about to begin our busiest of seasons with the coming of spring. There will be many events to attend, if possible, for both you and the

family. I hope that you'll come out and join us for all that you can. Even if you have not participated in ANYTHING that the Post has sponsored in the past, you are still a member and entitled to each and every event we hold AND, nobody is keeping score. I'm hoping to see you at as many as you can make.

The Post is preparing to sponsor a Defensive Driving Class for all members and family members. This is a registered class and upon completion a Certificate will be issued that you can send to your Insurance Company to receive a "substantial" discount on your premium. The class is a six (6) hour class and may be held on two days to break it up a little. Please keep your eyes on the Post Calendar we send in the weekly newsletter for details of this benefit. A penny saved is still a penny earned.

Once again, the Post will be holding a Post Brunch at

Nocello's restaurant on Ft Salonga Rd, Northport, on Sunday, April 10th at 10:45AM for the first seating. Cost for members and family is \$20 per person, (children \$10). If you would care to join us for this wonderful occasion of food and friendship, please let me know by email at dam9245@optonline.net just how many will be in your party. This has proven to be one of the favorite events the Post sponsors. Come on out and see why. Our hosts, Josie and Irv, treat us very, very well, indeed.

We are the Post in Suffolk County that has become synonymous with membership growth. This past year has been a little slow for us so I'm asking for your help. If you know of a Veteran, a neighbor or relative, perhaps, that is not a member, please invite them to a meeting to see what it is that we do. We'll do our level best to get them into the fold. Just one is all I'm asking. Bring he, or she, in and we'll do the rest.

Thanks again for your membership and renewal. We'll be doing that again in only a few short months for the fiscal year 2017. Keep your eyes on the Post calendar for the series of events that are coming up now in the "warmer" months. Join us for all that you can AND bring the family.

Dennis Madden

Final Salute



Milton Blackman
March 22, 2016
United States Army, WW II

Francis "Hal" Stillway
January 27, 2016
United States Army, Vietnam



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

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 Past Commander Bob Santo at 516-458-7881

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Thank You for your Continued Service*



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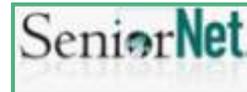
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