



SOUND OFF



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Commander - James T. Randle February 2024 Editor Dan Roper

COMMANDER'S REPORT

By James T. Randle

Come and support Nassau County Oratorical Contestant Katherine Mazaroski, a student of Sacred Heart Academy and resident of Carl Place. Katherine's Dad is a Navy veteran. The Zone Two Oratorical contest is Saturday, February 10, 2024. It begins promptly at 10:00 am at the Elmont Public Library, 700 Hempstead Turnpike, Elmont, N.Y.

The Nassau County Board of Elections Special Election is on Tuesday, February 13 from 6:00am to 9:00pm for the 3rd Congressional District. The post will be open for voters who vote at our post, so make sure to come out to do your civic duty.

Happy Hour is ongoing on Wednesdays from 3:00pm to 5:00pm. Try to make it there so you can spend some time with your fellow Legionnaires. Past Commander John Lawless and Jim Glynn keep this going.

Nassau County Blood Center is in need of blood, so give if you can. Post 144 has a blood drive on May 7, Tuesday. You don't wait for the post drive. You can go to the county drive too. 01234 is the number for credit.

The Post lost Legionnaire Past Commander Don Sassano 1985-1986, a 43year legionnaire, U.S. Army, Korea. He was part of many committees, Trustee, work appreciation party, chairperson of Legion of the Year.

The Auxiliary Unit lost Marge Mahoney, an over 40-year member of the Auxiliary.

Nassau County Legion Commander and Past American Legion 10th District County Commander (Nassau, Queens & Suffolk), Ken Cadieux, has died. He

Dates to Remember

- February 1 Thursday National Freedom Day
- February 2 Friday Groundhog Day
- February 4 Sunday Nassau County Committee Four Chaplains at Trinity Lutheran Church, 5 Durham Road, New Hyde Park, at 2:30pm
- February 5 Monday Executive Meeting 7:00pm
- February 10 Saturday Zone 2 Oratorical Contest Starts Promptly at 10:00am Elmont Library 700 Hempstead Turnpike, Hempstead, NY
- February 11 Sunday Super Bowl
- February 12 Monday Lincoln's Birthday
- February 13 Tuesday Mardi Gras
- February 14 Wednesday Ash Wednesday
- February 14 Wednesday Valentine's Day
- February 15 Thursday Post General Meeting 7:30 pm
- February 17 Saturday Nassau County Military Ball 11:00am
- February 19 Monday President 's Day-Washington's Birthday (observed)
- February 20 Tuesday Auxiliary Unit Meeting 7:30pm
- February 22 Thursday Washington's Birthday
- February 23 Friday Nassau County Committee Meeting 7:30pm
- February 23 Friday Iwo Jima Flag Raised 1945)
- February 28 Wednesday End of Operation Desert Storm (1991)

is a Korean War Veteran who served in the U.S. Army, 995th Artillery Battalion. Ken worked tirelessly for war veterans. He was regarded as a tremendous role model to our veteran community for more than 50 years at many levels. Cadieux coordinated the collection and distribution of clothes throughout Nassau County for donation to veterans in need, as well as other charitable organizations.

Next General Meeting - - Thursday, February 15th, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.

THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Eric Spinner

Although midwinter finds us amid shorter days and longer nights, the days are slowly becoming longer as we head towards Spring. We have been fortunate to have had a mild winter so far, and we hope that continues. Of course, it is not in our hands so we will have to accept whatever we get.

February is always a changeable month- rain, snow and cold will arrive at Mother Nature's behest whether we like it or not, but each day should be treated as a new day with the hopes of each one being better than the one before.

This month also brings us several holidays beginning with Washington's Birthday and followed by Lincoln's birthday, both of which are historically significant. Right in the middle of the month we find Valentines Day, and I hope we all find a little of the old spark still in our lives for a significant other. This day should not be wasted only on the young- everyone deserves a little love!

One of the more significant days for us as veterans is our observance of Four Chaplains Sunday, the first Sunday of the month. It holds special meaning to us as we recall how those chaplains, each of whom was of a different faith, drew together as family and brothers in one of the most selfless acts of courage and sacrifice.

It was early on the morning of 3 February 1943 when their troop ship, the USAT Dorchester, set sail for Europe and the war with a full complement of troops ready to deploy into combat. They were on their way via Greenland, and the ship was hit amidship by a torpedo from a U-boat. The ship was immediately doomed, and quickly took on water.

Our chaplains were Clark Poling- a Dutch Reformed minister, Rabbi Alexander Goode; George Fox, a Methodist; John Washington, a Catholic Priest. The four had been friends through training, and were now headed to the front in Europe, or so it was intended. This was not to be.

Here they were on the slanting deck as the ship listed in the water, and the saw that the life vests had run out

and many soldiers did not have one- it would be impossible for them to survive. With uncommon bravery, these four chaplains gave their live vests to four soldiers who did not have one knowing full well that this would spell death to them.

As chaplain for Nassau County Legion, it has been my honor to conduct an interfaith ceremony each year in their honor and their memory. By the time you read this, the ceremony will have been completed for this year, and we will have remembered their sacrifice. It's too bad that the world seems incapable of following their example of brotherhood, but we can only hope.

Some photos are attached from last year's ceremony- I hope you enjoy them.



l-r: Chaplain Eric Spinner, Pastor Ben Yoo, Rabbi Michael Cohen, Pastor Jimmie Lalljie, Msgr. Charles Fink.



l-r: Chaplain Eric Spinner, NY Naval Cadets wearing life vests bestowed upon them by chaplains.



l-r: Chaplain Eric Spinner, Bill Lorusso, Gary Glick, Msgr. Charles Fink, and Pastor Jimmie Lalljie being led in God Bless America by Rosanne Spinner.

NEWS FROM THE AUXILIARY

by Marilyn Bauman

Hi everyone. Because we didn't have a meeting in January due to inclement weather, this is to inform you what is going on in February.

On February 20th we will have our meeting with new or gently used items for sale while we enjoy pizza. The meeting will start at 7 PM.

Please remember we are continuing to bring in items for our women in the armed forces. Please call Pat LoRusso at 516.747.6176 for items needed.

We also are in need of items for our Chinese Auction which is scheduled for Saturday, April 6. You can fill a basket, bring empty baskets to be filled, purchase a gift card to be included in a basket with gifts, or obtain a letter to be presented to a local merchant that you frequent for a donation OR ALL OF THE ABOVE. We would hope that every member would please do something to make this fund raiser a success. We have had to cancel this event in the past because of lack of interest, hopefully this won't happen again. Ellen will have letters at the meeting for you to bring to your favorite hair dresser, restaurant, nail salon, etc. for donations. If you have items or baskets already, you can bring them in to this meeting.

Scratch off tickets are also needed for our "Lottery Board" for the Williston Street Fair in September. Seems early to ask for these, but it will be here before we know it. So we hope to get an early start on the tickets. Thanks in advance.

Please remember in your thoughts and prayers the family and friends of Marge Mahoney who passed away at the age of 99.

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



SCOUTS VISIT STONY BROOK VETS

By Norm, Jardine



Norm Jardine's two granddaughters (Mom's the troop leader) visited the Stony Brook Veterans Hospital in late fall to spend the day with the service members living there. They had lunch there and, thanks to Bob Valentine, distributed flags to the residents. All agreed that it was a very educational and worthwhile day.

Our thanks to Troop 1842 Cadettes and 1461 Juniors. The Legionnaires here at Post 144 are proud of you.

SUPPORTING LOCAL SCOUTING

Scouting is a community program that we have long supported. Here is a little history.

The Boy Scout movement began in 1880, in England with the publication of *Scouting for Boys*, a nonmilitary field manual by British army officer Robert Baden-Powell. The year before his book was published Baden-Powell tested his ideas by camping on England's southern coast with twenty adolescent boys, hiking and enjoying the outdoors. Scouting continued to grow in England; by its first census in 1910, there were one hundred thousand youths involved.

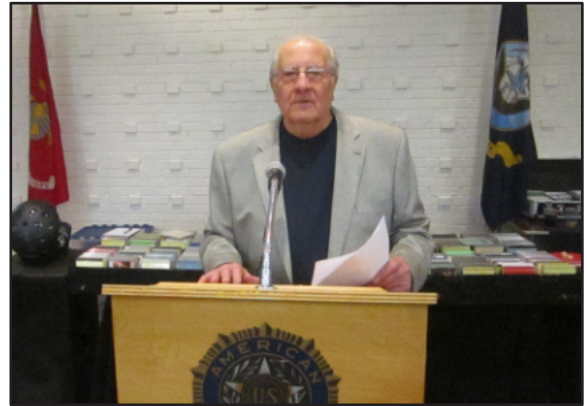
At about this same time, a Boy Scout in London came to the aid of Chicago businessperson William Boyce when he was lost in a fog. Boyce tried to tip the boy, but the boy politely refused, saying that he was a Scout and couldn't accept a tip for a good deed. Boyce was intrigued and later in 1910 organized the Boy Scouts of America

The American Legion and Williston Post 144 also recognize the value of Scouting. We support several troops and will continue to help this wonderful organization. It is certainly a community service we should proudly offer.

Happening Around the Post



L. To r. John Lawless, Rich Cinotti Jimmy Glynn, Bob Langenbach, Jack Afonso and Joe Dwyer starting off the Wednesday Happy Hour. Always room at the bar for another Legionnaire. Come join us.



Post 144 mourns the passing of Legionnaire Don Sassano. Don was a Korean War veteran and a long-time member of the post. He is sorely missed. May he rest in peace.

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