



The Greenlawn Bugle

American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244

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Graduation Day 2013

June 22nd was a very special day in the life of Greenlawn Post 1244 Legionnaire Gil Harris. As a young man, Gil had to work many hours both before and after school to support himself and his mother. As a result, he was unable to complete the course work necessary to graduate with his Kings Park High School classmates. He dropped out of school at the age of seventeen and joined the United States Navy. He served on active duty from 1957 to 1963.

Fifty five years after he should have graduated, Gil donned the green robe of a graduate of Harborfields High School and proudly accepted his High School diploma as the class of 2013, their parents and friends looked on with admiration and respect. Instead of the traditional mortar board that he was offered, he donned his American Legion Post 1244 uniform cap. For the first time in Harborfields history, two graduating students are enlisting in the military and four students will be attending service academies in the Fall.

Gil was able to receive his diploma as a result of the New York State Operation Recognition Program. Initiated in 2005, Operation Recognition entitles honorably discharged veterans of World War II and the Korean and Vietnam Wars to receive a high school diploma from any New York State public high school.

Earlier this year, Harborfields High School Principal, Dr. Rory Manning, e-mailed Commander Bob Santo to let him know about this program. It was announced at our January meeting and we quickly had our first volunteer, Gil Harris.

Gil served as a cook/ baker aboard the destroyers USS Furse (DDR-882) and the USS Albert T. Harris (DE-447) in both the Atlantic, Mediterranean and Caribbean,



Gil Harris receiving his diploma from former Board of Education Trustee Gary Schoer. Harborfields High School Principal Dr. Rory Manning, (R) looks on.

experiencing both the good life as well as the dangers of a life at sea. From visiting the beautiful ports of Monte Carlo and Genoa to surviving a category 4 hurricane off of Cape Hatteras and a front row seat on the Cuban Missile Crisis, Gil was a witness to history, and is happy to share his experiences, especially with our youth.

An active member of the post, Gil volunteered to take part in our program "Veterans In The Classroom" this year and spoke to a class of seventh graders at Old Fields Middle School about his service and what it means to be a veteran.

We are all very proud of our comrade, Gil Harris. He is a great example to our students and exemplifies all that it means to be an American Veteran.

Veterans interested in the Operation Recognition Program, may contact the public high school of their choice, their New York State Senator or Assemblyman or Commander Bob Santo (516-458-7881). We encourage all who are eligible, to take advantage of this opportunity.

Upcoming Events

- VA Harvest Festival**
Wednesday Sept 18, NPVAMC.
11 am-3 pm. CPL Bill.
- Greenlawn Pickle Festival**
Saturday, Sept 21. Post Booth,
CPL Bill. Gardiner Farm. 11
am-4 pm
- VA Veterans Stand Down**
Friday, Sept 27
Northport VAMC.
9 am -3 pm
- Long Island Fall Festival**
Oct 11-14. Heckscher Park
Post Booth.
- Columbus Day Parade**
Sunday Oct 13. 12:30 pm
- Post Brunch at Nocello's**
Sunday, Oct 27. 10:30 am
- Veterans Day Ceremony**
Monday, Nov 11th. Greenlawn
Memorial 11am Sharp.

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

MISSING IN AMERICA PROJECT



Stranger Than Fiction

That old cliché, that “truth is stranger than fiction,” is certainly a recurring theme through out our lives. That I would be writing about this incident for The Bugle is almost a double -entendre. As an anecdotal piece, it is worth sharing with the sisters and brothers of our Post.

When the June 22nd Missing In America multiple inurn-



Private Herman Holtz in his Civil War Uniform

ment was still in the planning stages, we learned that two of the remains that surfaced in our quest for certification of veterans, were Civil War Veterans. Needless to say, we were all surprised and pleased. What a unique and interesting aspect this was! We knew it would certainly lend an air of history to the interment. In the mists of history, two American veterans had waited patiently for almost one hundred years to be found.

Realizing that Post 1244, MIAP and U.S. Columbarium were instrumental in their recovery and certification, gave us a sense of pride and gratitude. We would be conducting a funeral for them and forty-one others, and we would see that these veterans and wives were interred with dignity and honor. It filled us with a feeling of Americanism. The four Pillars of the American Legion came to mind, and it was a good feeling.

We immediately started our search for a Civil War re-enactment group to conduct a special ceremony for the

two Civil War veterans as a part of our ceremony. Sgt.-at-Arms Charlie Armstrong suggested the 67th New York Volunteer Infantry in Patchogue, NY. They were more than pleased to do it. When they found out where our Civil War veterans had enlisted, they suggested an additional group that would be interested in joining our ceremony: the 39th Garibaldi Guard, which turned out to be the outfit that one of Civil War Veterans, Henry Eggers belonged to. The story became stranger, still. I received an E-Mail two days before the ceremony, from Mr. Leonard Holtz, of Connecticut. Mr. Holtz explained to me that his great, great, grandfather, Herman Holtz, a German immigrant, had enlisted in the 39th Garibaldi Guard on the same day that Henry Eggers had.

Herman Holtz was subsequently wounded; shot in the stomach. He was one of the very few soldiers of the Civil War to survive a stomach wound. He went on to become a trumpeter for the Grand Army of the Republic., a predecessor of today's American Legion. What the Confederacy could not do to Herman; what the poorly equipped doctors could not do; a train did: by hitting him while he crossed the train tracks. It appears our own Henry Eggers was in good Company with Herman Holtz. Leonard Holtz was also in possession of photos and other paraphernalia from that era.



Private Herman Holz First Row on the left.

Leonard maintained his great-great grandfather's love of the horn. Leonard Holtz plays the Shofar. He played it at Ground Zero for all the Jewish victims who died in the travesty of 911.

No matter what we believe in, the gods were in a generous mood, or the stars were perfectly aligned, when these events unfolded, to have access to this information supports our initial premise, one that rings true: truth is stranger than fiction.

John Caldarelli



BOY'S STATE – 2013

It is hard to believe that another year of Boy's State is once again behind us. We look forward to start this rewarding process all over again for the Juniors in the 2014 class. As you know, this year we

were able to sponsor eight boys from three local high schools to participate in this exceptional program. Next year, with strong community support, our goal is to increase this number.

Every year, the boys return speaking highly of this as one of their most incredible and rewarding experiences. This year was no exception. Two of the boys recently visited us at our Post meeting in August to give us some first hand input on what they got out of the week. After taking an early morning 5-1/2 hour bus trip, being met by the Marines when they arrived in Morrisville, and working through their initial thoughts of “what have I gotten myself into”, they both explained that they found Boy's State to be a life-changing experience: a week that was over all too soon; and week that was much more than they had anticipated. Another boy wrote “I had no idea how great this week would be, and I thank you and the Greenlawn Post for sponsoring me and giving me this incredible opportunity.”

The Boy's State brochure states that this is “A Week That Shapes A Lifetime.” The feedback we receive from the boys each year, shows that this is very true. This positive feedback makes it easy for us to look forward to beginning the process once again, for our 2014 Boys State delegates.

Charlie Armstrong



Boys State Delegate Michael McDonagh speaking to the membership



The morning of June 23rd, found Chaplain Shaw and Cmdr. Santo on the Brookhaven Airport flight line to witness Legionnaire

Domenick Gargiulo take to the skies in the B-25H Mitchell Bomber, “Barbie III.” This was not Dom’s first flight in a WW II era warplane.

More than 60 years ago, Dom served as flight engineer aboard unarmed C-46 Commando transports in the China-Burma-India theater during WWII. He was awarded the Air Medal and Distinguished Flying Cross for his dangerous assignments supplying the Chinese with materiel in their war against Japan.

Also on hand, were family members Annmarie and Chris Lenio, and Dom’s grandsons Christian and Nicholas. Domenick was this year’s winner of our annual History Flight Raffle.

History Flight, Inc.-- is a 501c3 Non-Profit foundation committed to keeping World War II aviation history alive by operating three of the most important aircraft of WWII . All proceeds from their flights go directly to fund their ongoing research and recovery expeditions dedicated to

bringing our Missing in Action servicemen home from their burial sites in remote battlefields of WWII. To date, History Flight, Inc. has helped locate graves of over 200 MIAs from locations in the Pacific Theater.



Domenick Gargiulo (R) with pilot leaving the B-25 after his flight

For information about their work and how you can help **History Flight**, see www.HistoryFlight.com.

American Legion Riders Post 1244



About The American Legion Riders

This year the American Legion Riders Post 1244 Chapter will proudly celebrate its sixth anniversary. The Post 1244 chapter is arguably the most active of all the chapters on Long Island. I have often been told that our Riders seem to be “everywhere.” At any parade or patriotic event, they draw attention to our Post and we always receive complements on the impression they make.

You will see one, two or ten or more of our Riders at nearly every welcome home mission in the area, and they can be counted on to be a presence at every Post American Legion Memorial service for a member who has passed on.



L-R: Chapter VP Bruce Blanco; President Serge Dei at MIAP ceremony on June 22nd this year

Our chapter is just one of over 425 American Legion Riders chapters in the United States. American Legion Riders programs, organized by chapters, districts, or departments, support Americanism and Children and Youth programs in virtually every state in the nation, and more are organizing each month. One of the fastest-growing and most highly visible of the many programs offered by The American Legion, The American Legion Riders are a very diverse group, and so are the programs that they support.

The National Executive Committee officially adopted The American Legion Riders (ALR) as a national program with Resolution 35 (October 2007) and Resolution 32 (May 2011).

What do American Legion Riders do? The activities are far too many to mention in this space, but here are a few examples:

- ◇ American Legion Riders chapters are well known for their charitable work, which has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for local children's hospitals, schools, veteran's homes, severely wounded service members and scholarships.
- ◇ American Legion Riders chapters and districts, nationally, have become some of the most generous donors for the American Legacy Scholarship Fund, established to provide scholarships to children of U.S. military personnel killed since Sept. 11, 2001, raising as much as \$5,000 or more in a single event.
- ◇ Legion Riders participate in the annual POW/MIA Rally held each Memorial weekend in Washington D.C. known as "Rolling Thunder".
- ◇ Legion Riders sponsor or participate in local and national charity events in support of the sponsoring American Legion Post.
- ◇ Legion Riders ride to raise money for such organizations as local VA Hospitals, Battered Women and Children's Center, Varied Children and Youth programs, a School for Blind Children, Veterans Relief, Needy families and many, many others.
- ◇ Legion Riders founded a national movement called “Patriot Guard” (www.patriotguard.org) that honors and protects the sanctity of military funerals and memorial services.
- ◇ Legion Riders have formed special motorcycle Honor Guards and ceremonial teams highlighting the special bonds formed in military service and the motorcycling community.
- ◇ Legion Riders have also begun to teach motorcycle and driver safety in the community and in schools in cooperation with ABATE and other national motorcycling organizations.

ALR started at Post 396 in Garden City, Mich., in the fall of 1993. Chuck "Tramp" Dare and post commander Bill "Polka Bill" Kaledas had an idea to start an association of motorcycle enthusiasts within the Legion. The two Legionnaires – both longtime riders – wanted to create an environment where members of the Legion family could come together to share a common love for motorcycles.

We are justly proud of our American Legion Riders and the personal sacrifices they make on behalf of all veterans.

Post Commander

Sons of The American Legion



DAN LEARY: "Eagle Project"

Every spring the Harborfields Theatre Company performs "Shakespeare in the Park" in an oft-neglected area of the High School known as The Courtyard.

Entering his fourth year with HT-Co., Daniel Leary proposed to the school administration that his Eagle Scout Project would be a renovation of this region of the school. A design was submitted for a general sprucing up of the area (shrubs, ground-leveling and flowers) and the installation of three benches. In true Elizabethan fashion, this would afford students and playgoers a section for some to sit in comfort as well as a groomed area for the



"Groundlings" to spread their blankets and enjoy.

The facelift of this inner courtyard would also allow teachers to utilize this zone for outdoor classes as well as a natural place for students with free time to socialize and/or study.

With the help of twenty-eight volunteers and after 268 "man-hours" of work with materials at cost of \$531.00, the benches were installed in August, 2012



This OLD GLORY's Story

One of the nicest traditions in Boy Scouts is that when your son achieves the rank of Eagle Scout he receives an American Flag that has flown over the US Capitol



building. All it takes is an official letter to both of your state's Senators and, approximately ten weeks later, that request will be fulfilled. However, the Leary family when preparing for their son Daniel's Court of Honor, approached Senators Gillibrand and Schumer a little too late.

Since Dan is a junior member of the American Legion, we turned to them for help. Every year the Greenlawn Post holds a Flag Retiring ceremony for Star Spangled Banners that are torn, dirty or otherwise so they can be taken out of service with respect and dignity. Thanks to Charles Armstrong (who recommended Danny to be a Boy's State representative) we were able to "rescue" an HONOUR Flag.

The gorgeous yet dusty, tightly-tucked flag was dropped off at the Post anonymously and nobody knew who dropped it off. Mr. Armstrong could tell immediately by the way it was folded that at some point this flag was part of a very solemn "Presentation" ceremony. Somewhere along the way, the chain of intimacy was broken and the person who inherited or stumbled upon it was not familiar with its history, but at least knew to give it a reverent retirement. Charlie knew that it was a fitting flag for an Eagle.

When longtime Huntington resident **Bernadette Castro** heard the story of this American Legion flag she said she would love to be the one to present it to Dan.

We, the Leary family, feel blessed that we are able to proudly display this flag in honor of the previous family's hero who will not be forgotten (whomever he or she may be). Heartfelt thanks to American Legion Post #1244, Bob Santo, Commander.

Leer Leary

New Greenlawn Bugle Supporters

We are proud to acknowledge with this issue, the following new Supporters of the Greenlawn Bugle:

Amerprise Financial Services, Inc.

Greenlawn Civic Association

RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program)

United States Columbarium Co.

Greenlawn Auxiliary Unit 1244



American Legion Auxiliary News

As summer fades into fall, we look forward to cooler weather and getting back to our responsibilities as an Auxiliary.

The summer was a quiet time for our Auxiliary but, of course, on June 22, 2013 our Auxiliary was honored to participate in the (MIAP) MISSING IN AMERICA PROJECT at Long Island National Cemetery in Pinelawn, N.Y.

Seven of our members and a wife of a Post 1244 member attended and were active participants of the program. Along with members of the Greenlawn Post 1244, our ladies carried the cremains of 34 Veterans (including 2 Civil War Veterans of the Union Army) and nine spouses from the hearse in special boxes, engraved with their names and then placed them on a special table in front of folded American flags.

Several Auxiliary members placed a red rose across each box of cremains. Fran Hubbs, Auxiliary President, then placed a white rose on each box of cremains of the Civil War Veterans as a special honor.

The playing of the Coast Guard Auxiliary Band and the rendition of taps brought tears of emotion to the eyes of all present. The presentation and releasing of the white doves as a remembrance of the eternal spirit, was very emotionally moving as the doves flew overhead, a symbolic tribute to the deceased Veterans and spouses of Veterans.

Fran Hubbs, Madelaine Santo, Geri Dettling, Pat Dolan, Elaine Schaefer (Chaplain) Sandy Bohn, and Madeline Emmons felt honored and humbled to have been there and privileged to be part of the Program as were all the participants of this MIAP Program.

Congratulations to Chairman John Caldarelli for his untiring efforts with this program and a special thank you from us for his invitation to be part of this Day of Remembrance.

Our Auxiliary is always proud to stand beside Post 1244 in any of their Veteran endeavors.

Fran Hubbs - Auxiliary President



Community Spotlight:

The Greenlawn Civic Association

Did you ever wonder how those American Flags appear as if by magic on patriotic holidays in the village of Greenlawn? And those flower baskets hanging from the antique light posts? How about the planter boxes and trash containers along Broadway?

Of course, it's not magic, it's the result of the hard work of the members of the Greenlawn Civic Association. For over twenty years, the GCA team has been contributing to the beautification of the village and resolving many quality of life issues with the help of our elected Town of Huntington and Suffolk County officials.

Walter Rabe, President of the GCA explained that, in the absence of a Chamber of Commerce, the Association has taken on the responsibility to see that Greenlawn con-

tinues to be an attractive, family friendly place to visit, dine and shop in all seasons. They have greatly contributed to the Small Town America atmosphere that we have all come to love.

This Holiday Season as you watch the Greenlawn Holiday Parade or the Christmas Tree and Menorah Lightings, remember: It's not magic. Just good people doing good things for their community.

If you are interested in becoming a part of this fine organization, please call Walter Rabe at 631-757-1430 or e mail greenlawncivic@yahoo.com. You don't have to live in Greenlawn, you just have to love it. Your help is needed and appreciated!

Korean War Armistice Commemoration

Greenlawn Post 1244 joined over 450 other veterans and interested citizens at The Huntington Hilton on July 26 to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the armistice which ended the fighting on the Korean peninsula.

The breakfast, sponsored by the Town of Huntington and the Huntington Veterans Advisory Board, included musical numbers performed by the Island Symphony Orchestra, an invocation by the Rev. Chong Kim, senior pastor of the Bible Korean United Methodist Church in Dix Hills and a benediction by Msgr. Thomas Colgan of St. Philip Neri R.C. Church in East Northport.

“While it has been called the Forgotten War, Huntington has remembered twice. The town has two Korean War memorials,” Supervisor Frank Petrone said. “Huntington stands tall for its veterans.”

The featured speaker was the South Korean Vice Consul General, Hyung-gil Kim. Mr. Kim thanked the American troops who served in the war and whose efforts allowed him to grow up in a free and democratic society whose economy had become the 12th largest in the world.

“I want you to know, and I want you to be proud of the fact that I was born and educated in a free democratic country, and I am here and I can be here with you because of the sacrifices 60 years ago,” he said. “Korean War



Some of the Post 1244 attendees: L-R: Al Shaw, Dom Gargiulo, Bob Lee, Chris Argento, Bob Santo, Pat Dolan, Charlie Armstrong, John Caldarelli. Not shown: Chuck Holt and Joseph Pipia.

veterans, I owe you much, you are my heroes.”

We were honored to have at our table, Joseph Pipia who was wounded in Korea. Joe’s son is *Sons of The American Legion* member Joseph Pipia III.

Proceeds from the breakfast will be used to benefit veterans, soldiers and their families in crisis and to continue providing programs to honor, recognize and benefit veterans of all wars.

Post 1244’s Brunch at Nocello’s

When the venerable 56th Fighter Group Restaurant closed last year, we said farewell to the scene of our annual post brunch, that Sunday morning get-together we came to look forward to every year.

Not to be deterred, Vice Commander Dennis Madden has discovered a new venue, Nocello’s in Northport. The food is superior and the price is even better than at the 56th Fighter Group.

The owner and staff could not have been more accommodating to our group. Some of us were nostalgic for the rusty old jeep and decrepit war planes in the yard of our former brunch venue, but the food, service and, most of all, the pleasure we had being in the company of comrades and family soon overcame any regrets.

We hope that many more members of our Post family will join us for our next brunch on October 27th. The time will be 10:30 am and the cost is \$20 per person.



Please contact Dennis Madden at 516-52-9331 or e mail him at dam9245@optonline.net if you wish to join us. Please send your check for \$20 per person to D Madden, 5 Nagle Lane, Commack, NY 11725.

We look forward to seeing you there!



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Post Donates to Americas VetDogs

On July 11th, our Post presented a donation to America's VetDogs at their Smithtown headquarters. Legionnaires Mike Mayette and Charlie Armstrong presented a check for \$500 to Director of Development Katherine Fritz.

They were given a complete tour of the VetDogs facility where certified instructors, veterinarians, and physical and occupational therapists work with disabled veterans. They have developed innovative training methods that continue to evolve and deliver groundbreaking service to America's wounded veterans.

America's VetDogs provides guide, service and assistance dogs free of charge to disabled veterans and active duty personnel; physical and occupational therapy dogs for VA and military hospitals; and combat stress control dogs to be deployed overseas.

It is the premier provider of assistance dogs for disabled veterans and the military. America's VetDogs began as a project of the Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind to expand its programs and services for veterans, and became an independent 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization in 2005.

The VetDogs team includes certified instructors, veterinarians, and physical and occupational therapists who work with disabled veterans. Together, they develop



Legionnaires Charlie Armstrong (L) and Mike Mayette® present check for \$500 to VetDogs Director of Development Katherine Fritz, Director of Development - Vetdogs

innovative training methods that continue to evolve and deliver groundbreaking service to America's wounded veterans.

America's VetDogs is able to provide life-altering assistance dogs at no cost to veterans of all eras thanks to private donations, corporate sponsorships, and fundraisers.

For more information call 1-866-838-3647 or see their website at www.VetDogs.org.

Congratulations!



Laura Phair and Sons of The American Legion member William Perks were married on Thursday, July 4th at Centerport United Methodist Church.

We wish them a lifetime of happiness and love!



Operation Paperback

Under the direction of Service Officer 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 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. Contact Donna at 39DPIP@Gmail.com or call Cmdr. Santo at 516-458-7881.

Vice Commander's Call to Members



Difficult to believe but nevertheless true, another of our SUMMER seasons is behind us and the magnificent Fall weather is about to arrive in all her glory. We still have a few events to take place "outside", so come on out and join us. The VA Harvest Festival is Sept 18th and the Greenlawn Pickle Festival follows on the 21st. We'll have the Columbus Day Parade, of course and then on Monday, Nov 11th, we'll have our own Veteran's Day Memorial followed by our annual luncheon at Applebees on Vet's Hwy in Com-mack. Please, don't miss that one !

We are having a pretty successful year so far, as dues have been coming in well. I'll ask that if you have NOT paid your dues for 2014 by now that you do so in short order. On Oct 31st, you will be in arrears and your membership is in jeopardy. I have made "MAGIC" in past years to avoid that for those who CHOOSE to pay late, but many obstacles have been placed in my way this year. Please don't let your dues go beyond that Oct 31st date. If there is a "problem", contact me. We don't want to lose you as a member and comrade. So the message is; pay on time OR contact me. Thanks a bunch.

We are going to plan a few "cooler weather" trips this year to help keep us occupied during the winter

months. If you'd like to be a part of the group that plans and executes these trips, let me know. If you have any ideas about where to take the "troops", please DO let me know. The Sons are welcome to join us, naturally, and grandchildren and spouses when appropriate. Stay tuned on the email or visit our website for any and all updates on our Post Calendar.

You may have heard that Dept of NY had proposed a dues increase for the year 2014. It was debated and voted upon at the Dept Convention in July and brought back to the County and Posts for implementation. That dues increase for "us", Post 1244, amounts to a \$5. Increase, effective Jan 1, 2014, so our dues will increase to \$40 per year at that time. We can all avoid this increase for this current year by paying our dues PRIOR TO Jan 1st, but that is the intention of everyone, anyway, in order to stay in "good standing." So, this increase shouldn't effect us until the year 2015, which begins for us on July 1st, 2014.

So, pay your dues on time, ASK a veteran to come and join us for a meeting and always carry a membership blank in your wallet. Everyone is on the membership committee ! Thanks.

Dennis Madden

Welcome New Members!

Legionnaires

Kenneth L. Cofield
Kenneth Kirsch
Sean Lyons
Tom McGrath
Pete Olphie
Wilton Reeves

Sons of The American Legion

Brian Gerkin
Larry Madden III
Frank P. Petrone

Post Audit

Under the watchful eyes of two of our members, Vice Commander and Finance Officer Dennis Madden had an audit of our financial accounts conducted on the evening of Monday, August 19th. The audit was performed by Allen Schwartz and Charlie Armstrong and while a few suggestions have been made, the accounts were all found to be in accordance with the Official bank records and in balance.

An audit of the accounts has been performed every other year since 2005 and there has not been a problem found to date. The account registers are all done "manually" because our Finance Officer does not have the training to keep them electronically. Should anyone in the Post have that ability or be capable of training him, please Do offer to make that available to him. It would certainly make the task that much easier.



Commander's Corner

"Today is a day to be proud to be an American "

So shouted Rick Rescorla, as he herded 2,700 people out of Tower Two, on September 11, 2001. Rick was Vice President of Security for Morgan-Stanley/Dean-Witter, the largest tenant in the World Trade Center. Despite the fact that an announcement was made over the building speakers telling everyone to stay put after that first strike, Rescorla started the evacuation immediately. Thanks to him, just about every one of the employees of his company made it out of the building: all 20 floors of them. Of their thousands of employees, all but seven got out.

Bob Santo

When it appeared that everyone was out, he went back in, heading up those stairs with the rescue workers. That is where he was last seen: on the 10th floor—heading up, when the tower came down on him.

But Rick Rescorla was a hero long before that infamous day. He was first made famous by the account of his actions during the Battle of the Ia Drang Valley in November, 1965, the Americans' first major battle of the Vietnam War. He became a legend in the unit for his behavior in combat. According to Lt. General Hal Moore, the Vietnam vet author of *We Were Soldiers Once...and Young*, Rescorla was, "the greatest platoon commander I have ever seen." It is Rescorla's photo taken by Peter Arnett that is the cover of that book.

While we contemplate the tragic events of September 11, 2001 this week, we would do well to also remember how these events can bring out the most noble and heroic actions of people. It was a day that was supposed to tear America apart, but instead brought Americans together.

As Rick Rescola shouted to the panicked employees of his company:

"Today is a day to be proud to be an American "



Taps Has Sounded

Kenneth A. Deegan
United States Navy

July 2, 2013



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www.facebook.com/AmericanLegionGreenlawnPost1244

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 Commander Bob Santo at 516-458-7881. Our mailing address is PO Box 238, Greenlawn, NY 11740.

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OUR SUPPORTERS

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



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3rd District, New York



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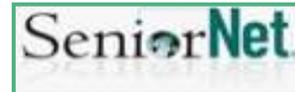
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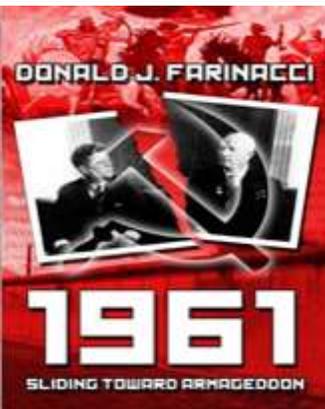
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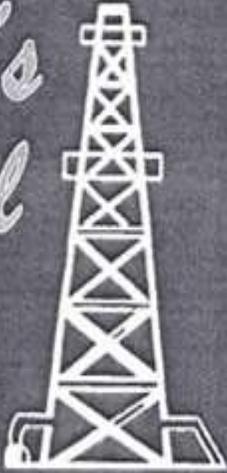
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