THE GREENLAWN BUGLE

EGION

Greenlawn Post 1244

Boys State / Girls State 2022

Huntington High School



L-R: Ed O'Shea, Hal Dietrele, Gavin Crawford, John DiBella, Sean Tucker, James Slear, Nick Zavack, Peter Zavack, James Ricci, Owen Walter, Asst Principal Allison Joyce, and Charlie Armstrong



L-R: Ed O'Shea, Hal Dieterle, Delegates Alexandra Banks, and Aliyan Steinberg, Asst. Principal Allison Joyce and Charlie Armstrong

Walt Whitman High School



L-R Hal Dieterle, Delegates John Villela, Jack Jenkins, Adelrhany George, Joseph Decker, Brayden Zalbert, Kaiet Coraizaca, Hasham Choudrey, Declan Hill, Ed O'Shea, and Charlie Armstrong

The Boys/Girls State Committee is proceeding in the hope that our delegates will attend a live session at SUNY campuses in Morrisville and Brockport, NY. 21 male delegates and 3 female delegates have been selected from those candidates interviewed.

Applications are being prepared by delegates and their parents who were to get their completed paperwork back to Committee Chair Charlie Armstrong by February 18, 2022.

Our delegates this year are from Harborfields, Walt Whitman, Huntington, and Commack High Schools.



L-R: Hal Dieterle, Delegate Alana Marzigliano and Ed O'Shea

The schools being represented have been very helpful in providing lists of potential candidates. In the past few Covid years, our interviews have been conducted in open spaces at the schools, in the student's back yard, or at Panera Bread. We have been most impressed by the caliber of student candidates suggested by their schools.

I am sure you all will be as impressed as we were when you get to meet them at our August and September meetings.

> **Edward O'Shea** Boys and Girls State Co-Chairman

Boys and Girls State

Post 1244 Huntington High School 2021 Girls State Delegate Appointed to West Point

Theadora Carnesi a 2021 Post 1244 Girls State delegate to American Legion Auxiliary Girls State has received an appointment to West Point.



Theodora Caenesi with her Certificate of Appointment to West Point.

"My senior year at Huntington has been an enriching and enjoyable experience. I have challenged myself with a rigorous course load and found my courses enormously rewarding.

My favorite course this year has been AP Government and Politics with Economics. The course focuses on our nation's great democracy and governmental system. I have been able to take part in debates and even a mock Congressional session, similar to the one I participated in at Girls State!

I had an amazing Varsity Soccer season, as I achieved the honor of being named to the All-State team. My team advanced to the second round of playoffs. Currently, I am amidst my Varsity Basketball season. We are league champs and are looking forward to playoffs. In the Spring, I will be playing Varsity Softball.

I am also the Class of 2022 President. I have been planning prom and other events for my class with fellow officers. This year has been awesome, but the highlight has been earning my appointment to West Point.

I am extremely excited to be a part of the Long Gray Line and protect and serve my country. I am looking forward to the remaining months of my senior year and making the most of each moment! "

Charlie Armstrong Boys & Girls State Chairman Honored

Sgt. at Arms Charlie Armstrong was honored at the Huntington Town Board Meeting on March15.

Councilman Salvatore Ferrro presented Charlie with a proclamation for his many contributions to our country and to our community.

Charlie started our post's participation in the Boys State and Girls State program in 2009 with just two students from Harborfields High School. Since then, the program has grown to include Walt Whitman, Huntington, Commack and other local schools. There are 160 local high school juniors who have benefitted from our program.

Charlie is also Flag Etiquette and Respect
Chairman. He and Rick Tierney position our Flag
Collection Box each month at a different Huntington
library where citizens can drop off unserviceable
flags. He also teaches local scout troops how to respect
our nation's colors.



Operation Enduring Care



During our service to our country, we have had challenges that asked us to "push on," no matter the difficulty. It seems the year 2021 was as challenging as well as frustrating. Daily restrictions and gains against COVID-19, made things more unpredictable.

Over the past year, we have strived to meet the needs as requested from a seemingly growing number of veterans in need. Each request, after being verified, has been answered within 24 to 48

hours.

There are still many hardships for our veterans in need due to the recovery from COVID-19. Food pantries, food kitchens, clothing closets as well as support from organizations are still absent or unavailable.

Traditional requests for fund raising are also encouraged, but we must be mindful of current protocols for contact. The American Legion Post 1244, website has a more complete list of items needed. Under current restrictions, expiration dates must be considered prior to accepting the items for donation. The website address is: www.post1244.org/operationenduringcare.

Support from our American Legion Post 1244 membership, has been both paramount and deeply appreciated. I wish to thank John and Connie Carr for their assistance with preparing an emergency request for hygiene

items for HUD-VASH. It is support through action that allows "Operation Enduring Care" to reach those requesting assistance swiftly.

The need for assistance is ongoing. The need will not be resolved with a single donation or meal. The need will not be resolved with proclamations or moments of publicity. It can be soothed with sustained effort and commitment. It will take "sweat equity," which means we are in this for the long run.

We are preparing for the upcoming support opportunities through "Stand Downs," as well as individual and organizational requests. There is also support for donation drives needed. We are in a marathon in which the prize is not a "moment of glory" but the fulfillment of requests for comfort and assistance. We are assisting over 632 veterans through the Northport VA Medical Center as well as the residents of the United Veterans Beacon House

I encourage all to participate and contribute. We have gained respect, many honors, a reputation for reliability and endurance. For this I thank all of you. Remind those around us, that we are on a journey. Our fellow veterans in need depend on.

Donations may be made through our website electronically via **post1244.org/operationenduringcare**. Thank you on behalf of our veterans in need.

Albert A. Statton II, Chairman

Thank You All!!

Many thanks to our Legion Riders, Legionnaires and Sons who came out to our storage room at Westy's in East Northport on March 20th.

We made quick work of assembling the 100 care packs (picture at right) we will distribute at **Suffolk County Veterans Drive-Thru & Stand Down Event**.

This event will take place on April 30 at the H. Lee Dennison Building North Parking lot on April 30.

Your active participation makes it all possible.



Post Service Officer - You Earned It!



Goodbye Winter! Spring is near, which also means it's tax season. Time to refresh you on the tax benefits you earned in the State of New York.

New York Taxes on Military Retired Pay: Pension payments received by retired Service members or their beneficiaries are totally exempt from New York State, New York City, and Yonkers income taxes.

New York State Taxes on Military Disability Retirement Pay: Military Disability Retirement Pay received as a pension, annuity or similar allowance for personal injury

or sickness resulting from active service in the U.S. Armed Forces <u>should not be included in taxable income</u>. Some of the payments which are considered disability benefits include:

Grants for homes designed for wheelchair living

Grants for motor vehicles for Veterans who lost their sight or the use of limbs, or

Benefits under a dependent-care assistance program.

Most of you are eligible for a property tax exemption, however, it is not automatic. You must fill out an exemption application which is due by March 1 each year. I hope you were aware of that and if not, consider applying next year, it's your benefit! Veteran property tax exemption applications can be obtained by calling the Suffolk County Veterans Service Agency (631) 853-8387. If you are a Town of Huntington resident, information on the exemption can be obtained by calling your local tax assessor's office (Huntington Town, 631-351-3226). Please see the article on pages 6 and 7 of this issue.

I look forward to seeing the flowers blossom and painting our world beautiful colors. Have a wonderful season of renewal and happiness!

Sincerely,

Michelle Martin

Service Officer Cell Phone # 631-361-12166

High School Oratorical Contest Department of New York



The New York State American Legion Oratorical Contest Final Contest was held at the Desmond Hotel in Albany on March 5.

Greenlawn Post 1244's sponsored contestant **Mary Kennedy** finished second among all the contestants in New York State.

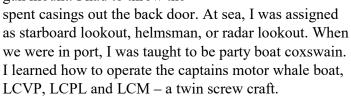
Mary, a junior at St. Pius School, Melville, has indicated she will be competing next year. She is the 5th Kennedy sibling to compete in the oratorical contest.

We are proud of her accomplishment and will be looking forward to watching her compete again next year!

First Person

Vinnie Crimaudo, USS Norris DD859 (Part II) (Continued from December 2021 issue)

In mid May, after the transports were empty, the returning troops were being loaded on them for the return home. The fleet left for sea duty and to learn life aboard ships at sea. We were at sea for a month, and we learned how to fire at aircraft, shore bombardment, anti-submarine warfare, carrier guard duty, etc. My GQ position aboard ship was in mount 51 forward 5" gun mount. I had to throw the



Our squadron of the DD858, 859, 860' and 861 were assigned occupation duty, helping the population, and restoring the Nationalist Government to recover. The Chinese coastline was under nationalist control and to the west was Communist Mao Tse Tung, driving his



The USS Norris

forces east to try and push the Nationalists out of the country. The Navy was trying to keep the peace. Our job was to see that the Chinese coastline was not being invaded and we patrolled the coastline from the north border to Hong Kong.

Formosa (Taiwan) was an island almost totally destroyed. Nationalist General Chiang Kaishek was in the process of moving the population and his army there and staring the

republic of China. Our job was to deliver many high-ranking people and supplies there to restore the country. Hainan Island also was a POW camp during the war and many allied soldiers were kept there. This island was the most northerly island of the Japanese chain. Many Japanese soldiers were captured at war's end and were still there as they could not be sent home as there was nothing left of Japan.

(To be continued in the June 2022 issue).



Community Spotlight Jillian Guthman, Receiver of Taxes

Jillian was kind enough to talk to me for an interview. Her father, Andre, was a Korean War veteran who was awarded The Purple Heart. Andre has a great influence on his daughter's life. From him, she developed her strong work ethic. Andre owned several small businesses during his lifetime, including a laundromat.

Upon graduation from Touro Law School, Jill went to work at Rikers Island assisting prisoners. From there, she went to the Suffolk County DA's office, working as a prosecutor. Prior to being elected Receiver of Taxes for The Town of Huntington in 2018, she held the following positions: Assistant Town Attorney, Deputy Town Attorney, and Director of Human Services.

In fact, Jillian has always been working, as she told me, from the age of 12 onward.

Jillian told me that veterans may receive exemptions on their real estate taxes.

This is handled by the Assessor of Taxes Lisa Leonick who was kind enough to provide me with all information you need, See page 7 of this issue!

Mary Flatley, U.S.M.C.

American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244

Huntington Town Veterans Real Estate Tax Exemptions

Lisa Leonik, Town of Huntington Assessor was kind enough to provide the following information to Greenlawn Bugle Reporter Mary Flatley.

Every veteran homeowner in the town of Huntington should become familiar with these exemptions.

How long have you been the Town Assessor?

I became the Town Assessor June 1, 2020.1 served as Assistant to the Assessor from January 15, 2020 through May 31, 2020.

What positions did you hold prior to becoming the Town Assessor?

I was counsel to a title company for 7 years and also have a law practice with my husband James Leonick. I previously served as a court arbitrator resolving

property tax assessment disputes and practiced real estate law for three decades, managing real estate transactions from inception through post-closing issues, estate planning and probate.

What is the general function of the Town Assessor's Office?

The primary function of the Assessor's Office is to value all real property within the Town in a fair and equitable manner and maintain accurate and timely Town Assessment Rolls. When the Roll is finalized each year it becomes the tax base upon which the annual Town Tax Warrant is assessed. Huntington's Tax Warrant is more than \$900 million.

The property taxes collected fund municipal government, including the Town, Suffolk County, and Huntington's school districts, library districts and special districts (fire, water, ambulance, sewer, refuse, lighting, and business improvement districts). An accurate assessment roll is vital to the delivery public services and maintaining the fiscal strength of local government.

In addition, the Assessor's Office administers numerous real property tax exemptions pursuant to NY State Law.

Please explain how veterans can obtain exemptions

from their taxes because of their service.

The Town of Huntington Website has links and information for the various veterans exemptions found at: https://www.huntingtonny.gov/tax-exemptions
Each category has specific requirements. The information below is on our website and in the linked brochure.

VETERANS EXEMPTIONS

Town of Huntington Veterans Tax

Exemption Brochure

https://www.post1244.org/

veteranstaxexemption

These exemptions provide a tax savings for Town, County and School District charges but not for Special Districts. The un-remarried surviving spouse of a Veteran may retain the benefit of the Veteran's Exemption. The Restoration of Honor Act was signed

> into law in 2019. The act authorizes the New York State Division of Veterans' Services (DVS) to restore access to state veterans benefits to veterans who have an Other-Than-Honorable

Discharge or a General Under Honorable Conditions Discharge due to certain reasons specified in the law.

As a result, if an applicant for the alternative and cold war veterans exemptions received a letter from DVS stating that the veteran meets the character of discharge criteria for all of the benefits and services listed in the Restoration of Honor Act, the applicant would submit a copy of that letter with their application. The applicant is not required to provide documentation of having been discharged or released under honorable conditions.

Alternative Veterans Exemption

(NYSRPTL Section 458-a)

The Veteran must have served during wartime, and additional savings are allowed for those Veterans who served in a combat zone, and more savings for those with service- connected disability ratings. The property must be the primary and legal residence of the Veteran in order to receive the **Alternative Veterans Exemption.**

Along with the application and other documents, the Veteran must supply a valid

(Continued on page 7)

Huntington Town Veterans Real Estate Tax Exemptions

(Continued from page 6)

copy of form DD-214 which was received upon separation from the service.

There is also a "Gold Star Parent" Veterans

Exemption (for the parent of a son or daughter who dies in the line of duty while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces during a period of war) which is covered under the "Alternative Veterans Exemption" with the additional combat zone benefits.

Another possible exemption for those Veterans who served before 1984 is called the "Eligible Funds Veterans Exemption" (NYS RPTL Section 458).

These Veterans from WWII, Korea and Vietnam purchased property with service

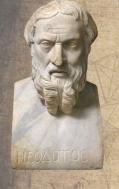
pensions, bonuses or insurance monies, referred to as "eligible funds" under the G.l. Bill. Although no new "eligible funds" exemptions are permitted today, Veterans may transfer their existing "eligible funds" from one property to another as they sell one house and buy another.

Cold War Veterans may also benefit from an exemption. These Veterans served during nonwar, non-conflict years after WWII (1945) and before the Persian Gulf Conflict (1991).

Lisa Leonick

Town Assessor Town Hall (Room 100) 100 Main Street Huntington, NY 11743 Phone: (631) 351-3226

The Post 1244 Historian



The last post home we had was at 155 Broadway just across from Emily Court. It was a small house located on a little more than a half acre. The post was known for its annual clam bake and many card games.

The building was badly damaged on the evening of Memorial Day, 1974, when a car driven by a young man collided with it, damaging the foundation. The car penetrated the building. Greenlawn FD personnel were able to rescue the victim who was trapped in the car.

There is a small home, today, where the post once stood.

Unfortunately, the building was condemned. The Post sued for \$10,000. On April 18, 1979, the members voted to sell the building for \$20,000



First Post 1244 Commander George Washington Richardson Purple Heart WWI

We are seeking a volunteer or two who would be interested in researching the history of American Legion Post 1244. Please call Bob at 516-458-7881 to discuss.



St. Joseph Council #4810 Knights of Columbus

631-754-9488 Rentals / Membership

Our newly refurbished hall is available for all your special occasions.

Call now and reserve! 631-754-9488



DD 214 - A Reminder

The Importance Of Your DD 214 A Personal Story by Dennis Madden

My brother in law, Dominic, closed his successful contractor business at 70 years old in 2006 and sought his medical services through the VA here in Northport. Like all of us, he showed his official discharge paper and was granted any and all services. For the next 15 years, he marveled at the wonderful care he got at our facility, but on Jan 31st, Dom passed away from the ravages of Covid.

His family began the burial process and used a local funeral home which sought burial rights at Calverton National Cemetery. Dom was a U S Army, Korean War veteran, but without his official discharge paper he was initially denied. The family obtained a letter from the VA in Northport stating that he had, at one time, proved his eligibility to them and had been receiving services for over a decade. That was accepted but needed verification from St Louis, which would take some time.

During the next two weeks, the family was going through all of Dom's records, etc. and found a single, unmarked envelope containing his original discharge paper, stamped by the DOD and gave that to the funeral home just this week. The very day they submitted that paperwork, yet another denial was received, denying burial rights at Calverton. However, on review of the official discharge, that denial was overturned and his burial in Calverton was granted and scheduled. He was buried with military honors on Feb 21st.

So, long story short, if you have a copy of your discharge papers (WWII veterans) or your DD 214, make copies and give them to your family. Be certain that each of your children know where your records are kept. If you don't have a copy, begin today to get a copy, which is a relatively easy task, but it does take some time to receive. Don't put it off or your rights to a military burial site may be denied, causing your family great trouble and immediate expense. Please, take this personal example to heart and make your family aware of the location of your service records.

How To Obtain A Copy of Your DD 214

If you've been discharged from military service, your personnel files are stored at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). This is the official repository for records of military personnel who have been discharged from the U.S. Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy and Coast Guard

A Report of Separation (DD 214) is generally issued when a service member performs active duty or at least 90 consecutive days of active duty training. The Report of Separation contains information normally needed to verify military service for benefits, retirement, employment, and membership in veterans' organizations.

The best way to obtain your DD 214 or Discharge if you are a WWII veteran is online at:

www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records

Please be sure you have given a copy to your next of kin and adult children. You may also provide your Legion Post Adjutant with a copy. We are happy to provide it to your family member on request.

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A Final Salute

Clem Novak United States Army Air Corps

January 7, 2022

James E. Lynch United States Army

January 8, 2022

Daniel Shea United States Army

January 24, 2022

Carl Hecker United States Navy

January 25, 2022

Dominick Savino United States Army

January 31, 2022

Frederick Novak United States Air Force March 11, 2022

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











American Legion Riders



Happy March to all! Spring is right around the corner.

This past weekend the Riders were asked to start off the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Kings Park. The outpouring of support was amazing. The streets were filled with lots of smiles and

even a few glasses of green beer! We have already been asked to return soon.

All things considered, it was a good day and the weather cooperated, which always makes us happy.

This month we lost a very important member of the Riders family, the beautiful Barbara Moreback. If you knew Barbara, you know what an incredible lady she was and that she was loved by all. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Moreback family during this difficult time.

Please always keep our members who are struggling with health issues, both mental and physical in your prayers.

With that being said, we look forward to another year together riding to honor, support and assist our Veterans. If you know of a Veteran in need or of someone interested in joining our elite chapter, please ask them to reach out to me or any officer.

Bruce Blanco

Director, Legion Riders Chapter 1244 631-745-9330 ride4mike@gmail.com

Sons of The American Legion



Hello to all.

I hope this letter finds everyone well. I am hoping, once the weather breaks, I can get a few of the Sons to join me in a fundraising weekend. It's been tough to

do anything with all the restrictions that were put into place, but, as I write this, they are being lifted.

I have a few good ideas but would love to hear from you on a few new idea's. Don't forget now that

more people are getting out and about to thank a veteran for his or her service. They may have not heard it in a while. Thank you

Angus Kennedy

Commander
Sons of The American Legion
Squadron 1244
angus.kennedy@bgis.com
516-241-1399

To Salute or Not to Salute

You may have noticed that members of the American Legion usually do not render a military salute while reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Instead it is customary for us to remove our caps and place them over our hearts.

This is in compliance with the U.S. Flag Code which states:

"When not in uniform men should remove any nonreligious headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Persons in uniform should remain silent, face the flag, and render the military salute. Members of the Armed Forces not in uniform and veterans may render the military salute in the manner provided for persons in uniform."

Members wearing the Legion cap are considered to be in uniform

So, if a person in uniform renders a military salute during the "Pledge" they are to "remain silent." If they wish to recite the Pledge, cap and hand over the heart is the recommended maneuver.

This interpretation of the Flag Code is not accepted by everyone.

But for now, that is our custom.

Bob Santo, Past Commander 2005-2015

Vice Commander's Call to Members



Winter is almost over, and with spring comes hope for new things to come. If you haven't been to our meetings as of late, I encourage you to come down. We have a new look and would love for you to come on down. If you need a ride and live locally,

we probably have a member nearby that could help. Reach out to one of the post officers and we will try to pair you up.

We are amid planning some fun activities for our members throughout the year. If you have any ideas of what you would like to see, send me an e-mail with your thoughts (**Kenhinsch@hotmail.com**).

A final notice for dues payment has been sent, if you still haven't renewed, please do so now. Memberships in arears will be cancelled.

Finally, as we approach the end of the first calendar quarter of 2022, we are reminded of how delicate this great social experiment of ours is. Liberty, Democracy, and the rights that go with it are earned, and must be

fought for to ensure oppressors both external and internal do not put out the light and hope that it represents.

At this writing we are witnessing the ultimate struggle for democracy unfolding in the Ukraine. Let us hope that this conflict will resolve itself in favor of democracy, and without the world being drawn into the siege. We can only hope the young men and women in our military remain safe, but vigilant in their duties to serving freedom and those inalienable rights that make us all human.

To our allies in Europe & the Ukraine, I can think of no better quote but that from Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address "... that these dead shall not have died in vain – that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

Ken Hinsch
1st Vice Commander
Membership Chairman

KenHinsch@hotmail.com 631-935-3409

Election of Officers - April 13

Nominations were accepted at our March meeting for the elected officers of Post 1244 for the Legion Year beginning July 1, 2022. Elections will be conducted at our April Meeting.

Other officers and committee chairmen will be appointed by the incoming commander.

Please attend this meeting and show your support for the hard working and dedicated officers who keep this post moving ahead!

2022 Post 1244 Candidates for Office

- Donna Boyle Commander
- Carlo Gordano 1st Vice Commander
- Fred Tuccillo 2nd Vice Commander
- Steve Scinta -3rd Vice Commander
- Ed Hayde Adjutant
- Bob Santo Finance Officer
- John Carr Chaplain
- Charlie Armstrong Sgt. at Arms



American Legion Post Decals

Display your pride as a member of American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244

These long lasting vinyl decals can be displayed on your rear windshield. They are available for \$6 each. E mail us at **Post1244@verizon.net** to order



The Commander's Corner



Well, we made it. Spring is here. This season we are able to meet with family and friends, venture out to local restaurants and the fun events of our choice.

The post leadership has developed an event a month. In April we have a trip to the

Walt Whitman Birthplace. In May, a tour of the Cradle of Aviation Museum, and in June, the Armor Museum. Please watch the weekly email blast for more information. If you have a place you think other members and their families would be interested in going please let me know.

The Town of Huntington is hosting a special event on June 11, 2022. This is the 50th anniversary of the dedication of our Vietnam Living Memorial. The Town of Huntington originally dedicated it back in 1972 to Huntington service members who were killed in action in Vietnam. The Town is putting together a journal in support of the event. If you would like to place an ad in the journal recognizing a Veteran or family for a minimum cost, a copy of the form with all the required information is included in this edition.

This month, the post selects it's slate of leadership for our Legion year. If you would like a position, please reach out. Everyone is willing to assist you and would appreciate your assistance. I hope to see you at our monthly meeting on the 2nd Wednesday of every month.

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

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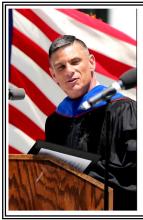


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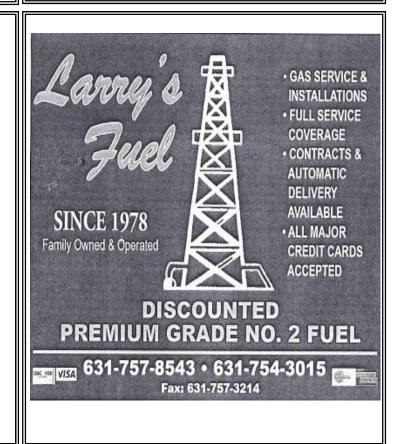
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