



The Greenlawn Bugle

December 2016

The Newsletter of American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244

Volume 10 Issue 4

Veterans Day 2016

Veterans Day 2016 began very much like any other. Little did we know that this day's annual ceremony would far surpass any that had come before us in the recent history of our Post. We should have had some inkling when encountering the annual fund raising encampment of our American Legion Riders in front of the Dunkin Donuts. On this day, dozens of Riders were joined by about a dozen Legionnaires from our sister Post, Northport 694 as well as many members of the public. All were in a festive mood as the morning chill began to dissipate.



Commander Madden addresses the Veterans Day gathering

By 10:30 am, the plaza was beginning to fill with members of the public as well as representatives of many local civic organizations, Boy Scout and Girl Scout Troops, elected officials and even a delegation from the United States Merchant Marine Academy!

By the time Post Commander Dennis Madden gave the order to Post the Colors, there was a crowd of nearly 300 gathered around the Greenlawn Monument. Father Lou Nicholas from St. Paraskevi Greek Orthodox Shrine Church gave the Invocation before we all joined in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Then, our national anthem was sung by the Harborfields High School Chorus, a thrilling rendition of the Star Spangled Banner. This was made even more special by the voices in perfect harmony of thirteen of our finest young men and women.

Commander Madden spoke of what it means to be an American Veteran, concluding with the words of Winston Churchill, who said: "Never, in the field of human conflict, was so much owed by so many to so few."

He was followed by the President of the Greenlawn

Civic Association, Darryl St. George, himself a combat veteran of Afghanistan, a teacher and community leader.

Vice Commander Richard Russano spoke of the programs and contributions of our Post. Some in the gathering were surprised by the number of ways our Post contributes to our community, our children and youth and our Veterans and active duty military and their families. A reminder that most Veterans come home desiring to continue their service to our nation. We continue to be very much involved in the fabric of our society.

Dozens of wreaths were presented and placed at the monument in recognition of all those of our brothers and sisters who could not join us that day. Many civic groups and Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts gently placed these tokens of remembrance at the foot of the ancient stone.

In a touching act of love, Laura Kasa placed a wreath in remembrance of her late father, Roger Kasa, a Vietnam Veteran and Post 1244 member. Roger passed away this summer. He served in the U.S. Army in Vietnam from 1968 to 1969.



At the conclusion of the presentation of wreaths, Michael Mank, a very talented 7th grade musician from Old Field Middle School played a fine rendition of "Taps."

After concluding remarks by Commander Madden and a Benediction by father Lou, we were, once again, treated to a selection by the Harborfields High School Chorus: "God Bless America." As is customary, everyone gladly joined them in song.

(Continued on page 2)

Veterans Day 2016

(Continued from page 1)

Following the ceremony, many members of the Post met at Applebees for our sometimes raucous Veterans Day lunch. We were glad to be joined by our Merchant Marine Academy guests, many of whom would one day be veterans themselves.

The staff and management of Applebees, as always, seemed to get into the spirit of the day. We were cheerfully welcomed by manager Cristi Martellucci and her excellent wait staff. It seems they just couldn't do enough for us.

Special thanks to our honorary Chaplain for the day, Father Lou of St. Paraskevi Church. He made sure that we were reminded of how just blessed we truly are to be able to celebrate this special day together in peace. Also thanks to our great friend Andrew Schild of Pro Audio who, once again, provided the audio expertise that contributes so much richness to the experience of our ceremony.

Members of American Legion Northport Post 694, Huntington Post 360, Smith-Wever Post 651, VFW Nathan Hale 1469, VFW Elwood Post 9263 and Jewish War Veterans Post 488 were among the veterans organizations on hand.

Among the civic groups in attendance were our Greenlawn Civic Association and Greenlawn Lions Club as well as St. Joseph Council Knights of Columbus.

Mrs. Clare Jackson and the Harborfields High School Chorus deserve our applause. This was the first time they performed at our Veterans Day Ceremony and we sincerely hope they will agree to come back next year.

A delegation from the Inspector Hatton's 2nd Precinct joined us as always, and, of course many members of our dedicated Greenlawn Volunteer Fire Department were also on hand.

There were so many Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts from a number of troops and packs that it was hard to keep track of them all.

I hope I haven't left out anyone. It was wonderful to see so many members of our community join us on this happy occasion. There must have been close to 300 persons in attendance, a far cry from the first Post 1244 ceremony I attended in Greenlawn where the total was more like fifteen!

Of course, we are always happy to see so many of our elected officials at our Veterans Day Ceremony. Assemblyman Andrew Raia, Legislators Steve Stern and "Doc" Spencer and Councilman Mark Cuthbertson and Councilwoman Tracey Edwards among others. We thank you for the support you give us all year long, not just on Veterans

Bob Santo

Past Commander



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 or call

Past Cmdr. Bob Santo at 516-458-7881.

**Veterans
Crisis Line**



1-800-273-8255
PRESS 1

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. Veterans and their loved ones can call **1-800-273-8255** and **Press 1**, chat online, or send a text message to **838255** to receive confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Support for deaf and hard of hearing individuals is available.

Missing In America Project

The Christopher Cunningham Story

By Terry Cunningham



Christopher Cunningham's voice was his greatest asset. Words sounded rich and smooth when they traveled from a microphone to the listener's ear. He grew up in New York, but he worked hard to perfect an accent-less Midwestern speaking voice. When drafted to serve in the Army of the United States during World War II, his talents were put to good use as part of the Armed Forces Radio Service. As far as I know, he never has a radio program called "Good Morning, Okinawa" but he did play records and provide news reports for those serving in the Pacific theater. He was honorably discharged in April 1946 as a Staff sergeant.



Christopher Cunningham U.S. Army WW II

In civilian life, Chris Cunningham put to good use the experience he gained in the Army, serving as a radio announcer for several New York and New Jersey radio stations, with his longest stint at WOR radio, where he hosted a top-40 radio program.

Chris died a young man – at the age of 53 – in 1978. He left behind five children – four boys and a girl – but at the time of his death things were quite turbulent in regards to his family. Chris was battling alcoholism, was divorced, and there was significant animosity between he and his children's stepfather, resulting in limited contact. When Chris Cunningham died, his body was claimed by his mother and his brothers. Christopher's children were told that they would make all necessary arrangements, but were not informed of any specific plans.

My name is Terry Cunningham – and I'm the middle Cunningham child. I was 17 years old when my father passed away. I now live in Bozeman, Montana.

On June 22, 2013 the cremated remains of thirty four unclaimed American Veterans and five spouses of Veterans were inurned through the efforts of Missing In America Project.

This is the story of one of those Veterans, and the son who longed to know what had happened to his father's remains.

Over time, my brothers, sister and I re-established contact with my father's family. We tried to heal old wounds. We were given some of the items – including my father's Army uniform and letters home to his mother – that provided a tangible connection back to our father. His younger brother provided very useful information as I began to delve into my family history. Christopher's mother passed away shortly after our family reconciliation, severing the best link to many of the genealogy details I was hoping to uncover.

In the early 2000s, when I asked my uncle where my father was buried, he said he vaguely recalled some sort of service or family gathering, but had nothing specific to offer. From 2002-2015, I made significant progress in my genealogy research, unlocking mysteries about the Cunningham family's Irish roots and townland of origin. I spent a good deal of time researching cemetery and burial records, including my Grandfather's – also named Christopher Cunningham – who was buried at Long Island National Cemetery as a result of his service in the Navy in WWI.

One day in 2015, I noticed that there was a second record at Long Island National Cemetery's online directory for a Christopher Cunningham - whose dates of birth and death matched my father's. The record read as follows:

“Christopher Cunningham, Jr. was a veteran who served as a SSGT in the U.S. Army during World War II. He was interred with full military honors on June 22, 2013 through the efforts of the Missing in America Project.”

I was confused, then stunned, then shocked. I always believed my father was buried by his family in 1978. Why was his burial date listed as 2013? What was the Missing in America Project? Full military honors? I discovered the Missing in America Project website and learned that the organization locates the unclaimed remains of US veterans and provides these honorable souls with a full military ceremony and burial. Had my father's remains been unclaimed for 35 years while my brothers, sister and I grew into adults – some now with children of our own - under the false impression that he had been properly buried and memorialized? This couldn't possibly be, could it?

(Continued on page 5)

Twenty-six Abandoned Veterans, and two Spouses Sept 27, 2016 Long Island National Cemetery

The weatherman had predicted scattered showers for the day. However, God being a reasonable entity, choose to only have a small sprinkle in the morning, and leave the rest of the day clear. This set the stage for a great ceremony, befitting our long awaited veterans. We had a dual religious burial. Our N.Y. genealogist Ann Marie Martin, has search talents that are excellent, consequently we are able to garner more information then we received in the past. The day was occasionally overcast, but sunny for the most part. The Coast Guard Auxiliary Band played prelude music. I called the audience to order and gave the opening remarks.

The Colors were advanced and posted while the band played the National Emblem March. As the hearse arrived with the beautiful urns donated by the MIAP, the band quietly played "Eternal Father Strong To Save," "Mansions of the Lord" and "Adrift." As the hearse made it's way down the concourse, it was followed by the "Rough Riders" and "WW I" reenactors and their trusted horse, boots and all. They then took up positions behind the hearse and audience and stood vigil for our veterans. Their presence reflected a time of kindness and compassion. Cemetery Director Roderick Thomas led us in the pledge of Allegiance, This was followed by a stirring rendition of the National Anthem sung by Flotilla Staff Officer Louis Di Leo. I then gave the introductory remarks about how we are now the Veterans' family, and the importance of keeping them in with our memory. The guest

speakers were introduced. When the speakers concluded, Mr. Leonard Holtz our MIAP Cantor conducted the Jewish ceremony with grace and reverence. The singing of the ancient Hebrew words were unfamiliar to many of us, but their intent was clear none the less.

Mrs. Joseph DiTroia released 6 pure white doves which flew around our group in a flight of incredible beauty, freeing the spirits of our veterans, so they could take their souls to Heaven. Mr. DiTroia explained the significance of the Doves from ancient times and how it related to today. Our genealogist Ann Marie Martin then read each veteran's name accompanied by the tolling of the great brass bell next to the giant flagpole, by Post 1244 Past Commander Robert Santo. The dual effect was riveting.

Our reverie was then shattered by the required three rifle volley. Our hearts and minds once again tried to recapture our serenity with the playing of "Taps," to no avail. The Navy and Army Honor Guards folded the veterans' flags. Several of the attendees were the honored recipients of burial flags. Helicopters hovered overhead as if they were guardian angels.

The poem "Go Gently" and the closing remarks, ushered in the benediction.

The ceremony was ended by a lone piper playing "Amazing Grace." As the assembly started to disperse, our splendid band played post-ceremony music easing the psyche of the attendees back to the reality of the moment.

John Caldarelli

Missing In America Project
National Representative MIAP (NY)
Suffolk County American Legion MIAP Chairman
American Legion Post 1244 MIAP Chairman

PFC Ronald Cheslick October 13, 2016 Calverton National Cemetery

It was a seasonably crisp October afternoon as we assembled in the parking area of Calverton National Cemetery, awaiting the arrival of the hearse carrying Marine PFC Ronald Cheslick. The air was soon filled with the sound of throaty rumblings, as the bikes of our Greenlawn Post 1244, and Sayville Post 433 American Riders escorted the hearse to our waiting area. All of our flag-bearing Riders lined the path as PFC Cheslick's casket was removed from the hearse and wheeled to the outdoor chapel. It was truly a show of respect to one of our fallen brothers.

Suffolk County Chaplain Tom Bergin began the honors by offering an Invocation and I followed with the poem "You Are Not Alone", which I dedicated to all of our

MIAP veterans, those we have found, and those yet to be found. I continued the eulogy with a tribute to PFC Cheslick, emphasizing that the decision he made at age 17 to enlist in the Corps changed his life forever. As President Ronald Reagan said, "Some people live an entire lifetime, and wonder if they ever made a difference in the world. Marines, don't have that problem." PFC Cheslick indeed made a difference, for he was, is and always will be a United States Marine.

As has become our custom, I closed by reciting the poem "Go Gently," a tribute to all of our fallen comrades. Chaplain Bergin then offered the Benediction, followed by each of us paying our last respects to PFC Cheslick.

Charlie Tritto

Assistant New York Coordinator
Missing in America Project

Boys State and Girls State 2017



As we plan for the Holidays and look forward to the New Year, we also begin our efforts to offer the opportunity of attending the 2017 Boy's State or Girl's State program to as many well qualified local high school juniors as possible. To get this process rolling, we have reached out to the schools asking them to provide us a list of candidates from their junior class that they believe will be well suited for the program. Already we have the candidates' names for Girl's State, and have scheduled the individual interviews to be completed before the holiday break.

Again this year, we will be sending two of the young ladies (one each from Walt Whitman and Harborfields high schools) to SUNY, in Brockport, NY at the end of the school year, and will announce their selection early in January. The names of the boys that will be candidates for Boy's State, and will go to SUNY Morrisville, will be provided to us just after the Holidays. We will then follow up with their individual interviews and selection.

For 2016, our Post was able to send a total of 13 juniors from Harborfields, Walt Whitman and Half Hollow Hills West high schools; if things go as planned we hope

to send an even larger number this year. As with all endeavors, it is the financial aspect that is the limiting factor, as each year there are quite a few more well qualified students we would like to send to the program – tuition for the boys is \$450, and for the girls it is \$550. The tuition covers all the cost for the week at the SUNY campus, including round trip transportation, meals, and housing.

We have been able to offer this program to more and more students from our humble beginning with just two students sent in 2009. This increase over the years has been made possible by the generous donations made by local businesses, elected officials, and individuals investing in our country's future.

For the 13 students last year, the cost was almost \$6,000. So if we increase the number of attendees for this year, the amount needed will exceed the \$6,000 figure. To help get our 2017 finances off to a good start, one of the parents of a student that attended this year's program has reached out to the other parents for possible donations and has gotten a very favorable response.

With your help, we will make this another very successful year for the Boy's State and Girl's State pro-

Charlie Armstrong

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

The Christopher Cunningham Story (Continued from page 3)

I called my uncle with this information and he consulted with his wife, who recalled the name of the funeral home that was dispatched to claim my father's body, and also recalled that that my grandmother (Chris' mother) instructed them to cremate his body and "dispose of it in a respectful manner." Good grief.

I contacted the New York Chapter of the Missing in America Project and spoke to a kind-hearted, patient gentleman named John Caldarelli, who told me a story that brought me to tears, then to my knees in gratitude.

My father's remains went unclaimed at the funeral home, then were transferred to a New York repository, where they remained until John Caldarelli arrived to begin exhaustive research into the thousands of sets of unclaimed remains, searching for those who were US veterans. He identified my father as a WWII veteran and arranged for a burial ceremony with full military honors at Long Island National Cemetery along with 30+ other veterans of various wars and conflicts.

Mr. Caldarelli directed me to an online photo gallery that documented this awe-inspiring event: a 21-gun salute, a military band, a military honor guard, Christian and

Jewish services, bagpipes, a rider-less horse, doves being released and flags being presented to surviving family members. Through these photographs, I witnessed a burial service far greater than anything my father would have ever dreamed of. The Missing in America Project and John Caldarelli gave my dad the honorable, dignified, respectful burial that his family did not. I was humbled. I am humbled to this day.

In 2016, Mr. Caldarelli contacted me to let me know that there was another burial service being conducted for 20+ more veterans whose remains were recently discovered by the New York chapter. He invited my family to attend this service and receive a flag in honor of my father's service to his country. My brother Sean represented the family and was moved to tears by the incredible honor bestowed on our nation's bravest servants. He received the flag, then walked to my father's gravesite, where he held up the flag and told him how much it meant to all of us.

I cannot repay the debt that I feel for the Missing in America Project for what they've done for me and my family. I will continue to support the cause through donations, but no amount of money can match what we've been given. God bless the work of the Missing in America Project.

American Legion Auxiliary



We're in the midst of the winter holidays and the Auxiliary has a lot to celebrate and look forward to in this coming year. The last time you heard from us we were focused on building our membership and galvanizing our efforts to help local veterans and our community.

We are proud to announce that the Greenlawn Auxiliary Unit was able to reach its 2017 membership goal at 133%! This is thanks to the wonderful efforts of all our members and especially to Patricia Dolan, our Unit Secretary and Membership Chairwoman. Congratulations Pat and thank you for all your hard work! We hope to meet more ladies in this coming year who are interested in helping our veterans and community.

I would also like to individually acknowledge the women who have been with us since our charter was formed in 2009. Thank you to our Charter Members, for

your dedication and meritorious service: Sandy Bohn, Gerri Dettling, Madeline Emmons, Theresa Fay, Maureen O'Shea, Madelaine Santo, Elaine Schaefer, and Nancy Sobina.

Along with our membership goal successes, we are also proud to announce our new Vice President, Nicole Abbate. Nicole is no stranger to American Legion events. She is a familiar and welcome face among the Riders, where her father and husband are both active members. We are very fortunate to have her expertise in fundraising come to bear as we look to next year.

Nicole is leading the planning of an exciting new fundraiser in the spring that we hope to see many of you at. Look for more details in the next newsletter!

Shannon King
Unit 1244 President
ALA1244Greenlawn@gmail.com

Old Glory Mobile Flag Deposit Box 2017 Schedule

Jan. 3rd – Feb. 1st	Half Hollow Hills Community Library 55 Vanderbilt Pkwy., Dix Hills	Aug. 1st – Sep. 1st	Huntington Public Library 338 Main St, Huntington
Feb. 1st – Mar. 1st	Half Hollow Hills Community Library 510 Sweet Hollow Rd, Melville	Sep. 1st – Oct. 2nd	Harborfields Public Library 31 Broadway, Greenlawn
Mar. 1 st – Apr. 3rd	Northport Public Library 5 Laurel Ave, Northport	Oct. 2nd – Nov. 1st	Elwood Public Library 1929 Jericho Tpke, East Northport
Apr. 3rd – May 1st	E. Northport Public Library 185 Larkfield Rd, East Northport	Nov. 1st – Dec 1st	Commack Public Library 18 Hauppauge Rd, Commack
May 1st – Jul. 5th	South Huntington Public Library 145 Pidgeon Hill Rd, Huntington Station	Dec. 1st – Jan. 2nd	Cold Spring Harbor Library 95 Harbor Rd, Cold Spring Harbor
Jul. 5th – Aug. 1st	Huntington Station Public Library 1335 New York Ave, Huntington Station		

Note – throughout the year, any flags dropped off at the libraries when the Flag Drop Box is not present will be sent to the South Huntington Library for collection.

For information concerning the Flag Drop program contact: Charlie Armstrong at (917)337-2234 (kiitos@verizon.net) or Dennis Giunta at (631)553-5002 (dendelion@aol.com)

American Legion Riders



As another year comes to a close, we find that we have had another very busy year, with over 115 missions of all types in all kinds of weather. Too often, these days, our missions involve the paying of respect and honor to a deceased Veteran.

Sometimes, these missions take place in the warm comfort of a local funeral home, where the family and friends of the Veteran come to grieve their loss and remember all those stories that sum up the life of the recently deceased.

Sadly, at other times, we are called upon to escort the remains of a Veteran who may have died alone, anonymous and forgotten. Sometimes, as we have recently learned, they are not forgotten at all, but have somehow been lost to the family members who loved them and never gave up their search for them.

Fortunately, we have many other times when we celebrate that which bonds us, brothers and sisters, with a mission to honor all those Veterans who have served their country.

One such occasion was our Sixth Annual Turkey Run to distribute Turkeys and "fixins" to Veterans we have

chosen to honor in this way. This year, we delivered 15 turkeys and trimmings to Veterans from Huntington Station to Smithtown. It was indeed a pleasure to see their neighbors come to their windows and doorways as sixteen motorcycles roared up the street to the home of each lucky Veteran and his family. Very often, they come out with cameras, ready to take pictures of our riders posing with their Veteran neighbor.

This year, another joyous mission followed immediately after the turkeys were all delivered: America's VetDogs graduation of its latest class of Veterans and their new service dogs. We were even able to provide a turkey and fixings (plus dog food) for one of the new Veteran graduates and his dog.

Our Veterans Day fundraiser, our Riders Holiday Party, this year's PT Tom Retirement Party, the Post's annual Holiday party and our annual party for the Veterans at the Northport VA have all served to put us in a Holiday mood!

Bruce Blanco

President, American Legion Riders
Greenlawn Chapter 1244

American Legion Riders 2017 Officers Elected

On December 18th, American Legion Riders Greenlawn Chapter 1244 held its annual election of officers. Following are the newly elected officers for 2017. They will be installed at our Post's next monthly meeting on Wednesday, January 11th. Pizza will be served afterward.

President - Bruce Blanco
Vice President - Tom McAuliffe
Treasurer - Shannon King
Secretary - Shannon King / Bruce Blanco
Sgt. at Arms - Sal Abbate
Road Captain - John Boll

Assistant Road Captain - Bill Bartasek
Assistant Road Captain - Victor Ramondetta
Chaplain - Mike Williams
Historian - Bob Glanzman
Public Relations Chairman - George Barbaro



Sons of The American Legion

There will be a SPECIAL meeting of the Sons Squadron of this Post on Saturday, January 14th at 9AM at our Post building, 24 Boulevard Ave., Greenlawn. I encourage ALL members of the Sons, above the age of 18 years old to attend this meeting, the purpose of which is to establish some plans for 2017 for this group and to seek out some new Officers for the upcoming election season in the spring.

We will provide donuts but please DO bring your own coffee. The meeting should be an hour or so but we want to start on time so please be there by 9AM the latest. No need for any uniform that day. Just your presence is requested.

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and a Healthy and Happy New Year to all. Drive carefully and be safe this holiday season, please.

Dennis Madden
Commander

Post 1244 Outstanding Service Award

SailAhead was recognized by American Legion Post 1244 at our November meeting with our Outstanding Service Award and a financial donation. This local organization, founded by teenage sailors Sean and Kilian Duclay, has provided over a thousand individual Veterans sailing outings since its founding in the winter of 2013. Post 1244 has been partnering with SailAhead since 2015, when Legionnaire **Frank Ostroff** brought this local, family run organization to our attention.



Since that time, we have helped SailAhead become an Adaptive Sports partner with the Northport VA Medical Center, participated in the Keelboat Certification Course provided by The WaterFront Center and helped organize the “Let’s Take a Veteran Sailing” event at Centerport yacht Club in 2015 and 2016. This event has since exposed hundreds of veterans to the sailing experience and raised awareness in the community of PTSD and veteran suicide.

Army Week 2016

During Veteran's Week 2016, Army Week Association held its annual event at the Lexington Armory and introduced SailAhead as one of it's newest partners for 2017.



This was an opportunity for us to present SailAhead to New York City, meet new veterans, establish new contacts and be acknowledged for our work. SailAhead's friends, donors and skippers were invited as well.

SailAhead and Post 1244, are looking forward to a great 2017 healing season with the strong support of our newest partner, Army Week.

Certificate from Knights of Columbus

During the Knights of Columbus Patriotic Night event, Richard Ronde - The Grand Knight of Thomas A. Judge Council #6893, East Northport - presented brothers



Kilian and Sean Duclay a Certificate of Appreciation and a donation for their work in helping our country's greatest asset; our Armed Forces Veterans.

This was an opportunity to present SailAhead, spread PTSD awareness and to talk about our 219 Mates.

The Certificate of Appreciation celebrates the healing work we have accomplished thus far. SailAhead is proud to have been awarded by the Knights of Columbus.

Thank you **Bob Slingo** and Father Thomas A. Judge Council 6893 for your strong and enthusiastic support!

Signature Properties Supports SailAhead

This year, the owners of Signature Premier Properties, Kathleen A. Viard and Peter Morris, have committed to giving up to \$100,000 to local charities assisting veterans. The goal is to help bring awareness to veteran suicide through their month long “22 Push-Up Challenge”. On November 21st, SailAhead received Signature’s support in the form of a donation.



Sadly, every day 22 of our nation’s veterans take their own lives as a result of PTSD. Veteran suicides make up 18% of all suicides in America, while our Veterans make up only 8.5% of the U.S. population.

SailAhead and Signature Premier Properties are both spreading PTSD awareness and its associated ravages. With this donation and support, Signature makes us stronger to help healing PTSD suffering veterans. Signature Premier Properties has rallied to our 219 Mates Banner! SailAhead is proud to have been acknowledged by such fine local organization.

A Special Thank You to **Andrea D’ Eloia** for recommending and supporting SailAhead in this process. Thank you Signature Premier Properties for your strong and enthusiastic support!

You Earned It!

The Vet Center Program



HISTORY

The Vet Center Program was established by Congress in 1979 out of the recognition that a significant number of Vietnam era vets were still experiencing readjustment problems. Vet Centers are community based and part of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. In April 1991, in response to the Persian Gulf War, Congress extended the eligibility to veterans who served during other periods of armed hostilities after the Vietnam era. Those other periods are identified as Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, the Persian Gulf, Somalia, and Kosovo/Bosnia. In October 1996, Congress extended the eligibility to include WWII and Korean Combat Veterans.

The goal of the Vet Center program is to provide a broad range of counseling, outreach, and referral services to eligible veterans in order to help them make a satisfying post-war readjustment to civilian life. On April 1, 2003 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs extended eligibility for Vet Center services to veterans of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and on June 25, 2003 Vet Center eligibility was extended to veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and subsequent operations within the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT).

The family members of all veterans listed above are eligible for Vet Center services as well. On August 5, 2003 VA Secretary Anthony J. Principi authorized Vet Centers to furnish bereavement counseling services to surviving parents, spouses, children and siblings of service members who die of any cause while on active duty, to include federally activated Reserve and National Guard personnel.

SERVICES

What is readjustment counseling?

Readjustment counseling is a wide range of psycho social services offered to eligible Veterans, Service members, and their families in the effort to make a successful transition from military to civilian life. They include:

- Individual and group counseling for Veterans, Service members, and their families
- Family counseling for military related issues
- Bereavement counseling for families who experience an active duty death
- Military sexual trauma counseling and referral

- Outreach and education including PDHRA, community events, etc.

- Substance abuse assessment and referral

- Employment assessment & referral

- VBA benefits explanation and referral

- Screening & referral for medical issues including TBI, depression, etc.

Does VA have readjustment counseling for family members?

Family members of combat Veterans and Service members have been eligible for Vet Center readjustment counseling services for military related issues since 1979.

Am I eligible for Vet Center readjustment counseling?

If you, or a family member, served in any combat zone and received a military campaign ribbon (Vietnam, Southwest Asia, OEF, OIF, etc.) then both you and your family are eligible for Vet Center services.

Where is counseling offered?

VA's readjustment counseling is provided at community-based Vet Centers located in easily accessible neighborhoods near Veterans, Service members, and their families, yet separate from VA organizational sites to ensure confidential counseling and reduce barriers to care. All Vet Center services are prepaid through military service. Contact your nearest Vet Center through information provided in the Vet Center Directory or listings in your local blue pages. Vet Center staff are available toll free and around the clock at 877-WAR-VETS (927-8387).

Are Vet Centers open during non-traditional hours?

Yes, all Vet Centers maintain non-traditional appointment schedules, after normal business hours, to accommodate the schedules of Veterans, Service members, and their family members.

Vet Centers in Our Area

Nassau Vet Center

970 South Broadway, Hicksville, NY 11801
Phone: 516-348-0088 Or 516-348-0088

Babylon Vet Center

100 West Main St., Babylon, NY 11702
Phone: 631-661-3930 Or 631-661-3930

The Photo Corner



Photo by Craig Butler, Cub Scout Pack 5

Dozens of local Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Girls Scouts line up to help dispose of worn and tattered American Flags on November 12, following our Flag Retirement Ceremony. Many thanks to The Greenlawn Fire Department and to the parents, scout leaders and children who participated.

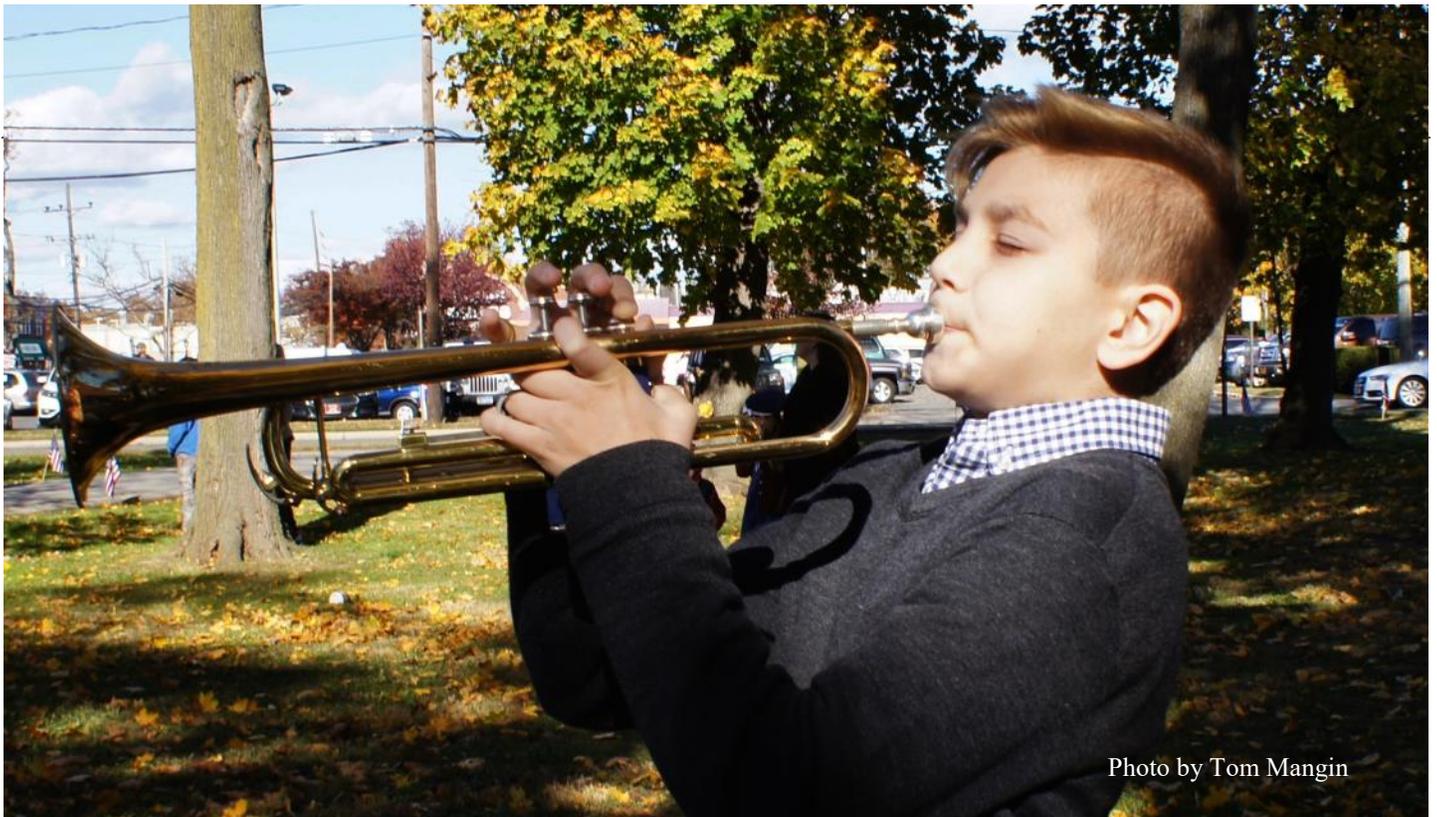


Photo by Tom Mangin

Michael Mank, talented 7th grade musician at Oldfield Middle School performs “Taps” at our Veterans Day Ceremony on November 11th, 2016

Vice Commander's Call to Members



What a great way to end the year! Our 2nd annual holiday party was a great success. The new venue, The View at Crab Meadow Golf Course turned out to be a terrific find. Great food, attentive staff and...we had the whole place to ourselves. Special thanks go out to all those who called on our local merchants to provide us with the goodies for our raffle baskets: Donations of gift certificates from a wide variety of restaurants, entertainment venues and merchants as well as donations of products and services from hardware to hairstyling to flowers.

**Just
ask!**

The 40" TV grand prize was also a big hit! A major thank you to our DJ Andrew Schild who did a truly professional job of providing a mix of holiday and very danceable music to add to the fun.

On the membership front, we have, once again, achieved our 100% membership goal by the end of the year, a truly remarkable accomplishment. This could not be possible without our "Membership Committee"...that means all of you!

Thank to those of you who stopped to chat with someone wearing a Veteran-themed ball cap at the supermarket, or suggested joining our Post to a Veteran relative or friend. Remember: "**Just Ask!**" There are plenty of good things to tell a prospective members about our post right here in our newsletter. Don't be afraid to brag!

A Flag pin on a lapel, a decal on a car window all point to a prospective member. Be sure to carry an application or two at all times...("What's in Your Wallet?"). Thank you all for helping to get us to the 100% mark! If you need help with a prospect, please contact me at 631-796-3013.

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and all the best to you and your family in the New Year to come!

Richard Russano

Welcome To Our Newest American Legion Family Members!

American Legion

Hal Dieterle
Gary Fass
Michael Marino
Peter L. Marmorato
Eric Seigel
Jack Walsh

Sons of The American Legion

Ryan Kleinkopf
Chuck Bishop
Mike Perz
Ken Simpson

American Legion Auxiliary

Nicole Abbate
Kristiana Abbate
Colleen Campbell
Veronica Campbell
Laura Ramondetta
Ella Lingeza
Mary Walker



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 and we'll do the rest!



ST. JOSEPH COUNCIL #4810 KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 631-754-9488 Rentals / Membership

Our newly refurbished hall is available for all your special occasions.
Call now and reserve! 631-754-9488

THE COMMANDER'S CORNER



This year has been an exciting one for our Post and while many of you may not recognize the activity, we certainly have been busy within our community in small groups. Generally, this is how things begin. A whisper of interest grows into a meeting or two. This turns into a project or plan of sorts and before you know it, Post 1244 is deeply involved in whatever is about to happen.

Just a spark gave rise to conversation about our Memorial Park. That has turned into a project that will happen in phases; the first of which will be the replacement of the eagle atop the monument and the refreshing of the plaques thereon. This should all happen before Memorial Day 2017. The second phase will be the removal of "most" of the hedges behind the monument, to entice those visiting to view not only the front but the back as well. Those hedges will be replaced with new plantings behind the flagpoles and a line of azaleas to front it all. The azaleas will always be in bloom for the Greenlawn Memorial Day parade and ceremony and add to the beauty of the park. Other work will follow in the immediate future, provided funding is available, until the park is completed for and by our wonderful hamlet and home, Greenlawn.

Our Membership Award is back on track as Vice Commander Russano is closing in on renewals and new memberships for our 2017 year.

Law and Order, an often forgotten program is being overseen by 2nd Vice Giordano now and he is on the lookout for our Fire, Police and EMS feats above and beyond the call of duty. If you know of a local incident, please let him know so he may follow up for our Post's recognition.

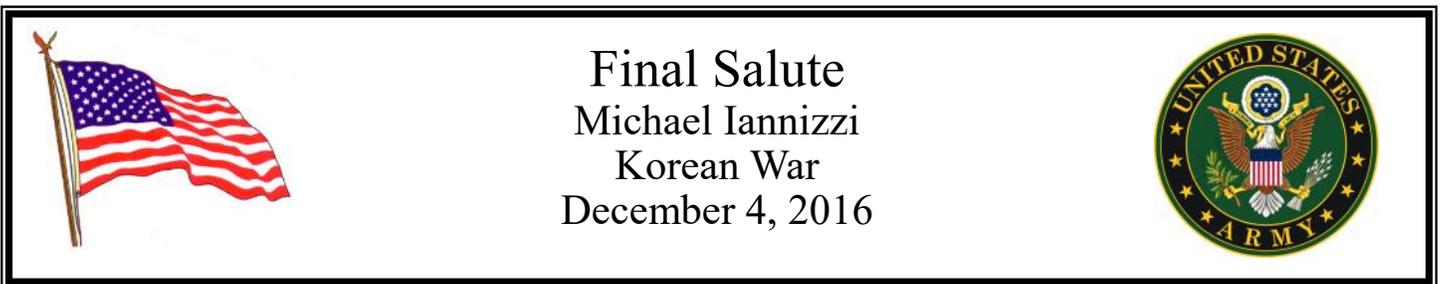
John Caldarelli and his "team" have been continuing with the "Lord's work" in our never-ending MIAP quest and our Riders are "everywhere," displaying Post 1244's colors.

Our Sons of The American Legion will soon become an active part of this Post, now that we have a few "older" members to help guide the way. A meeting is being planned for just after the holidays, so, ... SONS, please plan on attending. Many hands make light work.

Lastly, our Auxiliary unit, under the leadership of Shannon King, has brought about a very pleasant revival. Meetings are again underway and projects are being planned and executed. That is a wonderful thing to see after a rather tenuous year of inactivity.

We missed a few parades this year due to inclement weather, but otherwise it has been quite a year for us all. Thank you to all of you for your participation, if and when you could. Please keep an eye on our Bugle and our eNews weekly broadcasts for anything that might suit your interest and come out and join us. Have a wonderful Holiday Season and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Dennis Madden
Commander



**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

American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244 is a tax exempt veterans organization under section 501 (c) (19) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to the Post may be tax deductible.

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

The Greenlawn Bugle: Editor and Publisher Manager, Bob Santo

Contributing Writers: Charlie Armstrong, John Caldarelli, Vinnie Crimauddo, Jennifer Duclay, Shannon King, Dennis Madden, Richard Russano, Bob Santo

Proofreading, Photography, Envelope Labeling, Stuffing, Circulation and Morale Officer: Madelaine Santo



OUR SUPPORTERS



Andrew P. Raia
Member of Assembly
12th District
Suffolk County



75 Woodbine Ave.
Northport, NY 11768
(631)-261-4151
Fax (631)-261-2992

raiaa@assembly.state.ny.us



Chad A. Lupinacci
Member of Assembly
10th District
Suffolk County



630 New York Avenue Ste. D
Huntington, NY 11743
(631) 271-8025
Fax (631) 424-5984

Lupinaccic@assembly.state.ny.us



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

Councilman Eugene Cook
Town of Huntington
631-351-3174
ecook@huntingtonny.gov



**EXECUTIVE
LIMOUSINE**

Douglas Schwartz
President



Serving NYC

2200 Bellmore Ave.
Bellmore, NY 11710
office 516-826-8172
cell 516-233-7272

doug@executivelimousine.org
www.executivelimousine.org



**Long Island & Queens
Vitreoretinal Consultants, PC**

Locations in:

Great Neck, Hauppauge, Elmhurst, Riverhead
and Rockville Center

For directions and contact information:

www.longislandretina.com

Thank You, Veterans



**Supporting the
American
Legion**



**M.A.
Connell** SINCE 1923
FUNERAL HOME INC

Where Caring is a Family Tradition

Serving our community for 90 years
Family owned and operated

Web: www.maconnellfuneralhome.com

*Personalized services arranged
We specialize in all Veteran's Services*

934 New York Avenue
Huntington Station, New York 11746
Phone: 631-427-1123, Fax: 631-385-2306



**The Officers and Members of
Greenlawn Volunteer Fire Department Support
American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244**



OUR SUPPORTERS

SUSAN A. BERLAND

COUNCILWOMAN
TOWN OF HUNTINGTON



*Huntington Town Hall
100 Main Street, Huntington, NY 11743
http://HuntingtonNY.gov
Email: SBerland@HuntingtonNY.gov
(631) 351-3173—Fax (631) 673-3379*

Low interest rates getting you down? Let's talk.



David A Warren, AAMS®
Financial Advisor
79 Broadway
Greenlawn, NY 11740
631-754-8441
www.edwardjones.com

Edward Jones®
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Member SIPC



William R. Spencer, MD
Suffolk County Legislator
18th Legislative District

15 Park Circle, Suite 209
Centerport, NY 11721
(631)854-4500
Fax (631)854-4503



Harbor Carting Corp Empire Waste Removal Corp

(631) 499-3431

Residential & Commercial Roll-Off's
4 - 40 Yard Containers

Weekly Commercial Garbage Service

Manure Removal &
Bobcat Service

www.Harborcarting.com

Ron Colatosti

Established 1969

Ed Colatosti

Proudly Serving Long Island for Over 10 years!



Totally Free Checking for Life – Personal and Business

Matt Nartowicz
Vice President - Regional Manager

Commack

(In the Meat Farms Shopping Center)
100 Commack Road
631-864-9800

East Northport

(In the Elwood Shopping Center)
1968 Jericho Tpke
631-864-9800

www.ACBAways.com

Member FDIC

Equal Opportunity Lender



Computers- Internet - E Mail –Photoshop- Genealogy
Classroom Training –Remote Learning- Seminars

The world's largest training organization for adults 50 and over.
Courses are designed specifically for seniors and are taught by
caring volunteer instructors and coaches...in our Huntington or
East Yaphank Locations.

Registration and Education - Call (631) 470-6757
Development and Direct line to Slava Vero - Call (631) 470-6922
www.SeniorNetLL.org



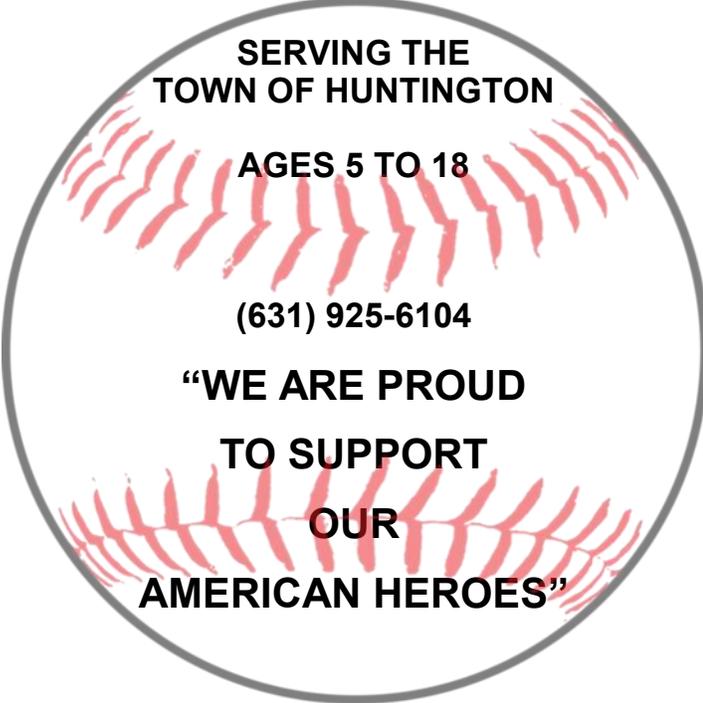
*Best Wishes
Thank you for your
service*

Councilwoman Tracey A. Edwards
Town of Huntington
100 Main Street
Huntington NY 11743
631-351-3175
tedwards@thuntingtonny.gov



OUR SUPPORTERS

Huntington Tri Village LITTLE LEAGUE / SENIOR LEAGUE



UNITED STATES COLUMBARIUM CO.



Fresh Pond Crematory
61-40 Mount Olivet Crescent
Middle Village, NY 11379
718-821-9700

www.freshpondcrematory.com

J.P. Di Troia President

Serving the community since 1884

Cremation Chapel Services Columbarium Niches
Memorial Urns Pre-need Memorials

Call our Expert Memorial Counselors For Details

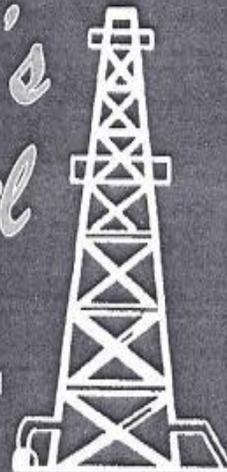


41 Commack Road Commack, NY 11725
Phone: 631-499-8600
Janine Maiorca, Vice President,
Branch Manager

775 Pulaski Rd Greenlawn, NY 11740
Phone: 631-757-6100
Maria Selvaggio, Assistant Treasurer,
Branch Manager

167 Walt Whitman Rd Huntington Station,
NY 11746
Phone: 631-547-5370
Kathleen Benoit, Vice President
Branch Manager

*Larry's
Fuel*



SINCE 1978

Family Owned & Operated

- GAS SERVICE & INSTALLATIONS
- FULL SERVICE COVERAGE
- CONTRACTS & AUTOMATIC DELIVERY AVAILABLE
- ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

**DISCOUNTED
PREMIUM GRADE NO. 2 FUEL**



631-757-8543 • 631-754-3015

Fax: 631-757-3214





OUR SUPPORTERS

**Suffolk County Legislator
Steve Stern**
16th Legislative District



**Chairman, Veterans and Seniors
Committee**
Phone: 631-854-5100
E Mail : n@suffolkcountyny.gov

www.greenlawncivic.org

The Greenlawn Civic Association

P.O. Box 332 - Greenlawn - Long Island - New York - 11740

**We join you in support of Our Troops.
We thank them for their dedicated service
and sacrifice for our Country.**

Mark Cuthbertson
Councilman



Town of Huntington
100 Main Street
Huntington, NY 11743

631-351-3172

mcuthbertson@huntingtonny.gov

DELEA

Sod Farms

Quality Sod For Any Application



Hilaire Rehab and Nursing offers:

- Short Term Rehab & Long Term Care
- Skilled Living at Hilaire, an exciting new option when Assisted Living doesn't meet your medical needs
- Our 76 bed location is nestled in the beautiful Huntington country side located at: 9 Hilaire Drive, Huntington, NY 11743
Phone: 631-427-0254

PHONE (631) 261-0119
FAX (631) 261-9344

GREENLAWN HARDWARE CO., INC.

PAINT - ELECTRICAL - PLUMBING
AUTOMOTIVE - CABOT STAINS
BENJAMIN MOORE PAINTS

83 BROADWAY
GREENLAWN, NY 11740

Thomas J. Morra, CFP®, MSFS,
ChFC®, CLU®
Associate Financial Advisor

Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc.
1 Huntington Quadrangle
Suite 1S03A
Melville, NY 11747-4426

T: 631.396.2075
F: 631.396.2079

thomas.j.morra@ampf.com
ameripriseadvisors.com/thomas.j.morra

Associate with an Ameriprise
Financial franchise



Pro Audio LI ENTERTAINMENT

Block Parties | Fund Raisers
| Community Events | Sweet
16's Reunions and More !

631-766-7889

ProAudioLIEntertainment.com



(631)754-2400
www.nthfh.com

NOLAN & TAYLOR-HOWE FUNERAL HOME, INC.

FIVE LAUREL AVENUE,
NORTHPORT, NY 1768-3166

DIX HILLS

DINER-RESTAURANT

1800 E. Jericho Turnpike, Huntington, NY 11743

631.499.5899 - Fax 631.623.6131

www.mydixhillsdiner.com

Eatery - Bakery - Bar