



THE GREENLAWN BUGLE

American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244

March 2015

Volume 9 Issue 1

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Coming Events

- March 26
Oldfield Middle School
Dinner and Concert 6 pm
- April 17
Veterans Stand Down
Northport VAMC
9 am - 2 pm
- May 11
Veterans Breakfast
Larkfield Manor
8:30 am
- May 25 Memorial Day
9 am Parade / 2 pm Cookout
- Monthly Meetings
8:00 pm
St. Joseph Council K of C
2nd Wednesday
of each month

The American Legion. 96 Years and Still Serving

A Message from The American Legion.

Over the years, many historians, writers and speakers have told the story of The American Legion's founding – but few recall it as eloquently as legendary commentator Paul Harvey did during our organization's National Convention 50 years ago.

"What is the big idea of The American Legion?" Harvey asked. "What is the star we steer by? What is the "stick-um" that's held three generations of warriors together, consecrated, dedicated, uncontaminated?"

A veteran of the Army Air Force, Harvey said the Legion's "big idea" was found in the first four word of the organization's Constitution – "For God and Country."

"This was never meant to be the story of young Teddy Roosevelt or Warren Grim or Bennett Clark or Wild Bill Donovan," Harvey said of the Legion's founders.

"This is the story of something worth dying for – worth working at. This is the story of the Big Idea – The American Legion – an association for God and country. Look out, you enemies of these—there's courage here we haven't even used yet. Three million men are closing ranks again – three million time-proven keepers of the flame!"

When Harvey made his remarks in Portland, Oregon, the country was embroiled in the Vietnam War, prayer had only recently been banned from public school rooms and violence plagued many communities.

Today, we face different challenges but there is a new generation of Legionnaires – men and women – that are as equally committed as their predecessors to keeping the flame of freedom alive.

It would be easy to rest on the significant accomplishments of drafting the origi-



nal GI Bill or creating the Department of Veterans Affairs but that is not The American Legion way. Instead of "Mission Accomplished," we say, "Still Serving." Because that is what The American Legion does. It is who we are.

The spirit of the Legion is much the same as it was in 1919. We serve those who served and we serve America.

Our founders didn't rest when they fought in the trenches "Over There," and their successors didn't rest a generation later when they defeated Hitler's Germany and the Japanese Empire.

The American Legion was there to support those fighting in frigid Korea, the jungles of Vietnam and every other place where America's military answered the call.

The American Legion is still the leading advocate for those serving in Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere in the war on terrorism.

For 96 years, The American Legion has led the charge as America's leading advocate for veterans health care and rehabilitation, children and youth programs, a strong national security policy and one-hundred percent Americanism.

In recent years, The American Legion has delivered millions of dollars in comfort items to wounded, injured, and ill service-

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The American Legion 96 Years and Still Serving

(Continued from page 1)

members and patients recovering in military hospitals, warrior transition units and VA Medical Centers through our Operation Comfort Warriors program.

In 1990, The "Family Support Network" was formed by The American Legion to assist the families of military personnel deployed during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm in the Middle East.

In 2001, we initiated the American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund, which enables children of military personnel killed on duty since 9/11 to receive money toward a college education. Over the last decade, thanks in large part to the Departments of The American Legion, **The American Legion Riders** and other motorcycle enthusiasts, millions of dollars have been raised for the Scholarship Fund through cross-country motorcycle rides from Indianapolis to the host cities of our national conventions. With your help and support, we can continue to make the ride a success and ensure that no children of our fallen heroes are denied educations because of financial hardship.

And we are fierce advocates of providing quality health care to America's veterans when they need it.

Last year, The American Legion was the first among veterans service organizations in demanding that VA be held accountable for widespread scandals at medical centers across the country.

The Legion heard horror story after horror story of veterans dying while waiting for care, administrators cooking the books and excessive bonuses being awarded to people who deserved to be fired. A culture of fear and retaliation seemed to be pervasive throughout the VA Health Care System.

But The American Legion acted decisively in calling for the resignation of the VA Secretary and his top deputies. We were instrumental in the passage of the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014.

The new law, while still not perfect, weeds out dishonest and corrupt practices that put personal performance evaluations ahead of veterans.

And while we believe patient accessibility has been improving, The Legion did not simply wait for the government to act.

Through a series of town halls and Crisis Command Centers, we heard from veterans in Arizona, North Carolina, Texas, Maryland, Hawaii, Missouri, West Virginia, Colorado, Washington, and Oregon.

In just the first few months, The American Legion helped more than 3,000 veterans and their families receive the benefits that they earned. More than one million dollars of on-the-spot retroactive benefits were awarded at these Crisis Centers.

We also know that America must be strong for America to be safe. We remain vigilant about our call for a fully funded national defense.

Syria is a mess. Iran and North Korea are hell-bent on becoming nuclear powers and our troops are still fighting a war in Afghanistan. ISIS and other terrorist organizations have committed the most depraved and cruel atrocities imaginable. Yet sequestration still looms and our military is still funded at pre-World War II levels.

Former Defense Secretary Leon Panetta once called sequestration "a crazy doomsday scenario." Yet, for our military, their families and our national security – it remains a reality.

The enemies that we face today are as evil as any that our country has ever fought.



Years of war in Afghanistan and Iraq have taken a toll on this country. But this is not new. War is always an "ugly thing" as John Stuart Mill once said.

The United States is a peace-loving nation and our country deliberated for many years before entering World War I and World War II.

Nobody hates war more than those who have had to fight it, but if it must be fought – it must be won.

During war or peace, The American Legion will always be there to express our gratitude for our defenders of freedom.

"We support the troops" is not just a slogan to us. It's a way of life. To each of you, I say thank you comrades, for what you do for our veterans, for God and for Country. May God bless you all and God bless The American Legion.

BOY'S & GIRLS STATE – 2014

A WEEK THAT SHAPES A LIFETIME



We are continuing our efforts to grow our Post's involvement in the American Legion's Boy's and Girl's State programs. We have gotten off to a good start this year

by adding a few new members to our Post's team, which allows us to reach out further with regard to contacts at the local high schools, and to obtain additional donations to help provide the necessary funds to facilitate this growth.

The process for this year's Girl's State is already completed, with all the necessary paperwork and funds submitted for the two delegates our Post will be sending to SUNY Brockport – Taylor Fox, of Walt Whitman High School, and Abigail Wax, of Harborfields High School. We also have two Alternates, one from each of these high schools, signed-up in hopes a couple of openings will avail themselves (as happened last year).

We have arranged to interview a number of potential Boy's State delegates from each of the following high schools - Harborfields, Walt Whitman, and Commack.



If all goes well with the interviews and our fund raising, in June we will be able to send multiple delegates from each of these schools to SUNY Morrisville for this summertime educational program.

Our fund raising has gotten off to a strong start with help from a law firm, two fraternal organizations, and our Huntington Town Council members; not to mention a donation from our Post's own **American Legion Riders** and our own **American Legion Auxiliary**.

Remember, in order for us to continue providing this exceptional educational opportunity to our up and coming leaders, we must have the necessary funding. If you know an individual or local business that would like to help support this program for students in the Town of Huntington, please let us know so we can reach out to them. **SOON, THE FUTURE OF OUR NATION WILL BE IN THESE YOUNG PEOPLE'S HANDS!**

Charlie Armstrong Post Chairman, Boys and Girls State

Girls State Candidates Interviewed at Two Local High Schools



Walt Whitman High School. Charlie Armstrong and Ed O'Shea with L-R: Carolyn Dooley (Guidance Councilor), Lauren Groser (Alternate), and Taylor Fox (Delegate)



Harborfields High School. Charlie and Ed with L-R: Principal Rory Manning and Abigail Wax (Delegate) and Cindy Zhang (Alternate).

Help us Stay In Touch. We need your Email address

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 weekly E Newsletter list. We will let you know of Post news of interest, activities and events you may wish to take part in. No chain letters, political messages or jokes. Only **"The News You Can Use."** Just send an e mail to: **Post1244@verizon.net** and we'll do the rest! (And you can unsubscribe at any time.)



www.facebook.com/AmericanLegionGreenlawnPost1244

Greenlawn American Legion Auxiliary Unit 1244

SERVING AMERICA'S VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES EVERY DAY



Winter came upon us with a vengeance, can you believe this cold weather? Now we can only dream of spring and warm weather.

Our Poppies have been ordered and received. We look forward to handing them out closer to Memorial Day. These proceeds help us to support our Veteran Programs. Sandy and Ray Bohn did a great job last year and I am sure they will do the same this year for our Auxiliary. Sandy is also working on a Poppy display to be judged by the Suffolk County Ladies Auxiliary and if chosen will be sent up to the New York State Auxiliary Convention in June. We may be a winner. Thanks to Sandy for taking this Project on.

Our Raffle tickets have been ordered for our Annual Fund/Raiser. Again this year we are doing a 50/50 Raffle. The Winner will receive half of the proceeds. As a bonus, additional numbers will be called for many additional gifts and gift baskets. As done last year the winner winning ticket will be pulled at the Post 1244 Memorial Day Picnic.

Remember, you have to be in it to win it.

Commander Bob Santo will have tickets at the Post meetings or you can contact me at 631-423-1176 for tickets and I will mail them to you. Because of the Post support and the hard work of my members, the Fund Raiser was a huge success last year.

Many thanks to our Auxiliary member Sandy Bohn who along with members of Post 1244 attended the PTSH Training Program to assist family members and Veterans dealing with this problem. Wishing them success with their future involment in the Program. I am sure they will be an asset to those in need.

We are in need of new members to join our Auxiliary. Our members do a great job with our projects but could use more help. If you know anyone interested, please have them call me Fran Hubbs 631-423-1176. I would be happy to talk to them about who we are and what we do.

Special thanks to Commander Robert Santo and Post 1244 for their support.

Fran Hubbs, President

About Your DD-214

Most of our members have responded positively to our request for copies of their DD-214's there remains a few members who have not yet responded. Please note that **for privacy purposes, sensitive information such as Social Security number, date of birth, etc, may be marked out.**

DD Forms 214 must include at least the individual's name, branch of service, and record of service dates and character of discharge. Remember, **all other personal information may be redacted.**

Questions or concerns can be directed to Post Adjutant Ed O'Shea at 631-754-5937

Remember: All Post Members are Required to Provide a Copy of their DD-214

Missing In America Project

Reginald Lane



Calverton National Cemetery

December 10, 2014

This day was particularly foul, the rain, mixed with snow, was unrelenting.

It seemed that heaven was testing us.

The thought was that if you want to do the right thing, you must pay. Heaven must have forgotten about The Missing in America Project's tenacity and perseverance. On this particular day the American Legion's loyalty to MIAP's mission would hold sway. Regardless of the snow and ice cold rain, MIAP's volunteers would not be deterred.

Our soldier would have his day. He may not have had anyone when he passed on, but he would have MIAP with him when he is interred. Following the casket to the Pavilion, all of the entourage became soaked in the downpour. Ironically the casket remained dry. God was reminding us again that you must pay when you do the right thing. I flirted with the idea of engaging Him in a spirited conversation concerning the reward for doing the right thing. I quickly came to the conclusion that I could kick the can to eternity before I

would convince a higher wisdom about my opinions.

Mr. Lane was a Vietnam veteran, who died in Brooklyn, N.Y. on Oct 10, 2014. He passed on alone. No one mourned him, no one cried, no one said goodbye. Had he not been a veteran, the next stop for Mr. Lane would have been Potters Field on Hart's Island. This is the time that the miracle of MIAP manifests itself.

Mr. Lane will no longer be alone, he will have kin, he will have some one to say goodbye. He will have some one to bury him with dignity and honor. When Michael Williams, our new Chaplain conducted us in prayer for our charge, I happened to glance up and saw the American Legion rider's standing in the downpour conducting the flag line, they stood tall and straight seemingly obliviously to nature's merciless ice cold rain. The men under the Pavilion grimaced from the cold, yet stood erect and unmoving, attuned to benediction.

I knew that where ever Veteran Lane was, he would be proud that he had such kin, and so was I. Divine wisdom held true, you must pay when you do the right thing, because the reward in the end is so great.

William Reed

Calverton National Cemetery

January 28, 2015

This interment was scheduled for two days earlier, however a severe snow storm was predicted. To deny Mother nature, is to risk her wrath. Keeping this in mind, we rescheduled the interment. Our precaution was a wise move, as we received more than two feet of snow that initial day.

Now, we all know God is a kibitzer, so He repaid our wisdom with only two to four inches of snow on burial day. Keeping in mind that one must pay for good luck, I slid up to the car door of a gracious friend, who volunteered to drive, as he could not make it up my driveway to park, because of the snow. As we started on our 80 mile round trip, I wondered if the veteran we were interring appreciated the hassle we were going through to see him buried with dignity and respect.

Whether he did or not, he deserved it. Mr. Reed was

a World War II veteran, a part of that great generation, to which we owe so much. How elusive gratitude can be. These ladies and gentlemen have been fading away and soon there will be none left alive. Who will remember them and their great sacrifices when we go? Echoes of Pierre Claeysens, permeated my psyche. The Belgian World War I veteran who immortalized the concept that being lost, or killed in war was not the worst thing, but being forgotten was the worst thing.

My mind always wandered at these moments when going out to the cemetery to eulogize a veteran I never knew. How sad it was, but this final closure from fellow veterans, I believe, would help Mr. Reed rest in peace. It was, for us, the satisfaction of a promise made and a promise kept.

"I shall remember while the light lives, and in darkness I shall not forget."

Joseph Roberson

Calverton National Cemetery
February, 12, 2015

This being February in New York means it is cold. The fact that Calverton National Cemetery is on the north-easterly end of Long Island means that it is colder than the rest of the Island. The island is roughly shaped like a two pronged fork, with it's prongs facing Europe. It angles North on it's north fork, and consequently it is colder there than on the rest of the island. Calverton National Cemetery is approximately forty miles from my home. The closer you come to the cemetery, the colder and windier it gets. The winds from the Atlantic are merciless and unforgiving.

Before there were any countries to respect, Mother Nature held dominion. She has never relinquished her throne. This now sets the background for our tale, as we, and later the entourage, approached the entrance to Calverton. Standing on the side of the mouth of the approach were the American Legion Riders, of Post 1244, holding a flag line. The brutal winds whipped their clothes and faces and played havoc with the flags. Thank

God for the leathers they were wearing. Undaunted, they held their stance, never shifting, never swaying, erect and strong, befitting the proper respect for our Veteran Joseph Roberson.

At the Ceremony Pavilion, there were no birds, no leaves on the trees, no sun, just the unrelenting wind and the ghostly silence of winter. I looked for winter fatigue on the Legionnaires' faces and saw none. Steadfastly they paid their respects. No relative came for our veteran, no friends, no acquaintances, no public officials, but we were there.

They say that "pride goeth before a fall." Well, I am willing to take that chance. So please forgive me if I show pride for the Missing in America Project, the American Legion, Greenlawn Post 1244, and most of all for our Veteran Joseph Roberson. Joe was 82 years old, and a Korean War veteran. He was of African American descent and a member of the U.S. Army. If I do take a fall for my pride I'm sure Mr. Roberson will be there to catch me.

Willie Manor

Calverton National Cemetery
February 19, 2015

When I saw the sun that morning, I thought that Mother Nature and God had made a covenant to give us a good day for the burial. However the Young Lady in question did not keep her word. It was the coldest day so far. I philosophically overlooked this minor transgression, with the old adage, a women always has a right to change her mind.

Our newest member, Frank Ostroff had been the driver for the last several burials, and was graciously driving today. As we approach the entrance to Calverton we spied a lone American Legion Rider standing the flag line, it was none other than our new Chaplain Mike Williams. The frigid wind tore at him and our flag. His beret was cocked to the side, his cheeks blood red, his imposing size defiant against the vicious wind. If God was going to

listen to anyone, it was Mike Williams. We stopped and offered him some hot coffee, he looked down at us and with a nonchalant smile, and said no thanks, a true cavalier biker.

We proceeded into the Cemetery to wait for the appointed hour. This day would see Brother Willie Manor interred with the respect at which MIAP excels. Brother Manor was a Vietnam Veteran of African American descent. He had no relatives that were interested in claiming him. His country now beckoned him and he did not decline the invitation.

I viewed the Calverton grounds, white with winter and thought of Mr. Manor. It was a time to take a break and visit myself. I don't do it very often. I wondered how Willie's last days were, if he had some new insights, or was just tired and ready for his new journey. Wherever he was, I felt a kinship with him. Maybe it was the cold, or

Final Salute

John Everett Dodge

January 31, 2015

United States Navy World War II



American Legion Riders

STILL SERVING...STILL RIDING



2015 Officers Elected

The Chapter opened its 2015 year by electing a new slate of officers to lead Post 1244 American Legion Riders. Elected officers are as follows:

President: Bruce Blanco
Vice President: Brian Gerken
Secretary: Anthony Petretti
Treasurer: Chris Argento
Sgt. at Arms: Brian Gerken
Road Captain: John Boll
Chaplain: Mike Williams
Historians: Mike Williams and Bob Glanzman
Tailgunner: Chris Argento



“Casino Night” at The Bristol

The ever-entertaining band of brothers we know as the American Legion Riders, treated the residents of Bristol Assisted Living. The Riders hold their meetings at the Bristol every month. In appreciation for the hospitality that Bristol has extended to them, the Riders came up with the idea of a Casino Night for all the residents.

It could not have come at a better time, according to Director of Recreation Barbara Heaphy. Due to the recent bad weather, it has been impossible for the residents to get out of the facility for shopping and other events. This was just what they needed. “They absolutely loved it.”The



The Casino Night Volunteers. Green eye-shades are not usually part of the Legion Riders regalia.

Riders provided Black Jack, Texas Hold'em and Poker.

There even was a raffle for a big gift basket, with all proceeds going to the recreation department to provide more outlets for the residents.

The finale of the night was a “Night at The Races.”

Six Riders donned horses heads for the residents to wager on. We have no idea who the lucky horses were, but the Bristol folks were delighted with the “horse-play.”

From Battlefield To Street

Five Legion Riders devoted two Saturdays in February to learning about PTSD and how they can help veterans who are experiencing distress related to their war time service. The course, conducted under the auspices of Suffolk County American Legion, aims to provide information and skills to those who are points of contact, such as Legion Riders, with veterans who are exhibiting symptoms of post traumatic stress disorder.

While the course doesn't equip them to treat the disorder, the information shared and skills taught in this course have been reported to be helpful in dealing with veterans who are under stress. it gives them the tools to listen to the veteran and direct him or her to appropriate treatment.

The Riders were joined by five Post 1244 Legionnaires and one Auxiliary member. Post 1244 made up the majority of the 19 who attended the course in Mastic Beach..

Bob Santo

Stand Down For Homeless Veterans April 17

Will you stand with those veterans who are our most vulnerable? The experience is both humbling and energizing as you are able to give assistance and hope to those who have so little. Call 631-261-4400 Ext 4840 to register. April 17th 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Northport VA Medical Center. Gymnasium Bldg. 89. 79 Middleville Rd.. Northport

World War II Flight Experience Fundraiser

Once again, we take to the skies over Long Island with our **World War II Flight Experience Raffle**.

This year's winners will take flight in the Historic B17G Flying Fortress "*Yankee Lady*." The drawing will be at our Post Meeting, May 13, 2015.

There are two chances to win. We will draw two winning tickets. Each of the two winning ticket holders will be entitled to a seat on the B-17.

This aircraft is operated by Yankee Air Museum at Willow Run Airport, Ypsilanti, Michigan. The Museum will soon occupy a 175,000 sq. ft. portion of what was once the famed General Motors Willow Run Bomber plant, part of the "Arsenal of Democracy" that defeated the Axis Powers in WW II.

Our winners may schedule their flight on Saturday, May 23, 2015, Memorial Day Weekend. Rain dates are Sunday, May 24th and Monday, May 25th. If you win but don't want to fly, you may transfer the flight certificate to anyone you wish.

Every contribution is appreciated and goes toward



"The Yankee Lady"

supporting our Post and its programs. For as little as \$5.00 per ticket or \$20 for six tickets, you can help our Post continue to serve our veterans, our youth and our community.

Tickets may be obtained by calling 516-458-7881 or emailing Post1244@verizon.net

Thank You All For Your Help!

Just For Laughs

"Initial Here"

Two private soldiers are on latrine detail, sweeping up soiled bits of toilet paper around the latrines. Just as they get all the bits swept up into a pile for collection, a gust of wind grabs one piece and sends it swirling into the camp, high above the heads of both soldiers. To their horror, it goes right in the window of the Colonel's office.

One soldier says to the other, "I'll go in and get it, the old man is short sighted, half-deaf and naps alot. I should be fine." So off he goes, slipping quietly into the Colonel's office. He comes back a minute later, shaking his head. "Well, did you get it?" says the first soldier. "No" the second sighs, "I was too late. The old man had already signed it."

Are we there yet???



CPL BILL'S DRIVING SCHOOL

What Is A Leader?

WHAT IS A LEADER?

A Tribute to Outgoing Commander Bob Santo

Is it true what they say about leaders, that they are like eagles, they always fly alone? Well, for the most part, true leaders do. There are all manner of leaders out there. They may have different styles, dissimilar techniques, conflicting, or changing values, ambivalent ideals, inconsistent aims. The point being made is, there are all stripes of leaders to look at. What criteria do we use to separate the wheat from the chafe? Is success or failure the only criteria we need?

Eagles fly alone to have clear glide paths, smaller birds would disrupt their glide paths. Leaders like eagles, need room about them to make the correct decisions to glide to success. They may consult with their subordinates, they may listen or not, but in the final analysis they are alone in the arena, they and they alone must bear the failure, or success of their actions. Say what you may, but the true leader stands alone in the arena, he fights alone, he decides alone, he bares the punishment alone, and invariably flies alone. True leaders also fly into the storm, false leaders do not.

The true leader knows the danger but, like the eagle, knows the advantage to be gained is the strong air currents that will aid in his success. American Legion Post 1244 has had such a leader, a true leader, one who stands on his achievements, one who doesn't have to talk a good game, but one who has played a good game. He took the post with a handful of members and through the years built the post into one of the most populous posts in the state. The numbers of our post

bear testimony to his worth as a leader. The activities of our post are second to none, another manifestation to his worth.

Bob Santo has given this post's membership more than they asked for, and in doing so lifted us all to a level we were not aware of achieving. Another gift from the true Leader. He kept a covenant with us that we did not know we made. The exceptional leader knows that the game is not about him, but about the goals of the Post. He puts aside his subjectivity and strives objectively to succeed. His support for his committees is absolute. His aid is not only with words of encouragement, but with a hands on shoulder to shoulder assistance. He is relentless in his pursuit of the quality of the service the Post renders to our members, veterans, and community.

Our post commander is in our corner for the long haul. An example would be his Herculean effort in his quest for a permanent home for Post 1244. His sacrifice of time, energy, and family life was done for our Post, and that means the membership, which means us. So let us thank him in these last days of his command. Let us thank him for his generosity, his considerations, his understanding, his compassion, and above all his heart.

John Caldarelli
Chairman Post 1244
Missing In America Project

(Note: The opinions expressed in the above article and not necessarily those of the publisher).

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.

Our service members and their families make sacrifices every day for our country. It takes so little to let them know that they are appreciated. When you donate to Operation Paperback, you will let America's military know that you appreciate their service and their sacrifices.

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 or call Cmdr. Bob Santo at 516-458-7881.

Planning for Your Death

A topic that sounds taboo to the veteran community is the subject of death and how to plan for it. As a Veteran Service Officer for Suffolk County I am dealing with this issue on a day to day basis. It seems to me that we feel that we are invincible and that we will live forever. Although that may be true in the afterlife it's still a topic that must be discussed.

Below are some steps that every senior citizen should consider for the future. These steps do not have to be done by yourself. Getting some help with a family member or advocate, or a Veterans Service Officer is the best course of action.



Update Your Will

- Determine who will get your assets when you pass
- This should be kept with your Power of Attorney
- People who should have a copy: Lawyer, You, Power of Attorney (whoever you decide)

Designate a Power of Attorney (when necessary)

- Gives someone the power to make financial decisions for you, when you are not able to make those decisions for yourself
- Example: If you have dementia and do not have the ability to think for yourself
- People who should have a copy: Lawyer, You, Power of Attorney, Veteran Service Officer

Fill out Advanced Directive

- Designates your medical wishes
- People who should have a copy: Doctor, You, Power of Attorney, Veteran Service Officer

Prepare a Contact List

- People who should be immediately notified of your death (immediate family, power of attorney, Veteran Service Agency, etc.)

- People who should be notified and invited to the funeral/memorial
- People who you DO NOT want notified and who are NOT to attend the funeral/memorial

Plan and Write Out Wishes

- What type of service you would like
- Where you want the service
- Burial/Cremation/Donation to Science
- Where you are to be buried/cremated

Write an obituary (optional)

Allows you to decide what is written

Make a list of important account information

- All accounts so they can be closed after your death
- Bank/IRA/Stocks And Bonds
- Utilities
- Cable
- Cell Phone

Where your accounts are (bank, phone, etc.)

- Which bank?
- Which cable company?

Make a list of death benefits & insurance policies

- Auto insurance
- Home insurance
- Life insurance
- Veteran services
- Social security

Make a list of assets

- Titles
- Registrations

Sean Lyons

Service Officer, American Legion Post 1244
Veterans Service Officer, Suffolk County Veterans
Service Agency 631-853-VETS



Vice Commander's Call to Members

Fellow Legionnaires, this Spring we are in for some local "changing of the Guard", in our own Post. This April, our Judge

Advocate will present an entirely different slate of Officers for your perusal and choice to represent you in the following years. Our Commander, Bob Santo, had told us last year that fiscal 2015 would be his last, capping ten long years at the helm of this Post and guiding us to our current position of honor and respect within the County of Suffolk.

It has been a long road for him and he deserves our thanks and gratitude for leading us from a Post of 81 members and a position of next to last in 2005, to a Post of 247 members and fourth in the County of 47 Posts in 2015. His successors will have their work cut out for them but with the help of the entire Post we will

carry on. Bob will not be leaving us and will become an integral part of the new Officers as a Past Commander and source of wisdom and experience.

I am announcing herewith, that I have placed my name on the list of potential members for the position of Commander and have been actively recruiting a group of qualified and talented people, that you will recognize to assist me, should you choose to grace me with your vote of confidence.

In the month of May, the newly elected Officers will be "installed" by the County Officers, as we have done so many times. I sincerely hope that you will come out to the meeting on March 11th to take part in this particular election. There will be many faces that change place here, but none that are unfamiliar to you.

I'll look forward to seeing you all there. Thank you.

Dennis Madden

Welcome - New Members!

Terrence Devaney
John Schoenig
Richard Tierney
Paul Wilson

Jazz Cabaret Night A Salute to Our Veterans

The Harborfields Central School District has invited all veterans to the Annual Jazz Cabaret Knight on Thursday, March 20, 2014. The students in Harborfields High School's Leadership Class will serve a special dinner at 6:00 pm in the Oldfield Middle School auditorium.

At 7:00 pm, music students will perform to give our thanks to those who have served our great nation. Members of our families are invited to attend. This is wonderful evening of entertainment by some of the best young people you will ever meet! We hope to see dozens of Post 1244 hats in the audience that night.

Please call 631-754-5320 Ext 319 for your complimentary tickets.

Don't miss this event!!



The Veterans Crisis Line connects Veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring Department of Veterans Affairs responders through a confidential toll-free hotline, online chat, or text.

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THE COMMANDER'S CORNER

This will be my last Commander's Corner, comrades. I will be turning over the gavel to my successor in May this year, after 10 years as your commander. What a wonderful 10 years they have been. I have been blessed to work with some of the most talented and dedicated veterans imaginable. With their help and devotion to duty, we have made our Post one of the largest and most respected veterans service organizations on Long Island.

We have grown from just 83 members to well over 200 in just ten years. Few veterans service organizations can claim the kind of growth we have seen. Sadly, we have lost over 50 members to the Post Everlasting in the same time. They have left our midst, but will always remain a part of our story. We have accomplished a great deal. Among our best known programs: The Missing In America Project, Boys and Girls State, Veterans In The Classroom, American Legion High School Oratorical Contest, and, of course, The Greenlawn Bugle.

On a smaller scale, but no less importantly, we have become a familiar face in the community, having cultivated mutually beneficial relationships with businesses, elected officials and other non-profit organizations. We will continue to work with all of them for the benefit of our Veterans, our community and our children and youth.

While I am retiring from my duties as commander, I am surely not retiring from being an active members of the Post. I hope that the experience I have had will serve your new leadership as they continue the pursuit of excellence you have all grown to expect in this Post.

Thanks to my officers and committee chairmen and all who have given their very best effort when the Post needed them. There is still much for us to do. Our best years are ahead of us. I know that there is still a lot of talent among the membership yet to be tapped. If you are interested, we have a job for you!

Many thanks,

Bob Santo

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 weekly E Newsletter list. We will let you know of Post news of interest, activities and events you may wish to take part in. No chain letters, political messages or jokes. Only **"The News You Can Use."** Just send an e mail to: Post1244@verizon.net and we'll do the rest! (And you can unsubscribe at any time.)



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*Best wishes to
American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244
Thank You for your Continued Service*



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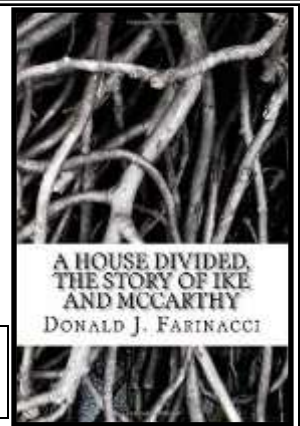


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Donald J. Farinacci, is a lawyer, military history writer, Vietnam Era veteran, and Member of Greenlawn Post 1244



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