

Welcome Home, Lieutenant Commander Matt Hall !

Happenings

Legislator Steve Stern Visits Post 1244

Steve Stern (16th-LD) was our honored guest at the January 13th Monthly Post Meeting. Just re-elected to his third term on the Suffolk County Legislature, Stern was pleased that he had kept his Chairmanship of the Legislature's Veterans and Seniors Committee.



He came to fill us in on many of his recent initiatives, including: the Silver Alert System, a tracking system to locate senior citizens who suffer from dementia, Alzheimer's, and other cognitive disorders; A satellite veterans health clinic at the county center in Riverhead; affordable housing initiatives with preferences for returning veterans and his "Shed the Meds" program to reduce teenage drug abuse by providing parents with the means to dispose of their unused or expired prescription drugs.

Of great interest to the members of our Post are Stern's efforts to refurbish the historic Little Red Schoolhouse on Cuba Hill Road in Elwood. He explained that the Schoolhouse is in great disrepair from the previous tenant and Parks Department's removal of dangerous materials. It needs money and he is reaching out to agencies to fund the rehabilitation of the unit. Once restored to its former glory, the schoolhouse will be home to several community groups. We are proud that Post 1244 has been selected to be one of the stewards.

The site has already been granted funds for a study of engineering and design needed to be designated "green" in accordance with recent laws.

Yet, much work is to be done. Your Post leadership will meet this Spring with County Executive Steve Levy to explain our role in keeping the site open to the public and sharing it with other community groups.

The site needs to be declared a State Historic treasure in order to qualify for matching funds...difficult during an economic downturn. The good news is that we have the support of Legislator Stern as well as the County Parks Department in our quest for a home at the Little Red Schoolhouse.

Allen Shaw

Susan Berland, Tony Nicholes Show Safety Initiatives

Post 1244 was visited by Councilwoman Susan Berland on November 11th. She came to inform our members of a new program to advise police, EMT and firemen of the medical condition of the driver of vehicles involved accidents and unable to communicate with first responders,

The "Red Dot" program, Berland explained, involves placement of a red dot sticker on the rear window of the vehicle, which notifies first responders that the driver's or passenger's medical information is in the glove box of the vehicle. The medical information is in a plastic envelope and can be easily accessed. Medical treatment can be given without the fear of dangerous interactions of medications.

At the same meeting, Tony Nicholes of the East Farmingdale Fire Department introduced another program called "Vial of Life" to provide needed medical information to emergency personnel responding to a home. Pertinent medical information is placed in an envelope or vial in the resident's refrigerator. A special sticker on the home's front door alerts first responders to the presence of this information in the refrigerator.

Allen Shaw

Pius V Student Wins Suffolk County Oratorical Contest

Genevieve Fantz of Pius V School, sponsored by Post 1244, placed first in the Suffolk County Oratorical Competition held on January 9 at Babylon Post 94. She then went on to place 2nd in the Division and 2nd in Zone 2 (Metro NY) contest. Well done, Genevieve !!!



American Legion Greenlawn Auxiliary Unit 1244 Plans Dance and Fund Raiser

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 1244 has announced their first Dance and Fund Raiser will be held on Saturday, April 24th from 7 pm to 11 pm at St. Joseph Council Knights of Columbus, 24 Boulevard Avenue, Greenlawn. Snacks, beer, wine and soda will be served. Music by Toni Grant. Cost is only \$15.00 per person.

For Tickets Call Fran Hubbs at 631-423-1176

Post 1244 Bulletin Board—Are you in the picture?



On The Road Again

The Old Glory Flag Collection Box is once again "Rolling, Rolling, Rolling", this time on its 2010 tour.

The "Old Glory Flag Collection Box" collects worn, frayed and soiled American Flags to be disposed of in a proper ceremony on Flag Day at the Greenlawn Fire Department.



At Harborfields High School L-R: Charlie Armstrong, Dr. David Bennardo and Dennis Giunta

As in prior years, the Old Glory box moves through the Harborfields, Elwood and East Northport School Districts.

This year's tour started at Harborfields High School with Principal Dr. Dave Bernardo putting in the first worn-out flag, kicking off the drive.

The Old Glory Flag Collection Box is sponsored by and owned by American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244

Legionnaires Dennis Giunta and Charles Armstrong get up each Monday to retrieve Old Glory and move it to the next school. No easy task. Ever try to lift a former U.S. Postal Service mailbox?

The former postal mailbox was decorated by Cycle-Delics of Bay Shore free of charge.

Old Glory will end its 2010 run this coming June. God Bless the participating families and these United States.

Allen Shaw

Citation for Charlie Armstrong

On February 4, Sgt. at Arms Charlie Armstrong was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation from Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy and Director of Suffolk County Veterans Services agency Tom Ronayne.



L-R Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy, Charlie Armstrong and Tom Ronayne

Charlie has been a regular volunteer at Jacob's Light Foundation for several years, packing care packages and unloading truckloads of comfort items for our deployed troops, and has dedicated hundreds of hours to this cause. In his capacity as Sgt at Arms of Greenlawn Post 1244 he brings the same degree of dedication and leadership to objectives of the American Legion.

As Post Sgt. at Arms he never misses a meeting, is always the first to arrive and the last to leave. He sets up our hall for every meeting, enthusiastically greets visitors and makes our new members feel welcome.

Charlie, along with Adjutant Ed O'Shea, has taken on the responsibility of restoring our Boys State program which had been dormant for many years. Thanks to their efforts, we will again be sending two nominees to SUNY Morrisville this year. They are not only recruiting and interviewing the candidates but seeking donations to cover the significant cost of sending them.

He is a leader in new member recruitment and the sale of ads for our newsletter. At every opportunity, Charlie is quick to get involved to help the Post, it's members, our troops and his fellow veterans.

Commander's Corner



Bob Santo

Our Homeless Veterans

Veterans make up more than 11 percent of the population in Suffolk County – equaling nearly 120,000 county veterans. This is the highest number of veterans in a single county in all of New York State. Unfortunately, veterans also comprise some 26 percent of the homeless population, both nationally and in Suffolk County.

On April 23, Suffolk County Veterans Service Agency will conduct its 4th Veterans Stand Down for homeless veterans and all veterans in need of supportive services. I was privileged to volunteer at last year's stand down and was truly moved at what I saw and heard. Hundred veterans in need from all over Nassau and Suffolk County came to the Brentwood campus of Suffolk County Community College. They were assisted by an almost equal number of volunteers from every veterans organization in the area and many non-veterans as well. The Veterans Stand Down program helps all veterans in attendance get acquainted with the

array of services that are available to them through agencies including the Northport VA Medical Center, the New York State Veterans Agency, the Salvation Army, the Society of St. Vincent DePaul and the U.S. Department of Labor and many others.

Special outreach is given to the county's population of homeless veterans, who often fall through the cracks of the system.

In addition to having access to agency-sponsored assistance programs, veterans at the event receive a boxed lunch and a pair of eye glasses if needed. Showers, haircuts, non-perishable food and clothing are also available to those veterans in need of them. Volunteers are assigned to each attendee and guide them through the process, being sure that they have an opportunity to speak with a representative of each agency to determine if they can be helped.

Anyone interested in volunteering for this year's Stand Down will need to attend one of the following training sessions: April 8, Police Academy 3pm-5pm or April 12– Media Room H. Lee Dennison Bldg, Hauppauge 3 pm-6 pm.

You must call 631-853-8387 and let them know that you plan to volunteer.

TAPS HAS SOUNDED

Christos "Chris" Gineros

January 2, 1949 - March 11, 2010

Vietnam Service 1969-1970

Awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart

Beloved Husband of Linda and Proud Father of two fine sons, Christos and Eric
Chris worked for the Veterans Administration for 27 years

President of the VFW Bowling League, Chris bowled for many years in both the VFW and American Legion Tournaments. He will be missed by his many friends, especially by his fellow Post 1244 bowlers.

John Pellegrino

May 22, 1925 - March 26, 2010

World War II - Rifleman Battle of The Bulge

Wounded December 25, 1944 Awarded Purple Heart, Good Conduct, Victory Medal

Beloved husband of Pauline. Loving father of John (Noli), Ronald (Lisa), and Trudy.
Adored grandfather of Matthew, Dominic, Thomas, Andrew, Gina, Tuesday and Nicholas.
John enjoyed many years of weekend boating with his family, golf and 22 years of a great retirement.

Leonard "Lenny" Tatora Jr.

December 22, 1930 – February 21, 2010

Combat Photographer for General MacArthur in the Korean War. Awarded the Bronze Star

Charter Member of the Huntington Veterans Advisory Board. Chaplain of Huntington Post 360
A true gentleman in every sense of the word and a friend to every veteran. Lenny will always be remembered for his fierce love of country and his devotion to his brother and sister veterans, especially our homeless veterans.