



Nassau County Legionnaire



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Commanders Report

Bob Reahl

Our Military Ball was a great success due to the 330 Legion family members and their guests that attended and lets not forget to thank the Chairman Tony Paternostro, PCC for his hard work in putting it together.

Another high light of the evening was I was given the privilege to share the reviewing of the colors with Edward K. Shillitto a Marine Lance Corporal who is now serving his second tour in Iraq.

He said to let all of you know that he and all the other service personal enjoy the packages we have been sending them. He also asked me is there anything he can do for us and my reply was just keep up the good work over there and come home safe sound.

While I was laid up I like to thank the two Vice Commanders Frank Colon and John Radin, Sr. who attended For God and Country at Chaminade High School and presented them with Gold Star flags for three of their past student who died in Iraq. While there they asked the school to let The American Legion know when they have these services in the future as would like to be part of them.

Hill Day in Albany was attended by 10 county members on 3/12 and 3/13. On our trip to the hill we met with some of the legislators but many were not available do the State Budget meeting we left our calling card. We also attended the Dept meeting and legislative breakfast.

Membership is lagging in the County there are Posts that have not reached the 90% or higher. They know who they are and I hope they can make an all out effort to increase there percentage.

Last but not lease our membership at the last Nassau County meeting reached 34 Posts present. I like thank all that attended and for those who do not attend please make all effort to do so, as the County need your support.

FIRST DIVISION REPORT

JOHN RADIN, COMMANDER

With the Military Ball behind us and the National Commanders Dinner at Antun's in Queens being sold over the promised 10 tables, we can now turn our attention to the Post Commanders Night to be held on May 19th at the Williston Post 144. tickets are \$35.00 each and can be obtained by calling Mike Miller at 223-8877.

Our Division Caucus will be held on April 19th at the Oceanside Post #1246. Be sure and get your delegates list to the Adjutant so that your vote may be counted. The leading candidate for County Commander is from the First Division. Let's turn out in support for him.

SECOND DIVISION REPORT

Frank Colon, Commander

I want to thank East Meadow #1082, Hempstead #390, NHP EmiePyle #1089, Robert Van Cott #1139, and William Bradford Turner #265 for welcoming me when I visited their posts.

Don't forget the 2nd Division Caucus on April 25, 2007, 8 PM at the North Bellmore Post. I would like to see everyone from the division attend or at least the Post Commanders and representatives. Election of a new 2nd Division Vice Commander for 2007/2008 will be held.

Each 2nd Division post should meet its 100% membership goal by the end of April 2007. If your post needs assistance with membership or any other matter, please call me at 516-435-7066.

THIRD DIVISION REPORT

Howard Liebman, Commander

Due to a medical problem I missed the County Meeting but I wish to remind all the 3rd Division Posts about the Caucus we are hold ing on Monday, April 23, 2007 at the Plainview Post at 8 PM. Please make every effort to attend. We will be looking for legionnaires who wish to run for County Office.

REHAB REPORT Frank Colon, Jr.

Our visit to the Northport VA was well attended by most of the Team 7 Legionnaires. I would like to thank everyone in attendance for putting their best foot forward in making the visit a success and putting smiles on the faces of our veterans.

Team 8 is up next for the visit on April 14, 2007 at 1:30 PM: Mineola Memorial #349, Levittown #1711, Franklin Square #1014, Bellmore #948, Victor Murtha #972, Massapequa #1066 and Eugene S. Smith #175. Again we appreciate your post's donation of \$50 if you do attend and \$100 if you do not. Our supplies are low so we need to keep up the donations in order to replace the supplies that Ken Cadieux, PCC, puts together. These amenities are greatly needed by our veterans.

CHILDREN and YOUTH REPORT

Willibe Wilson, PCC Children & Youth Chairman

At this time I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Post that made a donation for the Easter Party during the month of March, and they are: Carle Place Post 1718, Charles A. Fowler Post 160, New Hyde Park Ernie Pyle Post 1089, Edwin Welch Jr., Post 1132, Charles Wagner Post 421, Andrew Fatscher Post 854, Glenwood Landing Post 336, Lynbrook Post 335, Hugh C. Newman Post 449, Floral Park Post 334, and Plainveiw Post 1812 I thank you very much for your gift.

On Saturday, April 7 2007, the Easter Party for the Resident of SCO Family of Services, formally St. Christopher Otilie RTC of Sea Cliff, New York will be held at the Glen Cove Boys & Girls Club. At this time I'm running a little short of funds and I really need the support of the post that has not given. Please earmark all checks Children and Youth made payable to the Nassau County American Legion Committee. Mail all checks to me Willibe Wilson 37 Continental Place, Glen Cove, New York 11542.2948.

CHAPLAINS CORNER Robert Pachas

We mourn the passing of Past County Commander Edgar D. Smith, Sr. and our condolences go out to his family.

1st Division Commander John Radin is back in St Frances Hospital with a problem.

3rd Vice Commander Howard Leibman had a medical procedure and is doing well.

Remember them in your prayers.

Suffolk County Stand Down

Homeless and needy veterans will get valuable services on April 20, 2007 at the Suffolk County Homeless Veterans Stand Down on the Brentwood Campus of the Suffolk Community College in the police academy gym, Health, Sports, and Education Center. Beginning at 9:00am veterans will be able to apply for federal, state and local benefits. Private agencies will also be there to assist veterans in need of health, financial, educational, and housing and employment services. Also available will be a food station, hair cut corner, food pantry and clothes closet.

Construction/Electrician Opportunities

The Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee for the Electrical Industry of Nassau & Suffolk Counties is again accepting applications for their 5 year Apprenticeship Program. For information on this Helmet to Heard Hat program contact J.A.T.C. at 631-434-3939.

Summer Job Fair

New York State is looking for summer workers both full time and part time. A Summer Job Fair is scheduled for Friday April 27, 2007 from 10:00am to 3:00pm at Faith Baptist Church, 145 No. Franklin Street, Hempstead, NY 11550.

1st Marine Division Luncheon

Heroes of Iwo Jima and Okinawa will be remembered on Saturday March 31, at the Stewart Thomas Manor in Farmingdale at a luncheon between 1200 and 1700. Cocktail hour, open bar and sit down dinner is scheduled with entertainment provided by Chris Patti. Call Ed Farah for tickets 516-735-1202.

Military Order of the Purple Heart

Nassau County has over 35 different veterans' organizations with posts in every community. One organization limits its membership to those veterans who have received the Purple Heart. If you own that medal and would like to meet fellow recipients the MOPH meets every third Friday of the month at 8:00pm at the Hicksville VFW 320 South Broadway, Hicksville, NY. Call Conrad Steers 516-822-5913 for info.

POST COMMANDERS NIGHT Michael T. Miller, PDVC, Chairman

The Post Commanders Night will be held on Saturday, May 19th at the Williston Post 144, from 7 to 12 PM. Tickets are \$35.00 per person and should be ordered as soon as possible to insure seating.

Please make all checks payable to Nassau County A.L. and earmark Post Commanders Night and sent to me at : 809 N. William Street, Baldwin, N.Y. 11510.

All Commanders to be honored will receive the Post Commanders Pin and a photo with Bob Reahl.

Military Ball Final Report

Anthony L. Paternostro, PCC , Chairman

The Military Ball was a huge success with 330 Legionnaires, Auxiliary, S.A.L., 8 et 40, and 40 et 8 members. This was the biggest Military Ball ever. I thank Pageant Director PCC Willibe Wilson, and 10th District Commander Bill Davison for their help with the pageant. To County Chaplain, Bob Pachas, a job well done with the 11th Hour Ritual. The Pageant, as always, had a few bobbles, but as always we made it through it. I thank the County Staff for their assistance with escorting of the Distinguished Guests and manning of the check-in table. Thank you to PDVC Peter Holowecki for the use of his POW/MIA setting, and to the Columbus Circle Orchestra for their assistance with the pageant and for a great night of music.

We had represented in the pageant 28 Posts, 9 Auxiliary Units, and 1 S.A.L. Squadron. This is along with each of the County Colors, County Staffs, Past County Commanders and Presidents, Petite Chapeau 8 et 40, Salon #24, and the Chef de Gare of Voiture 803, 40 et 8, and his Colors.

The Stuart Thomas Manor was a great host. The function ran smooth, and all in all I think it was a great evening.

I hope everyone enjoyed themselves, and I again thank you for the support, and I thank Commander Bob for the appointment.

SUPPORT FOR TROOPS ON ACTIVE DUTY REGINALD BUTT, JR. PCC

There has been no activity this past month. I wrote to LtCol Leary requesting information on use of phone calling cards and if he could tell me when the cut off date for shipping items to the unit will be. I have not gotten a response to date. If any post would like to send packages or letters on their own, the address is as follows:

Lt.Col. Joseph Leary
310th MP BN
Unit 60534
APO AE 09375-0534

The local unit coordinator is Ed Johnson (516) 481-3247 Ext 113.

All packages must be addressed to an individual and a customs form must be filled out and accompany the package. The cost of shipping is the posts responsibility.

DO NOT SHIP ANYTHING UNTIL I
HEAR FROM LT COL LEARY ABOUT THE CUT
OFF DATE.

SOLDIERS FOR SOLDIERS CELL PROGRAM REGINALD BUTT, JR. PCC

Please bring the cell phones and the ink cartridges to the County meeting to give them to me. Please bring only the cell phone with its battery, no other adapter (E.I., earplug, charger, ETC). Put the ink jet cartridges in plastic sealable bags, and remember on EPSON cartridges. Insert the form or a sheet of paper with the post name and the number of items being donated.

I have shipped an additional 94 cell phones bring that total since 1 January to 910 and a total of 243 ink jet cartridges. The formula for payment for the cell phones has changed. We now receive monies on a sliding scale, from 0 to \$12 per phone. Once we have shipped 1000 phones (called Silverback Status), we will get a minimum of 45 cents per phone up to \$15. We have been credited with \$694.05 for the 910 and we were upgraded to Silverback status. The problem with the web site has deteriorated to the site being closed down and I can not get any data or shipping labels. I have 38 ink jet cartridges that I could not ship. I refuse to pay mailing costs if we have not been credited with what we ship. Until the problem is corrected I will hold up any more shipments of ink jet cartridges.

BOYS STATE PROGRAM REGINALD BUTT, JR. PCC

I have the packets for Boy's State and distribution is going very slow. I have will give you your packet or packets when you present me a check. Time is running out I need to put together all the completed packets and send them to Department by the end of April.

School Spring Break is the first week in April so that means the boys will not be able to get the school to sign the packet verifying they are in the top 50% of the class during that week. I originally asked that the completed packets be returned to me by 7 April 2007, I have extended that date until 15 April. Remember the post must interview the candidates. If you have additional boys please on a separate paper write their names, addresses, school attending and phone number, I will use these as alternates. If your post cannot get a boy but would like to sponsor one or two contact me and I will use the alternates. Chaminade High School has been getting boys for the program, we have great support from. Call me and I will deliver the packets to you, remember I need the check before I give you the packet. At next months meeting I will have the date, time and place for the orientation meeting.

**TIME IS RUNNING OUT AND WE ARE BEHIND
THE NUMBER OF BOYS WE NEED.**



NATIONAL EMERGENCY FUND

Anthony Milito, Jr. - Chairman

The National Emergency Fund is perhaps one of the most visible illustrations of "veterans helping veterans" that the Legion has to offer. American Legion Service Officers are working in Texas, Utah and other Departments. To let our members know of our aid through the Emergency Fund, we have intensified networking efforts with the Salvation Army, Red Cross, Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Defense, First Army and a host of others that are helping our members displaced by Katrina. The NEF is growing, so I would like to thank the following Post: Floral Park Post 334 for their contribution for a total to date have increased to 52290 from 14 Posts. Please think of helping others and give to the fund, so let's continue giving as Nassau County can. Make your checks payable to Nassau County American Legion and earmark it NEF and send it to this Chairman at 3521 Island Road, Wantagh, New York 11793-3336

HILL DAY IN ALBANY - Peter Holowecki, Bill Harms, Treas., Bill Davison, 10th District Commander and Commander Bob Reahl congratulated the new Senator Craig M. Johnson on his election.

LEGIONNAIRE OF THE YEAR

John Marino, PCC Chairman

Commanders, Legionnaires

Out of (58) Post in Nassau County only seven Posts took the time to send in a resume for their choice for Legionnaire of The year One of The resumes had to be sent back to the Post because they did not follow the guide lines for Legionnaire of the year. That left me with six resumes to be judged, I do hope next year we will have more Posts take part in this program. To the commanders who took the time to send in a resume thank you.

The Legionnaire of the Year has been selected by three judges who are Past County Commanders, who will remain nameless. To them my sincere thanks and gratitude. The Nassau County Legionnaire of the year will be revealed at the County Convention, also his or her name and resume will be submitted to the 10th District for judging, once again my thanks to all who participated in this program

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Anthony Milito, Jr. _ Chairman

Please check the Legion Web Site for the latest on: Timely Action Needed by Congress on Defense Supplemental Appropriations, American Legion Pledges Support to Dole/Shalala Commission, Legion to Speed Walter Reed Processing, American Legion to Honor Emmy Award Winning Television Series Extreme Makeover: Home Edition and more to name a few. Also you can see the latest copy of the Public Relations Handbook which is great for getting the word out.

Department Oratorical Results

Tony Paternostro, PCC

Here are the results of the Department Oratorical Contest held on March 10, 2007.

1st Pl. Serena R. White Home School Zone 3

2nd Place Kevin A. Brown II Nottingham High School Zone 4

3rd Place Alicia B. Tambe Holy Trinity Diocesan High School Zone 2

4th Place Kelly L. Kolyer Williamson High School Zone 5

5th Place Jessica A. Cannizzaro Bronx High School of Science Zone 1

VETERANS REHAB - TROOP SUPPLIES

Ken Cadieux, Chairman

With the donation of funds by the posts we have been able to get more of the requested items for the monthly visits to Northport. We have recently purchasded slippers, razors, sox, pens, shampoo, talcum powder, knit hats, and soap. With the added items being brought to the county meeting we have been making up 75 bags each month for the Chairman Frank Colon to take to the hospital's day at the races.

Keep up those donations we still need t-shirts, underwear, toothbrushes, small sized toothpaste, combs and many other items that we will be able to supply, thanks to your supporting donations.

NASSAU COUNTY AMERICAN LEGION

Membership totals @ March 16, 2007

DIV	POST	#	DEPT			ACTUAL			Pending	COUNTY		PUFL	NEW	LAST
			2006	2007 goal	Incr	2007	%	Goal to Recv		2007	\$ PAID \$			
1	LYNBROOK	335	32	33	1	35	106.06%	2	2	24	24.00	7	01/25/07	
1	LAWRENCE-CEDARHURST	339	96	97	1	99	102.06%	2	5	7	7.00	2	01/05/07	
1	MERRICK	1282	156	157	1	167	100.00%	0	4	9	9.00	4	03/05/07	
1	ROCKVILLE CENTRE	323	130	131	1	127	98.98%	(4)	5	2	2.00	3	03/16/07	
1	EDWIN WELCH, JR.	1132	195	196	1	199	96.43%	(7)	15	8	8.00	3	03/16/07	
1	MASSAPEQUA	1066	571	572	1	639	94.23%	(33)	20	27	27.00	9	03/09/07	
1	VICTOR MURTHA	872	106	107	1	100	93.46%	(7)	6	17	15.00	2	03/16/07	
1	ANDREW FATSCHER	854	274	275	1	257	93.45%	(18)	18	28	28.00	2	03/05/07	
1	BELLMORE	948	129	130	1	120	92.31%	(10)	7	10	10.00	5	03/09/07	
1	WANTAGH	1273	311	312	1	286	91.87%	(26)	7	19	19.00	2	02/26/07	
1	ROOSEVELT MEMORIAL	1051	32	33	1	30	90.91%	(3)	2	7	7.00	0	09/21/06	
1	MALVERNE	44	168	169	1	160	88.76%	(19)	6	14	14.00	5	03/05/07	
1	BALDWIN	246	330	331	1	293	88.52%	(38)	13	34	34.00	5	03/16/07	
1	ISLAND PARK	1029	73	74	1	82	83.75%	(12)	7	2	2.00	0	01/26/07	
1	OCEANSIDE MEMORIAL	1246	161	162	1	119	72.94%	(44)	0	2	2.00	4	12/15/06	
1	EAST ROCKAWAY	958	142	143	1	100	69.93%	(43)	2	13	11.00	1	01/26/07	
1	J. FRANKLIN BELL	81	15	16	1	5	31.25%	(11)	2	0	0.00	0	10/05/06	
1	DEMOTT CARMAN	536	16	17	1	0	0.00%	(17)	0	0	0.00	0	02/27/06	
1ST DIVISION TOTALS		2937	2932	2935	18	2667	90.25%	-288	122	224	211	54		
2	LOE MURPHY	1957	221	224	11	30	125.00%	5	3	0	0.00	11	10/24/06	
2	AVIATORS POST	743	102	103	1	111	107.77%	8	16	27	27.00	0	03/09/07	
2	NORTH BELLMORE	1749	157	159	2	162	101.89%	3	7	11	11.00	7	03/05/07	
2	CATHEDEAL	1087	136	136	1	133	97.79%	(3)	1	7	7.00	5	03/16/07	
2	ELMONT	1033	268	269	1	257	95.54%	(12)	19	29	29.00	9	03/05/07	
2	LEVITOWN	1711	380	381	1	344	95.29%	(17)	10	30	30.00	4	03/09/07	
2	NEWM HYDE PARK-ERNIE PYLE	1089	188	189	1	180	95.24%	(9)	5	15	15.00	0	03/09/07	
2	ROBERT VAN COTT	1139	44	45	1	42	93.33%	(3)	3	1	1.00	1	02/09/07	
2	FLORAL PARK	334	179	181	2	164	90.61%	(17)	0	13	13.00	3	03/16/07	
2	WILLIAM CLINTON STORY	342	160	161	1	91	90.10%	(10)	5	5	5.00	2	03/09/07	
2	WILLIAM BRADFORD TURNER	265	150	151	1	136	90.07%	(15)	9	11	11.00	0	01/05/07	
2	EAST MEADOW MEMORIAL	1082	187	188	1	168	89.36%	(20)	1	20	20.00	4	03/09/07	
2	FRANKLIN SQUARE	1014	89	90	1	78	86.67%	(12)	4	9	9.00	0	01/04/07	
2	UNIONDALE	1487	59	60	1	52	86.67%	(8)	9	11	11.00	1	12/14/06	
2	HUGH.C. NEWMAN III MEMORIAL	449	69	70	1	58	82.85%	(12)	2	2	2.00	0	01/04/07	
2	HEMPSTEAD	390	149	150	1	121	81.17%	(29)	4	16	16.00	0	02/26/07	
2	GOMILLION-CAMPBELL	1488	45	46	1	33	71.74%	(13)	0	4	4.00	0	11/30/06	
2ND DIVISION TOTALS		2304	2323	18	2160	92.98%	-163	104	211	185	37			
3	JAMES F. BRENGEL	456	64	65	1	70	107.89%	5	2	1	1.00	6	10/05/06	
3	CHARLES A. FOWLER, JR.	160	82	83	1	86	103.61%	3	0	14	14.00	4	01/06/07	
3	NEW CASSEL MEMORIAL	1861	29	30	1	31	102.15%	1	1	1	1.00	1	01/03/07	
3	YOUNG-SIMMONS	1755	55	56	1	55	98.21%	(1)	0	8	8.00	1	03/05/07	
3	MANHASSET	304	247	248	1	241	97.18%	(7)	3	19	19.00	0	01/06/07	
3	EUGENE S. SMITH	175	171	172	1	167	97.09%	(5)	3	15	15.00	1	03/09/07	
3	ROBERT H. SPITTEL	1285	128	129	1	125	96.90%	(4)	0	14	14.00	5	02/10/07	
3	WILLIAM J. LONGUET	101	60	61	1	59	95.72%	(2)	5	12	12.00	2	03/05/07	
3	CHARLES WAGNER	421	162	163	1	154	94.48%	(9)	3	10	10.00	1	03/16/07	
3	QUENTIN ROOSEVELT	4	177	178	1	165	92.70%	(13)	3	22	22.00	4	03/09/07	
3	GLENWOOD LANDING	336	281	282	1	261	92.56%	(21)	0	8	8.00	9	03/09/07	
3	NASSAU COUNTY POLICE	1050	213	214	1	195	91.12%	(19)	0	27	27.00	1	03/05/07	
3	PORT WASHINGTON	509	99	99	1	92	91.11%	(8)	1	10	10.00	2	01/05/07	
3	HOWARD VAN WAGNER	962	96	97	1	98	90.72%	(9)	0	8	8.00	2	03/16/07	
3	GLEN COVE	76	86	87	1	78	89.65%	(9)	4	21	21.00	1	01/09/07	
3	MINEOLA MEMORIAL	349	59	60	1	53	88.33%	(7)	4	11	10.00	0	02/22/07	
3	CARLE PLACE	1718	142	143	1	126	88.11%	(17)	7	4	4.00	0	12/28/06	
3	PLAINVIEW	1812	291	292	1	256	87.67%	(36)	19	29	29.00	3	02/10/07	
3	WILLISTON	144	414	416	2	382	87.02%	(34)	0	21	21.00	3	02/09/07	
3	ARCHIE McCORD	86	109	110	1	88	80.00%	(22)	5	9	9.00	0	01/08/07	
3	JAMES LYONS	122	7	15	0	7	46.67%	(8)	0	7	7.00	0	08/07/06	
3RD DIVISION TOTALS		2962	2991	21	2749	91.91%	-242	61	264	265	45			
FIRST DIVISION		2937	2932	18	2667	90.25%	(288)	122	224	211	54			
SECOND DIVISION		2304	2323	18	2160	92.98%	(163)	104	211	185	37			
THIRD DIVISION		2962	2991	21	2749	91.91%	(242)	61	264	265	45			
COUNTY OVERALL		8203	8269	58	7576	91.62%	(693)	287	699	651	136			

Membership Report.

The department has published the membership report as of March 16th, The county is at 91.62%. We are exceeding our department goal, which is good. However, we are behind as a county on our historical performance. We are 693 members short of our goal. This is an average of 13 members per post. All posts can help including the 9 posts who already attained 100%. There are 17 posts who have not turned in membership transmittals since January, none of these posts are at 100%.

Additionally, an award of a parker pen will be given to each post membership officer who meets or exceeds their post's county goal. So far 9 posts have met or exceeded their department goal, and 3 who have exceeded their county goal.

Thank you to the posts who have turned in their PUFL payments to the county. Lets get the rest of the checks in soon, see the list in last months county newsletter.

POW/ MIA REPORT

Robert Fountain, PCC, Chairman

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Pfc. Francis Crater, Jr., U.S. Army's 32nd Infantry Regiment, of Barberton, Ohio. Between 2002 and 2003 JPAC excavated two adjacent mass graves on the eastern shore of the Chosin Reservoir. The team found human remains for eight individuals and other material evidence, including Crater's identification tags. PFC Crater was buried Oct. 21 in Akron, Ohio.

Pfc. Charles H. Long, U.S. Army, of Durand, III. In 1993, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) gave United Nations officials 33 boxes with human remains of alleged U.S. servicemen who were unaccounted-for. Included in one of the boxes were Pfc. Long's social security and identification cards and identification tags. He was buried Nov. 25 in Durand. Master Sgt. Alfred H. Alonzo Sr., of Tampa, Fla.; Sgt. 1st Class Robert C. Bucheit, of Hamilton, Ohio; Sgt. Francis E. Lindsay, of Esther, Mo.; Cpl. Joseph Gregori, of West Pittston, Pa.; Cpl. Darrell W. Scarbrough, of Fayetteville, W. Va.; Cpl. Homer L. Sisk, Jr., of Ducor, Calif.; Cpl. Charles E. Sizemore, of Rushville, Ind.; and Cpl. William E. Wood, of Moorhead, Minn.; all U.S. Army. In 2000, a joint U.S.-DPRK team, led by JPAC, interviewed a farmer living in the vicinity of Unsan who told the team that while doing land reclamation work, he uncovered remains he believed were those of U.S. soldiers. Also recovered were other items and identification tags belonging to these eight men. Gregori was buried in August; Bucheit was buried in September; Scarbrough, Sisk, and Sizemore were buried in October; Alonzo was buried in November; and Lindsay and Wood's burial dates are being set by their families.

Among other forensic tools and circumstantial evidence, scientists from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory also used mitochondrial DNA and dental comparisons in the identification of the remains. We are grateful for the continued work of all the agencies involved in assisting the families with the ability to begin the closure process and to bring our servicemen home. Information gathered with the assistance of the Public Relations Office of DPMO.

Veterans News by Edward G. Aulman, Service Officer

UVO Calls for Protection at Veterans Plaza

Responding to threats in Washington D.C. to our nation's veteran's memorials thousands of veterans will be arriving in the Capital on March 17 to place a human shield around the Vietnam Memorial and other monuments. A large anti war demonstration is planned in Washington that day and the internet is alive with threats to the safety of our monuments. County Executive Thomas R. Suozzi has assured the veterans that increased police protection will be provided to Eisenhower Park's Veterans Plaza. Joseph Reale, President of the United Veterans Organization of Nassau County has requested veterans spend some time at Veterans plaza this weekend, report suspicious activity, and bring a camera.

VA Under Fire

The revelations at Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington, D.C. of poor and unsanitary living conditions for some recovering Iraq War veterans has focused national attention on both the Department of Defense (DOD) and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Supporters of the Presidents Iraq policy and non supporters alike are calling for investigations. Congress, DOD and the VA are reacting by setting up high level reviews and the media is following and often leading the story.

As of yet no VA Medical Center has been compared to Walter Reed for providing less then the best care for veterans old or new. The VA will actually be increasing its services to Nassau County veterans by adding a VET Center in late 2007. The Federal Government is however asking the VA to do more with less in that part of the VA that handles claims for disability, pension and funeral benefits.

Iraq War veterans are getting priority service for claims adjudication at the VA Regional Offices. They deserve this service the same way they deserve a ticker tape parade down Broadway. No veteran should feel that their contribution was not appreciated by their government or their neighbors. The VA Benefits Administration is trying to handle a surge of 150,000 new claims while dealing with a back log of claims of 600,000. Widows and veterans in nursing homes, assisted living facilities and at home are waiting up to a year before the VA can decide their claims for pension. Some burial claims are taking as long. Claims for presumptive conditions are taking twice as long as in the past. The VA needs to hire more people to handle this surge of claims or bring back enough retirees to get control of the situation.

Golden Age Games

Veterans who are also senior athletes should consider participating in the Golden Age (55+) Games in Houston Texas in the last week of August 2007. For more information call Lisa Harris at the VA Medical Center 631-261-4400x 2497 or contact her at lisa.harris@med.va.gov. (Steve Bohn)

Small Business Exhibition Fair

If you want to sell your goods or services to the federal government try to attend the Small Business Exhibition Fair on Thursday, April 25, 2007 from 9:00am to 1:00pm at 26 Federal Plaza (Duane Street Entrance), NYC 6th Floor Conference Center. You must bring a photo ID and be registered. Please register at: www.gsa.gov/r2smallbusiness . Look on the right hand side under GSA Events. (John Narciso)

VA to Hire 100 Vets

VA Secretary Jim Nicholson has announced that 100 combat veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan will be hired to ensure a smooth transitioning for wounded service members to VA health care facilities throughout the nation. These new employees will also be trained to assist veterans applying for financial benefits. Interested veterans should contact the New York State Department of Labor Vets program at 516-934-8508.

Thunderbirds returning to Jones Beach

The U.S. Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron "Thunderbirds" will return to Jones Beach on May 26 & 27. More details to follow. (Joe Bello).

ROA Fighting for New GI Bill

The Reserve Officers Association and the Reserve Enlisted Association have joined in calling for enhancements to the Montgomery GI Bill. The role of the reserve and National Guard has changed dramatically since 911 and the GI Bill should change to reflect the contribution of the citizen soldiers. (Senators Schumer and Clinton have endorsed changes to the GI Bill.) For information on the Reserve Enlisted Association call 202-646-7715. For the Reserve Officers Association call Joe Reale at 516- 244-4304.

NASSAU COUNTY AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK OFFICIAL
CONVENTION CALL

Pursuant to the Constitution and By-Laws, I, Robert Reahl, Commander of the Nassau County American Legion, Department of New York, do hereby call the Eighty-Ninth Annual Convention of Nassau County to be held in Hicksville, New York, Town of Oyster Bay, at the Levittown Hall, Levittown Parkway, Hicksville, NY 11801, Telephone 516 933-6400, commencing Friday, June 1st, 2007 at 8:00 P.M., and ending on Saturday, June 2nd, 2006.

The Installation Ball to be held at the Stuart Thomas Manor, 2143 Boudry Avenue, Farmingdale, N.Y. on Sunday afternoon, June 3rd, 2007 commencing at 1 PM.

1. To elect Officers for the Nassau County Organization for the ensuing year, a Commander, three Vice Commanders of equal rank, an Adjutant, Treasurer and a Membership Officer.
2. To elect Delegates and Alternates to the Convention of the Department of New York, to be held in Niagara Falls, New York, on July 19th, 20th, and 21st, 2007 (Wednesday through Saturday inclusive).
3. Nassau County is entitled to four (4) Delegates and Alternates at large and one Delegate and Alternate for each 250 paid-up membership prior to thirty days before the date of said Department Convention.
4. The remaining Delegates and Alternates to which the County is entitled to according to its membership as provided in the Department Constitution and By-Laws shall be elected at the County Convention after nominations by the Divisions at their respective Caucuses held for that purpose at the County Convention.
5. Each Division shall be entitled to a proportionate number of Delegates and Alternates in the same proportion as that Division has contributed to the total membership of the County, such proportions to be divided by the Chairman of the Committee on Credentials.
6. To transact such other business as may come before the Delegates and Alternates assembled and to consider such matters as the County may desire to bring before the Department Convention.
7. Post representation to the County Convention shall be on the basis of one Delegate and one Alternate for the first fifteen members and one additional Delegate and Alternate for each twenty—five members or major portion thereof, paid up at the time of the report of the Credentials Committee at the County Convention, and all Past County Commanders and Past State and National elective officers present and in good standing as a member of a Post in Nassau County.
8. Delegates and Alternates to the County Convention shall be elected at a meeting duly called by the Post at least ten (10) days prior to said Convention and each Delegate and Alternate shall be supplied with credentials by the Commander or Vice Commander and Adjutant of their respective Post. No Delegate or Alternate shall be seated without presentation of proper credentials.
9. In order to execute the Unit Rule, fifty percent or better of the Post Delegation must be present at Roll Call. Further, the intent to exercise this privilege must be submitted in writing to the County Adjutant prior to the opening of the Convention, such letter to be over the signature of the Post Commander or Adjutant.

Attest: Robert Robesch
 County Adjutant

Robert Reahl
County Commander

NASSAU COUNTY LEGIONNAIRE
121 POWELL AVENUE
ROCKVILLE CENTRE, N.Y. 11570

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MASSAPEQUA, N.Y. 11758
PERMIT #8

MEMBER

NATIONAL AMERICAN LEGION PRESS ASSOCIATION
NEW YORK STATE LEGION PRESS ASSOCIATION



HAS YOUR POST REACHED
100% MEMBERSHIP YET?

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP A NEW
MEMBER THIS YEAR?

SCHOOL NEEDS FLAGS !

In Roosevelt, the grammar school moved into a new bldg. and they had no American Flags for the classrooms. The Merrick Post donated 8 flags to them. **They need 14 more.** The Joe Murphy Post donated a flagpole flag. **Does anyone have any flags to donate?** Contact Tom Riordan, PCC at 546-8765

DATES TO REMEMBER

APR	1	SUN	PALM SUNDAY
	6	FRI	GOOD FRIDAY
	8	SUN	EASTER SUNDAY
	12	THU	PASSOVER
	19	THU	1ST DIVISION CAUCUS - OCEANSIDE POST 8 PM
	20	FRI	NAT'L CMDRS VISIT & DINNER - ANTUNS QUEENS 7 PM
	23	MON	3RD DIVISION CAUCUS - PLAINVIEW POST 8PM
	24	TUE	COUNTY ADVISORY MEETING - EDWIN WELCH JR POST 8PM
	25	WED	2ND DIVISION CAUCUS - N. BELLMORE POST 8PM
	27	FRI	COUNTY MEETING - CATHEDRAL POST 8 PM
MAY	19	SAT	POST COMMANDERS NIGHT - WILLISTON POST 144
	22	TUE	COUNTY ADVISORY MEETING EDWIN WELCH, JR POST 8 PM
	25	FRI	COUNTY MEETING AT CATHEDRAL POST 8 PM
	26	SAT	FLAGGING OF THE GRAVES - L.I. NATIONAL FARMINGDALE 6AM
	27	SUN	MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES AT EISENHOWER PARK 10:30 AM
	27	SUN	MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES AT L.I. NATIONAL CEMETERY 2 PM
	28	MON	MEMORIAL DAY - FLY YOUR FLAG !
JUNE			
	1	FRI	OPENING SESSION N.C. CONVENTION - LEVITTOWN HALL HICKSVILLE 8 PM
	2	SAT	CONVENTION RESUMES AT LEVITTOWN HALL 9 AM ELECTION OF COUNTY OFFICERS FOR 2007-2008 LEGION YEAR
	3	SUN	INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS AT STUART THOMAS MANOR - FARMINGDALE 1 TO 6 PM.