



# Nassau County Legionnaire



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## COMMANDERS REPORT

ROBERT ROBESCH, COMMANDER

Well a new Legion year has begun. So far we seem to be continuing the great year we just finished.

Let me start by saying thank you to several people. First thank all of you for allowing me to lead this great county for the year, I will do my best to justify your votes. Thanks to PCC Arlene Howard and her committee for the great job putting the Convention together. Thanks to PDVC Pete Holowecki for the fabulous installation dinner. Finally, Thanks to Junior Past County Commander Bill Harms and the rest of the Staff for leaving the county in such great shape.

The staff and I have been busy since June. We have installed the staffs of five posts, met with this year's participants in Boy's and Girl's State, attended the Installation of our new Auxiliary President, Nancy Carter, and attended the Department of New York Convention.

As always, membership will be our most important endeavor this year. We had several posts who reached or exceeded the 100% goal and many more that missed it by less than ten members. Remember it is never too early to start recruiting and getting the rest of the members to pay their dues.

The Legacy Scholarship and the National Emergency Fund will also continue to be priorities. Remember our goal is \$1.00 per member, we haven't hit it yet, maybe this will be the year.

A new program that we will be promoting this year is the VET DOGS. This is an organization which provides service dogs to disabled veterans. The county will match contributions from posts up to a total of three thousand dollars for the county. This is a great program and we should all try to promote it.

While we were at the convention, one of the resolutions we approved was one that encourages the state legislature to enact laws to protect all veterans monuments and memorials throughout the state. Currently New York is the only state without such a law.

In line with this resolution, The Department of NY is organizing an effort to identify and catalogue all veterans monuments in the state. We will have forms at the August meeting which every post can fill out, detailing all the monuments in its area.

Another resolution which we approved was to endorse a congressional bill introduced by Rep Steve Israel which will allow taxpayers to designate \$3.00 of their tax to be set aside for the benefit of homeless veterans. At this point, the bill has passed the house and is awaiting a vote in the Senate. Please contact our senators and ask them to support the bill.

Finally, as the summer marches on, there are many opportunities to meet potential new members. So, put on your best recruiting face and always carry an application or two.

Good luck, God Bless The American Legion and God Bless America.

## FIRST DIVISION REPORT

GUS LANZO, COMMANDER

Another year has passed and I wish to thank all who helped reelect me to this position. They say it gets easier the second time around. I certainly hope so.

I will be getting in touch with all the Posts in my division and I hope to see us achieve 100% membership this year.

Remember that everyone who has not paid their 2008 dues are delinquent it's still not too late to get them to pay their dues. Our Division is in first place in the county. Let's continue to lead the way!

Second Division Commander  
Joseph Reale, Commander

I wish to thank my fellow legionnaires for supporting me for this position.

I have visited several Posts and I have scheduled several more for the coming month.

Working together we can make our Division the best in the county. We certainly can achieve 100% membership. Don't wait until the end to get new members to replace those who do not renew or pass away.

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Third Division Report  
JIM BARTON - COMMANDER

All Third division Posts have received their membership cards and related information. And, I am happy to report, some posts have gotten off to a great start, reporting 90% and greater already processed. (Don't forget the PUFL's)

I will be contacting all the Post Commanders about arranging post visits and will pass along any new ideas to help with membership recruiting and retention.

Third Division meetings will be held at the Williston Post, dates to be announced.

I would like to send a personal thank you to Commander Arthur George of the Port Washington Post and Commander Bill Landerer of the Glenwood Landing Post for their early invitation and warm hospitality.

CELL PHONE COLLECTION PROGRAM

REGINALD BUTT, JR. PCC

I shipped out 172 cell phones in July and have received notice that we will be getting a check for \$142.20 after the 1st of August. I also received notice that due to the economy the payment for cell phones in going down. A lot of the phones are no longer in demand due to the advanced technology and payment for the parts they stripped out of the others has decreased. It worthwhile collecting them as there is not cast to us, the recycling center pays for the shipping. Bring the cell phones to the county meeting or if you have a large amount I will come to you to get them. A large amount is 25 or more, gas is expensive, so make worthwhile.

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SUPPORT FOR TROOPS ON ACTIVE DUTY

REGINALD BUTT, JR. PCC

In July I have sent out 11 big packages to the following locations:

1ST LT Terrance Thorgramson in Iraq (1 package) - items were collected by Boy Scout #176 Bayville -he was their assistant Scout Master.

LT COL. Michael Mallin (7 packages) - in Afghanistan - he has 35 men and they are stationed with the Afghan Police and Army.

CPL Justin Burke (1 pkg) - Marine in Iraq

LT COL. Joseph Schroder (1 pkg) - in Afghistan, he is an advisor to an Afghan General - a member of the Malverne Post #44

CPL Steven Bayne (1 pkg) - in Iraq

If anyone knows of a service person in Iraq or Afghanistan please provide me with the name and address and I will send items to them. I have two names now and I will be preparing packages for them. The packages must be addressed to an individual and that person then distributes the items.

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CONVENTION REPORT COUNTY MEETING

Arlene Hoard PCC, Convention Chairman

If any Post would be interested in having the Convention and Convention Dinner in June 2009 at their Post please send me a letter telling me you are interested and what you have to offer.



Legacy Scholarship Fund Report

Arlene Howard PCC Scholarship Chairman

As we begin a new year I am once again asking for donations to the Legacy Scholarship Fund.

As always I am only asking a \$1.00 per member and of course if you would like to donate more it will be appreciated.

Please make your check out to the Nassau County Committee earmarked Legacy Scholarship Fund and send it to me Arlene Howard, 42 Jersey Street, Hicksville, New York 11801-2435.

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NASSAU COUNTY WINAL REHABILITATION

ARLENE S. HOWARD PCC CHAIRMAN

Just a reminder that Women Veterans are eligible for the same VA benefits as male veterans. If you haven't done so already now is the time to make your appointments at the VAMC Northport, NY Women's Wellness Center. There are many programs available for Women Veterans especially the very important one of having your Mammography taken.

The 30 DAY COST OF A PRESCRIPTION IS ONLY \$8.00 and can be refilled by calling the toll free number 1- 800 number.

For more information on health care benefits offered by the VAMC at Northport visit them at their web site at [www.northport.va.gov](http://www.northport.va.gov)

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MIA / POW REPORT

Robert Fountain, PCC, Chairman

THE REMAINS OF 11 CREWMEN HAVE BEEN FOUND IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA, ALONG WITH THE WRECKAGE OF THEIR B-24 LIBERATOR. THE PLANE NAMED "THE SWAN" CRASHED THE NIGHT OF DECEMBER 3, 1943. THE BOMBARDIER 2ND LT. IRVING SCHECHNER WAS FROM BROOKLYN, NY. AND 3 OF THE OTHER CREWMAN WERE FROM NJ THEY WERE SGT. PAUL MIECIAS OF PISCATAWAY, STAF SGT. ALBERT CARUSO OF KEARNEY AND STAF SGT. ROBERT FRANK OF PLAINFIELD. THEIR REMAINS WERE RETURNED TO THEIR FAMILIES AND BURIED WITH FULL MILITARY HONORS.

WAYS & MEANS REPORT

FEBRUARY 1 ST TO JUNE 3 0TH 2008

Robert Fountain, PCC Chairman

TICKETS SOLD 526 @ \$10.00 \$5,260.00

PAID TO WINNERS \$2,540.00

DONATION TO COUNTY \$2,720.00

THERE WERE OVER \$500 IN WINNING TICKETS THAT WERE NOT RETURNED!

THE WINNER OF THE \$100.00 FOR THE MOST WINNERS SOLD BY A POST, WAS THE CHARLES WAGNER POST.

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COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS

THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING OF THE NASSAU COUNTY COMMITTEE THAT WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 25TH IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO SUBMIT A RESOLUTION FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE DELEGATES, PRESENT AT THAT MEETING. CUTOFF DATE FOR SUBMIT ION WILL BE SEPTEMBER 15TH.

IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO WAIT FOR THE COUNTY CONVENTION IN JUNE TO SUBMIT RESOLUTIONS. THEY CAN BE SUBMITTED AT THE SEPTEMBER, DECEMBER AND MARCH GENERAL MEETINGS, IF HELP IS NEEDED IN COMPOSING OR WRITING A RESOLUTION ANY MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE WILL OFFER YOU HELP.

THE MEMBERS ARE:

RICHARD M. HOCHBRUECKNER,  
CHAIRMAN 935-2546

FRANK COLON JR,  
COUNTY ADJUTANT 435-7066

MICHAEL MILLER, PDVC  
JUDGE ADVOCATE 223-8877

LINDA PETRIZZI, PC 763-0958

JOHN MAURO PC 93 8-8097,

## Americanism.

Robert Tom Riordan, PCC

Purpose, to inspire patriotism and good citizenship through patriotic observances, patriotic and civic instruction in schools, Americanization of aliens, information on anti American propaganda, youth activities such as Boys State, Scouts, Oratorical Contest, School Award Medals, Sports, Flag Etiquette and other similar community services, as well as provide a listing of available scholarships through the "Need A Lift" booklet which can be obtained thru Emblem Sales.

Your Post is encouraged to participate in these events and/or programs.

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## NATIONAL CEMETERY REPORT

KEN CADIEUX, PCC

AFTER ONLY THREE YEARS THE FEDS HAVE APPROVED THE 40 FOOT BY 40 FOOT MEMORIAL GARDEN TO BE BUILT BETWEEN THE TWO SHELTERS AT LONG ISLAND NATIONAL CEMETERY IN FARMINGDALE. NASSAU COUNTY AND ITS POSTS CONTRIBUTED \$1,990.00 TOWARDS THIS PROJECT. ONE OF THE FOUR MEMORIAL BENCHES WAS SPONSORED BY THE NASSAU COUNTY LEGION.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO MAKE A DONATION TO THIS PROJECT WHICH IS SLATED FOR DEDICATION ON VETERANS DAY 2008.

MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO LINC MO AND SEND TO ME AT 121 POWELL AVENUE, ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NY 11570

### DONORS TO DATE:

|                          |             |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| NASSAU COUNTY LEGION     | \$ 1,080.00 |
| CHARLES WAGNER POST      | 50.00       |
| HARRY KREIGER (MEMBER)   | 10.00       |
| WM & REGINA DAVISON      | 25.00       |
| CARLE PLACE POST         | 100.00      |
| JAMES A. WILSON (MEMBER) | 25.00       |
| WILLIAM BAXTER PCC       | 50.00       |
| MANHASSET POST           | 50.00       |
| PLAINVIEW POST           | 100.00      |
| KEN CADIEUX              | 500.00      |

WE HAVE RAISED \$7,115.00 SO FAR BUT WE NEED AT LEAST \$2,000.00 MORE TO COMPLETE THIS PROJECT.

THE MASTER GARDENERS OF L.I. WILL DO THE PLANTING AND MAINTAIN THE GARDEN FREE OF CHARGE AFTER ITS COMPLETION.

## COUNTY LEGIONNAIRE OF THE YEAR

JOSEPH P. SLATTERY, JR. PC, CHAIRMAN

THE NEW LEGION YEAR 2008 - 2009 HAS BEGUN, SOME POSTS HAVE NEW COMMANDERS. AS WE ALL KNOW THE SAME LEGIONNAIRES THAT HOLD THE POSTS TOGETHER NEVER CHANGE. COMMANDERS, START THE YEAR OFF BY INSPIRING AND MOTIVATING ALL OF YOUR POST MEMBERS TO GET INVOLVED WITH THE RUNNING OF THE POST PROGRAMS AND POST HOME.

START PLANNING NOW FOR YOUR POST LEGIONNAIRE OF THE YEAR PROGRAM. THAT STARTS THE PROCESS FOR OUR COUNTY PROGRAM. THOSE NOMINATED LAST YEAR ARE ELIGIBLE TO BE NOMINATED AGAIN FOR THIS YEAR. THE FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS WILL BE SENT OUT IN OCTOBER.



NASSAU COUNTY INSTALLATION WILLISTON POST



NASSAU COLOR GUARD AT OYSTER BAY

**GI BILL UPDATE 25:** The Department of Veterans Affairs recently announced that the Montgomery GI Bill will soon be increased by 20% — a total increase of nearly \$220 a month increase over last year's rate. The increased full-time student payment rate of \$1,321 multiplied by the 36-month brings the GI Bill total payout to over \$47,500. If you are GI Bill eligible and have benefits remaining, you get this increase no matter when you became eligible or begin using it. This is increase that will help pay college costs until the new GI Bill goes into effect in AUG 09

**VETERANS' BENEFIT EXPIRATION UPDATE 01:** Many of your benefits have an expiration date. Below are a few important federal ones to remember so you don't lose out. Most veterans are not aware, that their benefits can expire. For more detailed information of these programs go to <http://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-benefits/veterans-benefit-expiration-dates> or: [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov):

**Education, Training, and Employment Programs:** 10 years from date of last discharge or release from active duty.

**Veterans Education Assistance Program (VEAP):** 10 years from last discharge or release from active duty.

**Montgomery GI Bill for Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR):** 14 years from the date of eligibility for the program, or until released from the Selected Reserve or National Guard. (Some extensions available if activated.)

**Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP):** No time limit, while remaining in the same level of the Ready Reserve.

**Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VocRehab):** Generally, 12 years of separation from service or within 12 years of being awarded service-connected VA disability compensation.

### **VA Insurance Programs:**

- . Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI): Coverage ends 120 days after separation or Can be extended up to 1 year for totally disabled veterans.
- . Family Group Life Insurance (FGLI): Coverage ends 120 days after separation or Can be extended up to 1 year for totally disabled veterans after separation.
- . Veterans Group Life Insurance (VGLI): Within 120 days of separation.
- . Service Disables Veterans Insurance (SDVI): Within 2 years from the date of being notified of service-connected status.
- . Veterans Mortgage Life Insurance (VMLI): Must apply before age 70

### **Veterans Health Care Administration (VHA) PROGRAMS:**

- . Veterans Health care: No Time Limit
- . Combat Veterans Health Care: 5 years from release from active duty.
- . Dental Treatment: Within 90 days of separation.

### **VA Pension And Compensation Programs:**

- . Disability Compensation: No Time Limit.
- . Disability Pension: No Time Limit.
- . VA Home Loan Guaranty Program: No Time Limit.

[Source: CFVI Newsletter Jun 08 ++]



COMMANDER INSTALLS WANTAGH POST OFFICERS



2ND DIVISION  
COMMANDER JOE  
REALE WITH COUNTY  
TREASURER NED  
JOHNSON



COMMANDER INSTALLS THE ELMONT POST

## BOYS STATE PROGRAM

REGINALD BUTT, JR PCC

This year we sent 38 boys to BOYS' STATE. The boys departed on Saturday 28 June and returned on Thursday 03 July. Nassau County had one boy run for was elected Attorney General of Boys State, the third highest position. All the boys I talked with enjoyed the week, at first they were not sure of the Marines but by the end of the week they liked the Marines. This coming year we will start Boys State preparing for the program in November. I want to thank all the Posts that sponsored a boy or boys, this makes this~ program worthwhile. At the Department Convention it was mentioned that only 5 Counties exceeded their goal, our goal was 30 and we sent 38.1 would also like to thank the Williston Post #144 for hosting the Orientation and allowing the boys to leave from and return to their post.

## "HOMELAND SECURITY"

REGINALD BUTT, JR. PCC CHAIRMAN

When disasters happen volunteers are needed to mobilize other local volunteers and resources. Disaster related volunteer work may include such tasks as damage assessment, food preparation, language interpretation and message delivery. Other tasks run the gamut from cleaning up to entering data to transporting people to answering phones. The last two months the USA has been hit with a lot of disasters, flooding, forest fires, tornados, etc. Volunteers are needed the most when these type disasters hit.

Volunteer the use of the post building in emergency or disaster situations. Get member of the post to attend CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams) training. This training is 20 hours and they must attend all sessions. Local volunteers are necessary for the hardest and longest part of any terrorist attack, or natural disaster, the recovery phase. Local volunteer know how the area was before the attack or disaster and they know the best ways around any blockage of roads or other obstacles. Volunteers should only take on jobs or tasks that they are qualified to do, this way the risk of someone being hurt or worst is minimized.

Remember: "ALWAYS BE ALERT AND IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING".

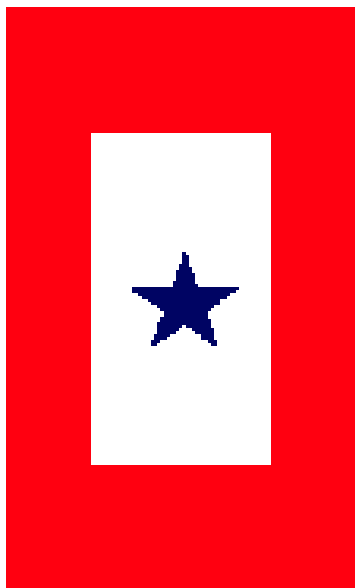
## METS GAME TO HONOR NATIONAL GUARD

Just a quick note about very positive news on our Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> event at Shea Stadium.

Our friends at the Mets have reacted positively to our suggestion to honor the NY National Guard during our pre-game ceremony. The NY National Guard is very excited about this as well and will be producing a video in Afghanistan highlighting their 1,700 soldiers now serving there to present on the NY Mets scoreboard prior to the National Anthem.

We will also have the opportunity to host members of the Fighting 69<sup>th</sup> Regiment from Manhattan which many of you probably know leads the NY St. Patrick's Day parade. The chairman of that annual event, US Army veteran, Mr. John Dunleavy is a new member of the American Legion so we can invite John and his committee to participate.

Just need everyone's help in forming groups by county or region and ordering tickets ASAP to get to our 300 plus goal, tickets are available from: Group orders of 25 or more tickets at \$25 and disabled seating can be obtained by calling Tom Dissette of the Mets' Ticket Dept. at (718) 559-3034. Individual tickets at \$30 can be purchased by contacting David Acocella at [DavidAcocella@Yahoo.com](mailto:DavidAcocella@Yahoo.com) or 914-355-0953. (By August 20<sup>th</sup>)



**USE THE BLUE STAR  
BANNER TO GET  
MEMBERSHIP**

**IT WORKS !**

**SHOW THE FAMILIES  
THAT WE CARE BY  
PRESENTING THEM  
A BLUE STAR BAN-  
NER FOR THEIR  
SON OR DAUGHTER  
IN SERVICE**

# **WE CARE !**

2008 - 2009

**DEPARTMENT COMMANDER**

**Edward Bertrand**



Ed lives in Lake Placid with his wife Terry of 44 years. They have three children Paul, Laura and Tom and now the proud grandfather of nine.

He served on active duty with the US Army from 1963 to 1965 at the US Army Data Systems Command stationed at the Pentagon.

Ed was employed as a Computer Scientist at George Washington University in Washington D.C. before moving to Lake Placid in 1984 where he and Terry own and operate High Peaks Gift Shop.

Ed joined the Lake Placid Post 326 in 1985 and assumed an active leadership role in the committees and as an officer. The Post 326 and Home commitment lead to the involvement and leadership levels in Essex County, The fabulous Fourth District and the Department of New York American Legion.

### STAMPS - EYEGASSES - TABS

**WE HAVE BEEN AT A STANDSTILL  
LATELY ON THIS PROGRAM. PLEASE BRING  
THE ITEMS TO THE COUNTY MEETING .  
YOUR POST WILL BE CREDITED ON THE  
NASSAU COUNTY WEB SITE.**

**WE DISTRIBUTED OVER 180 PAIRS OF  
GLASSES TO OUR HOMELESS VETERANS AT  
THE RECENT STANDOWN IN HEMPSTEAD.**

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

MEMBER  
National American Legion Press Association  
New York State Legion Press Association

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



**MEMBERSHIP IS YOUR JOB !**



DATES TO REMEMBER

2008

- AUG 2 COUNTY SALUTE TO VETERANS AT EISENHOWER PARK  
15 COUNTY MEETINGS -ADVISORY 7 pm -GENERAL 8 pm WILLISTON POST  
19 DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP MEETING AT WILLISTON POST 9 AM.  
22-28 NATIONAL CONVENTION AT PHEONIX AZ.
- SEPT.  
7 VETERANS DAY HONORING THE NATIONAL GUARD AT SHEA STADIUM  
11 PATRIOTS DAY - FLY YOUR FLAG!  
26 COUNTY MEETINGS ADVISORY 7 pm GENERAL 8 pm WILLISTON POST  
27 JR PCC's DINNER AT SEAFORD POST 7-11 PM COST \$35.00



***NASSAULEGION.ORG*** - NASSAU COUNTY WEB SITE  
***NYLEGION.ORG*** - DEPT N.Y. AMERICAN LEGION  
***EALMAN@NASSAU COUNTYNY.GOV*** - SERVICE AGENCY  
***RROBESCH@OPTONLINE.NET*** - COUNTY COMMANDER  
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