



THE GREENLAWN BUGLE

American Legion  Greenlawn Post 1244

Features

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Coming Events

Suffolk County High School Oratorical Contest

Saturday, January 3,
Babylon Post 94
9:00 am

Suffolk County Bowling Tournament

Sunday, March 1
Larkfield Lanes
1:00 pm

Monthly Meetings 8:00 pm

St. Joseph Council K of C

Wednesday, Jan. 14
Wednesday, Feb. 11
Wednesday, Mar. 11

Veterans Day 2014

Veterans Day, November 11, 2014 was, once again, celebrated by our Post and many friends in the community on a bright, Fall morning at the Greenlawn Memorial Park.



Well in advance of the ceremony, the sound system was being set up in the park by our friend Andrew Schild of Pro-Audio Entertainment. Our American Legion Riders Chapter was encamped in the Dunkin Donuts lot across the street, greeting the morning commuters and raising funds for charitable causes.

At one point, I was approached by the driver of the Atria Assisted Living facility, who had brought with him a squad of residents (and Veterans) to attend the ceremony. Soon, a column of these gentlemen were advancing on the park with their walkers, led briskly by our very own Milton Blackman, WWII Veteran and a former paratrooper with the famed 82nd Airborne Division.

The sacred hour of 11:00 drew near. Our members formed up at the entrance to the park. On command, our color guard stepped forward and proceeded to

form up alongside the monument.

Fr. Dimitrios Moraitis gave a very special invocation. We then recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Right on cue, Commack's Courtney Gallagher performed a stirring rendition of the Star Spangled Banner.

After presentations by Commander Santo, Vice Commander Dennis Madden and Chaplain Mike Williams, a brief wreath laying ceremony was conducted. Vincent Crimaudo, a WWII Veteran, accompanied by Vice Commander Madden, placed the post's wreath at the base of the monument. Our Auxiliary President, Fran Hubbs and Auxiliary member Pat Dolan placed a wreath as well. This year, we were honored to have two local community organizations,



Hannah Bartfield of Harborfields H.S. Played "Taps."

The Greenlawn Civic Association and the Greenlawn-Centerport Business Association presented wreaths as well.

At the command "Present Arms" all saluted as Harborfield High School student Hannah Bartfield played "Taps."

(Continued on page 2)

BOY'S & GIRLS STATE – 2014

A WEEK THAT SHAPES A LIFETIME



2014 has been an excellent year for our Post's Boy's State and Girl's State programs. We sent a total of eleven delegates from four different high schools to the summer programs. All eleven of

them came to our monthly meetings to tell us about their experiences.

Each one thanked us for a remarkable and unforgettable experience! "Amazing" was a word that came up a number of times. They made new friends from across the State, were nominated and ran for state, county, and town offices and they were appointed to government positions. They got to see how their State government works, and also how government works on a county and local level.

It is truly an exceptional and worthwhile program, and we as a Post will continue our efforts to send as many qualified students as possible to both Boy's State and Girl's State in the years to come. We have already begun the 2015 process.



We are seeking supporters so we can send additional boys and girls next year. It currently costs \$450 for each boy and \$510 for each girl. If you, or someone you know, would be interested in helping us to provide this experience to a local boy or girl, please contact me at (917)-337-2234.

Charlie Armstrong

Veterans Day 2014

(Continued from page 1)

After concluding remarks by the After concluding remarks by the Commander and a benediction by Fr. Moraitis, we were led in singing "God Bless America" by Leona Schwartz. Leona sang the first four lines, then was joined by everyone in attendance. A wonderful way to conclude the ceremony. We lingered awhile at the park and then we were off to Applebees in Commack for a complimentary and very enjoyable lunch, made more so by the camaraderie always engendered by Veterans Day.

At the ceremony, we were honored to have Assemblyman Chad Lupinacci and Tom Ronayne, Director of Suffolk County Veterans Services (and Post 1244 member).

Special thanks to Fr. Dimitrios Moraitis, Andrew Schild, Courtney Gallagher, Hannah Bartfield and Leona Schwartz and everyone who made this event so special. A special thanks to the Greenlawn Civic Association, and Councilman Mark Cuthbertson and Stephen Jimenez



L-R: Chaplain Mike Williams, Cmdr. Bob Santo, Leona Schwartz, Robert Lee, Ed Hayde

at the Town of Huntington for arranging to have the monument cleaned in time for Veterans Day. Hope to see you all next year!

Bob Santo



Final Salute

Donald Hope. October 6, 2014
James J. Kelly. October 15, 2014



Greenlawn American Legion Auxiliary Unit 1244

SERVING AMERICA'S VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES EVERY DAY



We had a warm beautiful fall, in fact so many flowers are still blooming, let us enjoy the moment, for winter will be upon us all too soon along with snow.

Several of our members had health issues and are well on the road to good health once again. I also thank everyone for their prayers and support during the past few months as I had my radiation treatments. I am feeling much better now.

Sadly, we lost a member of our Auxiliary, Dorothy Hyne on October 1, 2014. We extend our sympathy to her family.

On Tuesday, November 11, 2014, Veteran's Day, I attended the Post 1244 Memorial Service at the Greenlawn War Memorial along with six members of our Auxiliary. It was an honor and privilege with the help of our Secretary Pat Dolan to place a wreath at the War Memorial. Commander Robert Santo and Vice Commander Dennis Madden's words were all inspiring and meaningful. We can never forget what those Veterans have done including giving their lives so that we can be free and live in Peace.

It is that time of year when we think about those Veterans and their families who may be homeless, without food or in need. Our Auxiliary has made donations to various Veteran Programs including the Musical Program at the VA Hospital in Northport, and the Boots on the Ground N.Y. Pantry for Thanksgiving, donating turkeys and can goods. We also supported

Soldiers Wish and donated 14 Christmas Gift Bags filled with all kinds of items to the Women's Wellness Center at the VA Hospital. This year, we are also donating several gift bags for the male Veterans. All the items in the gift bags have been donated by the members of our Auxiliary. We may be small in number but we are a giant when it comes to giving and showing support of our programs.

I am pleased to announce that two Junior Auxiliary members most recently participated in a project for the Suffolk County Auxiliary. They each interviewed a Veteran and wrote an essay about their interviews. Brooke and Mallory Mullen did an excellent job. These two young ladies are the granddaughters of Vice Commander Dennis Madden. Our Juniors are the future and one day may be the leaders of the Auxiliary

As always we are looking for new members who may wish to join our Auxiliary. If you know any one or hear of anyone who may be interested have them call me at 631-423-1176. I would be happy to tell them about our Auxiliary.

On behalf of my Officers and members I want to wish everyone a very Blessed Christmas, Happy Hanukah and a New Year filled with Peace, Good Health and the safe return of our service men and women.

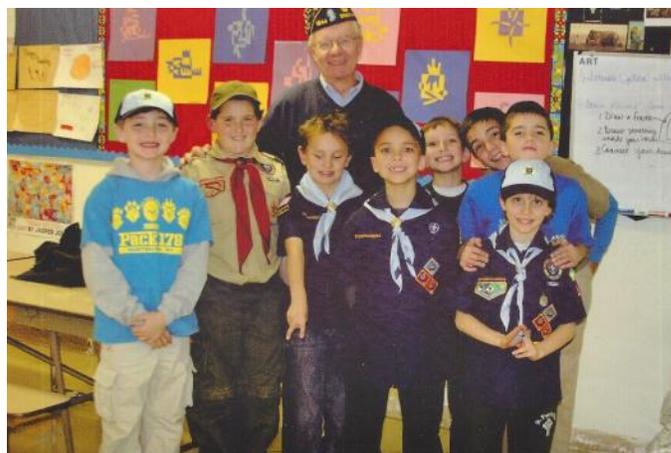
Fran Hubbs, President

Boy Scouts Get Lesson In History

Sgt. at Arms Charlie Armstrong is much in demand by the local Scouting community for his Flag Education presentations. He was recently asked to speak to the Bear Scouts of Cub Scout Pack 178 at St. Patrick's Church in Huntington on "What Makes America Special?" He also gave a presentation on two famous Americans and one of the states.

Charlie chose Dwight Eisenhower and Robert E. Lee as his famous Americans, and Pennsylvania (his native home) as the state.

It was a fun hour as the kids were very interested and asked a lot of questions. The eight kids and four moms enjoyed the presentation and Charlie's great sense of history.



Missing In America Project

John William McCarren Calverton National Cemetery October 9, 2014



It was one of those perfect Autumn days that poets always write about, but rarely occur. I was giving a new post member a lift out to the cemetery, to show him what the Post does in connection with our MIAP commitment. We made excellent time, and nature rewarded us with all those vibrant fall colors.

As I gazed at this fleeting beauty, I thought of the few weeks of the cherry blossoms and how quickly life flies. I thought of my age and all my wrinkles. Then I remembered that this was but a brief moment in time, and that the heart has no wrinkles. Emotionally sustained, I would ensure that Mr. McCarren had the best funeral that MIAP and Post 1244 could do.

Our Veteran was escorted from Queens County through Nassau and Suffolk Counties by the police and our American Legion Riders. They pulled into Calverton Cemetery with this proud entourage and were met by a host of Legionnaires who were waiting to show respect for their brother. Our veteran, John William McCarren, served in the Marine Corps and the Navy. He did not live very long, as life spans go, we do not even know

what caused his demise, if he had a sense of humor, or what type of life he had led.

We know very little of him, but that is irrelevant, because he is our Veteran. We have become his kin at this moment in time. We belong to him and he to us, the bond is made and it will hold forever.

Every time MIAP interments an abandoned veteran, we have corrected a glitch in the history of our Country. Something that went amiss, something that calls out to us to right.

MIAP will always listen to those patient voices, beckoning to us to keep a covenant denied. If we close our eyes and listen very quietly we will hear those voices. Listen to them and let them catch the beat of our hearts. When those voices are stilled, then we know that we have done the right thing, I am sure that Mr. McCarren feels that way.

John Caldarelli
Chairman Post 1244
Missing In America Project

A Twenty Year Search For A Loved One Ends

Having participated in dozens of MIAP interments at Calverton National Cemetery, I had become used to thinking that these Veterans, placed briefly in our care, had no living relatives to say a final good bye to them.

We were acting as their only family. On rare occasions, a relative was listed on the paperwork from the Mayors Office of Veterans Affairs, but the Veteran was listed as "abandoned."

A recent email, addressed to the Post, has changed all that. Veteran George Paul Csanadi had a family: a brother and sister who had never forgotten him. They had been looking for George for over twenty years since he had left his mother's house and vanished without a trace. Internet searches and even a private investigator came up empty-handed.

Not one to give up, a recent search led to the website of Missing In America Project and John Caldarelli's "After Action Report" on the interment of George on January 29, 2014 at Calverton.

We have been in communication with George's sister. At least a dozen of George's relatives are planning a visit in the spring of 2015 and we eagerly look forward to visiting Calverton with George's family and presenting his burial flag to them at that time.

From now on, I will always think of these Veterans as perhaps having families who may also be "Missing In America."

Bob Santo

"Because It's The Right Thing To Do"

In addition to our work locating and interring the abandoned, cremated remains of Veterans Missing In America Project and Greenlawn Post 1244 regularly conduct honors services for veterans who have died with no known next of kin. We work with the NYC Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs and Dignity Memorial Funeral Homes to be sure that all veterans receive the honors to which their service entitles them.

The Stars are Funny that Way

Many times things are not what they seem. Take the stars for example. On those really starry nights, when you gaze up at the night sky and see all those twinkling stars, glittering like tiny flecks of diamonds, a feeling of humility and awe permeates your being. Your sense of insignificance momentarily overwhelms you. It never dawns on you that what you are staring at may not even be there, or that what you see, may not be at the location your eyes are glued to. You see, the stars are funny that way.

In an ever expanding universe, these paradoxes will continue to change, creating more complexity in the simple act of gazing up at the stars. Obviously an explanation is needed here. If for no other reason than to preserve the definitions of Cosmos (orderly universe), versus Chaos (disorderly universe).

When looking up at a star that is clear and bright, it may no longer be there. You may not be seeing the star, but the light from the star. The star itself may have disappeared millions of years ago. Light travels at approximately 186,000 miles per second, a prodigious speed I grant you. However, it must travel billions of light years for you to see that starlight. Simple arithmetic will show us that people will be looking at that star that no longer exists, long after it is gone. Or, we may have a star that is still in the heavens, however not in the location where we are gazing.

So far as we can ascertain, the laws of the universe are still valid; at least as far as we can see. This rapidly expanding universe is giving a lot of scientists a bit of a hard time. Regardless, the laws of gravity still hold and that's the rub concerning the locations of the star. The starlight is effected by gravity. As it passes celestial

bodies, it's light is bent and twisted every which way. We are really not sure where the star is. The problem is that we saw these stars with our perceptions of what they should be, because these perceptions are already in our minds.

We do this constantly. Take, for instance, when we look at younger persons. We see what we perceive, and not necessarily who and what they are. Here is one illusion that should be very important to us. Looking at young people "we see what we perceive and what we perceive is already in our mind". People are funny that way, more so young people.

The gap between generations is becoming vast. The generation gap is being defined as light years. One of the problems the American Legion faces is the recruitment of younger veterans. How do we accomplish this?. We don't understand them. We don't understand their music, may not be pleased with the way they act. We're not happy the way many of them dress. The plethora of tattoos are irritating, yet they have been fighting and dying in our name now for many years.

Do we have the skill, understanding, patience, and perseverance to reach out to them? Can we make them understand us and our value system? Do we understand their value system? Are we looking at them the way we look at the stars, without a clear understanding? Can we reach their minds and hearts? Do we have the innate means to reach them?

John Caldarelli

VETERANS IN THE CLASSROOM OLDFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL 2014

Once again, Oldfield Middle School invited our veterans to speak to the eight grade classes, during the week of Veterans day, about their experiences in the military and as veterans after our military service was over.

The American Legion believes that our military veterans are living textbooks of American History. Their accounts of experiences while in the uniform of the United States Armed Forces should be preserved and shared with others, especially with students in America's schools.

The Veterans in the Classroom program is intended to involve the members of the post in the academic curriculum. American history is something we all share, and there is no one better to help tell that story than

someone who's had a great part in shaping it.

Giving veterans the opportunities to share their experiences with our kids would go a long way towards helping to keep their memory—and our history—alive

Mrs. Sandra Buscemi does a great job coordinating this program with our Post each year. The children are well prepared with excellent questions and all seem eager to learn about our experiences.

Second Vice Commander Dennis Giunta worked with our nine volunteer Veterans and Mrs. Buscemi to be sure everything went perfectly.

Pictures of our Veterans as they engage with the students are on the following page. They all did a great job!!!

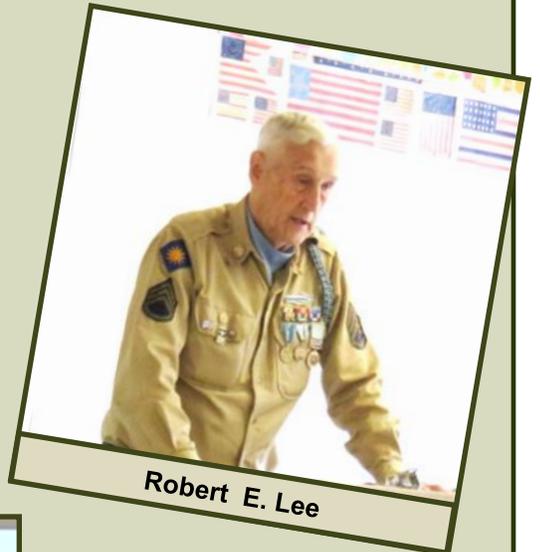
Veterans In The Classroom 2014



Tom Freeman



Steve Labate



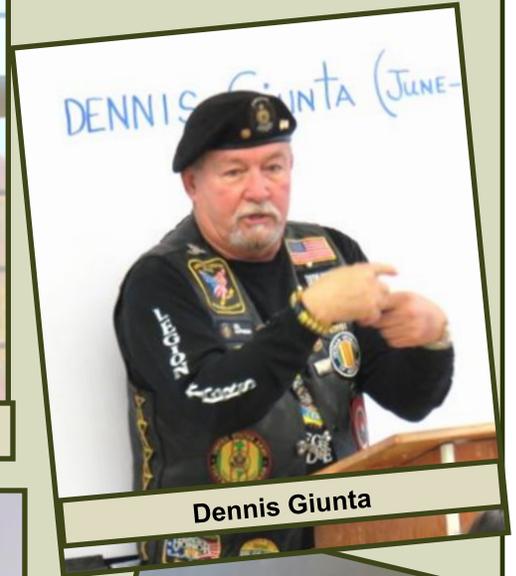
Robert E. Lee



Chris Argento



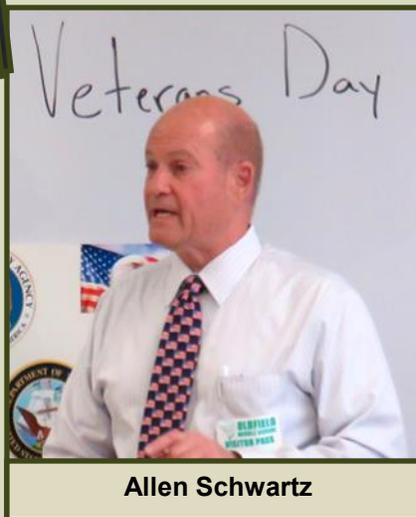
Chuck Holt



Dennis Giunta



Ken Hirsch



Allen Schwartz



John Caldarelli

American Legion Riders

STILL SERVING...STILL RIDING



The American Legion Riders are pleased to report that our Post 1244 "Band of Brothers" has completed 100+ Missions to assist veteran causes, for three consecutive years, through the selfless and dedicated leadership of Serge Dei, President, Bruce Blanco, Vice President; Anthony Petretti, Secretary, Chris Argento, Treasurer, Brian Gerkin, Sergeant of Arms and our committed Riders.

The dedication of the Rider's at times is somewhat understated but it's the Mission which 'saddle's us up' to ride whether its 90°F sweltering Hot, 27°F bitterly Cold, rain soaked, gust blowing winds, or just plain nasty.... With God as our Co-Pilot we ride safely to serve Veterans!



Left to right: John Boll; Angus Kennedy; "Ethan"-ALR Mascot; George Barbaro; Joe Spinelli (rear); Bruce Blanco; Chris Argento; Vic Ramondetta; Anthony Petretti; Kevin Reilly; Bob Moreback; Herb Walker; Brian Gerken

Cold Event Warming Hearts -Turkey Run 2014

Saturday, November 22. The Riders bundled themselves in multiple layers of insulated clothing to prepare to deliver a most complete and satisfying gift-wrapped Thanksgiving Meal to twelve L.I. Veterans. Ten Riders and two support vehicles made our first ride to Northport VA Medical Center to pick up donated turkeys. Special thanks goes out to Angus Kennedy and his Nephew, Ethan, (ALR's Lil' Helper). They transported Thanksgiving food supplies in his Little Blue School Bus and provided a portable propane heater used for thawing 'other' unprotected

body parts (fingertips and noses). Brian Gerken coordinated a professional gift wrapping assembly-line, supported by the deft and deliberate actions of our riders who completed the baskets with all the "fixins" huge four pound apple pies too!

Our "Rolling Thunder" announced to the neighborhoods that a welcome Thanksgiving meal was being delivered to a deserving Veteran family. The Riders' Mission was professionally executed in challenging conditions that brisk Saturday morning. The Riders were greeted with a "Good Morning Wake Up" chilly ambient 31°F. That, my friends, computes to a very *mind numbing and* and a *frosty fingertip wind chill factor* of 10°Fwhen cruising at 60mph! Upon "Mission Complete," the ALR's were off to the chow-line: Applebee's of Commack - our favorite Military Family Supporter restaurant, and which who fed the assembled troops with precision.

Today was good and we were on our way home by 2:30PM. ALR's continued service and commitment to Veterans is ongoing..... until our Last Ride.

ALR Vice President Bruce Blanco best summed up the day's events: "Today was our Cold Fingers Turkey Run.... with a 31degrees chilly 'Hello" and 8:30AM arrival at my favorite...Dunkin DonutsI think we got the turkey gift wrapping down pretty good...we put a Pickle Plumber in charge! All the selected families were overwhelmed seeing us pull up.... errr, some rather shaken out of bed and awakened to the

roaring rumble expelled from 9 Harley Davidson's throaty-bellowing highly respected magnificent machines! Also we understand there was almost a slightly detected, muffled, hardly a whisper of a voice from afar like, "pssst & wiizzzzz"putting from Victor's new bike...geee wiz ...a Honda. (LOL) When the last of the turkeys rocked-n-rolled out 'the bus' final order was sounded: 'LET'S GO EAT'. And all Riders overwhelmingly agreed.."

Written by: Chris Argento, RD, CEC
RVN 66-67 US Army 39th Combat Engrs

Post 1244 Home - Progress!

In March of this year, I reported on the discussions we have had with Town of Huntington officials on the future of the James Conte Community Center and plans for our American Legion Post to have a presence there.

At the time, plans were underway to apply to two New York State agencies for \$7 million in grants which would permit the Town to begin the abatement of harmful materials at the site and to start construction of the Center.

The initial response from the regional council in October was for \$500,000. Far less than what is needed for any construction to begin. But with the \$800,000 in funds already allocated by the Town of Huntington, plans were being made for the necessary asbestos and lead abatement.

This week, it was announced that Governor Cuomo had increased the award to \$1.5 million for the Community Center. This will go toward design and construction costs. Good news indeed!

I will be meeting in January with Supervisor Frank Petrone to discuss the situation and will report to the



Future home of the James Conte Community Center and Post 1244

membership in our next “Bugle” on what the plan “B” for the additional funding will be.

We are looking forward to a Post Home where we can gather and carry out our service programs to help our veterans and their families.

“Stay Tuned”

Bob Santo

Just For Laughs

U.S.S. Abraham Lincoln and the Lighthouse

This is based on a mythical radio conversation between a U.S. Navy aircraft carrier and Canadian authorities off the coast of Newfoundland. True or not...it’s pretty funny.

Canadians: Please divert your course 15 degrees to the South to avoid collision.

Americans: Recommend you divert your course 15 degrees to the North to avoid a collision.

Canadians: Negative. You will have to divert your course 15 degrees to the South to avoid a collision.

Americans: This is the Captain of a US Navy ship. I say again divert YOUR course.

Canadians: No, I say again, you divert YOUR course.

Americans: This is the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln, the second largest ship in the United States Atlantic Fleet. We are accompanied by three destroyers, three cruisers and numerous support vessels. I demand that you change your course 15 degrees **THAT'S NE FIVE DEGREES NORTH--OR COUNTER-MEASURES WILL BE UNDERTAKEN TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF THIS SHIP.**

Canadians: **This is a lighthouse. Your call.**



Flag Retirement - Huntington Manor Fire Department

LONG MAY SHE WAVE

An estimated 800 unserviceable American flags were disposed of, with honor, on November 15th at Huntington Manor Fire Department in Huntington Station. The flags were mostly collected through our Old Glory Mobile Flag Deposit program.

Our collection box spends a month at each of the Town of Huntington's eleven public libraries where residents are able to dispose of their worn-out flags, knowing that they would be handled in a proper and respectful manner. Sgt. at Arms Charlie Armstrong and 2nd Vice Commander Dennis Giunta see that the box is scheduled and moved to the proper library, emptying and storing the collected flags.



Old Glory Flag Deposit Box

The sunset ceremony was attended by Post members, including our American Legion Riders, volunteer firemen and members of the public.

Commander Santo read the poem: "I Am Your Flag," by Marine MSGT Percy Webb. Legionnaire Donna Boyle read the story of Mike Christian, the



Donna Boyle and Joe Pipia at the burn barrel

American POW who fashioned a crude American flag out of scraps of cloth and bits of other materials and who was nearly beaten to death by his North Vietnamese captors when it was discovered.

Son of The American Legion Joe Pipia handled the task of seeing that the flags were burned with no casualties among the onlookers.

Joe also saw that we had a new burn barrel for the purpose, having located a donated 275 gallon oil tank which was modified for the job. Not really having a home for our new burn barrel, we are storing it in the back of the CPL BILL for the time being. Any ideas?

Because of the number of flags we collect each year, we also partner with the Greenlawn Fire Department for a ceremony every year on the Saturday or Sunday following Flag Day, June 14.

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. Contact Donna at 39DPIP@Gmail.com or call Cmdr. Bob Santo at 516-458-7881.

Many thanks to Donna and Joe for all their efforts! In 2014 they shipped 875 books to our troops.

Veterans Employment Center (VEC)

The VEC on **eBenefits** is the federal government’s single authoritative internet source for connecting transitioning Servicemembers, Veterans and their families to meaningful career opportunities. The VEC is the first government-wide product that brings together a reputable cadre of public and private employers with real job opportunities, and provides transitioning Servicemembers, Veterans and their families with the tools to translate their military skills into plain language and build a profile that can be shared – in real time – with employers who have made a public commitment to hire Veterans. The Departments of Veterans Affairs, Labor, Defense and Education, the Small Business Administration and the Office of Personnel Management, collaborated to design and develop the Veterans Employment Center.

Currently, there are over 1.5 million jobs listed on the VEC, and hundreds of employers have made commitments to fill more than 165,000 positions with Veterans, transitioning Service members, Guard and Reserve members, and their families.

Here are some of the benefits you get from the VEC:

FOR JOB SEEKERS

- **Translate Your Skills:** Translate military occupational codes into civilian skill equivalents for a powerful resume and learn about related civilian career paths.
- **Generate a Resume or Build a Profile:** Seamlessly import results from the skills translator into an online profile that users can download or publish to employers on the VEC. Publishing your profile on the VEC instantly connects you to thousands of employers looking to hire Veterans, transitioning Servicemembers and family members.
- **Search the Veterans Job Bank (VJB):** The VJB allows users to search over 1.5 million jobs in addition to all federal jobs – including status positions reserved especially for Veterans.

- **View Employer Commitments:** View a list of hundreds of employers and organizations that have made a commitment to hire or train individuals like you and then link directly to their site to get more information and start the conversation.
- **Find Other Resources:** The VEC contains or links to a broad set of other informational resources designed to help you find meaningful career opportunities and take advantage of special government and partner programs, such as the new DoD SkillBridge pilot program to promote civilian job training for transitioning Servicemembers.

FOR EMPLOYERS

- **Post jobs in the Veterans Job Bank (VJB):** Easily post job opportunities that will be visible to and searchable by job seekers. The VJB links directly to the employer’s job listing, so any updates to an employer’s website are automatic and applicants are routed directly to your applicant tracking system.
- **Search Verified Job Seeker Profiles:** The VEC provides employers with access to a vault of verified career profiles from transitioning Servicemembers, Veterans and their families. Employers can search these profiles by keyword and/or geographic location to find the right fit for your organization.
- **Make an Employer Commitment:** Launch your public relations campaign to hire Veterans by making a public hiring commitment on the VEC! You even have the option to state the number of Veterans you intend to hire and update your status in achieving your goal.
- **Find Other Resources:** The VEC contains or links to a broad set of other informational resources designed to help you recruit and retain talented transitioning Servicemembers, Veterans and their families, such as the new DoD SkillBridge pilot program to promote civilian job training for transitioning Servicemembers.

To register for the eBenefits website go to:
www.ebenefits.va.gov

About Your DD-214

While most of our members have responded positively to our request for copies of their DD-214’s there remains a number of members who have not responded. For privacy purposes, sensitive information such as SS number, date of birth, etc, **can be redacted**. DD Forms 214 must include at least the 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



Vice Commander's Call to Members

Well, troops, rather than one of my articles on the state of our membership, I'd like to offer up a little dilemma that will be facing the

Post in the coming months.

We are about to have a changing of the guard, so to speak, as our steadfast and true Commander, Bob Santo will be retiring from that position after a run of ten, fruitful and encouraging years. We began with 81 members in 2005 and no Auxiliary, no Sons and no Riders. What we have now is one of the most respected Posts in all of N Y State, certainly the premier Post in Suffolk County as our membership rolls will clearly attest, and with an active Auxiliary, one of the larger Sons Squadrons (though not the most active) and the largest and most active American Legion Riders chapter in the downstate districts.

Our dilemma is, to whom shall the baton pass? While I will surely add my name to the list of candidates for the position of Commander, who will fill the positions below that? We need several able bodied veterans to take a step forward and volunteer to take on an Executive position in the Post. Do we have such individuals, willing to take a leadership roll in the Post and help continue the work that has been responsible for the growth we have experienced and witnessed? We hope that we have given the Post the wherewithal to move on

successfully, into the future, but the Post needs your help. Men and women are needed to do the work that got us here and will carry us forward.

Are you that person? We have all held positions in our various careers that have prepared us for this occasion. This is not rocket science. It is a conscious effort to make the needs of Veterans foremost in our mission and to see that no veteran is left to fall through the cracks. This is what we do. It is no more than what we did while in uniform, we merely have a better time doing it now.

If you are the person willing to give of yourself for our Veterans, then please do make it known to me as I will be actively building a Team to continue the work of our Commander for the future of this Post. Bob is not going anywhere and he will be on that Team. Would you like to join us and help to continue this growth?

The growth that has made us the Post that others look to for guidance? I hope I will hear from many of you in the near future. March is nominations month, April is the election and May is the Installation of the new Officers. Realistically, there are only 3 meetings until the elections so time is of the essence.

Please do give this some thought and consider what you can do for this Post and Veterans everywhere. You can reach me by email at: dam9245@optonline.net or by phone at 631-499-3569.

Dennis Madden





THE COMMANDER'S CORNER

As the year 2014 draws to a close, we can look back with pride on all we have accomplished as an American Legion Post. Our paid membership is well north of 200 and still growing. As of this writing, we are now the 4th largest Post in Suffolk County in paid up members (out of 46 Posts). In total members we are larger than all but two Posts in Nassau and Queens. While many Posts are headed in the wrong direction, we forge ahead!

Thanks to all of you who continue to support the work we do, whether by active membership or by renewing your membership every year. In doing this, you are one of the 2.2 million members of the largest Veterans service organization in the world.

After 10 years in the Commander's seat, it's time for me to step back and give the wheel to another Legionnaire. I will not be heading to Florida, however. We have a very well organized Post and an enthusiastic group of officers. In 2015, we are going to coax some younger veterans to take a seat

at the leadership table!

We are only the temporary caretakers of this Post. It is our obligation to share our knowledge and hand it over to Veterans who will be ready to lead our Post in the future. I think we have done a good job, but good is never quite good enough.

In a few years, we will have a Post home where we can welcome veterans, old and young. Our mission is to be of service to them, members or not. I have every confidence that we will excel as long as we keep in mind why we have worked so hard to build this Post from just 80 members to where we are today.

If you believe in the idea of "service, not self" join with us as we continue to grow and continue to help Veterans, and their families as well as our community and our youth. We are going to need lots of you to step forward and "pitch-in." I know you will enjoy being involved as much as we have enjoyed serving our Veterans and our community.

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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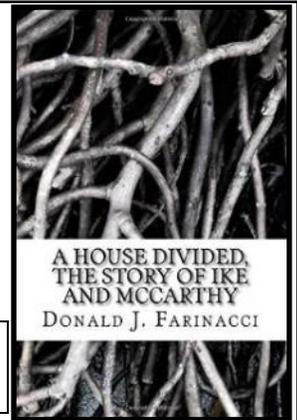


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Donald J. Farinacci, is a lawyer, military history writer, Vietnam Era veteran, and Member of Greenlawn Post 1244



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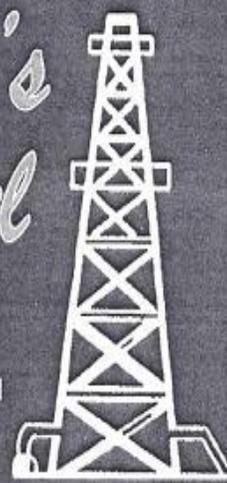
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