



# Nassau County Legionnaire



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NUM. 5

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## COMMANDERS REPORT

I would like to CONGRATULATE the JAMES F. BRENGEL Post # 456 for being the FIRST POST in the County to reach over 100% in Membership and for a job well done.

Veterans Day Services will be held on Sunday November 5 at two locations. Starting with the UVO services which will be at Eisenhower Park at 10:30 AM and followed by L.I. National Cemetery in Farmingdale at 2:00 PM. Please try and make at least one or both of these services with your Post Colors and do not forget your Legion Caps.

The Rehab Chairman Vice Commander Frank Colon, Jr has inform me that none of the Posts that were scheduled for the October Day at the Races at Northport Nursing Home showed up. This is the second month that we have had a bad turn out, & the donations to support the program are also down.

I feel sad that the Posts in the County can not spare one day a year or make a minimal donation of \$50.00 to support the Veterans. The Nursing home looks forward to our Day at the Races visit.

I wish all a Happy Thanksgiving and let's all us give thanks by praying for all those Service Personnel who are away from their families and homes. We should all be thankful that they are protecting our freedoms.

### First Division Report

John Radin, Sr. 431-5192

Out of 18 posts in the 1st Division, I have been able to visit 8 thus far with 7 scheduled, 1 to be arranged and 2 that I have been unable to reach. These two posts are DeMott Carmen Post # 536 and J. Franklin Bell Post # 81. If anyone can contact me from these two posts, I surely would appreciate it. I must say that all the posts that I have visited have been more than cordial and been willing to try various membership methods.

I have explained to everyone about the Michael Amonte "Salute to the Veterans" show, taking place at the North Fork Theater (Westbury Theater in the Round) on December 10th, 2006 at 3pm. Tickets are \$49.50 and I still have a few complimentary tickets for WWII veterans.

If there is any interest, please contact me at 516-431-5192.

Remember to vote!

Have a Happy Thanksgiving.

God Bless you all and God bless America.

### 2nd Division Report

Frank Colon, Jr. Commander

The 2nd Division meeting was held on 27 Sept 06 at the North Bellmore Post 1749. I want to thank our County Commander Bob Reahl and County Treasurer Bill Harms for attending along with the following two Posts out of 17 which did attend. AVIATORS POST 743 and LEVITTOWN POST 1711. Subjects of discussion were membership, post events, and how to work with other posts on any rental overflow.

I did visit the Levittown Post on 21 Oct 06 and it was a great visit. I will be contacting the rest of the division Commander's about visiting their posts.

### THIRD DIVISION REPORT

Howard Liebman, Commander 433-7487

We had our first Third Division meeting on September 25th at Plainview Post # 1812. The turnout was good, especially from Robert H. Spittel Post # 1285 who had five members present. We had a free exchange of ideas and it is an opportunity for each post to have an input and get information to take back. There are only three Division meetings for the year and one is over. Make sure your Post has a representative at the next one.

### Third Division Report (Cont)

I am visiting the various posts in the Division and I thank the County Commander for accompanying me on my visit to Eugene S. Smith Post #175 last night.

Membership is the name of the game. Get the Transmittal Forms in on a regular basis because we can't get credit for renewals until those forms get to Department. Also, get them all in by early December to avoid the dues increase.

Our next Division Meeting will be on January 22, 2007 at Plainview Post #1812 at 8:00 PM. The subject will be Membership. All Posts should be represented.

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#### REHAB REPORT

Frank Colon Jr. , 2nd Div CDR/Rehab Chairman

This past month saw only one post contribute a check for \$50.00 and they did show up but I had the wrong date. Sorry for the mistake but our dates for attending Northport VA Hosp is Every 2nd Sat of the month starting at 2PM sharp.

I truly hope that next month we have a good showing on the 11th of November. C-Team #3 should have no problems making the 2PM start, AGAIN if your post cannot make their visit please call Stu McKinney or myself and let us know, Also, Donations of \$50.00 if attending . And if you cannot make the visit, \$100.00

Also keep bringing toilet items when you come so the veterans can receive them, ie; toot.hpast. shaving cream, razors. toothbrushes. etc.

Special Thanks for Carol and Mark Klein from Mismatch & YooHoo for their help.

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Membership Report.  
Ned Johnson - 352-3733

The department has published the membership report as of October 12. The county is at 66.58%. The county goals, as designated by National, for November 15 is 65% and for December 13 it is 75%. However we need to fast track our membership renewals in light of the new per capita dues increase at national. Our goals are a little softer this year, at one new member per post, and thus may be more attainable. However I would like to caution everyone that the first 75% is always the easiest to bring in. We all should be trying to get 100% membership by the years end. This will save your members the new dues increase. The year end is in 65 days, so we need to really work on our potential stragglers.

You can find your post's membership percentage on the new county web site. Go to [nassau.legion.org](http://nassau.legion.org) bring up the homepage and click on the box "Links and Information., go toward the bottom of that page, and under the "Membership" heading click on "Latest Membership Report" If your post is below the monthly membership quotas we need to bring you up to speed. We can help your post to attain your membership goals. Please contact your division commander or myself and invite us, we will be glad to share our experience and aid you in rounding up your membership.

### WINAL REHAB REPORT Arlene S. Howard PCC, Chairman

Today, October 27, 2006, the VA held its 4th Annual "Celebrating Women." The Program was the best I have ever attended at the VAMC. There were well over 170 women + a few good men in attention. Part of the program included the Guest Speaker Congresswoman Carolyn McCarthy (Introduced by Yours Truly) who gave a very informative talk on her trip with 7 other Congresswomen to Iraq and her part in the funding for the veterans at Walter Reed with Head Trauma. The Keynote address was give by Alicia Figueras, The Producer and Host of "Long Island with Alicia" Weekly Cable TV Talk Show. Alicia is a Women Veteran having served in the U.S. Army. She was fantastic and enjoyed by all present. The program ended at 3 p.m. and all the women taking part in the program, including myself, were presented with a dozen roses.

As I told you last month the VAMC at Northport has a very well run Women's Wellness Center under the leadership of Cheryl Hansen, MSN, RN(Cheryl is a U.S.A.F. Vietnam EraVeteran). and Jo Savan, the Women Veteran Program Assistant and they along with other members of their committee did a "bang up"job putting this event together. "Thank You" again Ladies.

The center offers many health care services for women veterans. The direct phone number for the Women's Wellness Center is 1-631-544-5314.

The Department of Veterans Affairs calls on all veterans to express their patriotism and pride on Veterans Day, Memorial Day and the Fourth of July by wearing your medals, whether participating in public observances or relaxing with family and friends. Your medals tell the stories of service in the cause of freedom.

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#### LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

Arlene Howard PCC, Legacy Scholarship Chairman

*My "Thanks," to the following Posts who sent in their checks for the Legacy Scholarship Fund.*

Cathedral #1087 - \$120.00 East Meadow #1082 - \$200.00  
Malverne #44 - \$50.00 Plainview #1812 - \$315.00 and  
New Hyde Park-Ernie Pyle #1089 - \$100.00.

Please keep those checks coming. Make your check payable to The American Legion Nassau County Committee - earmarked for the Legacy Scholarship Fund.

Please send it to me at the following address -  
Arlene Howard PCC, 42 Jersey Street, Hicksville, NY  
11801-2435. Any questions phone # (516) 938-1373.

Thank you again for helping the children of our fallen heroes fulfill their dreams of going to college.

Legionnaire of the year  
Chairman John Marino PCC

In first week of October, The Guidelines with the appropriate documentation for the County " Legionnaire of the year " 2007 was mailed to all the Post In Nassau County I'm asking you not to leave the documentation sitting on Your desk and do nothing I'm sure if you take a good look at your membership you could come up with a Legionnaire who is worthy of becoming Nassau County Legionnaire of the year. If for some reason your Post has not received the mailing Please call me at 516-694-9029 if I'm not in leave me a message with your Telephone number and I will return your Call Thanking you in advance

**NATIONAL EMERGENCY FUND**  
Anthony Milito, Jr. - Chairman

The NEF is growing, so I would like to thank the following Posts: Bellmore Post 948, Cathedral Post 1087, East Meadow Memorial Post 1082, New Hyde Park Ernie Pyle Post 1089, Plainview Post 1812 and Howard Van Wagner Post 962 for their contribution for a total to date of \$865 to this fund. This is a good beginning to helping to this find so let's continue giving the largest donation you can so we can show that Nassau County is the Empire County. 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.

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**NATIONAL CEMETERY REPORT**  
Ken Cadieux, PCC, Chairman

The Long Island National Cemetery will hold its Veterans Day Services on Sunday, November 5, 2006 with line up at 1:00 pm and services at 2 PM.

The New Ceremonial Bugle will be presented to the Cemetery by Commander Reahl for use by any Veterans Organization holding services at the Cemetery.

The Carillon has now been fixed and new flowers and plants have been placed in the Columbarium areas.

We are awaiting the plans for the new memorial garden to be placed in the Cemetery. It will be in the area of the old fountain that was removed. Funds will have to be raised for the flowers and shrubs for the area as well as several benches where families can sit and meditate. We would also be required to maintain the garden area and replace the flowers and plantings as required.

Constitution and By-Laws  
Charles G. Mills - 759-4300

Last year's County Convention passed the following amendments to the Nassau County By-Laws: Resolved that the County By-Laws be amended by striking the period at the end of Section 3 of Article V thereof and substituting therefor, "from among the Vice-Commanders." Further resolved that the County By-Laws be amended by adding a Section 12 to the end of Article V, which shall read as follows:

" Section 12. Elected officers may resign by tendering their resignation to the County Commander, or (in the case of the County Commander) to the County Adjutant. Such resignations shall be final upon approval."

The County per capita is one dollar. The Tenth District per capita has gone from three cents to eight cents. This means that our net has gone from 97 cents to 92 cents. There have been proposals to increase our per capita, maybe by as much as fifty cents.

The October meeting of the National Executive Committee recommended that all levels of The American Legion review their constitutions and by-laws to make sure that they comply with the National Organization's non-discrimination policies. There will be a meeting of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee to discuss the per capita and discrimination.

After that meeting any post that thinks we have recommended an excessive increase or not recommended an adequate increase and wishes to make a proposal of its own should get such proposal, as approved by the post members and in correct technical form, to the County Adjutant well before the deadline for him to mail it.

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**Protocol**

Unless there is a protocol emergency between now and the end of the year, this committee has finished its work for the year. I want to thank PNVC John Tipping, PDC Rev. Mr. Frank Ward, PDVC Mike Miller, and PCC Ed Smith for their work on the committee.

I especially want to thank PCC Tony Paternostro for his prompt help and useful suggestions in putting together a list of distinguished guests for the Military Ball.

I thank the Commander for the appointment.

**REMEMBER TO VISIT OUR NEW WEB SITE**  
AT: <http://nassaulegion.org> let us know if you like it or wish to have other information placed on it.

**NASSAU COUNTY LEGIONNAIRE**

121 POWELL AVENUE,  
ROCKVILLE CENTRE, N.Y. 11570

NON-PROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE

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MASSAPEQUA, N.Y. 11758

PERMIT #8

**MEMBER**

NATIONAL AMERICAN LEGION PRESS ASSOCIATION  
NEW YORK STATE LEGION PRESS ASSOCIATION

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**HISTORY**

Roger Eastman

The month of November is fast approaching, and it offers many chances to obtain pictures and articles for your history scrapbooks and your newsletters. Ceremonies are scheduled by American Legion and other veterans groups as well as by some local communities. The annual luncheon at Hofstra is scheduled on November 9th. Make sure you have your camera and take pictures to record in your histories. Enjoy your Thanksgiving.

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**DATES TO REMEMBER**

- |      |       |      |  |
|------|-------|------|--|
| Nov. | 5     | Sun  | Veterans Day Services at Eisenhower Park - Line up 10:30 AM                |
|      |       | Sun  | Veterans Day Services at L.I. National Cemetery - Farmingdale 2 PM         |
|      | 9     | Thur | Hofstra Library Luncheon For James MacLean Library Collection 1 PM.        |
|      | 11    | Sat  | Hofstra Football Game Honoring Veterans                                    |
|      | 20    | Mon  | Veterans Standown at Freeport Armory 9 AM to 3 PM                          |
|      | 21    | Tues | Nassau County Advisory Meeting - Edwin Welch, Jr. Post Seaford 8 PM        |
| Dec  | 24    | Fri  | Nassau County Meeting at Cathedral Post - W. Hempstead 8 PM                |
|      | 2     | Sat  | Nassau County 40/8 Nurses Training Ball - A. Fatscher Post - Valley Stream |
|      | 3     | Sun  | L.I. National Cemetery Pearl Harbor Service 1:30 PM                        |
|      | 7     | Wed  | Pearl Harbor Services at Oyster Bay  |
|      |       | Wed  | Pearl Harbor Services at Rockville Centre                                  |
|      | 7-8   |      | Nassau County Auxiliary Northport Gift Shop                                |
|      | 16    | Sat  | Happy Hanukkah !   |
|      | 19    | Tues | Nassau County Advisory Meeting at Edwin Welch, Jr. Post Seaford 8 PM       |
|      | 22    | Fri  | Nassau County Meeting at Cathedral Post - W. Hempstead 8 PM                |
|      | 25    | Mon  | Merry Christmas to All !   |
| Jan  | 1     | Mon  | Happy New Year to All !  |
|      | 15    | Mon  | Martin Luther Kings Birthday - Fly your Flag !                             |
|      | 16    | Tues | Nassau County Advisory Meeting - Edwin Welch Jr Post- Seaford 8 PM.        |
|      | 19    | Fri  | Nassau County Meeting - Cathedral post - W. Hempstead 8 PM                 |
|      | 22    | Mon  | 3rd Division Membership Meeting at Planview Post 8 PM.                     |
|      | 24    | Wed  | 2nd Division Membership Meeting at North Bellmore Post 8 PM                |
|      | 26-28 |      | Mid-Winter Conference - Albany   |
|      | 31    | Wed  | 10th District Meeting - Ronkonkoma Post , Suffolk 8 PM                     |

**ORATORICAL PROGRAM**  
Angel E. Soto County Chairman

There are 71 Secondary Schools for which we have prepared packets to be delivered by a representative of the Post in the community of the School.

Each Division Commander has been given the packet for the Schools in the Division. At the conclusion of the meeting those Post's that are present see your Division Commander for the packet for the School in your area. You will sign for the packet and advise your Division Commander the name of the person to whom you gave the packet. The Division Commander will be responsible to have any packets for a School delivered to the School by a Legionnaire in the School area.

The reason for this procedure is to insure the Schools do receive the packets. We at one time mailed the packets but many Students complained the School did not have the material.

We had a great turn out last year - we can handle as many students as you can recruit. Each Post Commander has received the basic letter in the packet. Read the letter and be familiar with the amount of money a student can win.

In the meantime should any Legionnaire know of any student interested in the program, or is contacted by a student regarding the program please let me know as soon as possible. I will gladly assist you any way I can.

**Program Guidelines**

**American Legion National High School Oratorical Contest.**

All contestants must be citizens of or lawful permanent residents of the United States and bona fide students under the age of twenty (20) years on the date of the National Finals Contest and be presently enrolled in a high school or junior high school (public, parochial, military, or private) in which the curriculum of said high school is considered to be of high school level, commencing with grade nine (9) and terminating with grade twelve (12). Each school is limited to **THREE STUDENT APPLICATIONS.**

The subject to be used for the Prepared Oration in the Oratorical Contest must be on some phase of the Constitution of the United States which will give emphasis to the attendant duties and obligations of a citizen to our government.

**THE PREPARED ORATION MUST BE THE ORIGINAL EFFORT OF EACH CONTESTANT AND MUST NOT TAKE UP LESS THAN EIGHT MINUTES OR MORE THAN TEN MINUTES FOR DELIVERY. IT MUST BE DELIVERED IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.**

In order to enter the County Level Contest, the students must be certified by their principal using High School Form #6 for each student's certification. A copy of this form and descriptive brochures on the contest are enclosed. The High School's Form #6, together with a copy of the contestants' speech, cover sheet for oration and a small picture must be in my hands no later than

December 9, 2006. The number of contestants filing for participation will dictate the number of preliminary contests we will sponsor. Upon receipt of all the applications we will publish the date and rain date, location and time of all preliminary contests for Nassau County which will take place in January 2007. The County finals will be held at the Elmont Post 343 on Saturday, January 13, 2007 at 10 am. with a snow date of Tuesday January 15, 2007 at 8 pm. Contestants in the County final will be announced at the conclusion of each Preliminary contest. All preliminary contests will start at 8:00 P.M.

The 1st and 2nd place winner at the County Final will advance to the District Contest, which will be held Jan. 20, 2007. The 1st and 2nd place winner of the District level contest will advance to the Zone Level Contest to be held on Saturday, Feb. 10, 2007 with a snow date of 17 Feb. 2007. The 1st place winner of the Zone Level Contest will advance to the Department of New York contest on 10 March 2007 with a snow date of 17 March 2007 in Albany, N.Y. The winner of the Department contest then advances to the National Final Competition which will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana on the weekend of 14 April 2007.

To encourage high school students to participate in The American Legion National High School Oratorical Contest, over \$1 1/2 million in scholarships have been awarded at the National Level since the contest began in 1938. This year's prizes are:

**COUNTY LEVEL FINALS-** 1st Place - \$300 2nd Place - \$200 3rd place - \$100 4th Place \$75 (Additional savings bonds as prizes will be awarded depending on the number of participants in the County program) 1st and 2nd Place winners go on to the District Level Contest

**DISTRICT LEVEL** - 1st Place - \$500 2nd Place - \$200 3rd Place - \$100  
(Maximum 6 contestants prizes United States Savings Bonds will be awarded). 1st and 2nd Place winners go on to the Zone Level Contest

**ZONE LEVEL** 3 Prizes United States Savings Bonds  
1st Place - No Prize since the winner of the Zone Contest goes on to the Department Contest and is guaranteed at least \$2000 in scholarship dollars. 2nd Place \$1500 - 3rd Place - \$1000 4th Place \$1000

**DEPARTMENT LEVEL** 5 Prizes Scholarship Awards  
1st Place - \$6000 2nd Place - \$4000 3rd Place \$2500 4th Place - \$2000 5th Place \$2000  
The 1st Place winner goes on to the National Final Contest.

**FIRST ROUND NATIONAL FINALS;** Each Department winner who is certified into this level of the National Contest will receive a \$1,500.00 scholarship.

**SECOND ROUND NATIONAL FINALS**  
Each First Round winner who advances to the Second Round National Finals but does not advance to the Final Round will receive a additional \$1500 scholarship.

## Military Ball

The Forty-sixth Annual Nassau County Military Ball will be held on Saturday, February 24, 2007, at the Stuart Thomas Manor, 2143 Boundary Avenue, Farmingdale, New York, 11735, from 6:00 PM to 11:00 PM. The evening will begin with a Cocktail Hour with hot and cold hor d'oeuvres, followed by a full course dinner. Unlimited name brand liquor, and music for your listening and dancing pleasure.

Tickets are \$ 50.00 per person. Make check payable to NASSAU COUNTY AMERICAN LEGION, and earmark it for the Military Ball. Cutoff for tickets is February 10, 2007. If you would like to setup your own tables, send me the names with your check and I will assign the ticket numbers for you. **PLEASE RETURN THE PAGEANT INFORMATION FORM ALONG WITH YOUR CHECK.** Send your check to:

Anthony L. Paternostro, PCC Military Ball  
Chairman 137-24 250 Street  
Rosedale, New York 11422-2110

### PAGEANT INFORMATION SHEET

WE REQUEST BOTH YOUR AMERICAN FLAG ALONG WITH YOUR POST, UNIT OR SQUADRON FLAG. IF YOU CANNOT HAVE BOTH THEN WE PREFER THE AMERICAN FLAG BE USED.

PLEASE FILL IN THE INFORMATION BELOW AND RETURN WITH YOUR CHECK:

•POST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

POST NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ DIVISION: \_\_\_\_\_

WHO WILL REPRESENT THE POST IN THE PAGEANT? (Fill in name below)

COMMANDER: \_\_\_\_\_

OR

REP WITH TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

•AUXILIARY UNIT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

UNIT NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

WHO WILL REPRESENT THE UNIT IN THE PAGEANT? (Fill in name below)

PRESIDENT: \_\_\_\_\_

OR

REP WITH TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

•SQUADRON NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

SQUADRON NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

WHO WILL REPRESENT THE SQUADRON IN THE PAGEANT? (Fill in name below)

COMMANDER: \_\_\_\_\_

OR

REP WITH TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

## ORATORICAL (Cont)

### NATIONAL FINALS

Scholarship awards are presented to the three finalists in the National Contest as Follows: 1st Place - \$18,000  
2nd Place - \$16,000 3rd Place - \$14,000

The students of today are the leaders of tomorrow. This Oratorical Program helps hem to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

If there are any questions concerning any part of this program please call me 516 775 - 8049

### UNITED STATES POST OFFICE VETS PACKAGES

#### Military Care Package Kit

The USPS has a program for military family and friends to supply them with packaging materials to send packages overseas. If you call 1-800-610-8734 and select option #1, ask them for the "military pack" and they will send you the boxes, tape, packaging materials and labels at no charge to you or the recipient. The materials take about four to ten days to receive. (From VVA Interchange Vol. 17, Issue 3).

### D.C. Vietnam Memorial to get Visitors Center

A 25,000 square foot visitor center will be constructed underground between the Lincoln Memorial and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall. "This was a long time in coming," said Jan C. Scruggs, president and founder of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund. According to Scruggs, the center may contain a movie theater, a three-directional battle scene, a wall where pictures of the fallen will be projected on their birthdays, and mementos left at the wall (Associated Press, 8/5/2006)

### Disabled, but Looking for Work

The "Ready , Willing and Able" Job Fair is Tuesday , October 31, 2006 from 9:00 AM to noon at the Hicksville Community center 28 West Carl Street, Hicksville, NY 11801. Call Dianne Kipp at (516) 873-5678 for details and registration.

### JOB FAIR

On November 6, 2006, round trip transportation to the Javits Center in New York City will be provided to veterans in search of employment. To pre-register for the "Salute our Heroes Job Fair", please contact Andy Rodriquez at the Hicksville DOL office (516) 934-8508, or Peter Pafinos at the Hempstead DOL: (516) 485-5000.

## VETERANS NEWS - ED AULMAN, SERVICE OFFICER

The Veterans Service Agency (VSA) is again hosting a Stand Down for Homeless Veterans and is providing transportation to the "Salute Our Heroes Job Fair" at the Javits Center in New York City. Thanks to a generous donation from the Nassau County Counsel of the Veterans of Foreign War and a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor, the VSA along with the United Veterans Organization and hundreds of volunteers from many veterans and non-veterans organizations will bring together dozens of government and not for profit social service agencies at the Freeport Armory on Monday November 20, 2006. Veterans in need will be able to get counseling from the Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Labor, Social Security, Salvation Army, Beacon House and the Department of Social Services and other local, state, and federal offices. A turkey dinner, clothes, showers, haircuts and medical screening are also part of this annual event.

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### MORE AGENT ORANGE EXPOSURE IN KOREA

Based on declassified military documents and access to historical information released through the US Army Combat Studies Institute's Leavenworth Papers the following have been added to the list of military units exposed to Agent Orange in Korea between April 1968 and July 1969: 1<sup>st</sup> Bn. 12<sup>th</sup> Artillery, 1<sup>st</sup> Bn. 15<sup>th</sup> Artillery, 7<sup>th</sup> BN. 17 Artillery, 5<sup>th</sup> BN. 38<sup>th</sup> Artillery, 6<sup>th</sup> Bn. 37 Artillery, 1<sup>st</sup> Bn. 31<sup>st</sup> Infantry (7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division), 1<sup>st</sup> Bn 32<sup>nd</sup> Infantry(7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division),2<sup>nd</sup> Bn. 32 Infantry(7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division), United Nations Security Battalion-Joint Security Area and the Crew of the USS Pubelo. Contact the Veterans Service Agency at (516) 572-8452 if you wish to open a claim. (Thanks to Clark Barnes of the National Association of County Veterans service Officers)

Omitted from my August "Veterans News" were the following units of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade of the 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division: 1-73 Armor, 1-31 Infantry and 2-31 Infantry.

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### Gulf War Syndrome Criticized

On September 12, 2006, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) released a report entitled, "Gulf War and Health: Volume 4. Health Effects of serving in the Gulf War." The report is based on an analysis by an IOM committee charged "to review, evaluate, and summarize peer reviewed scientific and medical literature addressing the health status of Gulf War veterans." While the report dismisses the theory that the Gulf War illness is a single syndrome, the committee does recommend further study into the prevalence of particular diseases among the Gulf War veteran population. (Thomas Zampieri, BVA). According to WebMD, 30% of Gulf War Veterans complain of some form of "multisymptom" illness, often including fatigue, depression, anxiety, pain, or gastrointestinal problems.

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### Veterans March on Washington

The South Hudson Valley Veterans Coalition, representing veterans from Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland and Westchester Counties, are planning a national event on Veterans Day, November 11, 2006. Called VETS-MOW (March of Washington) the organization hopes to rally 1 million veterans at the Lincoln Memorial at 11:00 AM on Veterans Day. For more information contact Sal Scarlato, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice president of the Central Long Island Chapter, Korean War Veterans Association, at (631) 724-5459.

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### GI Bill Increases

Good News - the GI Bill now provides \$38,000 in education benefits for 36 month studies (traditional 4 year education with summers off). Bad news: Tuition at Long Island's private colleges for four years without room and board average \$86,588. Add another \$9,170 per year for room and board. SUNY Stonybrook is a bargain at \$5,000 per year plus \$8,000 room and board. The best bargain is, of course, Nassau Community College. The first 2 years of a college education costs just about \$4,000 per year.

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### VA Secretary to Keep Manhattan , Brooklyn and Queens Facilities

This summer, Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary R. James Nicholson announced that the Manhattan VA Medical Center (23 Street) and the VAMC Fort Hamilton in Brooklyn would remain open, ending several years of consolidation studies. Further, the Secretary announced that the VA would replace the existing facility: a St. Albans location, with a state -of-the-art nursing home, outpatient clinic and domiciliary.

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### Lou Gehrig's disease

The VA is developing a nationwide registry of veterans who have Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS). Also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, it is a chronic progressive neurodegenerative disease that attacks the brain cells that control muscle movement. There is no known cure for this disease. The VA hopes to identify all veterans with the disease, enroll all newly diagnosed individuals, collect data including DNA samples that will be available for approved studies, and inform veterans about research studies they may be eligible for.

Contact the VA ALS Registry at 1-877-342-5257.