



SOUND OFF

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



COMMANDER'S REPORT

Commander James Randle

Hope all is well Legion Family.

It is my sad duty to report that Post 144 lost past Commander Herbert Koch who served us as Commander from 1977 to 1978. He was a 53 year member. He was eighty-five. May he "Rest in Peace."

The month of September has been busy with Bob Guastella and Legion crew Artie Adair, Ray Cross, Frank Busa, Tom Rumore, John Incremona, Vic Werbkay, Ruth Valentine, Bob Valentine and other Legionnaires Jack Afonso, Eric Spinner, Peter Antonicelli, Peter Tartaglione, Bill Lorusso, Peter Virgilio, and me Commander James Randle to setup and break down the crystal room for NYPD for the instructional program they hold every year to prepare for their tests for advancement.

I attended the Veterans Picnic at Eisenhower Park along with Tom Rumore, John Incremona, Pete Tartaglione, and Eric Spinner. It was a lovely day and I encourage everyone to attend next year.

Ellen and I, along with Rosanne and Eric Spinner, attended the Department Visitation of Commander David R. Riley Sr., Department Auxiliary President Nancy J. Babis, and Determent Commander SAL Timothy Van Patten II, at Edwin Welch Jr. Post 1132. I want to thank First Vice Commander Bob Valentine for running the General Meeting with the visit of the boys who we sent to Boys State.

Ellen and I attended the POW/MIA ceremony at Eisenhower Park with Tom Rumore, Bob and Ruth Valentine, and Eric and Rosanne Spinner.

Eric Spinner and I went to the Nassau County Meeting at Rockville Centre. There was a talk about The Pact Act. Pact stands for "Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics." You can confer with your primary care doctor to find out if you should apply for a VA Disability for high blood pressure (hypertension) which is now covered by the PACT Act. The VA want veterans and survivors to apply now for their PACT Act benefits. Because these conditions have already taken a serious toll on so many veterans and their families, VA is considering all conditions established in the PACT Act be presumptive on August 10, 2022, the date the bill was

DATES TO REMEMBER

- October 4 Tuesday Yom Kippur
- October 5 Wednesday Flu Shots
- October 7 Friday Afghanistan war began 2001
- October 10 Monday Executive Meeting 7:00 pm
- October 10 Monday Observed Columbus Day
- October 12 Wednesday Columbus Day
- October 13 Thursday U.S. Navy Established 1775
- October 14 Friday Cuban Missile Crisis Begin (1962)
- October 17 Monday Auxiliary Meeting 7:00 pm
- October 17 Monday National Boss Day
- October 20 Thursday General Meeting 7:30 pm
- October 23 Sunday Grenada campaign Began (1983)
Beirut Barracks Bombing
- October 24 Monday Nation United Day
- October 25 Tuesday U.S. Invades Grenada (1983)
- October 27 Thursday U.S. Navy Day
- October 28 Friday Nassau County Committee Meeting 7:30pm
Rockville Centre Post 303

signed into law. The VA will begin processing those presumptive benefits for Veterans and survivors on the earliest date possible, which is January 1st You can learn more about the PACT Act by visiting VA.gov/PACT or calling 1800 MY- VA- 411. Call 800-698-2411 TTY:711

File a disability claim online at www.va.gov/disability/file-disability-claimform-21-526ez/

Apply for VA health care (www.va.gov/health-care/apply/application/)

Senior Flu Shots - October 5th

Don't Forget

**Call Maureen O'Connell's Office
at
(516) 571-2661
for an appointment**

Next General Meeting - - Thursday, October 20th, 2022 at 7:30PM

WILLISTON PARK STREET FAIR

This year the post had another successful street fair. Friends popped in and out to say “hello” and make a donation and several different Legion and Auxiliary members donated their time to help man the tables.

Our gratitude goes out to all.



Bob Guastella, Cmdr. James Randle and Jack Afonso distributing American flags at the street fair.



Diane Karl, Roseann Spinner, Donna DiBello, Sandy Lee, Christine Horvath, Ellen Randle, Christine Horvath did a great job at the Auxiliary table this year.

Thanks also to all of those who supported our vets at the Williston Street Fair.....

Commander James Randle, John Lawless, Jack Afonso, Bob and Ruth Valentine, Bob Guastella, Ray Cross, Bob Myron, Eric Spinner, VFW Frank Busa, Robert Langenbach, Dan Roper, Peter Antonicelli, Bill Kempner

MORE ON THE PACT ACT

The PACT Act is a new law that expands VA healthcare and benefits for veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances. The law helps the VA provide generations of Veterans and their survivors with the care and benefits they earned and deserve.

The Act (1) expands and extends eligibility for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam era, Gulf War era, and Post-9/11 era, and (2) expands eligibility for benefits for Veterans exposed to toxic substances.

What does toxic exposure mean and have I suffered from such exposure?

As a general matter, there are several types of possible exposures or hazards Veterans may have experienced during their military service, including:

AIR POLLUTANTS: Burn pits, oil well fires, sulfur fire, sand, dust and particulates

CHEMICALS: Agent Orange or other herbicides, burn pits, Camp Lejeune water supplies, pesticides, depleted uranium, chromium, or industrial solvents

RADIATION: Nuclear weapons testins, x-rays, or depleted uranium

WARFARE AGENTS: Chemical warfare agents, nerve agents, mustard gas, herbicide tests, and storage

OCCUPATIONAL HAZARDS: Asbestos, lead, fuels, industrial solvents, radiation, vibration, noise, special paint on military vehicles, and some coolants or insulating fluids

If you feel that you fall into any of the above situations you should contact the VA now. The sooner the better. If you are eligible for benefits they will be paid retroactively from the date the claim is received by the VA.

See the Commander’s Report on page 1 for VA website address. You can apply online.



Congratulations to the two young men who represented Post 144 at Boys’s State this year. They are Lance Yetikel (l) and Noah Weinstein (r). Bob Valentine (l) represented the Commander and Frank Busa (r) is the Boys’ State Chairman.

NEWS FROM THE AUXILIARY

by Marilyn Bauman

Hi everyone and welcome back. On September 19th we had our first meeting for the 2022-2023 year. President Christine Horvath presided over the meeting. It was surely good to see so many of you once again. Hopefully you had a great summer and are ready to get back to work with the Auxiliary.

Thank you to Margo Bores, who has graciously volunteered to be Chaplain for the coming year. Always difficult to get volunteers.

Margo, in the past has been our Wellness Ambassador and this evening she gave us a hint to getting a good sleep (if you are having trouble). Just empty your mind and sleep will come.

Dianne Karl, Education Chair reported that we, once again, had a Scholarship winner, Bridget Zahralnik who won the Past President Parley Scholarship in the Medical Field. Congratulations, Bridget.

Dianne also reported that she will continue to collect food for the Henry Viscardi school for their pantry October and November. The food can be brought to the meetings or dropped off at her house, 94 McClellan Ave. WP (746.2625).

The Henry Viscardi School will be having a Veterans Day Parade on Thursday, November 10 at Noon. All are welcome.

Sue Otto reminded us that the Emergency Fund letter will be going out in January. Seems so far away but it will be here before we know it.

Ellen Randle, Girls State Chair, stated that one of our Girl State candidates will be coming to our October meeting. Come out and hear about her experiences.

Rita Hesse, is encouraging us all to get out and vote this November. Very important and one of our rights as an American.

Our booth at the Williston Street Fair went very well. We had six prizes to take chances on: A lottery ticket board, an afghan in a lovely basket, a memory frame, a child's tablet, a basket of Starbucks coupons, etc and a Radio Flyer scooter. The tickets were picked after the fair, each by a different Auxiliary member and 4 of our members were very lucky and happy to learn that



Lucky winner of Lottery Board
Jeanne Occhiogrosso

they had won. The lottery board was won by member, Jeanne Occhiogrosso, the memory frame - Christine Horvath, the tablet - Debbie Robinson, the scooter - Sandra Lee. The Starbucks basket was won by someone locally and the afghan by Pat Healy. Please see pictures



Lucky winner of Afghan, Pat Healy

of two of the winners.

A big Thank You to Debbie Robinson for handing out flyers about the ALA with a small ribbon flag. All made by her. Thanks again for all you do for the Unit.

On Tuesday, October 25, 7 PM at the Albertson Fire Dept. on I.U. Willets Road, come out to Meet The Candidate.

Save the date: Saturday, November

19 - 2:00 PM our Chinese Auction is scheduled. Cost \$30.00 pp which includes a sheet of 25 tickets and dinner. Please RSVP to Ellen Randle by Wednesday, November 9. (270.6941)

Our October meeting is up in the air as we are not sure if it will be on a Monday or will we go back to our usual Tuesday evening. There will be a robo call with the day. Time is the same - 7 PM.

Marilynn Bauman, VA&R Chair, has requested the following be brought to the October meeting for our Veterans at the L.I. State Veterans Home, Stony Brook: hats, scarves, gloves, adult coloring books with crayons or colored pencils for each purchased, Find a Word puzzle books, NEW unopened jigsaw puzzles. They have protected us and we should always remember them!

Now for some good news: Ashton Jonak, (17) Grandson of Rudy & Maria Jonak, was inducted into the U.S. Marine Corps on Friday, September 16, 2022. He will be leaving on October 31 for boot camp. Good luck, Ashton.

Any good news can be sent to me at mjabauman@verizon.net or call me at 516.747.3983 and leave a message or phone number for a return call.

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



HAPPENING AROUND THE POST



Williston Park pays tribute to those who were victims of 9/11.



Thanks to the color guard who always help to represent our Veterans



Tom Rumore, Bob Valentine, Ruth Valentine and Ellen Randle attend the POW-MIA Remembrance Ceremony at Eisenhower Park



Members of the Post 144 attend the 9/11 memorial program.



Thank you to our set up crew who work diligently to prepare for our police program



Our traditional tribute to the POW-MIA Veterans of all of our wars



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**WILLISTON POST 144 - AMERICAN LEGION
PO BOX 1
WILLISTON PARK, NEW YORK 11596**

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Williston Park, NY
11596
Permit No. 3