



SOUND OFF



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Commander - James T. Randle January 2022 Editor - Dan Roper

COMMANDER'S REPORT

by Cmdr. James Randle

Happy New Year to all Legionnaire Family.

I hope all are safe and enjoyed the holidays with their friends and family.

We did have Executive and General "Christmas Party" Meetings which were well attended.

The Auxiliary unit lost a member, Phyllis Renna, whose husband, Ernest M. Renna, was Commander of the Post in 1981-1982. Phyllis passed away December 28th. She will be sorely missed.

I attended the Nassau County Committee Meeting on Friday, December 17, and met the 3rd Division Commander, Ralph Casey (photo on bottom right). I welcomed the new Commander and wished him success on behalf of Post 144.

I changed the Post Sign (Merry Christmas) and (2022 Happy New Year)

On Wednesday, December 22, Troop 45 and Chairman Bill Kempner presented Robert Siemann and new post member David Mulder with Good Citizenship Medals.

January 27, 1973 was the signing of the Vietnam Peace Accord and on January 28, 1973 the United States and Vietnam Ceased Fire. The United States lost many good men and women. There are 58,318 names on the wall. Fifteen hundred are missing in action. Appropriately names the "Wall that Heals" a Replica of the Wall in Washington D.C. came to North Hempstead Beach Park in October, 2021. Visitors from across the Town, Long Island, and surrounding areas came to recognize and honor the sacrifices of the fallen and their families. This wall was smaller than the traveling wall that was at Eisenhower Park in August 27, 2019. The Town recently unveiled a new commemorative stone at North Hempstead Beach Park.

To all Vietnam Veterans "Welcome Home"

Don't forget to Call your "Buddy Check" this Year 2022.

During this year there is a Blood Shortage. Pass the word around to Family and Friends. You can call 1-800-933-2566 or 1-800-688-0900 or go to www.nybc.org to make an appointment. Please indicate that you are from group #02345 so Williston Post 144 receives the recognition for your donation.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- January 6 Thursday Epiphany
- January 10 Monday Executive meeting 7:30 pm
- January 16 Sunday Persian Gulf War Begins (1991)
- January 17 Monday Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- January 18 Tuesday Auxiliary Unit Meeting 7:00pm
- January 20 Thursday Post General Meeting 7:30pm
- January 27 Thursday Signing of Vietnam Peace Accord (1973)
- January 28 Friday Nassau County Meeting at Malverne Post 44 7:30pm
- January 28 Friday US - Vietnam Cease Fire (1973)
- February 1 Tuesday National Freedom Day
- February 2 Wednesday Groundhog Day

WELCOME TO NEW 3RD DIVISION COMMANDER



Nassau County Commander Pasquale Alesia (right) welcomes new Third Division Commander Ralph Casey (left). Commander Casey is a member of the Glenwood Landing post.

Holidays Hectic and Forgot About Your Dues?

You Can Still Pay Bob Valentine or pay online at <https://www.legion.org/renew>

Next General Meeting - - Thursday January 20, 2022 at 7:30PM

VETERANS CAN NOW USE HOME DEPOT MILITARY DISCOUNT

All U.S. veterans, active-duty service members and their spouses now qualify for Home Depot's everyday military discount thanks to an expansion announced by the home improvement retailer.

In the past, only active-duty troops, military retirees and their dependents could use the discount. Veterans were permitted to use it only on Memorial Day, July 4 and Veterans Day.

The 10% military discount is also now newly valid for online purchases in addition to in-store shopping, officials announced in a press release. Qualifying shoppers must create an account and then verify their military status in order to access the discount online and through the Home Depot app.

The military discount is available for eligible purchases up to a \$400 maximum annual discount and can be used every day throughout the year.

ORATORICAL COMPETITION

by Eric Spinner, Post 144 and County Chaplain

On Saturday, 8 January 2022, I had the opportunity to attend the 10th District Oratorical Competition at Joseph Loeffler Post 1006 in Brentwood. Considering what has been going on for the last couple of years, it was not cancelled due to health concerns.



Above l to r: Contest judges Peter O'Malley, Mary Robesch and Dennis Morrill, contestants Mary Kennedy and Emma Pirozzi, and Suffolk County Commander Mike Pankowski.

Our 10th District Oratorical chairman, John T. Digilio, Jr., was not present for the start of the event, but arrived in time to make closing comments following the competition. Suffolk County Commander Mike Pankowski ably served as Master of Ceremony. Also present were 10th District Commander, Bob Shadler and Past 10th District Commander, Harry Ransom.

Originally, there were at least two more competitors scheduled to participate in the event, but one cancelled two weeks prior, and the second dropped out just prior to today's competition. Since two winners proceed to the next level of the competition, both of our young ladies will move on to the Department of New York finals in Albany to be held at the Crown Plaza/Desmond Hotel in Albany on 5 March. There is no Zone

competition as there are no other contestants from our zone in the running. The winner of the Department of New York competition will advance to the National competition in Indianapolis scheduled for 22-24 April. We certainly hope the winner will be one of our local winners.

Our judges for the District 10 competition were: Peter O'Malley, retired history teacher from Richmond Hill HS in New York City, and retired member of 42nd Aviation, New York Army Reserve National Guard; Mary Robesch, retired history teacher and, incidentally, wife of PNNC Bob Robesch (Past Commander, Williston Post 144 and Nassau County American Legion, now in Suffolk County); Dennis Morrill, Commander of Eastport Legion Post 1545, Eastport, NY who is a retired New York City detective.

Our two contestants are both students at St. Pius V School in Melville, NY. Both young ladies represent the best qualities of American youth, and both exhibited an excellent grasp of the United States Constitution. In the first part of the competition, each offered a prepared presentation of 8-10 minute duration on the Constitution- the topic was theirs to choose, and they were judged on their delivery and content.

The second part of the competition was more difficult. There was a drawing of one topic from four possible topics that were placed in separate envelopes prior to the event. When the selected envelope was opened, each presenter had five minutes to prepare a 3-to-5 minute speech on the particular amendment to the Constitution. The topic was the 25th Amendment, somehow strangely appropriate in light of the current events. Both young ladies did a terrific job of explaining the four parts of the amendment, and listeners were very attentive.

We wish both of our winners the best of luck in the next contest.

NEWS FROM THE AUXILIARY

by Marilyn Bauman

Our "Holiday" meeting was held on Tuesday, December 21st, presided over by 1st Vice President, Ellen Randle in Christine's absence. Being so close to Christmas, this meeting was not as well attended but all that attended enjoyed. We were able to have refreshments together: coffee and cake baked by Ellen. Thanks.

Chaplain, Jennifer Miller reminded us to keep service men and women, away from home, in our prayers now and always.

Education Chair, Dianne Karl mentioned that the donation of food to the Henry Viscardi School is ongoing and donations can still be left at her home, 94 McClellan Ave (746.2625) with the value of food and your name. Thanks in advance.

Sally Mitchell, Poppy Chair, reported that the poppies are in and more information will follow in January.

Sue Otto, Emergency Fund Chair, will be sending out her letter sometime in January. Please be as generous as possible. At the meeting it was mentioned that possibly some auxiliary members in Kentucky (tornadoes) would possibly be getting help from this fund.

Our own member, Yvonne Brunner, 10th District President, will be running for 3rd Vice President of the Dept. of New York, American Legion Auxiliary. Way to go, Yvonne. Good luck!!

At this meeting we held our "Holiday Grab Bag". Everyone that was participating was given a number and when the numbers were called randomly, they picked whatever they wanted from the gifts on the table. Everyone was pleased with their pick of the gifts.

Some discussion came up about Girls State for 2022. Seems that the Rotary will once again be sponsoring a girl. More information will be forthcoming.

Our next meeting, weather permitting, will be on Tuesday, January 18, 2022 at our new start time, 7:00 PM. See you then.

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

**Don't Forget, You Can Always Read
the Sound Off Online in Full Color at
willistonpost144.org**

POST AWARDS CITIZENSHIP MEDALS

by Scout Coordinator Bill Kempner



(Photo Left to right) Post Commander James Randle, PFC David Mulder, FF Robert Siemann, Jr. and Scouting Coordinator Bill Kempner

In a special ceremony on Wednesday, December 22, 2021, American Legion Citizenship Medals were presented to two new local Eagle Scouts from Troop 45, The Eagle Scouts are PV2 (now PFC) David Mulder, US Army, of Mineola, and Firefighter Robert Siemann, Jr of Albertson. PFC Mulder also became a member of Post 144 at that time. He is attending the Military Intelligence School at FT Huachuca, Arizona. F/F Siemann, Jr recently distinguished himself with an act of great bravery as a Firefighter and was awarded the Boy Scouts of America's Honor Medal with Crossed Palms. We are very proud of both young men.



American Legion
Citizenship Medal

**Bob Guastella needs a few more volunteers
to assist in setting up the Post on Tuesday,
Wednesday and Saturday mornings
(about 15 minutes)**

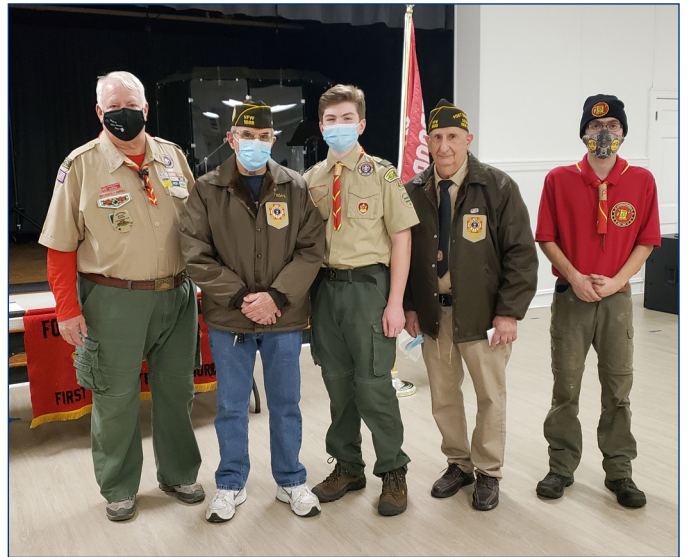
**Phone notification will go out giving specific
time as it may change**

**Call Bob for additional information
917-279-9127**

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE POST?



**Welcome New Member
PFC David Mulder**
(David is active duty Army
and is stationed at Fort Huachuca, Arizona)



Tuesday, December 14th Troop 45 BSA meeting. Scout Aidan (center) received \$50 from VFW Post 1688 for his recitation of "In Flanders Field " at the Veterans Day Observances in Williston Park on November 11th, 2021. Quartermaster Peter Antonicelli (2nd from left) and Commander Frank Busa (2nd from right) presented Aidan with the award. They are flanked by Troop 45 leadership.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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