



# SOUND OFF



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Commander - James T. Randle July 2020 Editor - Dan Roper

## COMMANDER'S REPORT

Commander James Randle

Thanks to all Legion Family members who helped Jack Afonso in flagging graves: Margo Bores, Arlene Burlingame, Ellen O'Brien, Paul Kane, Kathy Kane, Marilyn Wotruba, Bob Guastella, John Lawless, John Incremona, Vic Werbkey; Eileen, Joe, Jim, Donna, and Natalie Watts, Christine and Steve Horvath, Frank and Maryann Busa, Joan and Peter Antonicelli, Carol Wilenski, Susan Otto, Sally and Bob Mitchell, Andy DelVecchio and Gail Cinelli. Thanks Bob and Ruth Valentine for keeping good records of our Legion Family at all cemeteries.

Check our website for the Memorial Day Service with Dan Roper filming the service and our web Master Eric Spinner adding it to our website at [www.willistonpost144.org](http://www.willistonpost144.org). There will be more information on the site.

Thanks to all who helped me to do a service for our Passing Legion Family, Commander VFW Frank Busa PC, President Christine Horvath, Norm Jardine, Eric Spinner, Jack Afonso PC. And Bob and Ruth Valentine.

We Honor Past Chaplain Brian Dyke as honorary Commander. Margret his wife was given a Legion cap.

First, let us remember the 76th anniversary of the outstanding D-Day landing in Normandy on Omaha and Utah beaches. There many of our Comrades gave their lives for a successful invasion which drove the Nazis back and initiated the Battle of the Bulge, and the eventual end of the war. Let us remember.

This is an update to all those who are concerned about reopening our post. The state has website for the 3rd or 4th phases of reopening. This web site, [businessexpress.ny.gov](http://businessexpress.ny.gov), stated that NY qualified for phase 2, as of June 10th, fraternal organizations could reopen (The American Legion, VFW, etc.) However, checking further, this applied mostly to the upstate counties of New York. This is not applicable to Nassau, Suffolk, and Queens Counties. We cannot fully open until we reach phase 3.

However, I found out that meetings of 15 persons or fewer, could preferably meeting an open outside area

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Saturday	July 4	Independence Day
Sunday	July 26	Parents' Day
Monday	July 27	End of Korean War (1953)
Monday	September 7	Executive (tentative)
Thursday	September 17	General Meeting (tentative)

(like our Parking lot), wearing Masks, and adhering to social distancing of six feet, is permitted. Please, remember with a membership consisting of 85% of legionnaires over the age of 60 it makes sense to better be safe than sorry. Let us be patient, we are almost there. We waited this long another week or two should be nothing. In a couple of weeks, we will lookback at these frustrating months as nothing more than a bad dream.

The Trustees met about the Post Repairs including Parking lot, Air Conditioning and Roof.

Give blood in the name of Williston Post 144 our group #02345. Call 1-800-688-0900. Thank You. This is another way for the American Legion Family to contribute to those who need it.

Post fund drive is still going on thanks to Jack Afonso chairman.

Till we meet again give Buddy Checks to improve communication. During this National (COVID-19) Emergency it is still more important than ever before.

*continued on page 2*

## ENCOURAGING OTHERS TO STAY HEALTHY



**Next General Meeting - September 17 (tentative) - Will Make Robocall**

## Commander's Report (continued from page 1)

The American Legion the Four Pillars

1. Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

Access to VA care

Better funding formula

Support for Veterans with Special Needs

Career Opportunities

A GI Bill for a new Century

Employment and Business

Heroes to Hometowns

Volunteering

Final Respect

2. National Security

Strong Military Defense

Military Quality of Life

Homeland Security

Foreign Relations

Full Accounting of POW/MIAs

Operation Comfort Warriors

3. Americanism

Flag Protection

Illegal Immigration

Voter Registration and Participation

Boy Scouts

The Pledge of Allegiance

Establishment-Clause Lawsuits

4. Children & Youth

Child Pornography

Catastrophic Illness

Intellectual Disabilities

Immunization

Family Integrity

Media Violence

Drug Abuse

Child Sexual Exploitation



## AMERICAN LEGION SCHOOL AWARDS

by PC Frank Busa

### Mineola High School Award 2020

The American Legion awards program which continues today was adopted nationally in 1926 inspiring generations of young people to serve proudly in their communities. American Legion Posts present school awards after an evaluation on five points.... honor, courage, scholarship, leadership and service.

American Legion Post 144 proudly presents the citizenship award to Samuel Levitan for his outstanding community services.

Samuel also received a check for \$100.00.

### Herricks High School Award 2020

The Herricks citizenship award was awarded to Jake Murciano. Williston Post 144 presented him with a certificate and a \$100.00 check for his volunteer work for the community.

Both students will receive a citizenship pin which will be forthcoming. Unfortunately, current health precautions did not enable us to have a ceremony. Certificates and checks were mailed to the schools and each high school held their own award ceremony.

Both students will receive a citizenship pin which will be forthcoming.



## WILLISTON PARK FIREHOUSE CEREMONY



Thanks to Norm Jardine for volunteering to sing on Memorial Day for the Williston Park Fire Department



Please enjoy a visit to our website at [willistonpost144.org](http://willistonpost144.org) to view the video of the Memorial Day ceremony

## LATEST NEWS ON REOPENING OUR POSTS

Fellow Legionnaires,

This is an update to all those who are concerned about reopening our Posts. I know many of our membership are itching to get back to business as usual. After brainstorming with 10th District Commander Paul Schottehamel, and Suffolk County Commander Jim Beecher, and Nassau County VA Ralph Esposito, a game plan was formulated. I accessed the state's website for the 3rd or 4th phase of reopening. This web site, *businessexpress.ny.gov*, stated that NY qualified for phase 2, as of June 10th, fraternal organizations could reopen (the American Legion, VFW, etc.). However, checking further, this applied mostly to the upstate counties of New York. This is not applicable to Nassau, Suffolk and Queens Counties. We cannot fully open until we reach phase 3.

However, I found out that meetings of 15 persons or fewer, could preferably meet in an open outside area (like a parking lot), wearing masks, and adhering to social distancing of six feet, is permitted. Please, remember with a membership consisting of 85% of Legionnaires over the age of 60 it makes sense to better be safe than sorry. The County Legislator said phase 3 should be opening up in Nassau County in a week or two. Let's be patient, we're almost there. We waited this long another week or two should be nothing. In a couple of weeks, we'll look back at these frustrating months as nothing more than a bad dream.

For God and Country,

Alfred A Ficalora,  
Command Nassau County American Legion

## NEW OFFICERS FOR 2020-2021

Williston Post 144 is proud to announce the list of officers for 2020-2021. Commander Randle and all of the Legionnaires of Post 144 wish to thank all of those who decided to contribute their time and effort to serve our post and the entire veteran community. Many of these Legionnaires have served the post in the past and have continued to step up again. We are indeed fortunate to have these members.

1st Vice Commander - Robert Valentine  
2nd Vice Commander – Robert Guastella  
3rd Vice Commander – Frank Busa  
Adjutant – Norm Jardine  
Finance Officer (Treasurer) - Robert Mitchell  
Chaplain – Eric Spinner  
Historian - James T. Randle  
Judge Advocate – Donato Sassano  
Sergeant-At-Arms - John J. Incremona  
Membership Officer – Robert Valentine

## FLAGGING OF THE GRAVES

*by Bob Valentine*

Many thanks to those who flagged the graves of our departed members. As this year was different, a few cemeteries were not covered. Hopefully next year will be better.

**Holy Rood** – Jack & Barbara Afonso, Kathy & Paul Kane, Marilyn Wotruba, Margo Bores, Arlene Burlingame, Ellen O'Brien, Bob Guastella, John Lawless, John Incremona, Vic Werbkay, Frank & Mary Ann Busa, Carolyn Wilenski, Joan & Pete Antonicelli, Eileen Watts, Joe Watts, James Watts, Nathalie Watts, Donna Donofrio Watts, Christine & Steve Horvath, Susan Otto, Bob & Sally Mitchell, Gail Cinelli, Andy Del Vecchio.

**Nassau Knolls** – coordinated by Jack Afonso

**St. Mary's & Calvary** Norm Jardine. Unfortunately Calvary was closed and Norm reported that he will return when the cemetery reopens.

**St. Charles** – Rudy & Maria Jonak,

**St. Margaret** – Bob & Ruth Valentine, Maple Grove – Joe Dwyer



*Arlene Burlingame and sister Ellen O'Brien flagging their Dad's grave. Bill was a long-time member of both the Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars*

## NEWS FROM THE AUXILIARY

Williston Post 144 Auxiliary is sad to inform the membership of the passing of Eileen Fingerle. Eileen and her deceased husband Charlie were both long-time American Legion members. Both are sorely missed.

## National Commander: unequal treatment violates nation's highest values

On June 12, 2020 American Legion National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford issued the following statement:

"The American Legion stands on principles and serves purposes worldwide that are violated when justice, freedom and democracy are not applied equally, regardless of race, color, creed or class. These principles formed the foundation of the organization over a century ago, in a very different and deeply divided time in U.S. society. As our nation grieves and tries to reconcile the unconscionable deaths of African-American citizens George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, retired St. Louis Police Capt. David Dorn, Federal Protective Services Officer Patrick Underwood in Oakland, Calif., and others, The American Legion stands firm in a value it has upheld, in the form of a national resolution, first adopted 1923:

WHEREAS, The fundamental law of our country guarantees to all people's equal rights and equal opportunities and the right to worship their God as they see fit; and...

WHEREAS, Membership of The American Legion is made up of those who served our country in a time of great national stress, without distinction as to race, color, creed or class; and...

RESOLVED, ...That we consider any individual, group of individuals, or organizations, which creates, or fosters racial, religious or class strife among our people, or which takes into their own hands the enforcement of law, determination of guilt, or infliction of punishment, to be un-American, a menace to our liberties, and destructive to our fundamental law; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That we consider such actions by any individual, groups, or organizations, to be inconsistent with the ideals and purposes of The American Legion.

"This resolution's place in The American Legion's conscience is so timeless it was reaffirmed, in full, at the organization's 99th National Convention in 2017.

"Throughout its history, The American Legion has fought to improve racial equality not only for veterans, but for the communities they serve. In 1919, African-American veterans of World War I were among the organization's founders who adopted a mission statement – the Preamble to The American Legion Constitution – that pledges among other things 'to maintain law and order,' 'promote peace and goodwill on earth' and 'safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy.'

"Where the law has been broken, justice must be served. Where freedom has been denied, it must be returned, without prejudice. Our nation has much to consider as we continue to strive toward a shared goal found in the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag: 'with liberty and justice for all.' All means all. Anything less than complete equality in the execution of these values today is as un-American now as it was in 1923."

" Pro Deo et Patria ", James W. Casey, Adjutant  
American Legion, Department of New York



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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