

# The Greenlawn Bugle ♦ Post 1244

August 2008

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## Upcoming Events

- Thursday, August 28th/  
**Greenlawn Fireman's Fair**  
Parade
- Sunday, September 7/ Post  
Labor Day Cookout
- Wednesday, September 10/  
Monthly Meeting/ Presenta-  
tion by Suffolk County Veter-  
ans Office of Veterans Affairs
- Wednesday, October 8/  
Monthly Meeting
- Tuesday, November 11/  
Veterans Day Ceremony,  
Greenlawn Memorial

Visit Our Web Site for More Details  
[www.Post1244.org](http://www.Post1244.org)

## "POST 1244 YOUTH AND EDUCATION "



### By Bob Santo, Commander

Two of the main objectives of the American Legion are Fostering Americanism and Mentoring Youth. We are proud to be able to promote both objectives through programs with the local area schools.

♦ On May 22, Commander Santo and Public Affairs Officer Allen Shaw attended the Harborfields High School Senior Awards Ceremony. It was heartwarming to see the quality of students graduating.

Commander Santo was proud to personally present the American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244 Award for Excellence in American Government Studies of \$250 to **Miss Chelsea Weiner**.

Chelsea is National Honor Society Presi-

dent at Harborfields and is active in many school and community groups.

We also awarded this prize to **Eugene Cunningham**, a student at St. Pius V School in Melville. Eugene has the highest average in American Government in his class and has a 99% average overall.



♦ The subject of the POST Annual Essay Contest this year was: **"The Bill of Rights and What it Means to Me."**

Our POST volunteer judges reviewed the 18 entries from Harborfields HS, and 4 from St. Pius V and selected the following:

### "Certificates Awarded"

#### HARBORFIELDS

1st Prize Stephen Phillips

2nd Prize Lauren Renner

3rd Prize Courtney Weber

#### ST. PIUS V

1st Prize Michael Campbell

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## "Bugle" Wins NY American Legion Press Association Award

I am very excited and honored to announce that our "Greenlawn Bugle" has won 1st Place in the New York American Legion Press Association 2008 Contest for Best Paper.

Every member of our Post shares this honor-it is your support and participation that allows the publication of such wonderful experiences.

Special thanks to Commander Santo, Vice Commander Madden and Legislator Steve Stern for their support; and to Allen Shaw, our post photographer and contributing writer!

Please enjoy this edition and keep the stories coming...**WE LOVE THEM!**



## Vice Commander's Call to Members

I am happy to report that the 2009 membership dues seems to be coming in with unusual regularity, compared to prior years, **thank you!**

I really do appreciate your diligence in this regard. This is a very rewarding, but time consuming job. Whether it is one member or 30, all the steps need be accomplished.

As you know, our new year starts on July 1st and runs through June 30th the following year. All dues are DUE

with the first mailing you receive in early July. Your prompt remittance helps us at every level to get the job done without much fanfare.

If you haven't already sent yours, please DO - the next time you sit down with your checkbook make it happen. Thanks in advance for that.

While our membership continues to rise, we still need **YOUR** help. The Board can't do it all, guys. I'm sure you all know a vet or two who

would enjoy our company.

If you've been thinking of mentioning the Legion to someone, now is a good time. If you find it difficult, tell **ME** and I'll do the work. Your name will help break the ice.

Thanks for that in advance, too. ***See you at the next Post event.***

*Dennis*



Vice Commander Dennis Madden

## “ POST YOUTH AND EDUCATION” (continued from page 1)



### OUR POST 1244 JUDGES

- Bugle Editor, Allen Schwartz
- Public Affairs Chairman and Historian, Allen Shaw
- Past Commander and Service Officer, George Henry

Our two 1st prize winners were also independently selected as first prize winners by the Suf-

folk County American Legion.

**Stephen Phillips** of Harborfields was on hand to read his essay to the Legionnaires assembled in convention on Saturday June 7.

***“We are very proud of the accomplishments of our youth.***

***Our thanks to all the students and faculty who participated in this year's programs.”***

## Veterans Health Care Enrollment Event

On July 9<sup>th</sup>, on our regular meeting night, we were visited by the Community Relations Team from the Veterans Affairs Medical Center at Northport to conduct a Veterans Health Care Enrollment Event.

Marge O'Malley, Community Relations Coordinator and her staff, Gene Brady and Stacy Harris explained VA medical benefits and programs to our members. They enrolled veterans for their benefits, updated already enrolled Veterans, took new ID card photos and issued or replaced old VA ID cards.

**We thank the team for coming by and assisting our veterans!**





Post 1244 Service Officer

It's always a pleasure when I can share with my fellow Veterans progress on the service benefits front. Please take a few minutes to see what is happening.

**"Veterans and service members should always contact the appropriate benefit service administrator to confirm their eligibility. Please contact our Post if we can be of any assistance."**

*George*

## Listen Veteran by George Henry

### Summary Updates For Your Benefit

- **VA is putting mobile pharmacies on the road to provide critical medications when disaster strikes. This will insure that Veterans receive their medications as soon as possible in an emergency.**
- **The Department of Defense has announced that it plans to remove Social Security numbers from all military identification cards by the end of 2010. This change will help prevent identity theft.**
- **Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Dr. James B. Peake, has announced the creation of a Veterans Employment Coordination Service to oversee the department's program to recruit new Veterans into the VA workforce. The new office will work with military transition programs, Veterans service organizations and other VA programs to promote careers in the VA workforce.**
- **The Department of Veterans Affairs and The U.S. Housing and Urban Development Agencies announced they will provide housing for an estimated 10,000 homeless Veterans.**
- **The House and Senate approved legislation that would increase the VA's 2009 budget by \$3.2 billion more than what the administration offered. It would set the VA's total budget at \$93.6 billion, a \$5.2 billion increase from this year.**
- **The VA announced in February that its plan to open 23 new Vet Centers by February 2009, is ahead of schedule. Some 15 are already open, 5 are up in temporary locations, and 3 will open later this year.**

## Post Activities Bulletin Board—Are you POSTED?



## COMMANDER'S CORNER

Greenlawn Post 1244  
Suffolk County, New York  
Post Meetings: 2nd Wednesday of the month, 8:00pm  
Knights of Columbus Hall, 24 Boulevard Avenue

Phone: 631-673-8704  
Email: Post1244@Verizon.net



Bob Santo , Commander

### New and Exciting News on our Web Site

- Councilwomen Susan Berland honors Post with Proclamation at Huntington Town Council Meeting on Bugle Press Award.
- POST awards Mrs. Julia Labuskes Special Certificate of Recognition for her Nation's Flag Awareness School Program.

[www.Post1244.org](http://www.Post1244.org)

## 'FOUNDED IN 1943 AND HONORED BY PEOPLE WHO CARE'

On a recent Sunday afternoon, I decided to drop in on one of my favorite local haunts, the American Airpower Museum at Republic Airport in Farmingdale. I was saddened, but not surprised to see no more than a half dozen visitors roaming about the relics and interesting displays of our involvement in WW II, Korea and Vietnam.

Why was this unique museum so empty? Volunteer historians stood ready to show visitors around, answer questions and provide interesting takes on military history. Have we become so uninterested in the past? Can we expect our children to understand the present when they have so little understanding of the sacrifices of our countrymen? A survey of seniors at the nation's top 55 universities revealed that four out of five were ignorant of even the most basic elements of American history. Students at these elite institutions -- where tuition can run as high as \$30,000 a year -- can go through four years of classes and graduate without taking even one history course.

American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244 takes seriously our responsibility to help to educate our young people. That is why we put so much emphasis on supporting the efforts of our schools and teachers to provide our children with an understanding of who we are as a people and what experiences have shaped us as a nation. Our scholarships and essay contests for high school students and flag education program for elementary students are a part of this effort. Going forward, we will do more. All of us, as parents and grandparents, must do our part as well—THANK YOU MEMBERS!

Our Founding Father's believed "Freedom is not free," and understood, as Samuel Webster said, "A wise, a knowing and a learned people are the least likely of any in the world to be enslaved."

## Special Guest Visits INDY



We were married on April 21, 1968. On April 28, Allen shipped out for a ten-month "cruise" to the Mediterranean. He was a First Class Petty Officer in charge of the Naval Tactical Data Systems of the 6th Fleet flagship, USS Independence.

The country was still embroiled in the Vietnam War, so most people had little sympathy for me since my husband of one week was in a non-combat zone.

## “ I REMEMBER...” sharing some personal moments

The loneliness was unbearable at times as was the uncertainty of his safety.

I sent mail every day, either a card or letter. Mail delivery on the ship was intermittent, so when mail call came, "Schwartz" was the big recipient. Allen said the other guys were always jealous.

When the ship returned to Norfolk, I went to meet it. With the experienced guidance of a Chief Petty Officer's wife, we sped onto the grounds of the naval pier, just in time to see the docking maneuvers.

Heart pounding, I looked up with great anticipation, only to see **5,000 MEN IN DRESS WHITES STANDING AT EASE ON THE FLIGHT DECK!!!!**

I began to cry and asked my companion, "How can you ever find someone here?". As I strained to pick out anything familiar in the crowd, **I suddenly saw, on the top deck, a sailor with binoculars.....**

We celebrated our 40th anniversary this year!

**My name is Leona Schwartz, as seen in the picture on the left. I wrote and approve of this article!**