



# SOUND OFF



Published Monthly by Williston Post 144 - American Legion  
Commander - James T. Randle May 2022 Editor - Dan Roper

## COMMANDER'S REPORT

Cmdr. James Randle

I hope this finds all in our Legion Family well.

Continuous Membership Certificates for Rosario Campo for 60 years, Daniel F. Foley for 50 years and Joseph C. Denzler for 50 years were sent and signed by the National Commander Paul E. Dillard.

On the certificate it is said they are long-time and dedicated members of American Legion Post 144. Second Vice Commander Bob Valentine mailed the certificates to the Legionnaires. Congratulation Legionnaires.

The Post Blood Drive is Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Please think and give blood as it is really needed.

Our post mourns the recent passing of Legionnaire Thomas Piper, 25-year member, U.S. Coast Guard.

Third Vice PC Frank Busa has two candidates for Boys' State. They are Noah Weinstein of Mineola High School and Lance Yetikeyel of Herricks High School.

Getting ready for Memorial Day. We need Legionnaires to setup.

Post Fund Raiser is ongoing May and June with drawing on July 4, 2022. Please support the post and mail your response to PC Jack Afonso.

Flagging graves will be Thursday, May 26. Rain date is Friday, May 27. Any questions ask PC Jack Afonso.

Second Vice Commander PC Bob Guastella needs help with setup on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday until the end year.

At the General Meeting Girl Scout Grace Pizzardi of Troop 1316 addressed the membership regarding the veterans' oral history project that she is working on for her Girl Scout Gold Award. Jack Afonso will ask Legionnaires to meet at the post and give your service information to help her on her project.

The Commander is going on vacation between May 19 and May 26.

The Town of North Hempstead is hosting its annual *Memorial Day Commemoration & Fireworks Show* honoring the brave men and women of the armed forces on Saturday May 28, 2022 at North Hempstead Beach Park, Port Washington. The ceremony will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. If participating, the town asks that you arrive by 6 p.m..

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| May 5 Thursday  | National Day of Prayer   |
| May 6 Friday    | Military Spouses Day and Nurses Day                                  |
| May 7 Saturday  | Unconditional Surrender of All German Forces Signed (1945)           |
| May 8 Sunday    | Mother Day   |
| May 8 Sunday    | V-E Day Declared ( 1945 )  |
| May 10 Tuesday  | Post Blood Drive 2:00 pm to 8:00 pm in Legion Room                   |
| May 15 Sunday   | Women's Army Corps Founded ( 1942 )                                  |
| May 16 Monday   | Auxiliary General Meeting 7:00 pm                                    |
| May 19 Thursday | General Meeting 7:30 pm  |
| May 21 Saturday | Armed Forces Day   |
| May 22 Sunday   | National Maritime Day  |
| May 26 Thursday | Flagging Graves at Holy Rood 9:00 a.m.                               |
| May 30 Monday   | Memorial Day service at the Post 9:00 a.m.                           |
| June 4 Saturday | Nassau County Committee Convention at Massapequa Post 1066 9:00 a.m. |
| June 5 Sunday   | Installation of new Officers at Leonard's                            |

Please contact Estefany Garay at 516-869-2492 for information. Parking passes will be available for veterans.

Nothing new on Northport VA. There are many questions still to be asked. The VA Medical Center as we know it will disappear and be replaced by a multi-specialty, community-based outpatient clinic to Commack and to St. Albans, and to NYU Winthrop in Nassau County and to Stony Brook Hospital in Suffolk County. Perhaps a local veterans advisor committee should be formed to go over this report before it is ready to be voted on by the Congress of the United States. [www.va.gov/visn02-market](http://www.va.gov/visn02-market).

Nassau County Committee Convention will be Saturday, June 4th at Massapequa Post 1066 at 9:00 a.m. The Installation of Officers will be Sunday, June 5 at Leonard's Palazzo at \$71.00 a person from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. Make your check payable to *Nassau County Installation*. Cutoff for tickets is May 21.

The post has a website you can check *The Dates to Remember* and *Auxiliary News*.

## Next General Meeting - - Thursday, May 19, 2022 at 7:30PM

## LIFE MEMBERSHIP

*PC Don Sassano*

Guidelines for consideration for Life Membership are:

- 1) Life Membership Committee will consist of five(5) members including chairman. Committee members must have minimum ten (10) years service in Williston Post #144 in good standing.
- 2) Candidate sponsors must have at least ten (10) years service in Williston Post #144 in good standing and must submit a typed resume along with five (5) co-sponsors, to the Life Membership Committee. Watch for any additional info for resumes in the next *Sound Off*.
- 3) All resumes will be judged on the following information:
  - A) Candidate should have at least twenty (20) years of service in Williston Post #144 in good standing. However, an extraordinary candidate with no less than fifteen (15) years service in good standing could be considered at the discretion of the committee.
  - B) Candidates must have good attendance at Post meetings and Post functions.
  - C) Amount of hours spent working for the Post.
  - D) List amount of monies earned or saved for Post with his or her involvement in Post projects.
  - E) Involvement in Community activities (nonpolitical).
- 4) In order to keep Life Membership candidates names secret until the award the following is requested: The Life Membership Committee's recommendations will be presented to the Executive and General Memberships unnamed for approval by each.

These guidelines were adopted and approved at both the Executive and General Membership meetings in May 1997.

**Deadline September 15th General Meeting**

### **Delegates to Nassau County Convention**

Commander James T. Randle, PC Frank Busa, PC Jack Afonso, Eric Spinner, Norman Jardine, Bob Valentine.  
Alternates- Bob Mitchell, Daniel Roper, Bob Myron.

### **Nominations for 2022-2023**

Commander James T. Randle  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Bob Valentine  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Bob Guastella  
3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander Frank Busa  
Treasurer - book keeper - Bob Mitchell  
Chaplain Eric Spinner Post Historian James T. Randle  
Adjutant - Corresponding Adjutant Norm Jardine  
Judge Adjutant Don Sassano  
SGT at ARMS John Incremona at General Meeting  
Trustees – 2022-2023  
Bob Myron, Jack Afonso, Andy DelVecchio  
Bob Guastella, Alan Reardon

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH APRIL 2022

*Mary Ann Busa Chairperson,PCP*

A member donated \$20.00 to Fountain House for people with special needs.

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.

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

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

**I WANT TO THANK THE ALA MEMBERS FOR THEIR GENEROUS DONATIONS. WITHOUT YOUR HELP THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROGRAM WOULD NOT BE A SUCCESS.**

### **POST SUPPORTS GIRL SCOUT PROJECT**

The American Legion has always been long-time supporter of all Scouting programs, so when a young lady named Grace Pizzardi requested our support for her scout project we were all eager to help out.

Grace is a student at Kellenberg Memorial High School and a local Girl Scout. She is working on getting her Gold Badge which is the highest award that a Girl Scout can achieve. Her project is to interview as many veterans as possible (no names or pictures needed) regarding their time serving the country in the military. The interview may be short or long.

Let's all get on board and again give a great show of support for Grace to achieve her goal.

If you are interested you can call Jack Afonso (516-776-1420) to arrange an interview. They will be scheduled for the post or on the phone.

### **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR FLAGGING AT HOLY ROOD**

Post 144 will return again to Holy Rood Cemetery on Thursday, May 26 for the flagging of the graves there. The rain date is Friday, May 27. Please meet across from the office adjacent to the mausoleum at 9:00 a.m. We have about 155 graves to flag. About 25 volunteers would be helpful.

It takes about one hour to complete. We all could use some exercise. Bring a friend.

More info call Jack Afonso at 516-776-1420.

*May  
Our  
Comrades*



*Rest  
in  
Peace*

*photo by Cmdr. James Randle*

## NEWS FROM THE AUXILIARY

by Marilyn Bauman

Our April 18th meeting was presided over by President Christine Horvath. Because our meeting night has been changed to Mondays, we have much less in attendance. However, that left more of the egg shaped Easter Egg cake and streusel cake to enjoy. Thanks once again to the bakers, Chris and Ellen.

Sue Otto, Emergency Fund Chair reported that the collection of donations ended on March 31st and she received \$355 more this year (total - \$1,695) than last. Way to go!!

Mary Ann Busa, Chair for Children and Youth, thanked everyone in advance for the donations to the various organizations that receive the many items donated.

Dianne Karl, Education Chair informed us that the scholarships have been sent upstate and the results should be received late May, early June.

Dianne also reminded us that the Stop & Shop program ended in March and will not resume until August. So no need to save receipts until that time. Thanks for helping out with this program.

Dianne will still be collecting school supplies through June. Please refer to last Sound Offs for items needed or call Dianne at 746.2625 for additional information.

We will be in need of a Chaplain as Jennifer has taken on more responsibilities at work and is unsure that she will be able to make all of the meetings. Please consider this position for the Unit. Thanks.

Marilynn Bauman, VA&R Chair, thanked everyone that donated items for the Veterans at the Long Island State Veterans Home, Stony Brook. They will be delivered early in May.

The Post is hosting a Blood Drive on Tuesday, May 10th from 2 P.M. - 8 P.M. Come down and donate if you are able.

Our next meeting, Monday, May 16th, will be our Installation of Officers at 7:00 P.M.

Jack Afonso, PC, is requesting help in flagging the graves at Holy Rood Cemetery, Westbury on Thursday, May 26 (Rain Date Friday, 5/27) meeting inside the gates at 9:15 AM. Please let him or Barbara know if you can help. (516.741.0593)

The Post's Everlasting Service will be on Monday, May 30th where the departed members of the Post and the Auxiliary will be remembered. The families of these members will be invited to attend this lovely service. Please plan on attending.

The tentative date for the Bottle Bingo is Sunday, June 12th starting at 2 PM. More information will be forthcoming. It was suggested that some of the baskets for the Chinese Auction, which has been on hold since Covid, be used as a raffle at the Bingo.

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

## LEGIONNAIRE OF THE YEAR

Cmdr. James Randle

Each year since 1984, the members of Williston Post 144 American Legion select a member to bestow the title of "Legionnaire of the Year" to be presented to a Legionnaire who has distinguished himself by his service to our post.

In order to qualify for this high honor a candidate must have a resume submitted on his behalf. A sponsor and four post members in good standing for at least five years must sign the resume.

No candidate will be considered without a resume. Any member of the committee who signs to endorse a candidate will not be eligible to participate in the judging.

Candidates will be judge on attendance at Post meeting and functions, dedication, leadership and service to the American Legion and the community.

**The deadline for submitting resumes will be September 15th at the Post General Meeting.**

## NATIONAL COMMANDER VISITS NEW YORK



photos by  
Cmdr. James Randle

*National Commander Paul Dillard visited here on Long Island and was the guest of honor at the dinner at Antun's. In the photo above Commander Dillard is distributing his visitation pins to the attending Legionnaires.*

### **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**

## THE AMERICAN LEGION AND THEIR POLICIES

The American Legion has always sought to be in the forefront of supporting the national security of our nation. Below are just a few of their policies and accomplishments:

The American Legion has lobbied persistently for a better-funded and more efficient national system of defense and has called for the establishment of a separate service branch for aeronautics as early as 1919, which helped give birth to the U.S. Air Force in 1947.

It has also pushed Congress for “universal military training” for decades, culminating in the Reserve Forces Act of 1955.

It has conducted thousands of troop-support programs, including deployment ceremonies, welcome-home events, and provision of needed items in theater.

It established and staffed thousands of local first-response units and civil patrols during World War II.

It has provided financial and volunteer aid for military parents through American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance and Family Support Network programs established during the Gulf War.

It began The American Legion Blood Donor

Program in 1942 and became the largest organizational blood donor to the Red Cross in the Nation.

It re-established the Blue Star Banner Program to recognize military families with deployed loved ones after 9/11.

It launched a program to provide comfort items for U.S. military personnel recovering from wounds in DoD hospitals or transition unit, ultimately named Operation Comfort Warriors in 2008 and has distributed millions of dollars of goods, games, books, music, recreational equipment and event passes for troops and their families.

It has provided emergency grants for members of the U.S. Coast Guard who had pay delays due to the January 2019 federal government shutdown.

It fought to protect military retirement benefits and TRICARE insurance.

It stood as a national leader in the recovery and repatriation of all U.S. POWs and MIAs.

It passed and reaffirmed national resolutions, beginning in 2005, supporting the troops and their mission in the global war on terrorism.



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