



# The Greenlawn Bugle

American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244

September 2012

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◆ Winner of American Legion New York State Best Paper Award 2012

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## Upcoming Events

### Patriots Day Remembrance

**Ceremony.** Tuesday, September 11, 12:00 pm  
Heckscher Park .

### Harvest Festival.

NP VAMC  
Wednesday, September 19,  
11 am– 3 pm.

### Greenlawn Pickle Festival.

Membership Booth. Saturday,  
September 22, 11 am – 4 pm.

### Columbus Day Parade.

Sunday, October 7 12:00 pm.

### LI Fall Festival.

October 6-7—Heckscher Park Huntington.  
Post 1244 Membership Booth.

### Veterans Day Ceremony.

Saturday, Nov. 11, 11:00 am  
Greenlawn Memorial.

### Monthly Meetings:

Wednesday, Sept. 12, 8:00 pm  
Wednesday, Oct. 10. 8:00 pm  
Wednesday, Nov. 14. 8:00 pm

## Post 1244 Raffle Winner Rich Klein Claims Prize

On May 9th, 2012, I was lucky to have my ticket pulled for the American Legion Post 1244 Raffle. Our Commander, Bob Santo, dropped the Certificate off at my house which entitled me to a 30 minute flight which included “flying the airplane from the front cockpit”.



Photo by Ed O'Shea

### Rich Giving a Thumbs Up from the Front Cockpit

I then contacted “History Flight” which gives the flights and set up my flight for July 16th.

When my wife Linda and I arrived at Brookhaven Airport, Ed O'Shea and Charlie Armstrong were already there to give me moral support and take a few pictures to document the occasion. A young man brought me to the plane across the taxiway and instructed me how to get in the cockpit. A few minutes of instruction followed on donning the parachute and getting harnessed in.

Part of the instructions included opening and closing the canopy, raising and lowering of the landing gear and use of the radio to communicate with the pilot

and eavesdrop on the airport tower.

The pilot got in his position behind me and we got moving. He advised me that because of the plane configuration and me being in front he could not see directly in front of the plane. On the taxiway he weaved from side to side and he peered out of the cockpit to assure we had no one in front of us. We motored down the runway at 130 mph (Max. Airspeed is 240 mph).

When we were in the air I retracted the landing gear as instructed. We climbed and headed south over Smith Point and its beachgoers. The flight was noisy but beautiful. Over the Atlantic, I was given the controls.

My hands got a little sweaty but the longer I maneuvered the more I enjoyed it. The pilot took over the controls and asked if I wanted to experience any aerobatics. I almost said yes but declined. He then headed north over the airport, over Brookhaven Labs with its cyclotron. The view was impressive.

Just before Long Island Sound we started our return to the airport. After receiving the OK to land, the pilot lowered the gear, a precursor to a smooth landing.

At the terminal my fans were there to greet me warmly. It was a great experience.

My Bucket List never had piloting a plane on it but it's now listed and checked off. I hope some of you get the opportunity in the future for this” uplifting experience”.

*Rich Klein*

***Thanks, once again, to everyone who took part in our History Flight Fund Raiser. Your generosity has helped us to continue to thrive, grow and serve our veterans and community.***

**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**

## National Security

### **Crisis in the Koreas: Chilling Parallels Between 2012 and 1950**

By: Donald J. Farinacci

The killing by North Korea of 46 South Korean sailors in its March 2010 torpedo attack upon the Cheonan and four more South Koreans in its recent artillery attack upon Yeonpyeong Island, evokes a sense of *déjà vu* each time I speak in public about my book, “Truman and MacArthur, Adversaries for a Common Cause” (Merriam Press, April 2010). Some of the parallels between North Korea’s aggression of 1950 and the present time are striking.

#### **1. MOTIVATION:**

1950 – Kim Il-sung, the Soviet puppet dictator installed in North Korea by Stalin in 1945, was consumed by the desire to unite the two Koreas by force of arms. In 1949, he told his patron, Joseph Stalin, that he wanted to “touch the South with the point of a bayonet”.

2010 – North Korean dictator, Kim Jong-il, son of Kim Il-sung, is also publicly committed to reuniting the North and the South by force. His regime’s popular slogan is “Reunification is at the ends of our bayonets.”

2012 – New North Korean leader, Kim Jong-un, launched a multi-staged rocket that blew up less than two minutes into its flight.

#### **2. INTEREST IN AMERICA:**

1950 - In 1950, prior to North Korea’s invasion of South Korea, there was virtually no connection between the American psyche and Korea. In post-World War II America, politicians and public alike were almost exclusively concerned about the Soviet threat to Western Europe, the loss of China to the Communists, the development of the atomic bomb by the Russians, and alleged internal subversion by the American Communist Party and its “fellow-travelers”.

2012 – There is still relatively little connection between the Koreas and the American psyche. Today, the overwhelming foreign policy and national security concerns of Americans are Islamic Jihadism, including al Qaeda, the threat of Islamic terrorist attacks



Map of North Korea : Source CIA World Fact Book

upon the United States and the prospect of development by Iran of a nuclear weapon.

#### **3. MILITARISM:**

1950 - By the beginning of the Korean War, June 25, 1950, Kim Il-sung had consolidated his power in North Korea by the use of police power and fear; and had turned North Korea into a militaristic, totalitarian state.

2012 – North Korea is still a warlike and militaristic state governed by a hard-line Communist regime. But new leader, Kim Jong-un, is interested in lifting North Korea out of decades of poverty. Whether this will, in the future, bring about a thaw in the country’s hard-line attitudes is not known at the present time.

#### **4. ORIGINS OF HOSTILITIES:**

1950 – Kim Il-sung organized and supported a communist-dominated insurgency that started a guerilla war in South Korea in April 1948, more than two years before the actual invasion. Also, in the years leading up to the outbreak of full-scale war, North Korea made numerous aggressive incursions across the 38<sup>th</sup> parallel into the South; and multiple border skirmishes ensued.

2012 – Similarly, in recent years, Kim Jong-il incrementally escalated North Korea’s aggressions against

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Greenlawn Pickle Festival Set For Saturday, September 22nd

On September 22nd, from 11 to 4 pm, The John Gardner Farm at Park Ave. and Little Plains Road will once again be the scene of Hay Rides, Corn Mazes, Hot Dogs and most importantly, thousands of...

### PICKLES !!!

Recently, the **Greenlawn Centerport Historical Association** acquired the actual train from the old Lollipop Farm in Syosset. Many of us have fond but distant memories of this train from childhood. It will be on view at the Pickle Festival and the GCHA is working to restore this piece of local history.

So come on out and enjoy. Post 1244's "**CPL BILL**" 3/4 ton truck will be on display and post members will be on hand to sign up new members and tell the public about our American Legion Post.



Harborfields High School Volunteers Serving Up The Pickles

**The Greenlawn-Centerport  
Historical Association**  
Proudly Presents  
**The 33rd Annual Pickle Festival**

**Saturday  
Sept 22nd 2012**  
11-4 PM  
at  
**John Gardiner Farm**  
900 Park Avenue  
For More Information Call:  
754-1180

**FEATURING**

- Hand Held Pickles
- Specialty Pickles
- Popcorn
- T-Shirts
- Pickle Ornaments
- Pickle Pins
- Corn Maze
- Hay Rides
- Pickle Industry Display
- Potato Digging Demo
- Antique Cars & Trucks
- Produce
- Antiques
- Baked Goods
- Jarred Goods
- Hot Dogs
- Drinks
- Preczels
- Roasted Corn

Rain date  
Sunday Sept. 23rd  
Donation \$5.00  
Children under 12 Free

## BOYS' STATE 2012



This year was the 75<sup>th</sup> annual Boys' State in New York. More than 1,000 outstanding high school juniors were selected, and for the first time, Greenlawn Post 1244 sponsored 5 boys to attend

the week long program. We were able to do this due to the generous financial support we received from many local Greenlawn merchants.

Boys' State is a program of The American Legion, developed from the concept that youth should be offered a better perspective of the practical operation of government. It is a Leadership Action Program wherein qualified male high school juniors participate in a practical government course. The program is designed to develop in these young citizens a working knowledge of the structure of government and to impress upon them the fact that their government is only what 'They Make It'.

In addition to the many fine programs presented to the 'citizens', as the boys are referred to, there was a wide range of speakers, presenting many different topics:

- U.S. Congressman Richard Hanna urged the 'citizens' to "aim for the top" in education.

- Oneida County District Attorney Scott McNamara spoke about the importance of integrity, honesty, fairness, compassion, and doing the right thing in any situation.
- Holocaust survivor Helen Sperling spoke of her experience in the Holocaust and the importance of rising up against social injustice - "Thou shall not be a bystander".
- New York State Assemblywoman Claudia Tenney urged hard work and giving back.
- New York State Senator Joe Griffo advised everyone to be active in their community and their government.
- Boys' State alumnus Nick Longo told the 'citizens' that he learned at Boys' State that the most important part of a person is his integrity.

Dan Leary, one of the 'citizens' from Harborfields High School, participated in our Post meeting, on August 8<sup>th</sup>. He filled us in on his perspective of the program and thanked us for giving him the opportunity of attending Boys' State.

Brendan Fitzgerald sent us a note that stated that Boys' State gave him a better understanding of politics and how our government works, and how to work with strangers.

*(Continued on page 8)*

## National POW / MIA Recognition Day September 21, 2012

The American Legion is committed to achieving a full accounting of all POW/MIAs from the Gulf War, Vietnam War, Cold War, Korean War and World War II. This means returning living POWs, the repatriation of their remains, or finding convincing evidence why neither of these is possible.

The American Legion supports the continued declassification of all POW/MIA information, the strengthening of joint commissions with Russia, North Korea and China, and adequate resourcing of investigative efforts and field operations to resolve POW/MIA issues. The American Legion has also worked continuously with both Congress and DoD to improve the policies and programs for the accountability of missing persons. This includes urging the president and Congress to fully fund the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Office (DPMO) for its current and future mission of ensuring the accountability of U.S. service members. The American Legion will continue to speak out and exert maximum pressure on both the administration and on Congress to fully account for America's POW/MIAs.

For years, The American Legion supported a National POW/MIA Recognition Day, which is now recognized annually on the third Friday of September. This commemoration is set aside to honor the commitment and sacrifices made by this nation's prisoners of war and those who are still missing in action, as well as their families.

Until July 18, 1979, no commemoration was held to honor POW/MIAs. In the first year, Congress passed resolutions and the national ceremony was held at the National Cathedral in Washington. The 1st Tactical Squadron from Langley Air Force Base in Virginia flew the Missing Man formation. A poster was published by VA which contained only the letters POW/MIA. That continued until 1982, when a black and white drawing of a POW in captivity was used to show the urgency of the situation.

Every year, National POW/MIA Recognition Day legislation was introduced until 1985, when Congress determined that commemorative days would no longer be con-



sidered. The president now signs a proclamation each year.

The National League of Families proposed the third Friday of September as a commemoration date. Most of the National POW/MIA Recognition Day ceremonies have taken place at the Pentagon. Now, they're held throughout the nation and around the world on military installations, ships, schools, churches, etc. The focus is to ensure that America remembers its responsibility to stand behind those who serve it and to make sure that we do all that is possible to account for those who have not returned.

*Source: www.legion.org/pow/mia*

## September 16th Named "American Legion Day" in Town of Huntington

At a Town Board Meeting on August 14th, **Councilman Mark Mayoka** offered a resolution to designate September 16th of each year "American Legion Day" in the Town of Huntington. On that date in 1919, the American Legion was chartered by Congress as a wartime veterans organization, based on the four pillars of Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism and Children and Youth.

On September 12th at 2:00 pm, at Town Hall, a proclamation will be presented to the three American Legion Posts in the Town of Huntington at the monthly Town Board Meeting. Representatives of Greenlawn Post 1244, Huntington Post 360 and Northport Post 694 will be on hand to receive copies of the proclamation. All legion members are encouraged to attend. We thank **Councilman Mayoka** and the Town Board for this very special recognition.

## Crisis in Korea

(Continued from page 2)

the South. North Korea initiated a naval skirmish with the South in the Yellow Sea, near Yeonpyeong Island in 1999. It again engaged South Korea in a naval skirmish in 2002, killing at least four South Korean sailors. In 2006, it conducted an underground nuclear test, after an elaborate program of producing plutonium for nuclear weapons. Previously, it had shot down a South Korean airliner, killing all on board. In 2009, it fired missiles over the Sea of Japan. That same year, it conducted another nuclear test and declared the 1953 Korean War armistice invalid. In 2010, it put on display its modern, state-of-the-art uranium enrichment centrifuges; 2010 also saw attacks upon the South Korean naval vessel, the Cheonan, and upon Yeonpyeong Island. In 2012, North Korea launched a failed missile, but threatens to do so again.

### 5. ECONOMIC COMPARISONS:

1950 – South Korea had a largely agrarian economy, but the stark poverty from which the nation suffered under Japanese rule until August 1945 had been diminished significantly during its five years under U.S. influence. North Korea, on the other hand, was destitute and impoverished.

2012 – South Korea, with vast assistance and support from the United States, has become a thriving capitalistic nation with a robust economy. North Korea's economy is crippled by its xenophobia, isolationism and the vast expense of building a military state. Its people are still impoverished. It would like to solve its economic problems by reunifying the two Koreas under North Korean rule.

### 6. INFLUENCE OF COMMUNIST CHINA:

1950 – Although North Korea was a satellite of the So-

viet Union, China wished to protect North Korea as a vital buffer which would keep the U.S. and its allies away from China's borders; and to gain favor with the Soviet Union, in the hopes of securing its assistance in defeating Formosa (now Taiwan) and thereby unifying all of China under communist rule.

2012 – China's main interest is in maintaining the viability of North Korea as a nation to prevent its economic collapse. It is only by maintaining the stability of North Korea that China believes it will have the necessary buffer against U.S. troops stationed in South Korea. It believes such a buffer to be necessary to protect its borders and its position in the Yellow Sea, where China wishes to maintain a 200-mile offshore trade and shipping monopoly. China is, however, critical of North Korea's nuclear ambitions.

In summary, the disturbing parallels between the two Koreas then and now should dispel the notion that North Korea's steadily escalating provocations are designed merely to gain economic concessions from the South and diplomatic concessions from other world powers. The conditions which led to all-out war on the Korean peninsula in 1950 are still extant.

[www.donaldjfarinacci.com](http://www.donaldjfarinacci.com)

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**Donald J. Farinacci**, a Vietnam-Era Veteran, practicing attorney and Post 1244 Legionnaire is the author of the award-winning and critically acclaimed **"Truman and MacArthur, Adversaries for A Common Cause,"** (Merriam Press, 2010).

He is also the author of **"Last Full Measure of Devotion, A Tribute to America's Heroes of the Vietnam War"** (Authorhouse, 2007); and **"The Alle-magne Deception, A Novel of the Cold War"**(Navigator Books (June 22, 2011)

Don has a new book coming out soon: **"1961, Sliding Towards Armageddon"**, about the Berlin Crisis.

## New Members Recruited at Local Fireman's Fairs

Thanks to two of our local volunteer fire departments, we were able to connect with many veterans and potential new American Legion members at both of the recent Fireman's fairs in Huntington Manor and Greenlawn.

Despite a few rainy days and nights, the Huntington Manor fair, from July 17-25, gave us an opportunity to connect with many veterans and their families who came for the games, festivities and fireworks. As a result, we gained several new members and many new friends.

After marching in the Greenlawn Fireman's Fair Parade on August 30th, we again set up our membership booth on the Fire Department fairgrounds through Labor Day Monday. We recruited both new Legionnaires and Sons to our Post and got great exposure for our Post and its programs.

Many thanks to the Huntington Manor and Greenlawn Fire Departments for their hospitality and special thanks to those Post members who volunteered to man the booths and helped us add to our ranks!

## American Legion Auxiliary



The lazy days of summer, the hot and humid days, are coming to an end. Now we look forward to the fall, autumn leaves and beginning of a new Auxiliary year.

I am honored and privileged once again to have been elected as Greenlawn Auxiliary President for 2012/2013 and look forward with our Officers and members to a very successful year. A year filled with assisting men and women Veterans as well as participating in programs to help our service men, women and their families. All too often we forget to think about the family as a whole unit.

I am pleased to report that in June 2012 our Auxiliary made monetary donations to the Suffolk County Veterans Coalition and the Suffolk County United Veterans. This is possible because of our successful Fund Raiser/Dance this past March.

On September 4, 2012 Pat Dolan and I will attend the Fall Conference where we will have an opportunity to meet the New York Department President and her officers who

will discuss the various State Programs. One of the Programs this year is the Wounded Warrior Program and we have been asked to take an active roll in this program as we will.

We shall continue to push our drive for new members, for they are the future of our Auxiliary. If you know of any ladies who might be interested in joining our Auxiliary, please contact Fran Hubbs 631-423-1176. I would be very happy to talk with them concerning what we do as an Auxiliary.

Teri Fay, Vice President is still taking orders for the Flag of Honor and Flags of Heroes. If interested please call Teri at 631-757- 4247

Once again our Auxiliary looks forward to being part of Greenlawn Post 1244 and working with the Commander Bob Santo, Officers and members. We are only a phone call away if help is needed.

Let us remember to pray for our Veterans, their families and all the servicemen and women who put themselves in harms way so that we may live in Peace.

*Fran Hubbs, President*

## Missing In America Project



Chairman **John Caldarelli** has been named **Legionnaire of The Year** for the American Legion's 10th District (Nassau-Suffolk and Queens), in addition to receiving the Legionnaire of The Year title for both Suffolk County and Greenlawn Post 1244.

Our Post 1244 MIAP Chapter is currently engaged in the certification of what may turn out to be over one hundred abandoned veterans cremains. John and his team is working with a New York based crematorium which is holding a great number of abandoned remains, many of which are expected to be those of veterans and family members, eligible for inurnment in a National Cemetery.

Legionnaire **Ed Hayde** was recently named MIAP New York State Coordinator and, with the help of the National Missing In America team, is assisting John Caldarelli in the certification of these cremains. After initial identification, eligibility requirements must be met and certification for burial in a veterans cemetery obtained by the proper authority. MIAP uses Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in St. Louis as a clearinghouse for certification.

Our MIAP Team consists of Post 1244 Legionnaires Earle Emmons, Donna Boyle, David Schwartz, Charles Messina and Suffolk County Chaplain William Ness. Post 1244 Chaplain Allen Shaw was recently appointed to the position of New York State Chaplain of the Missing In America Project

Long Island National Cemetery has already agreed to handle the inurnment of these veterans when the certifications have been completed. We will be hearing more about this project in the coming months and look forward to seeing that these veterans finally receive the honors they deserve.

*Bob Santo*

## When you want to help

Many actions are signs that a Veteran needs help. Often when someone is having a crisis there are behaviors that indicate a possibility of harm.

When considering suicide the following are a few risk factors to watch for:



- Seeming sad or depressed
- Loss of interest, trouble sleeping and eating
- Feeling anxious, agitated, or unable to sleep
- Deteriorating physical appearance
- Withdrawing from friends, family, and society,
- Losing interest in hobbies, work, school
- Frequent and dramatic mood changes
- Expressing feelings of guilt or shame
- Talking about feeling trapped

Radical changes in behavior such as those listed should also be considered an indication of a problem:

- Performing poorly at work or school
- Acting recklessly or engaging in risky activities
- Showing violent behavior such as punching holes in walls,
- Acting as though one has a “death wish”
- Giving away prized possessions
- Putting affairs in order, tying up loose ends, and/or making out a will



If you are a Veteran or know a Veteran who is showing any of the above warning signs, **PLEASE** assist them in finding help by contacting the local VA or calling the Veterans Crisis Line.



## American Legion Riders



Hear the thunder! Listen to that roar! Communities across the country now hear their loved ones returning home from a mile away. Brother, it don't get better than that! Several American Legion Post 1244 American Legion Riders (ALR's) are Vietnam Vets who

clearly remember at the time of their service it was unpopular to be a soldier. Because of their "unwelcome home" and continued "anti-soldier" protests, today veterans have taken a stance.

Rather than be embittered by the experience these vets dug deep and responded with pro-active assurances - no veterans will ever be forgotten or disrespected for their service. Of the 230,000 national Patriot Guard Riders, thousands of members are Vietnam Vets who now assure the young men and women returning from these conflagrations return home with respect, honor and dignity. To instill pride and recognition to returning veterans all ALR members strategically acknowledge how much the country appreciates their sacrifices which keep freedom free.

Well, many Americans still question what makes us American Legion Riders ride through summer's heat at a moment's notice? Nothing, pure nothing.....other than that we ride for the love of God, Country and fellow Veterans. Words often are incapable of expressing a rider's mindset while experiencing nature's freedom as the force of the wind on your chest pounds rhythmic beats to that of a marching band! To be involved in ALR missions one experiences a sense of quiet completeness through natural healing and solace of mind, body and spirit.

Missions find riders attending and making our American Legion Rider presence known at a variety of venues such as parades, welcome home escorts, memorial escorts, flag lines, hospital and home visitations, and any invitation which requires veterans' assistance. We proudly ride

and 'show our colors' in support of missions which may have called on us to assemble to perhaps lend support, lift the spirit and serenely demonstrate to grieving families our endless love through unspoken words, and/or admiration and respect for veterans service through our exemplified band of strength and honor.

American Legion Riders (ALR's) are part of the community at-large and who unselfishly exert tremendous effort at events to benefit veterans and citizens. As uncertain as time truly is, ALR are pleased to provide an exemplary method for veterans and citizens to join in supporting a common cause which has positive and uplifting benefits for all.

Our most recent mission to North Shore Long Island Jewish Hospital was staged to make a morale-building *surprise* visitation to Dennis (Draco) Giunta, Post Vice Commander where he was receiving Open Heart pre-surgical care. Five experienced ALR's rumbled onto hospital grounds and easily found underground parking thanks to our stealth surveillance recon patrol efforts. In-step the riders marched to the hospital and quickly made their way to the 8<sup>th</sup> floor with complete anonymity. ALR's were prepared with strategic intentions to execute their plan with total and complete patient astonishment upon immediate entry.

As we burst into the room there sat Draco with his American Legion Cap and a grin from ear to ear. Surprise---not! It seems our best of plans were foiled upon the very moment of arrival.... not only did Draco hear 'the thunderous roar from our pipes', but he also had a 'birds-eye' window perfect recon of our every movement on the grounds! What a surprise! Tadaaaa! We enjoyed an hour of laughter supporting our Brother, and we wish Dennis a speedy recovery.

*Written by: Chris Argento, RD, CEC  
RVN 66-67 US Army 39<sup>th</sup> Combat Engrs.*

## Boys State 2012 (Continued from page 3)

He was taught skills he will be able to use in the future. "Boys' State was incredible and I will never forget it".

Alex LaFroscia, in his write-up, said Boys' State taught him three things overall: 1) Learn from other people's mistakes; 2) Make yourself outstanding; and, 3) If you want something, you have to go after it yourself.

"Boys' State was undoubtedly an amazing experience, and I'm extremely grateful for being able to attend. The power of that one week is unimaginable, as is the impact that it can have on a thousand boys' lives every year".

We would like to thank Dr. David Bennardo, the Principal of Harborfields High School, who has been very

helpful and supportive in our Boys' State selection process over the last few years. We wish him the best on his challenge as the new Superintendent of the South Huntington School District. We look forward to the opportunity of continuing our work and having the same relationship with Harborfields' new Principal, Dr. Rory Manning.

In January, Ed O'Shea and I look forward to starting the process over once again for the 2013, 76<sup>th</sup> annual, Boys' State program, and hope to add Walt Whitman High School to our selection process.

*Charlie Armstrong, Boys State Co-Chairman*





## Vice Commander's Call to Members

Many of you will not remember that it was not all that long ago that our beloved Greenlawn Post was just a small entity struggling to survive under the guidance of a very few dedicated older members. Several of those older guys are still here, playing their part in our efforts to draw new members to our ranks and to renew in them the pride they had in their military service. We owe a great deal to those "few" men, not the least of which is the late George Henry, who is the guy that invited both Bob Santo and me to our first meetings here.

Since then, our ranks have been "thinned" by the loss of some 40 members. We were only 81 members to begin with, barely a handful at each meeting. We have indeed, "come a long way, baby," and today we grow exponentially, thanks to the help of many "new and late model" members, bringing their love of country to any other veterans they come in contact with. Each of us is responsible to every veteran we meet to share what we

have found here in this Post. If not for membership here, then to another Post perhaps, but to the "brotherhood" that is the American Legion.

I was once "just a veteran". Not belonging to any group. Alone with my pride of service buried and otherwise long since forgotten. When I joined Albany Post 1, I thought I'd found it again, but I was wrong. It was not until George Henry invited me HERE, to THIS POST, that I was truly reconnected. If you share these feelings, won't you join us in "paying it forward"? You know you won't be disappointed with the results. **JUST ASK** is the catch phrase for membership. So, if you see someone wearing his or her veterans cap or shirt, **JUST ASK** what Post they belong to. Like a puzzle, the rest of the pieces will pretty much fall into place. See me if you need membership blanks and always have one with you. It doesn't really get any more difficult than that.



*Dennis Madden*

## Welcome New Members !

**Legionnaires:** Eric Amundsen (Active Duty), James Ditta, Kenneth Dolan, Gil Harris, Donald Knapfel, Omar Lima, James Pentecost, Robert Scheuerer (Active Duty), David Schombs.

**Sons of The American Legion:** Angus Kennedy

## The Mark Gajewsky Legion Toy Drive



Our annual effort for the Mark Gajewski Legion Toy Drive begins with our October meeting. Any unwrapped toy, \$20 or less, or any donation towards this effort will be received at our monthly meetings or they will be picked up, if necessary. All toys should be received by our Holiday meeting, on December 12th, our Holiday meeting.

Mark, one of our very own Post 1244 comrades, was the impetus for this toy drive. He died earlier this year and will be greatly missed by many. We promised his daughter, Crystal that we would continue this drive in his name. The Toy Drive has brought hope and joy to many impoverished families during the holidays each year.

The results have been measured by the joy and relief we are able to bring to these families and their children.

Please plan to contribute a toy for a boy or girl this year. As you can imagine, in these difficult economic times, the need is greater than ever.





## Commander's Corner

**Donating Wisely.** I have often been asked about the many charitable organizations that have sprung up in recent years, purporting to be assisting our active duty service members and veterans in need. If a charity is unfamiliar to you, it's wise to do some

checking first.

If you, as a service member, veteran, or family member, suspect wrongdoing by a charity, you should contact your state attorney general's office. If you believe you haven't been treated fairly by a charity, you can file a online complaint with the BBB Wise Giving Alliance at:

[www.bbb.org/us/charity](http://www.bbb.org/us/charity) or write: BBB Wise Giving Alliance, 4200 Wilson Blvd., Suite 800, Arlington, VA 22203 . Be as specific as possible.

If you want to donate money to help your fellow veterans or current service members, a good rule of thumb to go by is to donate to organizations that you know are legitimate and well-established. To check on how efficiently a

charity is using the money you donate , the charity Navigator site at:

provides information on large charitable organizations that take in at least \$500,000 per year and have existed for a minimum of five years. ([www.charitynavigator.org](http://www.charitynavigator.org))

Many charities alleging veteran support have been reported as being questionable for one or more of the following reasons: Holding massive asset reserves; Engaging in fraudulent fundraising; Using misleading sales practices; Spending an inordinate amount of donations on fund raising and administrative costs versus veteran support; Spending donations for non-veteran support purposes; Using non-veterans portraying themselves to be veterans in soliciting funds ; or not providing proper documentation to verify they provide veteran support or how they spend their income.

Some of the most prominent (due to the amount they spend on advertising) charities have come under suspicion recently.

Please continue to give, but please give where it will do the most good!

*Bob Santo*

Source: RAO Bulletin 01 Sept 2012

## Help us Stay In Touch with You



If you have E Mail service and are not receiving E Mails from us on a regular basis, we invite you to let us add you to our E Mail broadcast system. We will let you know of Post news of interest, activities and events you may wish to take part in. Our promise: no chain letters, political messages or jokes. Only **"The News You Can Use."** Just send us an e mail to: [Post1244@verizon.net](mailto:Post1244@verizon.net) (and we'll do the rest! )



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The Greenlawn Bugle is a quarterly publication of American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244, Inc.

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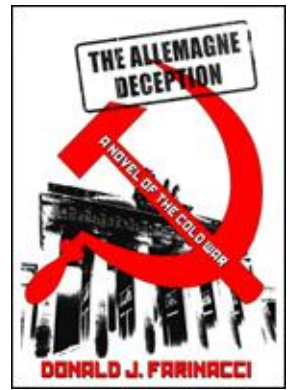
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