



# SOUND OFF



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Commander - James T. Randle April 2022 Editor - Dan Roper

## COMMANDER'S REPORT

by Commander James Randle

I hope that all in the Legion Family are well.

Post 144 received a letter from Maureen O'Connell (Nassau County Clerk) urging our American Legion Family to contact your federal representatives regarding plans to cut services to the Northport VA.

- Hon. Chuck Schumer 631-753-0978 / 518-431-4070
- Hon. Kirsten Gillibrand 631-249-2825 / 518-431-0120
- Hon. Andrew Garbarino 516-541-4225 / 202-225-7896
- Hon. Thomas Suozzi 631-923-4100 / 202-225-3335
- Hon. Kathleen Rice 516-739-3008 / 202-225-5516
- Hon. Gregory Meeks 347-230-4042 / 202- 225-3461

We should be making calls and checking on Legionnaires as a "Buddy Check" to say "hello."

Vice Commander Bob Valentine and PC Jack Afonso need Legion Family to help flagging graves on Wednesday 25 or Thursday 26 in May.

PC Frank Busa, Chairman for Memorial Day service at the post, needs members for a color guard and firing party. Frank held his first meeting for Memorial Day. The meeting was attended by post members and Mayor Paul Ehrbar.

Boys State - Frank Busa and Bob Valentine interviewed two boys.

Williston Park Little League held its first parade since COVID-19 pandemic began. It started at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 2, at Broad Street and Hillside Avenue. The Legion color guard, PC Frank Busa, PC John Lawless and Peter Antonicelli, led the parade through the village to Kelleher Park.

Post 144 needs Legionnaires to step up as officers for 2022 -2023.

Vice Commander Bob Guastella could use a few Legionnaires to help set up post and break down for NYPD school for 15 to 20 minutes on Tuesdays 9:00 a.m. setup and Wednesdays 7:00 am break down and Saturdays 10:00 a.m. set up and 2:00 p.m. break downs. You don't have to do both.

Commander went to Nassau County Meeting on Friday March 25 in Malverne Post 44 and 10th District Meeting at Benjamin Moore Post 1946 in Queens on March 29. On March 30 Eric Spinner and I went to Oceanside VFW where Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman announced new grant program for Nassau veterans service

## DATES TO REMEMBER

April 6 Wednesday	Army Day
April 9 Saturday	National former POW/MIA Recognition Day
April 10 Sunday	Palm Sunday
April 11 Monday	Executive Meeting 7:30 p.m.
April 11 Monday	Persian Gulf War Official Cease Fire (1991)
April 15 Friday	Good Friday and Passover Begins
April 17 Sunday	Easter Sunday
April 18 Monday	Auxiliary General Meeting 7:00 p.m.
April 18 Monday	Income Tax Day
April 21 Thursday	General Meeting 7:30 p.m.
April 22 Friday	Earth Day
April 24 Sunday	Orthodox Easter
April 27 Wednesday	Administrative Professionals Day
April 29 Friday	Arbor Day
May 5 Thursday	National Day of Prayer

organizations that have experienced hardship because of COVID-19 Pandemic.

Again, if you are getting news late you can check the Post 144 website, Dates to Remember, Auxiliary Unit, *Sound Off*.

The Executive Meeting was held Monday, April 11 at 7:30 pm and Legionnaires can come to this meeting. The General Meeting is April 21, Thursday at 7:30 p.m. At that meeting we must have a nominating committee for next year's 2022-2023 officers.

Post 144 mourns the recent passing of Legionnaire and Marine Chris Anselmo. He was a 24 year member.

The Auxiliary unit meeting will be April 18 at 7:00 p.m.

Welcome New Member

**Michael J. Siddons**

US NAVY Vietnam Era  
Transfer from Post 1

**Next General Meeting - - Thursday, April 21, 2022 at 7:30PM**

## THE AMERICAN LEGION, A BRIEF HISTORY

The American Legion was founded March 15-17, 1919, by members of the American Expeditionary Forces still stationed in Europe awaiting passage home from World War I. Their experiences in what was called the “war to end all wars” would shape an enduring agenda for what became the nation’s largest organization of veterans.

Many of the Legion’s founders had voluntarily drilled in civilian military camps before the United States entered the war. Trained in the “Preparedness Movement,” several future Legion Founders were Commissioned as officers in the war and discovered firsthand the nation’s deficiencies in defense, citizenship, and education. Soon after the war’s end, they also realized how poorly prepared the United States was to assist a wave of disabled and unemployed in their communities, states, and nation.

The American Legion’s emergence and rise to prominence was based on a mission to strengthen the nation through programs, services and advocacy that helped millions throughout the organization’s first century.

The American Legion built its legacy to make the nation prouder, stronger, smarter, and more respectful of those who have sacrificed some, or all, in defense of the nation. Following are some The American Legion’s achievements during its first century.

The American Legion - *Veterans helping Veterans* Formed a network of service offices in 1919 that now exceeds 3,500 to help disabled Veterans, free of charge, file for government benefits Successfully campaigned to put all veterans service under one federal authority, the Veterans Bureau in 1921, predecessor to the Veterans Administration in 1930 and the Department of Veterans Affairs in 1989. Assisted millions of Veterans in pursuit of rewarding careers: by June 1922 had already placed more than 500,000 veterans in permanent jobs and 200,000 more in temporary positions Successfully lobbied Congress to protect veterans’ benefits, VA hospitals, training programs and services on the federal budget chopping block over the decades. Developed programs and advanced research into what become post-traumatic stress disorder as early as 1921, when it was mischaracterized as “shell shock”. Produced studies that led to official diagnosis of PTSD in 1980 and proved that service-connected exposure to Agent Orange and atomic radiation caused diseases that demanded government accountability Achieved Veterans Preference Hiring for federal jobs. Drafted, presented, promoted, and pushed to passage the Servicemen’s Readjustment act of 1944, the original GI Bill that transformed U.S. economy and culture in the second half of the 20th century. Worked to improve the GI Bill for post-9/11 veterans, including the 2017 Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act, the forever GI Bill”

Veterans with help on National Security, Americanism, Children & Youth, Community Service, Honor & Remembrance.

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH MARCH 2022

*Mary Ann Busa Chairperson*

A member donated \$12.00 to St. Joseph’s Indian School. The funds are used to educate and provide housing for over 200 Lakota Sioux Children each year. Donated \$15.0 for food, juice and milk for an Indian child at St. Labre Indian School. Donated \$20.00 to St. Jude’s research hospital.

A member donated \$50.00 to St. Jude Children’s Hospital.

A member donated \$50.00 to Shriners Hospital for Children.

A member donated one bag of clothing to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Long Island.

Empire Girls State: We reached our quota for EGS. Fifteen girls are going to the program in July.

April is Children and Youth Month. We will have our baby shower. I will be collecting clothing, diapers and other items to donate to the organizations we deal with.

***I want to thank the American Legion Auxiliary members for their generous donations. Without your help the Children and Youth Program would not be a success.***

## PRAYER FOR UKRAINE

Holy and Gracious God,

We pray for the people of Ukraine and for the people of Russia during this time of unimaginable suffering and pain.

We pray for all those who are afraid, that they may be comforted by your loving grace in this time of great fear.

We pray for all those who have the power over life and death, that they will choose for all people life, and life in all its fullness.

We pray for those who choose war, that they will remember that you directed your people to turn our swords into plough shares and seek peace.

We pray for the leaders of the world stage, that they are inspired by the wisdom and courage of Christ to make right decisions.

We pray for the countries who have taken in refugees that they continue to welcome all those who cross their borders.

Above all, Lord, today we pray for peace for your people, your loving children. May you hold all those caught in this time of war, in all countries, in your loving embrace.

We ask this in the name of our blessed Son, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

***Written by a friend of Unit 144 ALA Chaplain, Jennifer Miller.***

## NEWS FROM THE AUXILIARY

by Marilynn Bauman

Our March 21st meeting was presided over by President Christine Horvath. Everyone in attendance enjoyed a shamrock cake and a pound cake. Thanks to the bakers, Chris and Ellen.

Emergency Fund Chair, Sue Otto announced that we have raised \$1,625 for this fund, \$285 more than last year. Again, I see another award in Sue's future. Thanks to every who contributed to this worthy cause.

Chris suggested that maybe we could get back into fund raising with Bottle Bingo and offer approximately 40 of the baskets as raffles. These baskets have been stored in homes waiting for the Chinese Auction to return. No date has been set yet but hoping for late spring.

Mary Ann Busa, Children & Youth chairman, thanked the members for their donations made to children-based organizations. Please continue to report them to Mary Ann.

Next month is Children & Youth month where we collect items for a baby show. Mary Ann will see that they get distributed to the necessary organizations.

Dianne Karl, Education chairman, received scholarship applications from two students. Our unit submitted seven from one student and passed along another to a unit that didn't have any to submit.

Speaking of Dianne, she will continue to collect school supplies through June. Needed:

- cloth zippered pencil cases (no plastic), Elmers glue 4 oz., glue sticks, crayons 24 & 48 ct., pencils, small pencil sharpeners, blue and/or black pens, colored pencils, highlighters, large erasers, 6" & 12" rulers with standard and metric markings, markers, scissors (pointed), construction paper, spiral notebooks (1, 3, & 5 subjects), 3x5" index cards.

Another project from this very busy gal (Dianne) is collecting food items for the Henry Viscardi School, brought to meetings or left at her house. (94 McClellan Ave. WP, 746.2625). Please include your name and the value of donated items. Dianne will report this to Gail Cinelli as Community Service. Thanks.

Please remember to report to Gail any community service that you do throughout the month.

Sally Mitchell, Poppy Chair, was present and during the meeting the members present helped by folding letters, stuffing envelopes (with a poppy inside) to get them ready for mailing to homes in the area. The letters tell about the poppy and hopefully they will be returned with a donation for said poppy. The letters will be mailed in April for May which is Poppy Month.

Plans are already in the works for the Everlasting Service on Memorial Day. The Post lost nine members, the Auxiliary lost seven. They will all be remembered at this service. Watch for more details.

Two of our members were presented with certificates

for membership. Gail Cinelli five years, and Susan Otto 50 years. Sue's Sister, Sally, also is a 50 year member.

Our next meeting will also be on a Monday - Monday, April 18th, 7PM. If there is any change to the date, you should receive a Robo call.

Please remember in prayer - member Eleanore Parris who is still recuperating.

Things to remember:

Baby items - April

Items for Veterans Home (word search books, adult coloring books, crayons/colored pencils - April (last month)

Food items - Viscardi School - ongoing through June

School items - through June

Thanks to everyone in advance.

GOD BLESS AMERICA, OUR VETERANS  
AND OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN



Membership awards were presented to Sally Mitchell (on left for 50 years), Gail Cinelli (center for five years) and Sue Otto (on the right for 50 years)

### Blood Drive on Tuesday, May 10th

2:00 PM to 8:00 p.m. in the Legion Room

*If you donate separately please use 02345 and the Post will get the credit for the donation.*

Also, the Post needs a Drive Co-Chairman



## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE POST?



*(Photos left) Post 144 always believes in supporting the community. Our color guard composed of PC John Lawless, PC Frank Busa and Pete Antonicelli led the Williston Little League parade.*

*all photos on page by J. Randle*



*(Photo right) Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman and Legislator Richard Nicoletto hold a press briefing to announce an assistance package that will help to support veterans groups in Nassau County*



**MEMORIAL DAY  
MONDAY, MAY 30TH  
THIS YEAR**