



SOUND OFF

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Commander - James T. Randle June 2023 Editor - Dan Roper



COMMANDER'S REPORT

Commander James Randle

June summer is coming.

The Blood Drive was a success with total of 48 pints including seven doubles. Auxiliary helper Sandy Lee asked blood donors for their names while Ellen Randle served as my new Co-chairperson.

Twelve Legionnaires attended the Auxiliary meeting and saw the Unit 144 new officers installed by Past District President Ellen Randle.

Legionnaires and veterans were invited to St. Aidan's on Wednesday, May 24. The program honoring vets was well attended. The students thanked the veterans for serving our country. They read stories of World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, Desert Storm and the War on Terrorism.

Legionnaires and Auxiliary would like to thank Jack Afonso PC for the names of deceased Legionnaires and Bob Valentine for getting flags for flagging graves at Holy Rood Cemetery on Thursday. The weather was great.

At Henry Viscardi School on Friday, May 26, many Legionnaires and Auxiliary members attended, with Eric Spinner and Frank Busa showing the students how a flag is folded 13 times into a triangle while Bob Valentine explained the 13 folds.

Boys' State Chairman Frank Busa PC and I went to Glenwood Landing Post 336 on Thursday, May 25, to the Boys' State Orientation meeting. We met our candidates, three boys from Herricks High School, Jaime H. Chua, Aidan J. Lin, and Michael A. Chad. They were interviewed by Frank Busa PC and Bob Valentine. They will be coming to a meeting in September.

The Poppy is a symbol of remembrance for all who made the ultimate sacrifice in military service to our country. On Memorial Day we remember all, from the American Revolution to today, one Million American men and women who have made the supreme sacrifice while serving in all wars and conflicts. We honor all of

DATES TO REMEMBER

- June 3 Saturday Nassau County Committee Convention at Massapequa Post 1066 9:00 a.m.
- June 3 Saturday Nassau County Installation Elective Offices at Massapequa Post 5:00 p.m.
- June 4 Sunday Holy Trinity Sunday
- June 5 Monday Post 144 Executive Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- June 6 Tuesday D-Day Invasion of Normandy (1944)
- June 8 Thursday Corpus Christi
- June 12 Monday Women Veterans Day
- June 12 Monday Merchant Marine's Birthday
- June 14 Wednesday Flag Day
- June 14 Wednesday Army Birthday Founded (1775)
- June 14 Wednesday Legionnaires invited to Meadow Drive School for Flag Day 9:00 a.m.
- June 15 Thursday Post 144 General Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- June 18 Sunday Father's Day
- June 19 Monday Juneteenth National Independence Day
- June 20 Tuesday Auxiliary Unit General Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- June 21 Wednesday Summer Begins
- June 22 Thursday Pledge of Allegiance Recognized by Congress (1942)
- June 22 Thursday GI Bill Signed into Law (1944)
- June 23 Friday Nassau County Committee Meeting 7:30 p.m. Rockville Centre Post 303
- June 23 Friday Coast Guard Reserve Birthday
- June 25 Sunday Korean War Begins (1950)
- June 27 Tuesday PTSD Awareness Day - National Post-Traumatic Stress Awareness Day
- June 30 Friday Post-9-11 GI BILL Signed into Law (2008)

them - not just the highest medals or the heroes who fought in the most famous battles. They all died so we can continue to cherish the things that we love – freedom, country, and family. As Legionnaires, we are pledged though the Preamble of our organization's constitution to "preserve the incidents of our associations in all wars and conflicts involving United States.

Next General Meeting - - Thursday, June 15th, 2023 at 7:30 P.M.

ON MEMORIAL DAY, LET US REMEMBER...

Post 144 Chaplain Eric Spinner

By the time this issue of *Sound Off* is published we will have already celebrated Memorial Day for 2023. Those of us who have served or have family who served understand that this holiday, although treated by many of our fellow Americans as the unofficial beginning of summer, the boating season and an excuse for many parties understand the true meaning and solemnity of the day.

Since the colonists took up arms against our English suppressors, American have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. Memorial Day – the federal holiday in which we honor our veterans and remember those who died while in the armed services – originated in the aftermath of the Civil War. On both sides of that conflict, north and south, families and brothers-in-arms of the fallen came together in grassroots commemorations to lay flowers on the graves of the dead, in honor of their sacrifice. This day of remembrance was initially known as Decoration Day.

The national observance of Decoration Day, in part, is traced to an order by Maj. Gen. John A. Logan, the commander in chief of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), a fraternal organization of Civil War Union veterans. On May 5, 1868, Logan instructed members of the GAR that:

The 30th Day of May, 1868 is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in the defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet churchyard in the land.

For many years, Memorial Day commemorations both domestically and overseas took place on May 30. In 1968 Congress passed, and President Lyndon Johnson signed, the Uniform Monday Holiday Act. This legislation established the observance of Memorial Day on the last Monday in May.

Every year, during Memorial Day weekend, ceremonies in each of the 25 American Battle Monument Commission cemeteries worldwide honor the more than 200,000 individuals commemorated in these sites. Each headstone is decorated with a small American flag, and the flag of the corresponding host nation. Speakers and honor guards pay homage to those who fell. These ceremonies, rooted in nearly 150 years of tradition, ensure that the United States will never forget those who died in the armed forces, far from family, home, and the country for which they served. We, the American Legion Family, are proud to continue that tradition of remembrance.

Please visit WillistonPost144.org and select Traditions from the menu for more information.

AUXILIARY NEWS

FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH APRIL, 2023

Mary Ann Busa Chairperson, PCP

A member donated \$21.00 to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

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

A member donated \$50.00 to Shriners Research Hospital.

A member donated \$12.00 to St. Joseph Indian School.

A member helped out for Beyond the Boots Fashion Show taking pictures and videos. Also donated a total of \$210.00 to the Fashion Show. Attended OCS, Our Community Salutes Ceremony, at Nassau County Police Academy honoring high school students enlisting in the military.

Another member helped out for Beyond the Boots Fashion Show helped to set up the night before the show. Helped to break down after the show.

I distributed diapers, toys and clothing to Momma's house. Momma's house is always grateful for our donations.

I distributed toys, clothing to SCO in Huntington. SCO is always grateful for our donations.

Pat from the Manhasset unit donated toys for c/y month. Brian from Toys of Hope came to my home to pick up donations.

I want to thank all the ALA members for their help each year. Without the help of ALA members Children and Youth program will not be a success. Thank you so much for your help.



(top) Auxiliary Unit Secretary Rosanne Spinner, (l) Past 10th District President Ellen Randle and (r) Past County President Mary Ann Busa at the Auxiliary Tea fundraiser at Levittown Post

NEWS FROM THE AUXILIARY

by Marilyn Bauman

Our May meeting was held on Tuesday, the 16th, with President Christine Horvath presiding. Attending this meeting were 12 Legionnaires from our Post. It was good to see them there. Thanks for coming.

We were notified that the Awards Dinner has been postponed until June 29th, which means that if our Unit has received any awards this year, we will hear about it in September.

Pat Lorusso, National Security Chairperson, will be collecting items for our women in the military in June to be sent out and will resume in September. Please refer to past Sound Off's for the items needed.

Dianne Karl, Education Chairperson, will continue to collect food items for the Henry Viscardi School and school items for St. Aidan's through June. She hasn't heard any news about scholarship winners as yet.

We need LOTTERY SCRATCH-OFF TICKETS to be brought to our June meeting so they can be incorporated into a Lottery Board for our booth at the Williston Street Fair in September.

Remember to report anything you do for Americanism to Ellen Randle, Chairperson.

Margo Bores, Wellness Ambassador, gave us info on the proper way to have our blood pressure taken. Seated, with feet on the floor, taking a few breaths before the test to help lower it after being rushed down the hall into a room. It really should be taken with your arm resting on a table but that never happens.

Mary Ann Busa, Chairperson, Children and Youth, thanked everyone for the donations to the baby shower and organizations involving children.

Marilynn Bauman, Chairperson VA&R, thanked everyone for the many donations for the L.I. State Veterans Home, Stony Brook, which were delivered earlier in the month (16 bags and boxes).

Our Unit will have an Empire Girls State tea on Saturday, June 10th, at 2:30 p.m. If you can help out, please call Ellen Randle at 516.270.6941.

We have a new member, Donna Pagano. Welcome and hope to see you at the next meeting.

After our meeting, which included the Installation of Officers, all in attendance enjoyed pizza and coffee, cookies and mini cup cakes. Yummy as usual.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, June 20th, starting at 7:00 p.m. Hope to see you there.

(photo right) New Auxiliary Officers.....Sue Otto, Exec Bd, Sally Mitchell, Exec Bd, President Christine Horvath, 1st V.P. Debbie Robinson, 2nd V.P. Ellen Randle, Treasurer, Marianne Wohlgemuth, Marilyn Bauman, Exec Bd., Rosanne Spinner, Recording Secy, Mary Ann Busa, Exec Bd., Margo Bores, Chaplain and Ruth Valentine, Corr. Secy.

THINGS TO REMEMBER

OUR NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY, JUNE 20,
STARTING AT 7:00 p.m.

PLEASE BRING LOTTERY TICKETS TO BE USED
AT OUR BOOTH AT THE WILLISTON STREET
FAIR

SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND FOOD ITEMS

ITEMS FOR OUR WOMEN IN THE MILITARY

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



President Christine Horvath (l) and 1st Vice Debbie Robinson (r) welcome new auxiliary member Donna Pagano (c)



HAPPENING AROUND THE POST



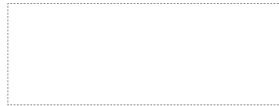
The Post would like to thank all those members, auxillary and friends for their help in flagging over 160 veterans graves. The following are the people that helped: Joan/Peter Antonicelli, Commander Randle, PC Busa and Maryann Busa, Charlie/Marianne Wohlgemuth, VicWerbkay, PC Lawless, Ray Cross, Joe Donovan, Tom Rumone, Bob Myron, Marilynn Bauman, Steve/Louise Hurley, Susan Otto, Sandy Lee, Sally/Bob Mitchell, Gail Cinelli, Chris/Steve Horvath, Karen Wilenski, Margo Bores, PC Jack/Barbara Afonso



Each year Viscardi School invites Post 144 and Unit 144 members to their Albertson campus to honor them for their service and for the work they do in the community. Above are (l to r) Bob Valentine, Chaplain Eric Spinner, PC Frank Busa and PCP Mary Ann Busa. Commander Randle, Ellen Randle and Rosanne Spinner were present, but not in photo.



Congratulations to the three young men who were selected to attend Boys State this year. They are Jaime H. Chua, Aidan J. Lin, and Michael A. Chad and all represent Herricks High School.



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