



# SOUND OFF



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Commander - James T. Randle August 2023 Editor - Dan Roper

## COMMANDER'S REPORT

*Commander James Randle*

This summer has been hot. It started with the 4th of July, Independence Day, a wonderful day for a parade hosted by Williston Park Fire Department. Our honor guard was 1st Vice Commander Bob Valentine and PC John Lawless. Legionnaires who marched were PC Frank Busa, Trustee Ray Cross, Tom Rumore and William Ost. Auxiliary Ruth Valentine and Donna DiBella. Jim Glynn was standing on the corner. Susan Otto was at the fire house.

Ellen Randle and I went to Department of New York American Legion Convention July 14 to 22. Department Commander for 2023-2024 is Timothy J. Collmer, U.S. Army Veteran a resident of Nunda, N.Y. in Livingston County. He has served in key rolls at all levels of the American Legion. He served in the Army and Army Reserves for 21 years. Upon completion of basic training at Ft. Dix, N.J. he went to morse code interceptor school at Ft. Devens, MA. After a tour in Korea and Ft. Sam Houston, Texas, he went into the reserves where he served as drill instructor and then as an officer. He retired in 1996 as a major. His post is Post 87, Daniel Goho, in Dansville, N.Y., Livingston County, 7th District.

The History Yearbooks I completed for 10th District History Yearbook came in second and Nassau County History Yearbook came in third and the Williston Post Yearbook was not yet completed.

Williston Post Fund Raiser is ongoing.

I will be going to the Third Division meeting with Third Division Commander Ralph Casey, Thursday, at Glenwood Landing Post to pick up membership cards.

Thanks to Legionnaires who helped Bob Guastella set up and break down!

No Auxiliary Unit Meeting in August.

There is an upcoming Nassau County Department Membership Workshop at Malverne Post 44 on Saturday, August 12th, 8:00am registration and 9:00am meeting.

**Don't Forget the sun screen!**

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- August 1 Tuesday Air Force Day
- August 2 Wednesday Operation Desert Shield Invasion of Kuwait (1990)
- August 4 Friday Coast Guard Birthday
- August 5 Gulf of Tonkin Resolution (1964)
- August 6 Sunday Bombing of Hiroshima (1945)
- August 7 Monday Vietnam War Begins (1964)
- August 7 Monday Purple Heart Recognition Day (1782)
- August 7 Monday Executive Meeting 7:00 pm
- August 9 Wednesday Bombing of Nagasaki (1945)
- August 10 Thursday Williston Park Pool open at 6:00pm for Legionnaires and Auxiliary
- August 10 Thursday Agent Orange Awareness Day
- August 14 Monday Japan Surrendered Ending WWII (1945)  
V-J Day
- August 15 Tuesday Assumption of Mary
- August 15 Tuesday NO AUXILIARY MEETING
- August 16 Wednesday National Airborne Day
- August 17 Thursday General Meeting 7:30pm
- August 19 Saturday National Aviation Day
- August 21 Monday Senior Citizens Day
- August 26 Saturday Women's Equality Day
- August 29 Marine Corps Reserve Birthday

## Join the Fun!!!



**As a special guest of the  
Williston Park Pool.**

**August 10th, Thursday, at 6 p.m.**

**Next General Meeting - - Thursday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 7:30 P.M.**

## BOYS STATE 2023

by Vice Commander Frank Busa

Each year Post 144 sends several carefully selected students to the American Legion Boys State program. Only those who illustrate leadership, character, scholarship, loyalty and service in their schools and community are considered. Merit and ability are the basis for evaluation during the actual citizens selection process.

After completing the Boys State Program at Suny Morrisville College from June 25-June 30,

2023, the candidates we sent have been invited to our post meeting on September 14, 2023 to tell our post members about their experiences at Boys State.

The proud Boys State graduates are:

Michael Chao New Hyde Park, Herricks H.S.  
Aidan J. Lin New Hyde Park, Herricks H.S.  
Jaime H. Chua New Hyde Park, Herricks H.S.



### DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK CONVENTION

July was a busy month for the New York State Legionnaires, Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion who attended the Department Convention at the Westchester Marriott. Among the highlights of the week were the election of new Department Commander Timothy Collmer and two awards presented to Williston Post 144's Commander James Randle for his work on the 10th District Yearbook and the Nassau County Yearbook.

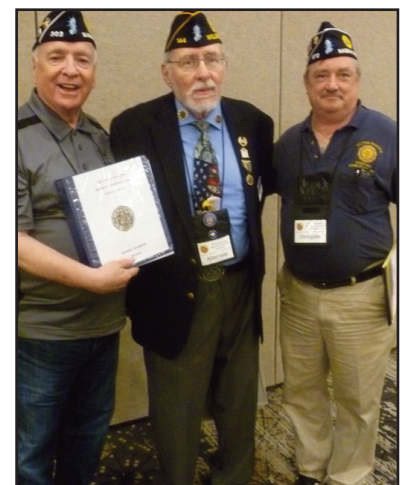
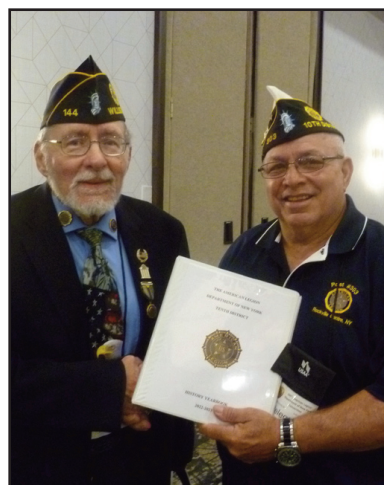
Special recognition was also given to Sons of the American Legion for their admirable work raising over \$761,000 in donations and volunteering 192,000 hours in their communities. Outgoing Detachment Commander Timothy Van Patten II reported that the SAL is now 30,075 strong.

Additional reports were presented explaining the grants that were given by the Department of New York to several organizations aimed at stemming vet suicide and homelessness. The total amount given was \$210,000.

Awards were also given to the SAL Cadet of the Year, Cadet Capt. Isaac Deng, Special Olympian Achievement Award to Emily Brushafer, the Service Officer of the Year Award to Dana Verissimo. Addition awards and recognition went to Junior Shooting Sports, Legionnaire of the Year Antonio Codrington, Scouting, Law and Order and First Responder Awards.



**Commander Timothy J. Collmer**



***Congratulations to our Post Commander James Randle presenting 2022-23 Yearbooks. (l.) Commander Randle with PC 10th District Frank Colon Jr. (r.) Commander Randle with PC Nassau County Joe Scarola and new Nassau County Commander Sean Hood.***

## NEWS FROM THE AUXILIARY

by Ellen Randle

Starting July 19, Rosanne Spinner and I and 16 other Nassau County delegates attended the 102nd Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary. This is the first time James and I had meetings in the same hotel.

Lucky for us, it was in Westchester, first time in many years. On the first day, July 20, we heard all the reports from Department Chairmen, heard resolutions, and met all candidates for Department Officers. At our 10th District Caucus, we elected Gerry Clussman from Queens as 10th District President and Carol Hassett from the Malverne Post as 10th District Vice President.

That night we attended a dinner and then met all the candidates and their families.

Friday, we heard final reports and formally elected the new officers. Then came the fun. We went out to dinner with about 20 other Auxiliary Members and Legionnaires. Also, every delegate was given a ticket to a Rock and Roll Show at the Westchester Civic Center. We enjoyed the Drifters, Tony Orlando, Jay and the Americans, Bobby Wilson (son of Jackie) and other cover groups. It was fabulous.

On Saturday we elected Karen St. Hilaire as President, Kim Quick as 1st. Vice, Maureen Morgan as 2nd Vice, and Laura Roe as 3rd. Vice.

Don't forget that the Street Fair is September 17 and our Chinese Auction is October 14. These fundraisers will only work if we all work together.

## EVERY DAY IS A GIVING DAY

Eric Spinner, Post 144 Chaplain

As I write this message, I am happy to say that I am not hearing reports of problems regarding our post members. With half of summer behind us, we should be happy that we are able to enjoy the season and all it has to offer. For those of us in good health, this is a season to travel, go camping, or even sit around the pool or the picnic table with friends and family. But we cannot take this for granted.

Having been active with multiple veteran organizations during the last dozen years, I am grateful to be living "the good life" that we all wish for. This involvement is quite rewarding for all of us who volunteer to assist those in need. However, it also carries with it an obligation to be available when needed and to help spread the word that more volunteers are needed for those who are truly in need of assistance.

One of the organizations at which I volunteer is the Nassau County Veterans Service Agency (VSA). Located at Nassau University Medical Center – Building Q, Director Ralph Esposito and his Deputy Director, Paul Vista, lead the effort serving needy veterans in our county. The agency does a marvelous job with very limited resources, and several problems are now at hand.

First, the agency transports many veterans to and from medical appointments, and they are in desperate need of additional drivers. If you can offer a few hours per week, you can be assigned to drive veterans in a county vehicle to their medical appointments.

Second, the VetMart food pantry needs additional food and supplies. This is a walk-in program every weekday morning at the agency where veterans can select food supplies each week to supplement limited budgets. If you know of any groups who would be willing to donate food, these folks would be tremendously grateful. Perhaps you can help run a food drive.

Should you be able to assist in any way, please contact the VSA at (516) 572-6565. We have many brother and sister veterans in need.

# Free

Box of Girl Scout Cookies!!!!!!

**Be a Summer Lifesaver!!**  
**Join the Town of North Hempstead**  
**Blood Drive**

Wednesday, August 16th, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Michael J. Tully Park  
Call 311 or 516-869-6311 for an appointment

Get the Thin Mints. They are the best!!!!

## FOURTH OF JULY PARADE



*Jimmy Glynn steps out to welcome the marchers in the parade. Thanks for your support, Jimmy!*



*Donna Dibello and Sue Otto take a break at the Williston Park Fire House after the parade.*



*Bob Valentine, Ruth Valentine, Ray Cross, John Lawless and Frank Busa after the parade.*

**Please Remember the Town of North Hempstead Blood Drive  
(see details on page 3)**



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