



SOUND OFF



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

COMMANDER'S REPORT *Commander James Randle*

I hope Legion Family is well with warm weather coming and don't forget to drink a lot of water.

Children and Youth Chairman Frank Busa and I went to the Mineola High School Senior Awards Ceremony on June 8. Frank stated that The American Legion Awards Program which continues today was adopted nationally in 1926, inspiring generations of young people to serve proudly in their communities. American Legion Post 144 presented school awards to students who were evaluated on five points: honor, courage, scholarship, leadership and service. American Legion Post 144 proudly presented The Citizenship Award to Brendan Morrison.

Frank Busa and I also attended Herricks High School Senior Awards and proudly presented the Citizenship Award Student Lucas Lin.

I want to correct an error in our prior *Sound Off*: Brian Gayson who was in the firing party on Memorial Day.

Williston Park Pool will open to all with no cost to Williston Post 144 Legionnaires and Auxiliary on July 14, Thursday, and again on August 11, Thursday. Hope we have pleasant weather.

Funday Monday starts July 11, 10:00 am at Bar Beach (North Hempstead Beach.)

Post 144 received a thank you note from Salvatore Maher for our continued support of scouting and Troop 45. The medal that was gifted to him will be cherished and to all Legionnaires, "Thank for your service."

A plan by the Department of Veterans Affairs to shutter most services at the Northport VA Hospital, including the emergency room, is "not going to happen. Northport is staying just the way it is," said New York Senator Charles Schumer. "We'll fight hard to expand it, but all the cutbacks and closures that the VA announced, which was basically leaving just a skeleton, are gone. They're not going to happen." According to the VA's Asset and Infrastructure Review Commission Northport's medical and surgical services which would have shifted to area hospitals while eliminating most care currently provided at the VA Medical Center campus, Long Island, the only federal hospital serving the approximately 100,000 veterans living in Nassau and Suffolk counties will not be going forward.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- July 2 Saturday U.S. Army Air Corps Established 1926
- July 4 Monday Independence Day, parade starts at 9:30 am
- July 11 Monday Executive Meeting 7:30 pm
- July 14 Wednesday Williston Park Pool open to Williston Post 144 all 6:00 pm
- July 21 Thursday General Meeting 7:30 pm
- July 22 Friday Nassau County Meeting at Rockville Centre Post 303 7:30 pm
- July 27 Wednesday Korean War ended 1953 National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day
- July 28 Thursday World War 1 Began 1914
- Auxiliary Unit No Meeting in July and August
- August 1 Monday Air Force Day



Commander James Randle and PC Frank Busa present The American Legion Citizenship Award to Brendan Morrison of Mineola High School (see page 2 article on community service)

**Remember
Legion Family Are Invited Guests
July 14 & August 11
Williston Park Pool
Bring Your Own Food and Drinks**

Next General Meeting - - Thursday, July 21, 2022 at 7:30PM

**AUXILIARY NEWS
FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH, MAY 2022**

by Mary Ann Busa Chairperson, PCP

A member attended the 3rd annual Naval Cadet Military Ball at Elmont Post 1033 as a representative for ALA.

Another member attended the 3rd annual Naval Military Ball at Elmont Post 1033 as a representative for ALA. This member also cooked chicken for the Naval Cadet Ball.

Since April is Children and Youth month, we had our baby shower.

Brian from Toys of Hope came to my home to pick up donations from ALA.

I delivered toys, diapers, children clothing to Momma's house. I also delivered toys to SCO family services Madonna House, Huntington.

A member donated \$12.00 to St. Joseph's Indian School. The funds are used to educate and provide housing for over 200 Lakota Sioux Children each year.

A member donated \$20.00 to Braille Books for Blind Children.

A member donated \$50.00 to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

A member donated \$50.00 to Shriners Hospital for Children.



**AUXILIARY NEWS
FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH, JUNE 2022**

by Mary Ann Busa Chairperson, PCP

A member donated \$12.00 to St. Joseph's Indian School. The funds are used to educate and provide housing for over two hundred Lakota Sioux Children each year.

A member donated \$35.00 for St. Joseph's Indian School. The donation was for their graduation class of 2022.

A member donated \$50.00 to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

A member donated \$50.00 to Shriners Hospital for Children.

A member gave a citizenship award to a Herricks public school senior Maria Zamagias on Friday 6/10/2022.

A member wraps blankets for *We Care* at the Merrick Public Library. *We Care* is an organization for children getting chemo.

**THE AMERICAN LEGION:
A BRIEF HISTORY OF COMMUNITY SERVICE**

Immediately established civil defense as a function of The American Legion and began a century of support in communities wracked by disasters, from mining accidents, tornados, wildfires, and hurricanes.

Launched a Community and Civic Betterment Bureau in 1923 to help municipalities build and improve parks, playgrounds, health-care facilities, swimming pools, schools, and theaters throughout the United States.

Served meals, provided housing for refugees, and searched for survivors of the massive Mississippi and Ohio River floods of 1927 and 1937.

Sponsored soup kitchens at American Legion posts to help destitute citizens during the depression throughout the country.

Helped establish state highway patrols, and supported them, as they emerged across the country.

Established the National Emergency Fund in 1989 to formalize The American Legion's long program to provide disaster relief.

Delivered millions of dollars in National Emergency Fund grants for relief efforts after Hurricanes Katrina, Wilma, and Rita on the Gulf Coast, and the flooding that following in New Orleans.

Conducted dozens of natural disaster relief efforts, following Superstorm Sandy, hurricanes Irene, Michael, Maria and others, wildfires in California, devastating flooding in the Midwest and other crises.



Commander James Randle, past 10th District President Ellen Randle, Steve Horvath and Christine Horvath, Auxiliary President at the installation of Nassau County Officers at Leonard's of Great Neck

POST LEGIONNAIRE HONORS FELLOW POWER MEMORIAL ACADEMY ALUM

On the Memorial Day weekend, for the last 10 years, Post 144 Legionnaire Norm Jardine has paid his respects to his Power Memorial Academy classmate Roy Keonig. Roy was killed in action in Vietnam in October of 1968. Norm served in the US Army from 1969 to 1971. Annually, he joins other Legionnaires, arranges to place flags at the Long Island National Cemetery, as well as visits to the gravesite of members buried in other cemeteries. After performing his American Legion duties at the National Cemetery, he finds time to flag, say a prayer and render a hand salute to his classmate.

Norm takes a picture of the flagged grave and shares it with his Power alums. Power alums appreciate the energy Norm exhibits but wonders if there are other PMA classmates who deserve similar honors. The Class of '65 has around 40 members who served in the military. Ed Kelly, Class of '65, attended the United States Military Academy at West Point, retired as an Army Brigadier General and is the ranking officer among Class of '65 grads. He thought one PMA graduate clearly deserves recognition.

One of Ed's was Patrick J Gallagher, class of 1962. Pat was captain of the track team while Ed was on the freshman track team. Pat was clearly an outstanding leader, as he was the President of the first Student Council, which was established for the 1961-1962 school year. Ed followed this path and later was a member of the Student Council.



*Patrick J Gallagher,
Class of 1962*

Pat earned a scholarship to Providence College. While there, he was also joined the ROTC. Upon graduating from Providence in 1966, he joined the Marines and was commissioned a second lieutenant. Ed spoke to Norm about honoring Pat. They agreed the first step was finding more information. Norm agreed to research on the Internet.

All GIs killed in Vietnam are listed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington DC and there is plenty of information available on the net. He found Pat and sent the appropriate link to Ed. Ed indicated all this seemed correct, but that was not Pat's picture and the Internet says he was a corporal, while his Pat was an officer.

Norm did more research and as unbelievable as it seems, there were 2 (two) Marine Patrick J. Gallaghers, killed in Vietnam in September of 1967. The write up on Power alum Pat follows:

Patrick arrived in Vietnam and was assigned to 1st Platoon, Echo Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division. Second lieutenant Gallagher was leading his platoon on route to reinforce the Marine base at Con Thien. He died of a gunshot wound to the right upper chest from enemy rifle fire during a firefight near an NVA fortification, about 5 kilometers South of Con Thien (Hill 158) during Operation Fortress Sentry. Patrick was single and served his country for 9 months and 13 days.

He was buried in Queens County at Calvary Cemetery, section 60, in a family plot with his grandparents.

Ed, who lives in Connecticut, asks how can we get there? In his duties, Norm has also flagged fellow American Legionnaire Martin McLoughlin in Section 59 plot 60, grave 11, very close to Pat. He found the grave very quickly where Pat was now joined by his parents. He followed the same procedure rendered to American Legion members.

Dropping to one knee, Norm planted an American flag. Standing, he uncovered (removed his Army baseball cap) and said a silent prayer. Covering, he braced to the position of attention and rendered a slow hand salute. Completing his task, he took one step back, took a picture and withdrew from the scene.

As a last step, he emailed Ed the picture, with the comment: Mission completed.



Lieutenant Gallagher



LEGIONNAIRES ATTEND FLAG DAY CEREMONY AT MEADOW DRIVE SCHOOL IN ALBERTSON



Legionnaires present the colors and children recite the pledge



Principal Sara Ortiz welcomes the vets to Meadow Drive School



Energetic students use sign language as they sing a patriotic song



Scouts demonstrate how to fold and care for the American flag



Post 144 guests enjoyed the delightful program presented by the students



At the end of the program the post members distributed American flags



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