

June 2017

The Greenlawn Bugle

The Newsletter of American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244

Volume 11 Issue 2

Post Happenings

"Let's Take a Veteran Sailing" August 6

In partnership with Sail-Ahead, Post 1244 and Centerport Yacht Club. Veterans and guests will sail LI Sound. BBQ will follow, compliments of Centerport Yacht Club.

The event will promote awareness of PTSD and the high rate of suicide among veterans.

BBQ for Veterans and Families August 26

Northport VA Medical Center 11 am to 3 pm Sponsored by Suffolk Police Veterans Association

Greenlawn Fire Dept. Fireman's Fair and Parade August 31

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 8:00 pm The 2nd Wednesday of each month

Greenlawn Monument Refurbished

Memorial Day 2017 began, as it did in 2016, with unseasonably rainy weather. Once again, the Greenlawn Memorial Day Parade had to be cancelled at the last minute.

Fortunately, other plans had been made to make this a very memorable Memorial Day in the hamlet of Greenlawn. For on this day, we unveiled our newly refurbished Greenlawn Monument. The project was the combined effort of American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244, the Greenlawn Fire Department and the Town of Huntington.

The original World War I bronze plaque and the 1960 dedication plaque have been refinished to their original condition. In addition, four smaller plaques have been added to the sides of the monument, commemorating those who served in World War II, Korea, Vietnam and the current Global War on Terror, and a new, larger eagle, newly restored and painted.

The entire monument was moved several feet forward on the plaza so that visitors can now easily see all four sides, including the original WWI plaque.

The intermittent rain showers failed to dampen the spirit of this special day. Many members of the public including elected officials and local veterans filled the plaza for the unveiling and dedication. Following the dedication, The Greenlawn Fire Department Rifle Squad fired three volleys in memory of those who were lost in war. Hannah Bartfield from Harborfields High School played a heartrending "Taps."



A few days prior to the monument's unveiling, when the monument was returned to its position in the plaza, a Purple Heart medal was sealed into the base in honor of all those who were killed or wounded in all of America's conflicts. In addition, a National Defense Ribbon was included in honor of all who have worn our country's uniform in time of war.

The monument, was originally dedicated on July 4, 1931, as a memorial to those Greenlawn residents who fought in World War I as well as the American Revolution, Civil War and Spanish American War. Twenty two names of Greenlawn residents who served in World War I are inscribed on the monument. It originally stood in the

(Continued on page 2)

plaza opposite the Greenlawn Railroad Station. Some years later, it was moved to what is now the Greenlawn Memorial Park Tri-Village Little League field. The monument was rededicated in 1960 to "All Those Who Made the Supreme Sacrifice."

The landmark has been in its present location since 1996 at the corner of Pulaski Road and Broadway, Greenlawn, N.Y.

A special thanks to Art Stone for the restoration of the monument and its original plaques, Castle Collision for the beautiful restoration and painting of the eagle and the Greenlawn Civic Association for their support of this effort.

Thanks also to Deanne Rathke of the Greenlawn-Centerport Historical Association and Susan Matthews of Harborfields Public Library for their assistance in researching the history of the monument.



Legionnaire and Firefighter Al Stton with Commander Dennis Madden rendering a salute to our fallen brothers and sisters.



The Greenlawn Monument as it was first dedicated on July 4, 1931. It was originally located in the plaza opposite the Greenlawn Railroad Station. Photo is from a newspaper clipping in the archives of the Greenlawn-Centerport Historical Association.

Boys and Girls State 2017



2017 Boys and Girls State Supporters

Our Boys and Girls State program continues to grow - primarily due to the great support we continue to receive from local associations, business and community leaders, and local elected officials. A few years ago, we were able to send just two deserving students, this year it will be seventeen. The students are from Harborfields, Walt Whitman, Huntington and Commack high schools.

Hopefully, we will be able to continue this growth tradition and be in a position to include students from additional local high schools next year. We need your help and support to assure this success continues.

The following individuals, businesses and organizations make our Boys and Girls State program possible!

Charlie Armstrong

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

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 1244 American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244 American Legion Riders Post 1244 **ASA All State Abstract**

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American Legion Scholarships





Parents and Grandparents. You may be surprised to learn that the American Legion Family (Legion, Auxiliary, Sons and Riders) offers a number of scholarships and other resources to assist young people in their pursuit of higher education. There are opportunities for everyone, including relatives of wartime veterans and participants in Legion programs. For a summary of each scholarship and links to details and applications please see this link:

www.suffolkcountylegion.org/scholarships

American Legion Auxiliary



The Greenlawn Auxiliary has been busy this spring! For as much as we were able to accomplish this year, I am grateful for the tremendous amount of support we have received.



Jumah Wiggins the Comfort Dog Distributing Poppies

So, I hope you'll indulge me as I include many thanks throughout this update.

First off, the American Legion Auxiliary Greenlawn would like to thank everyone who came out and supported our Spring Craft Fair. We were able to raise almost \$3,000 in a single day for our veterans, their families and to support Auxiliary programs. I was very proud of our Junior members who were critical to the success of this event. They were amazing! We would also like to make a special thank you to the Greenlawn American Legion Riders, who provided some

"manpower" for this event. We would not have been able to do it without your support!

You may have also seen us distributing poppies around Memorial Day Weekend. I am proud to recognize Sandy Bohn and her husband, who together raised \$570 at their local Stop & Shop. The Auxiliary would also like to thank the congregation of St. Francis of Assisi for their generous contributions. As usual, some of the Riders were there to support our efforts. We had some great help from the grandkids of Mary Walker and Laura Ramondetta who provided much enthusiastic support.

We also had another special helper. Jumah Wiggins, a comfort dog for NYC schools, who volunteered some of his time to diligently hold a basket of poppies. We certainly hope to see him at future events!

We hope that those of you that attended the Post BBQ enjoyed the 50/50 raffle and the prizes. Your participation was very generous and we appreciate your support. Another special thanks to Nicole & Sal Abbate who donated the handmade bird house, Sandy Bohn who donated the patriotic jewelry, and the Post for letting us hold these raffles.

Last but not least, I want to thank the members of the Greenlawn Auxiliary. It has been a year now that I've been president and I pushed these ladies hard. I asked a lot of them all year, plus no winter months off! They'll be getting a well-deserved break July & August but we'll be back in full swing come September. We hope to see some new faces so if you're interested in seeing how you can participate, please feel free to email us anytime this summer.

Shannon King Auxiliary Unit 1244 President ALA1244Greenlawn@gmail.com

Memorial Day Cookout



The weather system that washed out the morning's parade continued to threaten us the rest of Memorial Day. Fortunately, we had the use of the K of C hall indoors as well as the back yard (thank you Knights!)

Considering the weather, we had a great turnout of

about 80 members and guests. The food was great and the company was the best! Grillmasters Rich Russano and Fil Frank kept the hot dogs and burgers coming. Delicious salads and desserts prepared by the ladies insured that no one went home hungry.

Thanks to all who helped set up and break down.

Special thanks to **Kevin Connelly** at Crescent Packing and **Kevin Bolowsky** at Manor Provisions for their generous donation of meats, salads and fixins'!

The Greenlawn Bugle is a quarterly publication of American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244, Inc. For information on how you can support the Greenlawn Bugle and our Post, please contact Past Commander Bob Santo at 516-458-7881

Missing In America Project

Missing In America Project, Greenlawn Post 1244 regularly conducts honors and commitment ceremonies for New York City Veterans who have died with no known next of kin to receive their remains. This is done with the cooperation of the New York City Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs and the support of Dignity Memorial Funeral Homes.

Our Post 1244 American Legion Riders chapter provides a flag line and frequently a motorcycle escort for the remains from the funeral home to Calverton National Cemetery.

Following are the names of three Veterans who were interred at Calverton National Cemetery under our auspices in the past three months:

April 13, 2017 Humphry Hill United States Navy

April 13, 2017 Robert Frank Herr United States Marines

April 27, 2017 John L. Snipes United States Air Force

May 11, 2017 Keith Anderson United States Army



Ken Carlson Post 1244 Adjutant and MIAP Team Leader conducts MIAP service for Keith Anderson, U.S. Army

Newly Elected Post Officers for 2017-2018

Our newly elected officers for the Legion year 2016-2017 were sworn on in by the Suffolk County team at our May 10th meeting. Past County Commander Paul DeVaul, who has not missed a Greenlawn Officers Installation in recent memory, led the team.

Our newly elected officers are:

Dennis Madden - Commander
Rich Russano - 1st Vice Commander
Carlo Giordano - 2nd Vice Commander
Bob Santo - Finance Officer and Historian
Sean Lyons - Service Officer
Ken Carlson - Adjutant
Mike Williams - Chaplain
Charlie Armstrong - Sgt. at Arms
Phil Ludwig - Judge Advocate



Ed O'Shea, who has been our Adjutant for the past nine years is relinquishing that post to Ken Carlson. Ed will continue to work as Co-Chairman of our very successful Boys and Girls State Program.

Ed was presented with a plaque in appreciation of his service as Post Adjutant by Post Commander Dennis Madden.

American Legion Riders

A Special Day to Remember a Special Man

Late last year we lost one of the pillars of our American Legion Post,
Dennis Giunta. Dennis was not only an integral part of the small group of Veterans who came together in 2005 to revitalize the Greenlawn Post; he was also the founder of our American Legion Riders Chapter, seeing it through it's beginnings as well as its growing pains.

On June 1st, Dennis' Birthday, our American Legion Riders honored Dennis in their own, very special way. The day went like this according to Riders President Bruce Blanco:

"June 1st is Dennis's birthday. After
Dennis's funeral, I promised Joanna
(Dennis' wife) on his birthday we would take her for a ride for Dennis. We started the morning at approximately 9:00 am - waking up her neighborhood.



Dennis' Engraved Brick at The Wall of Wars

We gave her the choice of riding on a bike or in the Slingshot. Jopanna took the Slingshot. The ride started with a visit to the Cemetery, We all gathered and Chaplain Mike Williams started us off with a prayer. A lot of stories and memories followed. From there we took a ride to the Northport V.A. Wall of Wars in the Vietnam Memorial Garden. We showed Joanna the stone we had inscribed for Dennis near the Vietnam wall.

The ride continued with Billy Bartasek leading the way through the North Shore's back roads to "who knows where."

But we ended up finding civilization and completed our day with a nice meal. A Perfect Day for Remembrance.



Long Swamp Cemetery's Unsung Heroes

Barely visible from heavily trafficked Jericho Turnpike in Huntington Station, is a small cemetery officially known as "Long Swamp Cemetery." Almost six years ago, then Post Bob Commander Santo discovered the overgrown and neglected plot of land on Barker's Lane, where three Revolutionary War heroes as well as dozens of other early Huntington residents are buried.

Most of the gravestones had been turned over and broken and the graveyard was littered with beer cans, food wrappers and other debris left behind by unthinking vandals.

In March of 2012, volunteers from Post 1244 and other interested citizens launched a day to clean up the neglected grounds of branches, weeds and the thick brush encroaching on the gravesites. The Town of Huntington began to mow the grass more frequently.





Ed and Debbie Hayde. Keepers of the Long Swamp Cemetery

Two members of our Legion Family, Ed and Debbie Hayde, both very able and dedicated gardeners have since made beautifying the Long Swamp Cemetery their ongoing mission.

Not long after our first cleanup, Ed constructed a flag sign from fence pickets which left no doubt as to who was keeping an eye on the cemetery, (see photo at left). Since that time, Ed and Deb have added shade tolerant plantings such as hosta, azalea and rhododendron to the Flag Garden and have started a second garden nearby.

Long Swamp Cemetery is located on Barker's Lane south of Jericho Tpke. in Huntington Station.

Stop by when you are in the neighborhood. You may see Ed and Debbie hard at work.

Operation Paperback



Under the direction of Legionnaire Donna Boyle, our Post has been partnering with **Operation Paperback**, sending hundreds of books to active duty military around the world since April, 2012.

Operation Paperback is a non-profit organization that collects gently used paperback books nationwide and sends them to American troops overseas, as well as veterans and military families here at home. Since 1999, they have shipped over 1.9 million books to locations around the globe.

We will accept paperbacks, as long as they are in good condition, at any of our meeting nights. If you are unable to bring them to one of our meetings, please let us know and we will make arrangements to pick them up or receive them from you at another time.

Many thanks to Donna and Joe for all their efforts!

Contact Donna at 39DPIP@Gmail.com for more information

SailAhead Report

The SailAhead Racing Team



SailAhead's mission is threefold:

- 1) To use sailing and the ocean as a therapeutic platform to help heal PTSD suffering veterans.
- 2) To spread awareness of PTSD and Veteran Suicide
- 3) To honor and remember Our Mates.

To achieve this goal SailAhead has established six teams. Today's focus is on one of these teams, the Sail-Ahead Race Team which is led by Capt (Ret) Francis Racioppi.

Francis (Fran) Racioppi is a 13 year 10th Special Forces Army Ranger Veteran who spent 2 years in Africa and did 3 tours in Iraq.



SailAhead Race Team on the Hoonigan in the Block Island Race

Since Fran first joined SailAhead a year ago, he has believed in its purpose and its mission, so much so that Fran has built the SailAhead Race Team from almost scratch and naturally became its leader. Today the team is made up of 30+ members, most of whom are veterans.

The purpose of this team is to expose veterans to the world of sailboat racing around our island while helping to heal veterans who are suffering from PTSD. This exposure allows SailAhead to spread awareness of PTSD and Veteran Suicide among the racing community in the New York and Connecticut area. Most of the races are organized by local yacht clubs.

Since the beginning of this season, SailAhead has already participated in the following race events:

Block Island Race – Hosted by the Stamford Yacht Club – this is a 180 miles race is round trip from Stamford all the way around Block Island, RI.

City Island Races – Hosted by City Island Yacht Club – this is a series of short races near the Bronx held over many weekends.

Edlu Race – Hosted by the Larchmont Yacht Club – this is a 30 nautical mile race that starts in Larchmont and goes near Huntington and back to Larchmont. What was interesting about this race is that it took place during a Nor-Easter ... that made things interesting... the veterans and the boat were tested to their limits!

Gotham Race – Hosted by the Great Kills Yacht Club in Staten Island – this is a 2 day race that takes place in the New York Harbor.

Classic Race – Hosted by Oakcliff Sailing Center – this is a many weekend race on Classic (old wooden) boats

For each of these races, SailAhead has had the opportunity to present itself, its mission and its Mates to the members of the Yacht Clubs.

Benefits to Veterans of Competitive Racing

Team leader Fran Racioppi believes that when discussing the difficulty some service members experience transitioning from the military to civilian life, there is just not enough emphasis put on the one thing we miss the most: Teamwork. It is hard to find the equivalent in the civilian world of the mission oriented team experience we all had in the service.

In the military we trained together, planned together, deployed together and conducted missions together. It was always as a team.

Competitive sailing brings to life, again, that competitive, team spirit we once knew so well. We are always striving to be competitive, seeking proficiency in what we do, as well as always looking out for our teammates.

Our SailAhead racing team is a work in progress. Training to work together in all kinds of conditions takes dedication and hard work. We are building a team for the long haul. It will take some time, but we are willing to do whatever is necessary to get there.

Post Everlasting



Law and Order

At our March 8th meeting, Post 1244 was honored to present our Law and Order Award to two police officers and a dispatcher from the Northport Police Department. Officers Devin Humphreys and Stephen Golub responded to a 911 call of an active maternity at a home in Northport Village. The baby had been born on the bathroom floor and was not breathing. Dispatcher Dana Gunther began giving instructions to the male caller in an attempt to revive the baby.

When the officers arrived, they found the mother sitting on the floor with the baby in her arms. The umbilical cord was still attached and the child was unconscious and turning dark blue. They discovered that the child's airway was completely obstructed. Officer Humphreys attempted to clear the airway with her fingers without success. Using an eye dropper, she was able to remove fluid from the child's nose, mouth and throat. After several moments, the child began to cough, breath and cry.



L-R: Bill Ricca Northport Chief of Police; PSD Dana Gunther; PO Devin Humphreys; PO Steven Golub; Post Cmdr. Dennis Madden and Vice Cmdr. and Law and Order Chairman Carlo Giordano

Upon the arrival of Northport FD Rescue Squad, the baby was given advanced medical care. Both mother and child were transferred to Huntington Hospital to make a full recovery.

A great job by our first responders!

Congratulations!



Congratulations to Legionnaire Joe DeSomma on the birth of his grandson.

Milo Rino Pisciotta was born to Tom and Danielle Pisciotta on March 19, 2017

Gino weighed in at 9 lbs and 3 ounce as he entered the world!

Welcome to the world little Gino. Wishing you a lifetime of happiness, laughter and joy.

Congratulations to Sal and Nicole Abbate on the birth of their son Gino. He was born on April 11th and arrived at 7 lbs, 2 oz.

Dad Sal is a Son of The American Legion and A.L. Rider and Mom Nicole is an Auxiliary member. He will join his sister Christiana in the Abbate family.

Proud grandparents are Bruce and Donna Blanco. Bruce is also a Son as well as President of our American Legion Riders Chapter.





Congratulations Commander Dennis Madden on receiving the Golden Achievement Award for 50 continuous years of service to the trucking industry from the American Truck Historical Society, based in Sound Beach.

Dennis is only the fourth member to be so honored on Long Island by the national organization.

Congratulations to new Eagle Scout Collin Patrick Ruggeberg of Huntington Troop 78.

Collin was among several new troop 78 Eagle Scouts to be honored.

Collin was presented a Certificate of recognition by Vice Commander Carlo Giordano at the troop's March 30th meeting at St. Patrick's Church.



Vice Commander's Call to Members

Congratulations to all members of our Post for exceeding 100% membership for 2017.

At the recent Suffolk County American Legion annual meeting we were presented a handsome plaque acknowledging this achievement.

There are 47 Posts in Suffolk. Only 25% of all Posts were at 100% and we were, by far, the largest Post to hit this milestone AND we did it by December, 2016!!

The new Legion Year begins July 1st and I hope each of you will renew for 2018 in the same expedi-

tious manner, thus enabling us to reach the 100% mark



Receiving our 100% award on June 3rd

once again.

The other significant news is our recruiting 7 new members during the year which offsets the untimely passing of several members and allows us to continue growing as a Post. Recruiting new members is a task for each of us so we have the manpower to continue the outstanding works of our Post.

As to the future, at two recent High School events in our realm, it was heartwarming and encouraging that more than a dozen upperclassmen/ women have opted for ROTC or immediate entrance into the military...

HOO-RAH!!

Richard Russano

Welcome To Our Newest American Legion Members!

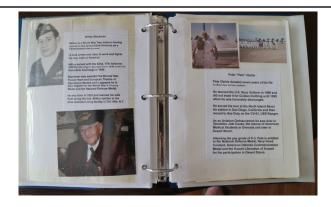
American Legion:

Eugene Castelli Robert W. Moreback Frank Tuccillo Sons of The American Legion: Paul Shields

Pride In Service Album

One of the lasting legacies of our late chaplain Allen Shaw was his "Pride In Service Album." Al was an amateur photographer with an eye toward history. He created this album ten years ago to preserve a record of all his fellow Post 1244 Legionnaires.

He realized that there was little or no record of our predecessors and wanted to do something about that. All legionnaires are encouraged to submit a photo as they were back in their military days as well as a current picture, a short bio about your time in service. A note about your subsequent life would be appreciated. Recently, Chaplain Mike Williams reorganized the album into a new, more attractive book. We will be



bringing the Pride and Service album to each meeting.

Please consider providing a record of yourself so you can be remembered by those who come afterward.

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THE COMMANDER'S CORNER



Here we are at the brink of yet another American Legion fiscal year; 2018. Hard to believe that another has flown by but the year is gone and duly recorded. How did we do, you ask? Well, we have come from next to last in the County to the # 4 Post in terms of membership and closer to the top for "active" Posts. WE are no longer "the Bowling Post"!

Legionnaires, we are a breath away from becoming the #3 largest Post in Suffolk County and with just a little help from each of you we can do this in short order. Surely, each of us knows a vet who just might join if he was invited to come and sit in one night or three. Anyone who has, almost to the man, has decided to stay on with us. Once we can make our case as to who we are and what it is that we offer and do for veterans, they will see the need to help us share that word with our brothers and sisters.

Please, carry an application with you and engage a stranger in conversation about our Post; it could well lead to our next new member. It has happened many times already. Many times, that vet is just waiting to be invited to a Post, not knowing themselves how to penetrate that veil of brotherhood to which they would like to belong. Help them out by reaching out to them, for us!

While the weather is with us, please follow our Post calendar online and come out to join us for those events that fit your schedule. We can use the assistance and the comradeship as we go about the Post's business. I guarantee it'll be painless or the next event is absolutely "FREE."

If you haven't already done so, get yourself a Post decal and display it proudly on the lower left corner of your rear windshield. The fact that you belong to our Post is a benefit not afforded to all veterans, but you have chosen to secure membership for yourself. It may also, help another unattached vet get over the hump and make a decision to join, BUT the decal has saved at least one of us from a ticket;...because he is a vet. Take advantage.

Thank you all for your service to our country, troops. We are the 1% that chose to "write that check" to our government when she called. Hold your heads high because you did and now you even belong to Post 1244! What a bonus!

Dennis Madden

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: 516-523-9391 or Email: Dam9245@optonline.net



If you have E Mail service and are not receiving Our weekly **E Bulletin** from us, we invite you to let us add you to our list. We will let you know of Post 1244 news of interest, and activities and events you may wish to take part in. *No chain letters, political messages or jokes*. Only "*The News You Can Use.*" *And you can unsubscribe at any time!* Just send an e mail to: Post1244@verizon.net. We'll do the rest.



Post Decals Are Now Available

Show 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 at our monthly meetings or just e mail us at Post1244@verizon.net to order yours.



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Best Wishes Thank you for your service

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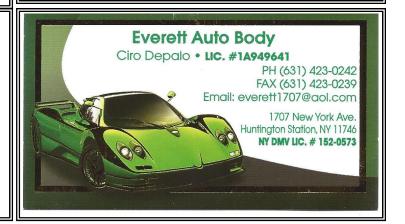
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