



# The Greenlawn Bugle

The Newsletter of American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244

Founded March 15, 1943

June 2019

Volume 13 Issue 2

## Memorial Day 2019

### Post 1244 Events

#### Let's Take a Veteran Sailing July 21

In partnership with SailAhead, Post 1244 and Centerport Yacht Club. Veterans and guests will sail LI Sound. BBQ will follow, compliments of Centerport Yacht Club. Promoting awareness of PTSD and the high rate of suicide among veterans.

Contact Bob Santo at 516-458-7881 for information

#### Greenlawn Fire Dept. Fireman's Fair / Parade August 29

Join us at 7 pm as we march in this annual parade to salute our volunteer firefighters.

Afterward enjoy the games of chance and delicious food. We will have a membership recruiting and information booth on the fairgrounds.

#### Monthly Meetings

St. Joseph Council K of C  
24 Boulevard Ave.  
Greenlawn

The 2nd Wednesday of each month at 8:00 pm

Feel free to invite a buddy.

**New Members are Always Welcome!**



There is no more important date on our American Legion Post calendar than Memorial Day. It is the one day that we Americans set aside to remember, honor and thank those who gave their lives so that we could remain a free people, enjoying the blessings of liberty.

It is always gratifying to see the members of our Legion Family turn out for our Greenlawn Memorial Day Parade and the ceremony at Greenlawn Memorial Park that follows. This expression of gratitude is colored by a lingering sadness for those who we served with, who did not come home to the welcoming arms of family, friends and the community they left behind.

Our line of march was led by our new Commander, Donna Boyle and 1st Vice Commander Carlo Giordano.

In our line of march were Legionnaires, Sons and Auxiliary. Escorting us, of course, were members of our American Legion Riders.

We were followed down Broadway by Boy and Girl Scouts, community organizations, school marching bands and fire trucks. John Dolan (of the Cablevision Dolan family) provided a 1908 Rolls Royce to carry Post 1244 Legionnaire Col. Jerry Weiss, USMC (RET).

Bringing up the rear was our Korean War vintage Army Weapons carrier. It was driven by Sgt. at Arms Charlie Armstrong with WWII veteran Vinny Crimauo riding shotgun.

The patriotic and enthusiastic citizens of the Hamlet of Greenlawn lined the

*(Continued on page 2)*

(Continued from page 1)

route, waving flags and expressing thanks to our veterans.

At Greenlawn Memorial Park, our color guard of Steve Scinta, Phil Compton, Joe DeSomma, Ed O'Shea and Hal Dieterle took their places at the monument.

Soon, hundreds of marchers and other spectators filled the park. After an invocation by the chaplain and remarks by the chief, Vinny Crimaudo presented our Post 1244 wreath, followed by a wreath presentation by Auxiliary members Nicole Abbate, Sandra Bohn and Madeline Emmons. The Greenlawn Fire Department Rifle Squad fired a Three Volley Salute, which was followed by the sounding of Taps.

After the ceremony ended and the crowd had dispersed, many of us gathered for the group photo below.



**Vinny Crimaudo placing a wreath at the Greenlawn Monument**

## Boys State and Girls State 2019



Do you want to attend a service academy? There are two major items that carry great weight for an applicant: Earning the rank of Eagle Scout and admission to Boys State.

Attendance at Boys State carries the same weight as earning the distinction of Eagle Scout, especially when applying to US military schools and academies. It has been reported that 18% of those admitted to West Point are Boys State Alumni. The figure for the Air Force Academy is 17%.

Samuel Morris of Boy Scout Troop 403 in Commack has earned both of these titles. Sam, a student at Commack High School, was sponsored by Post 1244 in 2018. So it is no surprise that Samuel will soon be a midshipman attending the US Naval Academy at Annapolis in the fall .

We are proud to have helped this young man achieve his dream!



**L-R: Ed O'Shea, Samuel Morris and Charlie Armstrong**

*Charlie Armstrong*  
Boys and Girls State Co-Chairman

### **Interment of Michael Sanchez and Joe P. Kennedy Calverton National Cemetery March 28, 2019**

Theodore Roosevelt said, "A man who is good enough to risk shedding his blood for his country, is good enough to be given a square deal afterwards." Today we provided the final piece of that square deal to two deserving veterans as we bestowed military honors upon each.

Cpl. Joe P. Kennedy who served honorably in the United States Army from 1951 to 1953, and Sp4 Michael Sanchez, who served honorably in the United States Army from 1978 to 1984 were remembered and honored today by 42 patriots. Although strangers in life, they became brothers in death through the honors each has earned and richly deserved.

Following the sounding of Taps by Post 1244 bugler Bob Slingo, and the Army Honor Guard flag folding and presentations, Chaplain Tom Bergin offered a heartfelt Invocation. I then offered a eulogy which included the poem "Final Inspection". Post 1244 Rider Chaplain Mike Williams ended the ceremony by offering his Benediction. As all attendees approached both caskets to pay their final respects, a feeling of calm and closure came upon us, for we had once again, remembered and honored once forsaken veterans.

***Charlie Tritto***  
***Post 1244 Chaplain***  
***Missing In America Post 1244 Team***

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### **Interment of Paul T. Chandler Calverton National Cemetery June 18, 2019**

On June 18, A contingent of the Post 1244 Missing In America Project left Nolan Funeral Home in Northport escorting the remains of US Army veteran Paul T. Chandler to Calverton National Cemetery.

Veteran Chandler, who was just 63 years old at his death, served in the US Army from 1983-1989. He died alone, without family.

As always, the American Legion Riders took up their position at the committal area. At least 40 Legionnaires from several posts, Auxiliary members, and other members of the public attended.

As the US Navy honor guard took up their position at the casket, The Patchogue American Legion Rifle Squad fired three volleys. Bob Slingo, our Post 1244 Bugler then sounded "Taps," conveying a feeling both comforting and sorrowful.

Mike Williams, ALR Chaplain gave the invocation. John Caldarelli conducted the ceremony, including the poem "Go Gently." Suffolk County American Legion Chaplain Tom Bergin provided a eulogy.

The ceremony was concluded with a benediction by Chaplain Williams.

**John Caldarelli**  
**MIAP Chairman, American Legion Post 1244**  
**Suffolk County American Legion**

## Annual Post 1244 Memorial Day Cookout

The great weather that made our Memorial Day Parade so enjoyable extended well into the afternoon. We were glad to have a respite from the unusually rainy spring this year.

It looked like we would be lacking help in setting up, this year, as our USMMA cadets were unable to join us this year.

Thankfully, Kevin Newman, Cubmaster of Pack 225, came through with the assistance of some fine scouts who were a great help in setting up and especially in assisting us in getting some of our older members situated.

As always, our “go-to guys” Brian Madden, Hal Dieterle and Fil Frank pitched in on the grill to feed the hungry mob. Carlo Gordano and Steve Scinta and many

others were also essential to the successful cookout. Our Auxiliary ladies saw that everything inside, from salads to desserts was world class! Of course, much credit is due to Past Commander Dennis Madden for his planning months in advance. It showed from start to finish on the day of the cookout.

We were graced by two of our elected officials who stopped by to say hello: State Senator Jim Gaughran came by to chat with many of the troops as well as our Huntington Receiver of Taxes, Jillian Guthman who is a proud member of our Auxiliary.

Many thanks to our generous hosts, St. Joseph Council Knights of Columbus, for the use of their facility again!



**Many thanks to our generous benefactors, Kevin Hearns of Crescent Packing for the donation of hot dogs and hamburgers and Paul Schweid of TMC Provisions, for the donation of product for our Annual Cookout.**

## Election of Officers for 2019-2020

Our post elected its official slate of officers for the Legion year 2019-2020 at our April 10 meeting.

Persian Gulf War Veteran Donna Boyle, who has been a post member since 2008 and our service officer for several years, was unanimously elected Post Commander.

The date marked only the third commander we have elected in the past fourteen years.

We wish all our elected and appointed officers a successful American Legion Year and thank them for devoting their time and efforts to our post.

### Post Officers for 2019-2020

Commander: Donna Boyle

1st Vice Commander: Carlo Giordano

2nd Vice Commander: Fred Tuccillo

Adjutant: Ken Carlson

Finance Officer: Bob Santo

Chaplain: Charlie Tritto

Judge Advocate: Phil Compton

Historian: Charlie Tritto

Sgt. at Arms: Charlie Armstrong

Service Officer: Michelle Martin

## American Legion Family College

### By Donna Boyle, Post Commander

I want to thank our post for sending me to the American Legion Family College held in Morrisville, NY.

I learned a lot of good information that will permit me to keep up this post's great tradition of caring for our members and community. If you are ever offered the opportunity to attend I would suggest you go.

A few of the topics covered were: leadership, the programs of the Sons of the American Legion and the programs of the American Legion Auxiliary. (The Auxiliary requests that everyone remember their name is not the "Ladies' Auxiliary.") Another topic that was stressed is marketing the Legion to younger members.

#### A few items that stood out are:

- **Dual is Cool.** The American Legion has a drive on to encourage everyone who qualifies to enroll in either

American Legion Family College of New York is a three-day immersion into the Legion's programs and structure, and issues facing the largest veterans' organization in the country.



American Legion Family College Class of 2019

the Sons or the Auxiliary. This is to increase the voting block that must be reported to Congress.

- Male spouses without "Sons" access currently have no way to become a member of the American Legion Family. A resolution is being developed to address this.

Currently females make up approximately 20% of the military and their male spouses should be welcomed into the family.

- Veterans of the current conflict have a different list of needs than those from prior conflicts. Recruitment of them must address these 4 F's, Fun, Fitness, Food and Family. The order of the F's does not appear to be critical.

*(Continued on page 6)*

## A Moment With Chaplain Charlie



### Matching Shoes

I've been volunteering at the Northport VA Medical Center shuttling veterans to and from their appointed clinics for several years now. This is one of their stories.

It was to be a routine pickup at primary care clinic 2F. A wheelchair was requested by the receptionist there. I took one from our Escort Services Office and made my way to the elevators.

Upon my arrival, I called out the name that was on my dispatch form. A middle-aged woman raised her hand. She was sitting with an elderly gentleman. He was rather small in physical stature, dressed a bit nicer than most of my charges that day; with pressed slacks, a clean white shirt, winter jacket and WWII baseball cap. His weathered face had seen its share of life. They were sitting next to each other as I wheeled the chair as close as possible to him to make his transition to it as easy as possible. "Your chair is here, Dad," she said. She helped him to his feet and eased him into the chair as I helped him from behind. As I placed his feet onto the foot rests of the wheelchair, I

noticed that he and I were wearing the same pair of VA issued shoes except that mine were laced and his had a Velcro closure. I mentioned it to him as I put my larger foot next to his for him to see. He told me that he had gotten his 40 years ago and they never seem wear out. I was speechless. When I gained my composure, I said, "That is a pretty long time for a pair of shoes to last."

My eyes met his daughter's. She smiled, the kind of smile that told me she had been through this kind of interchange with him before. "I see you served during WWII," I said, and thanked him for his service. "Oh, you are welcome," he said as we headed to the elevator. He was quiet, then said, "I had many adventures in the war...many adventures." Although I couldn't see his thoughts, I knew they were in a war-torn town in Europe, or an enemy-infested island in the Pacific. Then, he repeated, all in the same breath, "I had many adventures in the war and these shoes I got 40 years ago never wear out, never wear out." His daughter put her hand on his shoulder and kept staring straight ahead as we made our way to the exit....

*Chaplain Charlie Tritto*

## American Legion Family College

*(Continued from page 5)*

This is a brief account of how you would spend your time if you go. On Friday you check-in by 1 pm, receive an orientation, are assigned to a group, and attend two classes. You will eat dinner with your group and then attend two more classes and spend some time working on your group's challenge. A presentation of the group's solution to the entire student body will be done on Sunday before graduation. On Saturday, classes start at 8 am right after breakfast. You are in class until 6 pm. There is a networking reception at a local post from 7 to 9 pm. On Sunday you start the day at 8 am with a joint meeting and the various groups presenting their solutions to the challenges. Then you have graduation and checkout. It is a full weekend.



You will stay in a dorm room with two or three others. The rooms are basic and the beds are not the softest. There was plenty of hot water. Each room had a refrigerator and a microwave but no coffee pot. I suggest you bring a blanket. The one supplied is thin.



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## The Sons of The American Legion

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I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Angus Kennedy I am the new Sons commander. I have been with the American Legion Riders for the past 8 years and have many missions under my belt.

I am looking forward to the challenges that await me. I would also like to thank Tony Braccia for doing a stand up job the last few years. I just hope I can do as great of a

job as he did. In the next few weeks, I will be reaching out to each of you sons to explain a few new ideas I have for not only fundraising, but how we can help our own veterans in our post. At that time, I would like to know if you have any additional ideas. Let's try to make this a great year for the SAL - something that we can all be proud of. Thank you,

*Angus Kennedy*

**Commander, Sons of The American Legion**  
**angus.kennedy@cbre.com**

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## American Legion Riders

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This month, five of our American Legion Riders rode down to Washington D.C. to be part of the Rolling Thunder Freedom Ride. 2019 is the 30<sup>th</sup> year that the Freedom Ride took place. Tom, Brian, George, P.T. Tom and Bruce left Long Island to join up with approximately one million other motorcycle riders .

Yes, you heard that correctly. One million plus motorcycles riding together to bring attention to the freedoms we have today because of our veterans and the sacrifices they have made.

After 30 years, 2019 might be the last year for the ride. Think about a million motorcycles and the impact it brings into one State, one town. The sights and sounds of this run were amazing. Patriotism is in the air. You could feel it coming from every rider as well as from every person who came down to the area to support us.

Riders from all over our country came to Washington D.C. for this ride. On Friday evening, we had a candlelight ceremony at the Vietnam Wall in Washington, remembering all those we have lost. We start Sunday

morning early, and all the riders start lining up at Patriot Harley Davidson in Fairfax Va. After a ceremony and before the run, we start our ride to the Pentagon. Police escorted us and all roads were closed down for us to get through safely. When we arrived at the Pentagon, this year, there were so many motorcycle riders that all the parking lots at the Pentagon were not large enough. The roads around the Pentagon were also closed down and used for parking for the motorcycles. After a special fly over, the bikes left the Pentagon Lot and headed down and around D.C. and our monuments. Thousands of people lined the roads showing their support for our veterans.

The most impressive thing in all the years I have been going down to Washington D.C. for Rolling Thunder is the fact that, with such a large number of riders in very tight and limited areas I have never seen a fight, an argument, or anything like that.

Just a true brotherhood and a love for this country.

**Bruce Blanco, Director American Legion Riders**  
**Chapter 1244, Greenlawn New York**

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## American Legion Auxiliary

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Our unit has been busy this spring.

Our Poppy Drive was better than anticipated and raised much needed funds for our veterans and their families in need. I am looking forward to representing our Unit 1244 at the Department of New York Convention in Buffalo in July.

We hope that all of our American Legion Family members will support our Spaghetti and Meatball Dinner Fundraiser which are planning for this fall.

We are happy to welcome our newest member Ms. Patti Nardelli. Patti has long been a great supporter of our veterans – from sending care packages to the troops to organizing the annual breakfast for our local veterans at St. Hugh's parish hall. Thank you to all who have participated and continue to support your American Legion Auxiliary!

*Nicole Abbate*

**Co-President American Legion Auxiliary Unit 1244**

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## Memory Lane

We are often fortunate enough to help a veteran recall fond memories of his or her younger days. It is always a wonderful experience and one that we can all relate to!

Charlie Armstrong writes “ Maynard Posner is the grandfather of Max Posner who made a great flag retirement film about our flag retirement program. He introduced Charlie to his grandpa, Maynard Posner, 1st LT. U.S. Army, 71st Infantry Regiment, 42nd Division, who just turned 90 this year.

Maynard had been in the motor pool and asked if I would take him for a ride on his birthday. He really enjoyed it, and was noticing all the labels on the dash, said it ‘brought back a lot of memories. “

Below is the letter we received from Mr. Posner.



Maynard Posner in the CPL Bill, our 3/4 T Weapons Carrier, the same as Maynard drove back in the early 50's

May 11, 2019

Dear Charlie,

*Thank you so much for a wonderful morning I spent being driven in a WW II vehicle. It was a great experience, taking me back many years. To explain, as briefly as possible. In 1950, at the age of 20, I joined the 71<sup>st</sup> Infantry, NY National Guard for a 3 year enlistment as my choice to fulfill my military obligation. My first assignment was carrying 60mm mortar shells. After several years I was offered the opportunity to attend OCS. I took it, was commissioned and extended my enlistment. In 1958 I was appointed Battalion Motor Officer. This was my favorite assignment. As MO I had my own jeep with driver. Officers were not allowed to drive. However, I always managed it so that all my drivers were assigned. Since I was short a driver for my jeep I had to drive myself. I loved it!!!! A few days into our summer camp tour several of our jeeps were requisitioned by Post QM. We were given brand new 3/4 T vehicles. I ended up driving one, literally, right out of the factory. Almost zero mileage.*

*Being with you brought back all these memories. It was a great trip in more ways than one.*

*Please accept this check to help maintain the vehicle or whatever use the Post finds appropriate.*

*It was a pleasure meeting you and again Thank You!!!*

*Very truly yours,*

*Maynard*



## The Post Photo Album

There is always plenty going on in our post. Here are pictures of just some of our memorable events these past few very and very busy months.



Service at Calverton for Legionnaire Gil Harris May 30



Suffolk County Vet Appr, Breakfast. May 6



Legion Riders at Rolling Thunder May 24-27



Covanta Flag Day Ceremony June 14



Harborfields HS Veterans Appreciation June 7



Eagle Scout Court of Honor Troop 78, June 21



Flag Appreciation HHH Library, Melville, June 11



Law and Order Award SCAL Convention June 8



## Final Salute

Brian Bilyk

United States Navy

May 11, 2019



Joseph Abbondonelo

U. S. Army Air Forces

May 21, 2019



Guilford “Gil” Harris

United States Navy

May 26, 2019



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

## Flags for Vets

This marks the third year of Flag Day flag distribution at the Northport VA Medical Center by members of our post who also volunteer there. Hal Dieterle, Lance Pittman, and I distributed 120, 3'x5' American flags to the most seriously ill patients at the facility in honor of their service to our nation. Post member, fellow volunteer and flag distributor Charlie Messina was missed this year. Charlie passed away earlier this year, but his spirit was with us.

Each flag was folded and wrapped in a clear cellophane envelope with a sticker shown at right.

Patients in Dialysis, Chemotherapy, Radiation Oncology, Women’s Clinic, Physical and Occupational Therapy, OEF/OIF/OND, Prosthetics and In-Patient wards received the gifts. The look of surprise on their faces was invariably replaced by a smile as they offer us sincere thanks for their keepsake. This labor of love, along with the support we give our fellow veterans at the NVAMC through our Post’s Operation Enduring Care initiative, hopefully eases their pain in some small way, and lets them know that they are not forgotten. Looking forward to next year!

**Thank You For Your Service  
On Flag Day And Every Day!**



**From a Grateful Nation**

*Chaplain Charlie Tritto*

## Veterans Testimonial Project



Photo by Ron Rorie

**This year's honorees at The Veterans Testimonial Project Reception  
Elected officials presented proclamations to each veteran who participated.**

Veterans from all branches and war eras were honored at Half Hollow Hills Community Library on May 11th. The veterans, had all participated in the Veterans Testimonial Project. The project was the brainchild of Librarian Edna Susman.

Susman began the Half Hollow Hills Library's Veterans Testimonial Project five years ago, after attending a conference of librarians in Las Vegas. She learned of a compilation of veterans histories that the Library of Congress has been collecting since 2000.

Edna has collected the stories of 111 men and women, recording the interviews on a tripod-mounted video camera. The library shares the videos with the public unedited, via the library's website at [hhhlibrary.org/veterans](http://hhhlibrary.org/veterans). Each veteran who participates receives a copy of the video recording on DVD.

The Library of Congress has included Edna's interviews in DVD form in its Veterans History Project compilation of oral histories.

On display during this year's Veterans Testimonial Project Reception, were memorabilia and military uniforms dating back to World War I from collector, Victor Pepitone.

A number of your fellow veterans from Post 1244 have participated in the interviews and have found the process to be a positive one. Post 1244 has supported the project for several years, providing a color guard for the annual reception.



Photo by Ron Rorie

### Post 1244 Color Guard

Post 1244 members who have been interviewed are:

Joseph Abbondondelo (Deceased)

Ken Carlson

Filmore Frank

Carl Grasso

Alex Samuels

Bob Santo

**Veterans interested in taking part in  
this project should call Edna Susman at  
631-498-1260 to register.**

## The Commander's Corner



Thank you for the opportunity to lead this post. I did not expect to be selected as your Commander however I will give the position the respect it deserves.

I joined the US Army in 1978 about 4 months after graduation from high school. I joined to get the GI Bill so I could afford college. (After 12 years but I received a Bachelor of Engineering in Civil Engineering.)

I spent over 29 years in the US Army and Army reserve. I went to Basic Training at Fort Jackson, SC in a -ed unit. From there I went to Fort Sill OK, for MOS 82C, Field Artillery Surveyor. I was written up in the Fort Sill post paper when I graduated as the first female to be granted with the MOS. In fact in 1985 the Army decided that women were unable to perform in that MOS so I was told to reclassify. I chose to EST instead.

I joined the Army Reserve because 1 weekend a month and 2 weeks a year at E-5 pay seemed like a great

part time job while I was finishing collage. Things did not work quite as advertised. I was mobilized the 1st time the same month I graduated with my degree.

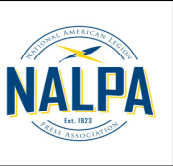
I served with the Field Artillery Board; Cold Regions Test Center; 411th EN BDE; Co B, 854 EN BN, where I was the 1st female TOP in the BN; 77th RSC; and retired in April 2007 as CSM from the 1st SEG, 1st BDE 78th DIV.

I am a Professional Engineer, licensed in 2 states, NY and PA. I retired from Nassau County DPW after about 30 years of service but found myself missing engineering. I found a part time position with LKB Consulting Engineers in Syosset.

Our post has accomplished much over the past 15 years. I am convinced that even better days are ahead of us. With your help and cooperation, we can continue our mission to serve the needs of our veterans and their families and fulfill our commitment to our community, state and nation.

Together we can make a difference!

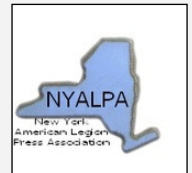
*Donna Boyle*



National American Legion Press Association's  
First Place Award 2018; Second Place Award 2019

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New York American Legion Press Association's Best Paper Award  
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Just send an email to: [Post 1244@verizon.net](mailto:Post1244@verizon.net) . We'll do the rest .

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*Contributing Writers: Nicole Abbate, Charlie Armstrong, Donna Boyle, Bruce Blanco, Angus Kennedy, and Charlie Tritto.*

*Photos by: Charlie Armstrong, Bob Santo, Ron Rorie, Charlie Tritto, American Legion Dept of NY*

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### Monthly Meetings

St. Joseph Council K of C 24 Boulevard Ave. Greenlawn. The 2nd Wednesday of each month at 8:00 pm  
New or potential members always welcome!



# OUR SUPPORTERS



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

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