



# SOUND OFF



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Commander - Eric Spinner August 2024 Editor Dan Roper

## COMMANDER'S MESSAGE *Commander Eric Spinner*

Special greetings to all Post 144 and Auxiliary Unit members as I become your elected commander for the 2024-2025 year. Having transferred into our great post about three years ago, I am honored to have been selected to represent Post 144 in this highest leadership position and offer my total commitment to live up to the role and all it entails.

After his several years at the helm of our post, I thank James Randle for carrying the torch of leadership through the pandemic and all of the problems it caused when our post became a victim of the shutdowns. It is now time to resuscitate our post, and the first steps are now in place with the restoration of the *Happy Hour* which returned several months ago on Wednesdays from 3pm – 5pm in the Club Room. All Legionnaires are welcome to join us, and the weekly donation is only \$5! Come enjoy the camaraderie with your fellow veterans.

Our post officers and staff remain virtually the same as last year with one important change — I have appointed Bill “Doc” Lorusso as my post chaplain. He holds that position with our Legion Riders, and he is the right person for the position. I look forward to working with him to communicate with our less active members and in our official duties at meetings and farewell services.

Our Auxiliary Unit 144 is one of our greatest assets! I look forward to our combined efforts on behalf of our post and our fundraising efforts. They have staged some terrific events, and we need to work with them as we help many veteran and community causes.

Three years of Post 144 membership have brought me to the point where I am confident that this is the right time for me to step up, but I also recognize that I must depend on my staff for help and guidance as they have been post

## DATES TO REMEMBER

|                       |           |   |
|-----------------------|-----------|---|
| August 1              | Thursday  | Air Force Day   |
| August 2              | Friday    | Operation Desert Shield Invasion of Kuwait (1990)   |
| August 3              | Saturday  | “Salute to Vets” at Eisenhower Park 6:30 pm   |
| August 4              | Sunday    | Coast Guard Birthday  |
| August 5              | Monday    | Executive meeting 7:00 pm   |
| August 6              | Tuesday   | Bombing of Hiroshima (1945)   |
| August 7              | Wednesday | Purple Heart Recognition Day  |
| August 7              | Wednesday | Gulf of Tonkin Resolution (1964)  |
| August 8              | Thursday  | Williston Post Invited to Williston Park Pool   |
| August 9              | Friday    | Bombing of Nagasaki (1945)  |
| August 10             | Saturday  | Agent Orange Awareness Day  |
| August 15             | Thursday  | Post General Meeting 7:30 pm  |
| August 15             | Thursday  | Assumption of Mary  |
| August 16             | Friday    | Nassau County Committee Meeting 7:30 p.m., Legion Room  |
| August 19             | Monday    | National Aviation Day.  |
| August 20             | Tuesday   | No Auxiliary Unit Meeting   |
| August 21             | Wednesday | Senior Citizens Day   |
| August 29             | Thursday  | Marine Corps Reserve Birthday   |
| August 28–September 1 |           | American Legion National Convention in New Orleans  |
| September 9           | Monday    | Nassau County American Legion Honoring the Department with a Testimonial Dinner and Dance at Massapequa Post 1066 |

members for many years. With that in mind, I hope to concentrate on recruiting new members, probably the most difficult task of all, so that our post will be preserved for the future with new members who will pick up the reins from us ‘old timers’. If you know someone whom you think might be interested in joining, talk to them and let them know who we are and what we do. Better yet, invite them to a meeting and encourage them to check out our website, [willistonpost144.org](http://willistonpost144.org). Together we can build a great future for Post 144.

**General Meeting – Thursday, September 19 at 7:30 p.m.**  
**Executive Meeting - Tuesday, September 10 at 7:00 p.m.**

## INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

On July 4 the Williston Park Fire Department sponsored their annual village parade. Brave marchers from Post 144 and the members of several other organizations joined in to help celebrate the day.

The parade included music from our neighboring Herricks High School band and a noisy array of fire engines from both Williston Park and East Williston. The kids watching loved every minute.

“Thank you” to Grand Marshall and Chief of the Williston Park Fire Department Thomas M. Pascale for a wonderful parade. Thanks also to Commander Eric Spinner who served as chaplain for the day’s program and to Mayor Paul Ehrbar who was a guest speaker.



*Mayor Paul Ehrbar addresses Independence Day guests. He is flanked by Grand Marshall Chief of Department Thomas M. Pascale and Post Commander Eric Spinner (far right)*



*Legionnaire Norm Jardine hitched a ride with the Williston Park Fire Department.*



*Firefighters of Williston Park stand at attention to honor the colors.*



*New Post 144 commander and member of the Legion Riders, Eric Spinner, sported his Harley for the parade.*

## VETERANS RECOGNITION PROGRAM

County Clerk Maureen O’Connell salutes our veterans by offering her “Veterans Recognition Program.” In recognition of their service to our country, this program allows veterans the opportunity to record their Veteran Discharge (DD214) papers free of charge with the Nassau County Clerk’s office. Upon recording these documents, the veteran will be eligible to receive Clerk O’Connell’s Veterans Discount Photo ID card which provides discounts at participating business throughout Nassau County.

Visit the Nassau County Clerk website for further information: [www.nassaucountyny.gov/clerk](http://www.nassaucountyny.gov/clerk)

## WELCOME

**At our July General Membership Meeting Post 144 welcomed Williston Park resident Salvatore A. Valente, US ARMY Vietnam era.**

**Also, Brian Gayson, now also a Fire Department of New York firefighter, renewed his membership.**

## A PETITION IN TIME OF TURMOIL

*Bill Lorusso, Chaplain*

O Lord, who is ever present and always loving, I ask for strength and courage in this moment and for the task before me. Courage I request and not protection, for I know that with your power I am able to do all things. Strength I request and not a lightening of my burden, for I know that others will look to me for direction and instruction Through your strength, not only will I gain the ability to face difficulty, but others will be strengthened even in my midst.

In this time of political turmoil, let us not be deceived by the flash and the biased news media. Let us look at the record of the participants for the wind can change direction easily but the true mindset is evident by the past deeds and actions of the individual.

This petition is made in the name of He who faced death and the burden of the cross.

Amen. God Bless America

### REST IN PEACE

Post 144 Commander Eric Spinner, Chaplain Bill Lorusso and Auxiliary Unit President Christine Horvath regret to inform all Legion and Auxiliary members of the recent passing of Legionnaire Salvatore Villani of Mineola, a 14-year Post 144 member, and Auxiliary member Helen Mendyk of Albertson



*County Historian James Randle presenting the Historian Book to PC Sean Hood upon completion of the 2023-2024 term as County Commander.*

## NASSAU COMMITTEE REPORT

*Commander Eric Spinner*

In addition to our roles at Post 144, PC James Randle and I are involved in many aspects of the operations of the Nassau County Committee of the Legion, the next level above our post. We bring information based on our activities back to the post, and speak with County personnel regarding membership, activities and community events.

As County Historian, PC Randle prepares a history book each year that is presented to the outgoing commander as the gavel is passed on to the new county commander. This is in addition to his preparation of a Post History Book that is submitted each year for judging at county level and beyond in a competition. This book provides a visual record of all post activities and is archived at our post for historical reference.

Your present commander, Eric Spinner, is active at the county level in several capacities. As county chaplain, he is responsible for prayers at each meeting, and serves as chaplain at many funeral services. Commander Spinner also serves as co-chair of the Oratorical Committee, and will be advertising and supervising the county level competition. He has recently been appointed as Public Relations Chair for the county committee and is responsible for communicating with various media regarding public awareness of Legion activities and events.

Finally, he is also the webmaster for the Nassau County Committee website- *NassauLegion.net*. This site is still in it's early stages, but it will soon be the portal for practically all County Committee information and links. Even with this website available, the information that is important to Post 144 members can still be found on our own website, *WillistonPost144.org*.



## OF INTEREST TO LEGIONNAIRES

Time to renew your VA Card?

Building Q at NCMC in East Meadow....in and out 10 minutes at the clinic 631-754-7978. Bring your old card and driver's license for address verification. Picture taken directly into the computer.

Time to renew your drivers license? Be sure to indicate VETERAN by sending a copy of DD214 with renewal. That being done your license becomes a NY State Liberty Pass good for free parking and admission to all NY State parks and attractions. Better than Senior Pass, more info on the DMV web.

*Thanks to Bob Valentine for the article.*

## YOU ARE INVITED

To view

***willistonpost144.org*** on the web or **WILLISTON POST144** on FACEBOOK

For the latest Post 144 information

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