



# SOUND OFF



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Commander - James T. Randle January 2024 Editor Dan Roper

## COMMANDER'S REPORT

By Commander James Randle

2024 Happy New Year to all American Legion Family members. I wish you and your family good health.

This was a special week of the year when we gather with family member and friends to celebrate Christmas. And in the next week, we will ring in a new year filled with joy, optimism, and even inspiration to make good.

On December 21, Thursday, at Post General Meeting we had a Christmas Party with twenty-one Legionnaires. I ordered from Domenic's at that meeting and we all spoke to each about their holidays. I changed the post sign to read "Merry Christmas" and after 2024 Happy New Year for the people passing by that Williston Post 144 is alive and well and to tell the community.

Buddy Check, Legionnaires should always keep in mind the well-being of other Legionnaire members. We always encourage our members to do a "buddy check" just to say "hello" and make sure we are all doing well. I will try again to get out Telephone Mobilization List.

It is time for all Legionnaire to step up as post officers for 2024-2025. I have been Commander since 2019, Post Historian, Nassau County Historian, 10<sup>th</sup> District Historian. I do the *Dates to Remember* and my Commander's Report for the post *Sound Off* and Chairman of Post Blood Drive.

The American Legion in Nassau County is alive and well. There are fifty-three posts on Long Island serving over 9,000 veterans within the County. We sponsor thirty-two different ways to support veterans, the Communities and our nation. To mention a few, we sponsor Boys and Girls State Programs which instruct high school juniors about the political process in New York State. We sponsor an oratorical contest for high school students that awards up to \$25,000 in scholarships. The Legacy Scholarship Fund

## DATES TO REMEMBER

January 1	Monday	Happy New Year 2024
January 6	Saturday	Epiphany
January 8	Monday	Executive Meeting 7:00 PM
January 15	Monday	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 16	Tuesday	Auxiliary Unit General Meeting 7:30 PM
January 16	Tuesday	U.S. Entered Persian Gulf War (1991)
January 17	Wednesday	Start of Operation Desert Storm (1991)
January 18	Thursday	Post General Meeting 7:00 PM
January 26	Friday	Nassau County Committee General Meeting Rockville Centre Post 303
January 27	Saturday	Signing of Vietnam Peace Accord (1973)
January 28	Sunday	U.S.- Vietnam Cease- Fire(1973)
January 30	Tuesday	Start of Tet Offensive (1968)
February 1	Thursday	National Freedom day
February 2	Friday	Groundhog Day

helps children of deceased members of the military. The American Legion National Emergency Fund (NEF) is one of the best examples of "Veterans helping Veterans" through the American Legion. Since October of 1989, the NEF program has provided more than \$10 million in direct financial assistance to Legionnaires, Auxiliary and SAL members and posts. All contributions made to this fund are distributed directly to Legion family members in need. We also support the Law-and-Order Committee, which awards citations to top member of our communities who work for Police, Fire, EMS and Dispatchers. The American Legion is also a charitable organization that would not survive without the participation of all members.

*Continued on bottom of next page....*

**Next General Meeting - - Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.**

## LEGIONNAIRES HAVE A HOLIDAY GET-TOGETHER

By Tom Rumore

Nothing better than paying a visit to a friend during the holiday season.

This past December Comrade John Incremona, his girlfriend Jeanne Occhogrosso and myself, Tom Rumore, paid a visit to 103 year old WWII Veteran Tony Catalano at Glengariff Rehabilitation Facility, 141 Dosoris Lane, Glen Cove, N.Y. 11542.

As you can imagine, Comrade Catalano was delighted to see us. He has been at Glengariff since mid October where he celebrated his 103rd birthday. We all wished him a speedy recovery. If you would like to call or send a card, Tony is in room 100 and can be reached with the direct line to his room, 516 980 2702.

Tony, all of your fellow vets send their best regards.



## WE'RE ON FACEBOOK

Thanks to the efforts of Legionnaire Bob Mitchell Post 144 now has their own *Facebook* page. It can be accessed on *Facebook* by just typing in "Williston Post 144 American Legion" in the *Facebook* search bar.

Why develop a Facebook page you might wonder when we already have a website online? Well.....Post 144 would like to create a place where Legionnaires, Auxiliary members and the community can all interact and post their thoughts, ideas and comments on whatever topic is brought up or just view some of the activities that occur at the post. Now, Legionnaires as far away as Arizona and Florida (shout out to Bob Cunningham and Marvin Goodman) can join in and contribute to the page or just say "hello" and send best wishes to all. It might even be an opportunity to reconnect with old Legion friends from days gone by.

Another very important reason to develop a *Facebook* page is to allow the community to see the activities Post 144 engages in. This year our Children and Youth Committee did an incredible job on a "Special Friends" Halloween Party that was attended by over 100 guests and it is likely that few families from Williston Park knew about this outreach that we sponsor. We are hoping that our *Facebook* page can help to change that. Letting the community know more about Post 144 can help everyone understand that we are a valuable part of the community and can enrich the community and fulfill our mission of community service.

## NEWS FROM THE AUXILIARY

by Marilyn Bauman

Our "Holiday" meeting was held on Tuesday, December 19th, presided over by President Christine Horvath. All in attendance enjoyed refreshments of a Christmas cake made out of cupcakes made by Christine and a Sour Cream cake made by Ellen. Thank you both for the lovely and yummy treats.

Mary Ann Busa, Chair for Children and Youth, thanked everyone for their gift donations for the children. All gifts were distributed.

Ellen Randle, Chair of Empire Girls State, reported that a new County Chair for same will be needed. If someone does not step up, there will not be a Girls State convention this coming year.

Rita Hesse, Legislation Chair, reported that there is a Bill # HR5641 in the House that needs to be passed. It concerns the payment to our troops (earnings) even though there may be a government lockdown on the budget (withholding of payment to government workers). Our servicemen and women need to be paid. The House is in recess until January 2024. Let's hope they see it fit to pass this bill. More info to come.

National Security Chair, Pat Lorusso reported that 27.5 pounds of goods were sent to *Support Our Troops*. This project is ongoing so you can bring in items to be sent to any and all meetings. Call Pat for items needed: 516.747.6176 or if you still have the October *Sound Off*, the items are listed in it.

It has been brought to our attention that if you go on this website: [ALAforVeterans.org](http://ALAforVeterans.org), put in your Auxiliary member number you will find coupons to be used for veterans from different companies.

Our raffle chances were picked at the meeting and winning second prize was our own Dianne Karl.

Speaking of Dianne, my apologies to Dianne for not mentioning her name in last month's article about the certificates received for donations made to education. Dianne, as Chair of Education, has made generous donations to this cause, but did not want to be recognized with a certificate. My apologies. Dianne.

After the meeting, while we enjoyed refreshments, we held our "grab bag". Everyone enjoyed receiving a wrapped gift of their choice from the table of packages.

Don't forget to bring in any gently used or new items to our January meeting. We will enjoy pizza while we

shop. Our meeting will start at 7 PM on Tuesday, January 16th.

You can start bringing in items for the Chinese Auction baskets to the January meeting. There will be letters which you can take to local merchants for donations to same. We are all encouraged to make a basket for this fundraiser. We don't have many fundraisers during the year and this is very important. Please consider making a basket. If you really can't, but have baskets, or items to be combined with other items in a basket, please bring them to the meeting in January.

Scratch off tickets are also needed and can be brought to any meeting to be used on a Lottery Board at the Street Fair in September.

### AUXILIARY DATES TO REMEMBER

JANUARY 16 - NEW/GENTLY USED ITEMS FOR SALE  
7 PM PIZZA INCLUDED

PLACE ON CALENDAR: SATURDAY, APRIL 6  
CHINESE AUCTION

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



### AUXILIARY NEWS FOR DECEMBER, 2023

Mary Ann Busa, Chairperson, PCP

A member donated \$12.00 to St. Joseph Indian School. It provides for 200 Lakota Sioux children a year.

I distributed diapers, toys, paper products to Momma's House. Member of Unit 144 ALA donated these items.

I distributed toys to SCO (St. Christopher Ottolie ) Members of Unit 144 ALA donated these items.

The 8 and 40 gave me toys to deliver to Brian from Toys of Hope. Brian came to my home to pick up these donations.

I want to thank all the ALA members for their help. Sco, Momma's, and Toys of Hope are grateful for our donations. Without the help of ALA members Children and Youth will not be a success.

### Commander's Report continued.....

#### Dates coming up.

Happy Hour has started up again so clear Wednesdays on your calendar. Check with Past Commander John Lawless for current information.

Our Annual Four Chaplains interfaith ceremony is coming up in February this year.

Voting in The Third Congressional District Special Election will be held on Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at the post.

Military Ball/ Post Commander Night Saturday, February 17, at the Leonard's Palazzo Great Neck.

Taps for Legionnaires how we lost to Commander of us all for 2023:

Frank Falcone WWII

Nat Infurna, Korea – US Navy

Rosario Campo -WWII

Jack Holt- US ARMY- WWII

Eugene McCoy – US Navy, Korea

Donato Sassano Past Commander 1985-1986 US Army - Korea. Don was a 43 year member of the post

# Happening Around the Post

*Welcome back former member*

**Brendan F. Banks**  
USA - Persian Gulf

*Brendan is owner of  
Brendos - King of Heros  
82 Hillside Ave, Williston Park*



*PC Jack Afonso unwraps two giant heros for our General Membership Meeting / Christmas Party*

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