



# The Greenlawn Bugle

June 2018

The Newsletter of American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244

Volume 12 Issue 2

75th Anniversary

Founded March 15, 1943

## Post Events

### Let's Take a Veteran Sailing July 29

In partnership with SailAhead, Post 1244 and Centerport Yacht Club. Veterans and guests will sail LI Sound. BBQ will follow, compliments of Centerport Yacht Club.

Promoting awareness of PTSD and the high rate of suicide among veterans.

### Greenlawn Fire Dept. Fireman's Fair / Parade August 30

Join us at 7 pm as we march in this annual parade to salute our volunteer firefighters. Afterward enjoy the games of chance and delicious food.

We will have a membership recruiting and information booth on the fairgrounds.

### VA Harvest Festival September 12

Enjoy Performers Arts, Crafts and outdoor lunch prepared by Applebees for patients, staff and veterans.

Post 1244's CPL Bill truck will be on hand.

## Monthly Meetings

St. Joseph Council K of C  
24 Boulevard Ave. Greenlawn

The 2nd Wednesday of each month at 8:00 pm

New Members Welcome!

## Memorial Day 2018

This year we were finally blessed with good weather for the annual Greenlawn Fire Department Memorial Day Parade and Memorial Service.

A good number of our members turned out for the march down Greenlawn's Broadway followed by Boy and Girl Scouts, community organizations, school marching bands and fire trucks.

The patriotic and enthusiastic citizens of the hamlet of Greenlawn lined the route, waving flags and expressing thanks to our veterans.

As a special treat, John Dolan (of the Cablevision Dolan family) provided a 1908 Rolls Royce to carry Legionnaires Col. Jerry Weiss, USMC (RET), and WWII Navy Veteran Vinny Crimauto.



Riding In Style. L-R John Dolan, Jerry Weiss and Vinny Crimauto

At the end of our march, the community gathered at the Greenlawn Memorial for the Memorial Ceremony conducted by the Greenlawn Fire Department.

After the presentation of wreaths, a rifle volley and the playing of "Taps," Legionnaire and Firefighter SFC Al Statton, US Army (Ret), stepped forward to make a very special presentation to the members of the Greenlawn Fire Department.



Cmdr Dennis Madden and Legionnaire and Rider Vic Ramondetta presenting the medals

Statton had framed both a National Defense Medal to honor all those firefighters who are or were veterans and a Purple Heart Medal to honor all military veteran firefighters who have suffered wounds or given their lives in defense of our nation.

The Purple Heart represented Mathew Scott Jr. a Greenlawn firefighter and WWII B17 tail gunner who was fatally wounded in 1944.

*(Continued on page 2)*

New York American Legion Press Association's Best Paper Award

2009-2012-2013-2014-2015-2016-2017-2018

National American Legion Press Association's Third Place Award 2017

## Boys and Girls State 2018



As you are reading this, the 2018 class of students are either currently participating in Boys & Girls State or have their bags packed awaiting their 6:00AM departure.

This is Post 1244's tenth year of involvement with these wonderful programs. With this year's class, we will have sent a total of 93 students to this week-long program to help educate them about the democratic process and the duties of government officials.

Virtually each year since we began in 2009 with 2 students, we have been fortunate enough to be able to send more and more high school juniors, with this year's total coming in at 21. This is due to more people becoming aware of the program and its inherent benefits, and willing to donate to these students' education. This, in turn, becomes a benefit to all of us for the future of our country and its form of government.



**Hurry Up And Wait**  
Students from Harborfields, Walt Whitman and Half Hollow Hills West waiting for their bus ride to Boys State in June 2016, just a few years ago.

*Charlie Armstrong*

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## Service Officer Report - "You Earned It!"

### Rapid Appeals Modernization Program (RAMP)

A new program that the VA rolled out in November, 2017 called the "RAMP" Program is a new law created to give you three different ways for you to appeal the VA's decision on your disability claim. The goal is to decrease the time your claim is spent in the appeals process.

Initially, you could only participate by invitation only. However, as of April 2, 2018, all veterans can sign up for this program.

Basically, the VA is saying that if you switch, you will get a faster decision. And that under the RAMP program a decision on an appeal will be made in 30 - 120 days. Sounds too good to be true. We'll just have to wait and see.

### Should You Switch?

You should consult with an accredited Veterans Service Officer to be sure that it is advantageous to your case before making any decision. In some cases, you'll get a quicker decision, but it may be a rubber stamp of a previous denial. It pays to have your ducks in a row and get a professional opinion before you submit anything to the VA!

We will be following this closely, and will let you know when there are any further developments.

*Michelle Martin*  
Post 1244 Service Officer  
[Mmartin@sus.org](mailto:Mmartin@sus.org)

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## Memorial Day *(Continued from page 1)*

The donated medal itself had been posthumously awarded to Al's cousin, PFC John H. Griffith who was KIA 1 Feb 1966 in Vietnam.

Joining Al in presenting the Purple Heart was Post 1244 Legionnaire and Rider Vic Ramondetta, himself a recipient of the Purple Heart for wounds received in Vietnam.

That afternoon, as is our custom, we gathered for our

annual Memorial Day Cookout at the K of C.

At 3:00 pm, Cmdr. Madden asked those gathered to join in the National Moment of Remembrance to pay respects to all those whose sacrifice made it possible for us to gather in freedom that day.

Needless to say, everyone had a great time at the cookout. The photos on the following page speak for themselves.



## Annual Memorial Day Post Cookout



**Thank you Kevin Connelly**  
**Crescent Packing Corp.**  
 1970 New Highway  
 Farmingdale, NY 11735

*For Your Donation to Our Annual Cookout*



**Boar's Head**

**Thank You Kevin Bolowsky**  
**Manor Provisions**  
 42 Cherry Street  
 Glen Head, NY 11545

*For Your Donation to Our Annual Cookout*



## **Missing In America Project**

**PVT I Matthew McCall, US Army**  
**Calverton National Cemetery**  
**March 27, 2018**

The VFW of East Rockaway came in a bus with a contingent of their Post, the Patchogue Post came, other veterans from around Long Island came as well as some Auxiliary ladies. A Riverhead town councilwoman came. At least fifty veterans and a number of civilians showed up for the interment of this one veteran, Matthew McCall. This has never happened for one veteran before. It is our fervent wish that this continues.

As of late, New York City's Mayor's Office of Veteran Affairs has been sending MIAP a greater number of African American veterans than normal. This is coincidental with American Legion Post 1244's decision to support and aid Post 1218, an all African American Post, in their new endeavor. The post has been having a renaissance reestablishing their post to their prior stature in the community.

Consequently MIAP and Post 1244 decided to strength-

en the diversity within the Suffolk County American Legion. It is MIAP, as well as the Suffolk County American Legion and Post 1244 that have extended themselves.

MIAP has invited Post 1218 to receive the burial flags of the African American Veterans who are unclaimed and brought to us for a proper burial. Post 1218 Commander Lenore Brathwaite and 1st Vice Commander Harry Legette accepted the last three flags that have come from MIAP.

We hope and pray that our support will help increase their solidarity as a Post and strengthen MIAP's mission, the Suffolk County American Legion's initiatives, and Post 1244's effectiveness. Doing the right thing will always hold us in good stead.

***John Caldarelli***  
***National MIAP Representative***  
***MIAP Chairman Post 1244***  
***MIAP Chairman Suffolk County American Legion***

**Sgt. Malzetta D. Hanberry, US Army**  
**Calverton National Cemetery**  
**April 26, 2018**

Approximately 40 attendees witnessed the interment of 87 year old Sgt. Malzetta Delores Hanberry, who served honorably in the United States Army between 1950 and 1954. The attendees included patriots from several American Legion Posts, various motorcycle rider groups and members of the Northport, NY VA Medical Center.

American Legion Post 1244 Rider Chaplain, Mike Williams, opened the ceremony with a heartfelt invocation. Following a rendition of "Taps," the Army Honor Guard folded and presented Veteran Hanberry's casket flag to veteran Denise M. Buggs-Williams in recognition of her service as a Certified Peer Support Specialist at the VA Medical Center in Northport, N.Y.

I offered a eulogy for Veteran Hanberry and included the poem "Because That's What We Do," dedicated to the 40 attendees, who took time out of their day, to honor one of their own.

Chaplain Williams closed our ceremony by offering an original benediction. John Caldarelli, MIAP National Representative, then took a minute to thank the members of the American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244 MIAP team for their efforts on behalf of our forgotten Veterans. Finally,



**Presentation of casket flag to Denise M. Buggs-Williams , Certified Peer Support Specialist at Northport VAMC. Also in attendance was Rosa Maria Williamson, Women's Veteran Program at the Northport VAMC.**

two by two we approached Veteran Hanberry's casket to pay our final respects by rendering slow salutes. May she rest in peace.

***Charlie Tritto***  
***Missing In America Post 1244 Team***  
***Post 1244 Chaplain***



## SailAhead - Healing Wounded Veterans Through Sailing



### SAILAHEAD

Ahead today has come a long way from that snowy beach in Oyster Bay.

Today, the SailAhead fleet is much larger, and firm partnerships have been established with a wide variety of organizations, from the Local VA to the Tacoma Yacht club in Washington State. This year SailAhead joined the United War Veterans Council, which is a confederation of veteran service organizations within the tristate area working for the good of veterans near and far. The council was established as a way to link many VSOs together in the hopes that mutually beneficial partnerships can form and grow. A meeting was held at the New York Stock Exchange this winter to talk about how to make the best difference in the veteran's community, it was a great opportunity and shows great promise for the positive impacts that are coming.

As an example, SailAhead connected with the Yaphank homeless shelter, which has driven dozens of homeless veterans to many SailAhead events throughout the years, and promised that many more veterans would come.

This year SailAhead plans to do everything they've done last year, big and small, but with the addition of a few

It was 4 years ago on a beach in Oyster Bay when SailAhead met the members of Greenlawn American Legion Post 1244, a meeting that would lead to a partnership and a partnership that would lead to a friendship. Sail-

events and programs. The largest event of the year will be the "Let's Take a Veteran Sailing" event at Centerport Yacht Club, and with the continuing support of Post 1244, it will be the 4<sup>th</sup> year we host this event, and yet another complete success. The smallest scale activities are arguably our more important programs. Weekly sails aboard Stargazer (SailAhead's flagship of 38 feet) will be set in place in order to heal veterans and expose them to the maritime world. These weekly sails can be therapeutic, educational and create lasting friendships.

In July, SailAhead will have its second annual sailing event in Tacoma Washington, where the vast majority of the guests are US Army Rangers, some of the most highly trained soldiers in the world. That event is designed to take veterans and active duty members of the US armed forces out sailing as a token of appreciation. But it also spreads awareness. Like all of our events, our Washington event serves as a way to spread the word about SailAhead, and about PTSD and depression. It is also a memorial to Ryan James Day, a former Ranger in the 75<sup>th</sup> regiment 2<sup>nd</sup> battalion. He was stationed in Tacoma Washington when he took his life in the winter of 2014.

This year alone, SailAhead is expected to take around 300 veterans out on the water! It's not easy work, but with loyal and supportive partners like the Greenlawn American Legion, countless veterans will have the opportunity to sail and experience healing on the water.

**American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244 is proud to have partnered with SailAhead since 2015, helping to spread awareness of veteran suicide, honor the victims of suicide and their surviving families and offer healing experiences to veterans suffering from PTSD.**

## 2018 - 2019 Post 1244 Officers Installed

On May 9, a Team from the Suffolk County American Legion installed our new slate of elected officers.



We congratulate our elected officers for their service to our post!

Commander Dennis Madden  
1st Vice Commander Rich Russano  
2nd Vice Commander Carlo Giordano  
Adjutant Fred Tucillo  
Sgt, at Arms Charlie Armstrong  
Finance Officer and Historian Bob Santo  
Chaplain Charlie Tritto  
Service Officer Michelle Martin  
Judge Advocate Phil Ludwig



## The Sons of The American Legion



### A Thought For Fathers Day

We are The Sons of the American Legion. We honor our fathers and grandfathers by helping veterans. We also honor them by the simple act of remembering them and their service to our country.

In the last issue of the Greenlawn Bugle, I shared the story of my father's time in the service during WW II.

I would like to invite my fellow Sons of The American Legion to honor their fathers service in the same way. We will include one story in the Bugle in each issue about one of your fathers. You may not be a professional author, but

you may have a remembrance of your dad in your heart to share with others. We would love to hear from you.

If you are a veteran and your grandfather or father served you are eligible to be a Son of the American Legion. Please join as a dual member and honor their service.

You can contact me at [tonyb24@optonline.net](mailto:tonyb24@optonline.net)

*Tony Braccía*

Commander, Sons of The American Legion  
Greenlawn Squadron 1244

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## American Legion Auxiliary



The Ladies Auxiliary of American Legion Post 1244 have been hard at work. Our annual Memorial Day Poppy Drive was very successful.

Additionally, our ladies supported our post with raffles, gift baskets and our culinary specialties at the annual Memorial Day picnic. It is always our goal to provide unparalleled assistance to our Post.

We are excited to announce that we will be holding a fundraiser at Applebees with raffles and surprises for the kids. We look forward to seeing you all there!

We also wish to extend a warm welcome our two newest members: Joan Cergol, Huntington Town Councilwoman and Jillian Guthman, our Town of Huntington Receiver of Taxes.

Please feel free to contact any member of the auxiliary regarding membership or to volunteer! God bless our Veterans! God bless America!

*Nicole Abbate*

Vice President,  
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 1244

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## American Legion Riders



Our American Legion Riders Chapter has been busy as usual. Escorts, funerals, welcome homes, fundraisers and all sorts of events around Long Island.

Of all the events we participated in the last few months, none has impressed me more than the Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team (WWAST) which visited Long Island May 17 -20.

The team is a 501(c)(3) public charity whose mission is to inspire and educate others while enhancing the health and welfare of Wounded Warrior Amputees. The WWAST is comprised of competitive, athletic veterans who have lost limbs while serving their country in the military/war.

On May 20, we joined with other motorcycle organizations in escorting the team from the Raddison Hotel in Hauppague to the Medford Athletic Complex where they were to play the Long Island all Stars.

Upon our arrival at the athletic fields, we were honored to participate in the opening ceremony which was followed by a spirited game against the local Long Island All Stars.

These guys showed great spirit. Not a trace of self pity. They don't consider themselves to be crippled.

In addition to raising funds for their softball program costs, they host an annual Kids Camp where they bring in 20 children (between 8-12 years old) with amputations for a week-long camp where the team members serve as coaches and mentors. The WWAST pays all expenses for the 20 children and one guardian. Their Kids Camp for 2018 will be held in Manchester, NH on June 10-17.

*Bruce Blanco*

President  
American Legion Riders  
Greenlawn Chapter 1244



## Veterans Testimonial Project Reception

Veterans from all branches and war eras were honored at Half Hollow Hills Community Library on May 12th. The 22 veterans, who included two members of Post 1244, had all participated in the Veterans Testimonial Project. The project was the brainchild of Librarian Edna Susman.

Edna interviews and records the interviews on DVD. The interview becomes archived at the Library, a copy is sent to the Library of Congress and each veteran receives a copy.

This year's honorees included Ken Carlson and Bob Santo from Post 1244. As always, Post 1244 provided a color guard and playing of "Taps" for the event.

Veterans interested in taking part in this project should call Edna at 631-498-1260 to register.



2018 Veteran participants and elected officials who presented proclamations to each veteran.

## A Post 1244 Son's Trip Down Memory Lane



When asked to select a favorite local place to visit as part of a pre-school project, five year-old Huntington resident Christian Lenio (left) passed over a pet store and firehouse - and picked Huntington Town Hall. Town Clerk Jo-Ann Raia (right) was more than happy to accommodate a visit. The YMCA pre-schooler was given a tour of Town Hall, including the Town Clerk's archives.

**Five Year old Christian Lenio with Town Clerk Jo-Ann Raia in 1999**

At the American Legion Gala, a few months ago, I said hello to Town Clerk Jo-Ann Raia and reminded her that I had visited her when I was very young with my grandfather and that our picture was taken and put in the Long Islander. She remembered. Later that evening, she introduced me to Supervisor Chad Lupinacci and he gave me his business card.

A few weeks later, I emailed him and asked him if I could spend some time in his law office to get a feel for the day to day activities of working as a lawyer. He invited me to Town Hall to talk more about this. He said his public affairs officer could use some help drafting speeches and press releases so he offered me a paid internship.



**Christian and Jo-Ann 19 years later**

On June 11, I gave Jo-Ann a visit at her office. I told her that because she introduced me to Chad I was able to secure this internship in his office. I thanked her and she was very pleased to know that she helped me out. I asked her if we could recreate the picture and she very much wanted to.

We walked down to the archives and from examining the old photo she knew exactly where it was taken. Jo-Ann was moved by the whole thing. It was a trip down memory lane.

***Christian Lenio***

Sons of The American Legion  
Squadron 1244



## Fallen Patriots Celebration



Our First Annual Fallen Patriots Celebration was held June 16, 2018 at St. Joseph Council Knights of Columbus. It could not have been a better launch of a program we hope will last long into the future of the post.

The purpose was to remember all our members who have departed for Post Everlasting. Although our post is 75 years old, our records of their deaths reach back only to 2004. In that time 74 members that we know of have died.

Our ceremony began with an invocation by our event Chaplain, Al Statton. All attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Commander Dennis Madden then welcomed the families of those to be honored as well as all post members in attendance.

After a dedication by Master of Ceremonies Charlie Tritto, we enjoyed a recording and slide show created by Charlie called "Ragged Old Flag." The voice of Johnny Cash reverberated about the room and in every heart. His spoken word tribute to patriotism is as relevant today as when it was recorded more than 40 years ago. Charlie, poet laureate as well as Post 1244 chaplain followed the presentation with his poem "The Fallen Patriots of 1244."

The names of each member who died since August 2004 were read by several members of the post. As each



Adjutant Fred Tuccillo reading the names of our fallen.

name was read, the Post Bell was sounded. After the last name was read, "Taps" was played and all saluted the memory of those who have gone before us. A cheerful toast was rendered to them all with a fine cognac supplied by Chaplain Tritto and distributed about the room by our volunteers. Lighter refreshments were offered to those who preferred something a bit lighter.

The family members who attended were uniformly happy that we had taken the time to remember their loved ones. Their expression of gratitude insures that we will be planning next year's celebration in the coming months.

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## Flag Retirement Ceremony

As a revered symbol of freedom and justice, the flag of the United States of America needs to be treated with the utmost respect. This respect extends to the flag's eventual retirement and destruction.

The United States Flag Code states: "The Flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem of display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning."

We were delighted at the wonderful turnout by the many Boy and Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts for our annual flag retirement ceremony on June 16. They were all active participants in the ceremony. Children and parents went home with a deeper understanding of the respect and honor that veterans feel for our national symbol.

Our flag collection efforts provided plenty of worn out the flags we retired.

As always, we are very grateful to the Greenlawn Fire Department and Fire Fighter Angelo Santomauro who assisted us and kept all our participants safe.





## A Moment With Chaplain Charlie



It was unusually hot in the Bronx that day in July of 1967. A bunch of us had just finished playing stickball and were sitting on a stoop when my buddy turned to me and asked, “You wanna’ enlist?” Well, I thought, there was a war going on and besides, I had just completed my first year of college and wasn’t looking for-

ward to my second. “Sure,” I said “What branch?” He said, “Well, my brother was in the Air Force....” And so, because of a stickball game on a hot summer day, the rest of my life was set in motion. The Lord works in strange ways.

After Basic Training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas, I spent the next 18 months learning my trade as a Communication Center Specialist with the 1926<sup>th</sup> Communications Group, Robins Air Force Base, Warner Robins, Georgia.

From Georgia, it was 18 months with the 1961<sup>st</sup> Communications Group, Clark Air Base, Luzon, the Philippines. Two months before my deployment, I was assigned to the U S Army Southeastern Signal School, Fort Gordon, Georgia, to learn how to operate the new equipment I would be working with at Clark. Needless to say, when I arrived in the Philippines, the equipment was nowhere to be found. Did somebody say “SNAFU?”

I made Sergeant and spent my final year with the 655<sup>th</sup> Radar Squadron, Watertown Air Force Station, Watertown NY, where, on my off time, I worked as a bartender. Nothing fancy. Served only beer and shots. The pay

was awful, but I learned more about the human condition tending bar, than I ever could have pursuing a PhD.

I was honorably discharged in September of 1971. My Air Force experience landed me a job on Wall Street as a data communications technician. I spent the next 40 plus years working for banks and brokerage houses in various telecommunication and network operations roles.

I met my wife, Diane, a Brooklyn girl, in August of 1972. We were married in the Three Hierarchs Greek Orthodox Church on Avenue P in Brooklyn the following June. Our first apartment was on 95<sup>th</sup> Ave. in Ozone Park. In 1979, Diane and I, 4 year old Charlie Jr. and 2 year old Christine, moved to our “starter” house in Deer Park. Although our kids have long since moved out, Diane and I still live in that same split we first entered 39 years ago. It makes us wonder where the years went when we see our grandchildren, Jake, 10, and Julia, 7 sleeping and playing in the same rooms our kids did a generation ago.

I retired several years ago and love the freedom it brings. In addition to my volunteer work at the Northport VA Medical Center, I enjoy writing, photography, movie making, target shooting, metal detecting, geocaching, cooking, and of course, making memories with Jake and Julia.

I look forward to serving you as Chaplain of our post. I may be a rookie Chaplain, but I’m a trustworthy listener (remember that bartending I did back in the day?) Let me know if you want to talk....

Thanks,

*Chaplain Charlie Tritto*

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## Veterans In The Classroom - Connecticut Style

Before our former Adjutant (and first editor of The Greenlawn Bugle) moved to Connecticut, he was a regular volunteer at our annual “Veterans In The Classroom” program at Old Field Middle School. It’s nice to see he is carrying on the tradition. Great job, Allen!!!

His report is below:

*“Just thought you might like to know I am carrying on the Greenlawn Post tradition of talking to the students. On May 23, I joined 14 Veterans at Woodland Regional High School in Beacon Falls Conn. The approach was 3-4 students rotated in 20 minute segments for one on one discussions. They had great questions as they always do... We could learn a lot listening to these students! “*





### Final Salute

Michael Mitek  
June 5, 2018

United States Army



M. Kent Stillwagon  
April 17, 2018

United States Army



Their sense of duty continues to preserve our past, safeguard our present and sustain our future.

## Operation Enduring Care

The residents of Northport VA Medical Center's Community Living Centers are benefitting from the efforts of Legionnaire Al Statton and the volunteers and donors supporting Operation Enduring Care. OEC was formed to support the homeless veterans and families at the Salvation Army Shelter, and more recently the Beacon House facility. With the shelter undergoing rehabilitation, OEC is now focusing on the needs of the nursing home and palliative care units.

The hospital does not supply toiletry or personal care items, so we have an ongoing effort to collect funds and donations-in-kind to provide these items to the patients. The students at Walt Whitman High School have especially done a wonderful job of collecting these items for our patients.

Recently, thanks to the generosity of local fire departments, American Legion Posts (including Post 1244 and our ALR Chapter), and numerous individual donors, OEC has purchased Ten 32" HD TV's and wall mounts which are being installed in the patients' rooms in Building 8. We are now collecting donations for another 14 TV's.



Delivering the first 10 TV's to Building 8 are L-R: Al Statton, Head Nurse Joan Adams and Past Cmdr. Bob Santo.

Donations may be made to:  
American Legion Post 1244  
Memo: Operation Enduring Care  
PO Box 238  
Greenlawn NY 11740



## Vice Commander's Call to Members



The American Legion fiscal year is July 1st through June 30th. This means that membership renewals for 2019 begins this July 1st. We will, of course, all receive a notice of this fact from National American Legion Headquarters.

Each of us can ease the administrative burden of paperwork by renewing online. Even for the technologically challenged it is amazingly simple. Just type [www.legion.org/renew](http://www.legion.org/renew) and enter your Legion membership number and credit card and "PRESTO"... you did it. Your new card

will be mailed to you promptly.

We had a very slight fall-off in total membership last year as a result of transfers, drop-outs and Post Everlasting. However, our base is stronger than ever and we anticipate another growth year. We hope each of you will continue, as successfully as in 2018, to recruit new members for the "Post that can and does!"

As an aside, I wish to thank my "co-grillmasters" Brian Madden and Fil Frank for their outstanding work at our annual BBQ. We fed over 100 hungry people in less than one hour. I do expect the hair on my knuckles to grow back before next year!!

*Richard Russano*

### Welcome To Our Newest American Legion Members!

#### The American Legion:

**John Carr  
John R. Fusco  
William Woods**

#### The American Legion Auxiliary

**Joan Cergol  
Jillian Guthman**

## Military Appreciation Breakfast - Walt Whitman High School

Eight soon-to-be servicemen and servicewomen were honored on June 6 for their decision to enlist in our country's armed forces upon graduation from High School.

Greenlawn Post 1244 was on hand to thank them, applaud their decision, and assure them of our total support both during and after their military careers.

This group will, no doubt, be a tremendous asset to our all-volunteer military. All are high achievers, with top GPA's and extracurricular activities throughout their high school careers.

The students and their service branches are:

Luis Baires - Army  
Christopher Bias - Marines  
David Costa - Marines  
Robert Gurr - Navy  
Samantha Southard - Marines  
Sean Wagner - Marines  
Jared Zenie - Army  
Michael Zimmerman - Navy



Legionnaires Charlie Tritto, Charlie Armstrong, Ken Carlson, Bob Santo, Dennis Madden, Fred Tuccillo and Carlo Giordano with the new service men and women from Walt Whitman High School

Commander Madden speaking to the new recruits, commended them on their decision and offered sound advice to the young men and women from his own experience.

## The Commander's Corner



My goodness, where does the time go? It seems to me like I just wrote one article and now another Bugle is coming due. We truly have had a busy spring.

This time around, I'd like to thank all of the members who came to our aid and helped with the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party, the Sons fundraiser, the poppy effort (so far),

the parade preparation, the Post 1244 annual BBQ preparation, execution and clean up, ... especially our volunteers from the US Merchant Marine Academy, and our first Pancake Breakfast. Lots of planning goes into each of these events though it may not seem so from where you sit today. Lots of planning. Thanks again, all, for your time and efforts for this post's members.

I've been considering another brunch for the summer months and would enjoy some feedback from our members. It seems that the same folks come out to this event and we'd really like to broaden the scope of it. Would you care for another venue? Consider the cost associated with a move, though. Nocello's has raised their rate \$4 per person. It's a lovely way to spend some casual time with other members and their spouses, to really get to

know one another, and the food is always wonderful. Hey, ... how can you screw up breakfast?

Thank you also, for your confidence and faith having elected me Commander once again. Our other elected officers are really the guiding council that makes things happen, but it is a team effort. Please keep this in mind as this will be my final year as commander. Fifteen years in a key role here it seems, is my limit. Please begin to think of who you would like to see as your next commander. We are only 8 meetings away from the next nominations.

Remember that the new commander will lead this Post as he or she sees fit rather than how I did or as Bob did. Things that are dear to me may not be dear to them. Group appearances important to me may not be to them, and so on. So please, do give this some thought to just who is in place and who else should be in place for the future. We are all aging and we must leave this post well suited to continue the work of veterans everywhere.

We have some younger blood in good position right now and are grooming others as well. Think five to eight years out and see what you come up with. I'm open to any and all input.

Enjoy another northeastern summer!

*Dennis Madden*



### **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**



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 email to: **Post 1244@verizon.net**. We'll do the rest.

***The Greenlawn Bugle: Editor, Publisher, Writer, Photographer and Reporter Bob Santo***

***Contributing Writers: Nicole Abbate, Charlie Armstrong, Bruce Blanco, , Dennis Madden,***

***Michelle Martin, Richard Russano, Bob Santo, Allen Schwartz and Charlie Tritto.***

***Photos by: George Barbaro, Steve Bartholomew, Chuck Bishop, Ron Laurie,***

***Christian Lenio and Charlie Tritto***

***Copy Editor, Photography, Envelope Labeling, Stuffing, Circulation and Morale Officer: Madelaine Santo***





## OUR SUPPORTERS



**Mark Cuthbertson**

*Councilman  
Town of Huntington*



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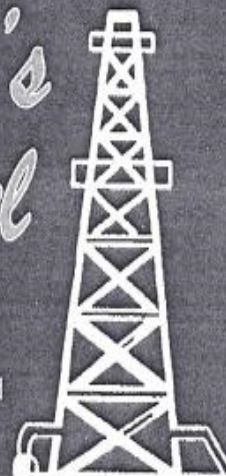
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