



SOUND OFF



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Commander - Eric Spinner September 2024 Editor Dan Roper

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Eric Spinner

As we leave summer behind and move into fall, I hope this edition of *Sound Off* finds you in good spirits and health. The rains of August have passed, and we finally see abundant sunshine and comfortable temperatures.

Since our last issue, Post 144 members have had the opportunity to attend local events, and one of the outstanding ones was the final 'Funday Monday' on August 19 where I was honored to serve as Chaplain and offer the invocation. If you check the images, you'll find James Randle, Tom Rumore, Bob Valentine, Bob Guastella and, of course, me.

The event was well-attended by our local political representatives: Jack Martins, Gina Sillitti, Jen DeSena, Ragini Srivistava, Dennis Walsh, Mariann Dallimonte, Christine Liu (not pictured), Mary Jo Collins, Mazi Malesa Pilip, Ed Ra, Elaine Phillips, and Mike Lipetri (representing County Executive Bruce Blakeman.) Kudos to Kimberly Corcoran of Town of North Hempstead for organizing the event. Color Guard was provided by our Nassau County Police Department, and they were outstanding!

Please note the upcoming events in the online calendar on our website- willistonpost144.org. Many of them are in the *Sound Off*, but there are expanded descriptions in the online calendar, and some events are only on the website. Many are not Post 144 events, but veterans and families are invited to attend them, mostly at no cost other than the time it takes to get there.

Back at the our post, we are moving ahead with many improvements now that Covid is well into the rear-view mirror. One major change is the appointment of Bill Lorusso as Banquet Chairman. While Bob Guastella will continue to handle group meetings and professional meetings, Bill will now work into the job of

DATES TO REMEMBER

- September 11 Wednesday Yom Kippur Begins at Sunset
- September 15 Sunday Williston Park Street Fair
- September 16 Monday American Legion Day
- September 17 Tuesday Auxiliary Unit Meeting 7:00 PM
- September 17 Tuesday Constitution Day
- September 18 Wednesday Air Force Day
- September 19 Thursday Post General Meeting 7:30 PM
- September 20 Friday POW//MIA Recognition Day
- September 22 Sunday Autumn Begins
- September 27 Friday Nassau County Committee Meeting 7:30 PM
- September 29 Sunday Gold Star Mother's Day
- September 30 Monday VFW Day
- October 2 Wednesday Rosh Hashanah Begins at Sunset

booking parties for the Post. If we get busy, we will likely need to train some additional bartenders for these events, and our bartenders are paid for their work at the parties.

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l-r: 2VC Bob Guastella, Legionnaire Tom Rumore, County Comptroller Elaine Phillips, Assemblyman Ed Ra, TONH Dept. of Senior Services Commissioner Kimberly Corcoran Galante, WW-II VFW veteran, TONH Supervisor Jennifer DeSena, Commander Eric Spinner, Port Washington Legionnaire, NYS Senator Jack Martins.

General Meeting – Thursday, September 19 at 7:30 p.m.
Executive Meeting - Tuesday, September 10 at 6:30 p.m.

Commander's Report *(continued)*

In addition, we will be investigating the feasibility of having 'Food Truck Friday' events in our parking lot- that will be one of the topics of discussion at our next executive committee and general membership meetings, and Mayor Ehrbar will be joining us to discuss the plans.

Also coming up soon are Williston Park's 9/11 Ceremony and its Street Fair. Our post will provide a color guard for the 9/11 ceremony at Kelleher Field at 7:30p.m. We will man our usual location on Hillside Avenue on Sunday, September 15, and we hope Legionnaires and Auxiliary will turn out in large numbers to help achieve our membership and fundraising goals.

Finally, as we continue to enjoy our Happy Hour each Wednesday, let's all take a moment to call one of our comrades whom we haven't seen in a while to do a 'buddy check' and make sure they are OK. These are our brothers and sisters, friends and neighbors, and our family. Be the one. Go and make someone's day!

NASSAU COUNTY SALUTE TO VETERANS CONCERT

By Commander Eric Spinner

The annual Nassau County Salute to Veterans concert and awards ceremony took place at Eisenhower Park on Saturday, August 3. Unfortunately, as has been the case for several weeks, it was another 'monsoon' day. The color guard marched in and we completed the opening ceremony, followed by the award ceremony in which five veterans received Nassau County's Service to Veterans medal and a commemorative certificate. A brief performance by the *American Bombshells* singing troupe was scheduled to follow this.

Just as the girls began to sing, the skies opened up and the crowd disappeared. Many of us ended up sheltering on the stage. Of course, the show must go on so the *Bombshells* did their performance for those on the stage with their backs to the empty lawn. The performance by the band scheduled to follow was cancelled and everyone departed for home quite soon afterward.



The Bombshells and Eric Spinner honor Arthur Grabiner.



Commander Eric Spinner with the Bombshells (It's tough duty, but somebody has to do it!).



L-R: Ralph Esposito, Director of Veterans Services; County Legislators Bill Gaylor and Scott Strauss. (Far Right) Legislator Rose Walker. Front: WW-II veteran Arthur Grabiner.

HISTORY OF THE UNCLE SAM POSTER

Contributed by James Randle

The origins of Uncle Sam can be traced back to the War of 1812 where he emerged as a personification of the US government prior to these other symbols, such as Columbia and Lady Liberty were used.



Samuel Wilson a meat packer who supplied barrels of beef to the US Army is often credited as the inspiration behind the name. The barrels were marked with "US" for United States, but soldiers began joking that the initials stood for Uncle Sam

Wilson. The local newspaper picked up on the story and the nickname soon spread.

Over time, Uncle Sam's image started to take on a more defined form, largely due to the efforts of political cartoonists. One of the most influential was Thomas Nast who played a significant role in creating the virtual representation of Uncle Sam. His illustrations gradually shaped him into a recognizable national symbol. He was portrayed as a stern but benevolent figure dressed in the stars and stripes of the flag.

This laid the groundwork for James Montgomery Flagg's famous World War I era recruiting poster with Uncle Sam pointing directly at the viewer with a determined expression and the caption "I want YOU for U.S. Army." It is now part of the American culture symbolizing a call to duty and patriotism.

NEWS FROM THE AUXILIARY

by Marilyn Bauman

Hopefully you have all enjoyed the summer. It is now time to think about getting back into the swing of things.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH

WILLISTON STREET FAIR

We are in great need of scratch off lottery tickets for our Lottery Board for people to take chances on. Please purchase in any amount and bring or mail them to

Christine Horvath,

206 Arlington St. Mineola, NY 11501-2001

THANK YOU!!

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17TH

FIRST MEETING OF THE 2024-25 YEAR. 7 PM.

GROCERY BINGO - IN THE FALL

MORE INFO TO FOLLOW.

TOILETRIES NEEDED FOR OUR WOMEN IN THE MILITARY, CAN BE BROUGHT TO THE MEETINGS.

DON'T FORGET YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO COMMUNITY SERVICE, CHILDREN AND YOUTH AND OUR VETERANS.

BRING THAT INFORMATION TO THE NEXT MEETING ALSO.

SEE YOU ALL SOON.

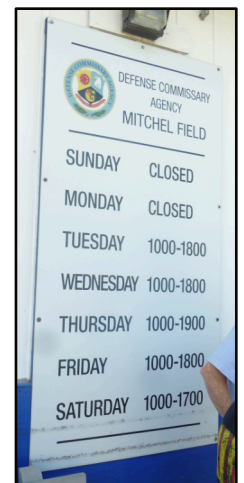
COUNTY SUPPORTS EFFORTS TO RENOVATE MITCHELL FIELD COMMISSARY



Commander Spinner and Post 144 Legionnaires attended the gathering held by County Executive Blakeman to show support for the renovation of the Mitchell Field Commissary.

Those Legionnaires that have visited the Mitchell Field Commissary have certainly noticed that it is in need of repair. Recently, County Executive Bruce Blakeman met with veterans organizations to make a commitment to upgrade the facility.

Legionnaires who have never visited the Commissary should consider doing so. Prices on many items can provide savings.



HAPPENING AROUND THE POST



Photo by James Randle

Legionnaires from Post 144 attended long-time Post 144 and all-veterans supporter Assemblyman Ed Ra's BBQ in Franklin Square earlier this month.



Photo by James Randle

Chaminade High School Class of 2024 Timothy Katz is awarded the County Scholarship at County meeting at our post. Parents Mary and Mitch and Nassau County Eric Spinner, County Chairman for Education & Scholarship, join in.

YOU ARE INVITED

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