



# SOUND OFF



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Commander - Eric Spinner January 2025 Editor Dan Roper

## COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

*Commander Eric Spinner*

Out with the old, and in with the new! As the old year disappears, I wish my Legion Family a happy, healthy and prosperous 2025, and may our hopes be fulfilled in the coming year.

That being said, let us reflect on the fact that the signs of things to come have not been good, and the new year has begun with continued international tensions in the Middle East and the Ukraine. In our own country we are witnessing a new surge in terrorist activity, and individual acts of hate are becoming commonplace. The indicators, unfortunately, do not indicate a positive direction. I'm hopeful, however, that things will change, but the road will not be smooth. Regardless of one's political leanings, we have just come through an historic election, and it is my fervent hope that all Americans will learn how to pull together to heal our internal wounds and return to the hopes and dreams of our Founding Fathers as they formed our Republic.

It was an honor for me to host the Nassau County competition of the Legion Oratorical Contest at our Post on the morning of December 21<sup>st</sup>, and I am thrilled that two of our contestants from Nassau County will compete in the 10<sup>th</sup> District competition (Nassau-Suffolk-Queens) on January 11<sup>th</sup> at Levittown Post 1711. Our two advancing contestants, both of whom are pictured elsewhere in this issue, are Katherine Mazerowski, a Junior at Sacred Heart Academy, and Abigail Hassett, a Sophomore at Kellenberg Memorial High School. Both young ladies are Junior members of the Auxiliary. If these youngsters are any indication of where our country is headed, I rest easy knowing that

## DATES TO REMEMBER

January 1	Wednesday	Happy New Year Day
January 1	Wednesday	Solemnity of Mary Mother of God
January 1	Wednesday	Kwanzaa Ends
January 6	Monday	Executive Meeting 7.00 pm
January 11	Saturday	Oratorical Contest at Levittown Post 1711
January 16	Thursday	General Meeting 7.30 pm
January 17 to 19		Department of NY Mid-Winter
January 17	Friday	Start of Operation Desert Storm (1991)
January 20	Tuesday	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 21	Monday	Auxiliary Unit Meeting 7.00pm
January 24	Friday	Nassau County Committee Meeting 7.30 pm Levittown Post 1711
January 27	Monday	International Holocaust Remembrance Day
January 27	Monday	Vietnam Cease- Fire (1973)
January 28	Tuesday	10th Dist. Meeting at Levittown Post 7:30pm
January 29	Wednesday	Chinese New Year
January 30	Thursday	Start of Tet Offensive (1968)

they will be our future leaders!

Please make note that all are invited to attend as I conduct the Nassau County Legion 2025 Four Chaplains Ceremony on February 2<sup>nd</sup> at 2:30pm at United Methodist Church of Hempstead. Details are on the Post website on the Special Events page.

To my Legion Family, you are welcome to contact me at any time with concerns or comments, or to simply say hello. Welcome to 2025!



**General Meeting – Thursday, January 16 at 7:30 p.m.**

**Executive Meeting - Tuesday, January 6 at 7:00 p.m.**

## A TIME FOR GIVING

On November 25, 2024, current and past St. John's University veterans came together to join with employees from the business consulting firm Protiviti to pack more than 20,000 meals for distribution to needy families overseas. Our own veteran from Post 144, Norm Jardeen, and his wife Joan joined in on the effort as volunteers.

Thanks Norm and Joan. You speak well for our post.



*Katherine Mazeroski, a Junior at Sacred Heart Academy, and Abigail Hassett, a Sophomore at Kellenberg Memorial High School.*

## FOR OUR SAILORS

### In Waters Deep

*by Eileen Mahoney*

In ocean waters no poppies blow,  
No crosses stand in ordered row,  
There hearts sleep beneath the wave,  
The spirited, the good, the brave,  
But stars a constant vigil keep  
For them who lie beneath the deep.  
'Tis true you cannot kneel in prayer  
On certain spot and think. "He's there."  
But you can to the ocean go...  
See whitecaps marching row on row;  
Know one for him will always ride,  
In and out with every tide.  
And when your span of life is passed,  
He'll meet you at the "Captain's Mast."  
And they who mourn on distant shore  
For sailors who'll come home no more,  
Can dry their tears and pray for these  
Who rest beneath the heaving seas...  
For stars that shine and winds that blow  
And whitecaps marching row on row.  
And they can never lonely be  
For when they lived...they chose the sea.

### Winner Early Bird Drawing

**Congratulations to 3 year member  
Walter McGuire!!**

**As winner, Walter will have his dues refunded.**

**Any Day Is a Good Day  
to Recruit A New Legion Member**

*Any friends or relatives that have served?  
Give Bob Valentine their address and we will send  
them a Sound Off and Invitation to join.*

## NEWS FROM THE AUXILIARY

*by Marilyn Bauman*

Our "Holiday" meeting was held on Tuesday, December 17, presided over by President Christine Horvath. All in attendance enjoyed refreshments of a cake made out of cupcakes in the shape of a tree. We also enjoyed cake baked by Ellen Randle. Thank you to both bakers.

Americanism Chair, Ellen Randle, reminded us to continue flying the flag. Remember, you can fly the flag day and night as long as it is illuminated at night.

Emergency Fund Chair, Sue Otto reminded us that her letter will be coming out in January. Please watch for it and be as generous as you can. It goes to a worthy cause.

Margo Bores, our Wellness Ambassador, reported on Macular Degeneration. One spice that can help retard the progress of MD is Turmeric. Over 2 million people have MD. Worth a try, don't you think?

Mary Ann Busa, Children and Youth Chair, thanked everyone in the Unit for their help.

Dianne Karl, Education, reported that additional scholarship applications were given out. The deadline is fast approaching.

Dianne also reported that the Henry Viscardi School is always in need of food; Please continue to bring in canned goods each meeting and she and Helen Neimann will deliver them to the School.

Membership Chair, Marianne Wohlgermuth, mentioned that we have 52 paid members with approximately 20 unpaid. If you have not paid or know of someone who has not paid, please do so as soon as possible or remind them to do so. Thanks.

Pat Lorusso, National Security Chair, is waiting for a return phone call from Fort Drum to see if we can get a platoon and what they would need.

Rita Hesse, Legislative Chair, reported that HR 1572 (Hello Girls Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2023) is up for a vote before the end of this year. HR 1582 Major Richard Star Act is now being presented. This bill provides that combat-disabled uniformed services retirees with fewer than 20 years of creditable service may concurrently receive, without reduction, veterans' disability compensation and retired pay or combat-related special

compensation. This bill is in two parts, the first was reported to the House on 7/18/2023. That is not a typo - 1/1/2 years ago.

Up for discussion was a fund raiser - Music Bingo with 50/50 chances. We will revisit this possibility at our January meeting as to when we would hold it.

Chris reminded the members that we have only 5-6 months left to think about stepping up to be President. She also mentioned that 2 members could be Co-Presidents. We can't have a Unit without a President. Please think about it.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 21 at which we will have our White Elephant Sale. In the past (way back) we had an actual auction but now we bring in new or GENTLY used items, place them on the table and we can shop for whatever catches our eyes.

Pizza will be served while you shop. Come down and enjoy the fun. See you there.

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



### CHILDREN AND YOUTH

*by Mary Ann Busa*

A member donated \$12.00 to St. Joseph Indian School. The school provides for 200 Sioux children each year.

A member donated to Holy Family Church. Brought children's clothing and food.

A member donated clothing to Lupus Foundation. A member donated clothing and shoes to Glory House. The member also donated 1 hour of her time each month.

I want to thank all the members for their help with the Children and Youth program. It would not be a success without your help.



## AROUND THE POST



*Best wishes to all our Sound Off readers and contributors.*



*Post 144 after the last snow and fast cleanup.*



*Post 144 began the new year remembering Don Sassano at a memorial service at Saint Aidan Church*

## *Latest Scam*

*If you have received an email stating that UPS is requiring your address because they have a delivery for you, but it has an incorrect address, don't even open it. It's a scam. These messages have been coming lately from the Philippines. MacArthur would be mortified to know this!!*

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