



# Nassau County Legionnaire



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## COMMANDERS REPORT

Greetings, The names our posts who had attained 100% membership by the mid-winter conference were submitted to Department. Two of those posts were selected at random to receive an award and a check for \$100 from Department. The two post are: Robert Van Cott Post # 1130 and Joe Murphy Post 1957. Congratulations on your awards and congratulations to all of the posts who are at 100%.

The month was quiet except for the oratorical contests and the mid-winter conference in Albany. Thank you to Levittown Post # 1711, Elmont Post # 1033, Plainview Post 1812 and Glenwood Landing Post # 336 for hosting the preliminaries and county final Oratorical Contests.

### 1ST DIVISION COMMANDER

Gus Lanzo 678-3392

I will be notifying all the Posts in the First Division of the upcoming Caucus date and location.

Please get those renewals in to department as anyone who has not paid their dues yet is now officially dropped from membership.

### 2ND DIVISION COMMANDER

Lincoln Parsons, Commander-378-7607

As of this report, I have visited all posts of those that are visitable. If there are any posts that I have not visit and have meetings, please contact me. Now that the holiday's are all over. It's timeto get back to work on unfinished programs from 2009.

The next meeting of all the 2nd Division willbe held, Date: February 23, 2010 - Time : 8:00 pm Place: Levittown Post 1711 Address: 3123 North Jerusalem Ave, Levittown

If the Commanders can not make the meeting can you send one officer from your post. If no one from your post will be going to the meeting can you please contact me @ 516 378-7607 my home number.

Remember that everyone who has not paid their 2009 dues are delinquent. let's get them to pay their dues.

### THIRD DIVISION COMMANDER

James Barton - 484-4471

The Third Division Caucus has been scheduled for March 31, 2010, Wednesday, at 8 p.m. at the Williston Post # 144. All appropriate correspondence regarding the caucus has been or will be mailed before the end of January.

The County's annual Four Chaplains Service is set for February 7th, and will be held at the U.S.M.M.A. Chapel at 2 pm with a coffee and cake reception to follow at the Academy Museum. A tour of the museum will be available for anyone who is interested. The reception is sponsored by the Charles A Fowler Post.

For your information - WFDU radio station 89.1 airs a Veterans Information program at 8:30 am every Sunday morning. Its very informative, if you're up that early!

As I leave you, think about this- Do draft dodgers have reunions?

## BOYS STATE PROGRAM

REGINALD BUTT, JR. PCC

The County Boys State Chairmen should be encouraging their posts to start planning their program now. Contact the schools, talk with the Guidance Counselors and get the boys ready to be interviewed. Let them know about the program. Once the schools nominate a boy, make sure that the post interviews the boy, do not let the schools conduct the interview.

At the Boys State Executive meeting during the Mid-Winter Conference the following changes to the program were approved. The dates have been changed, the program will be five days instead of six. The new dates are 27 June thru 02 July 2010. The price paid to send a Boy to the program was increased by \$25, raising to \$275 from \$250. These changes were necessary as Boys State had a short fall of \$40,000 last year. A donation was received in the amount of \$10,000, but the increase in fees was still necessary to avoid a short fall this year. The 5 day program will run for at least two years and next year there will be another \$25 raise in fees. This will make our price to raise from \$350 to \$375 to be able to cover the fee to the Department , the bus transportation and the Miscellaneous expenses. Next year the cost will rise to \$400.

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## HOMELAND SECURITY REPORT

REGINALD BUTT, JR. PCC CHAIRMAN

Disaster can strike quickly and without warning. It can force you to evacuate your neighborhood or confine you to your home. What would you do if basic services –water, gas electricity and telephones- were cut off? Local officials and relief workers will be on the scene after a disaster, but they cannot reach everyone right away.

Families can – and do – cope with disaster by preparing in advance and working together as a team. Create a family disaster plan, knowing what to do is your best protection and your responsibility. Meet with your family and discuss why you need to prepare for disaster. Explain the dangers of fire, severe weather and earthquake to children. Plan to share responsibilities and work together as a team.

## (Homeland Security Cont)

Ask an out of state friend to be you family contact. After a disaster, it's often easier to call long distance. Everyone must know your contacts phone number, family members can call and tell them where they are.

Discuss what to do in an evacuation and plan to take care of your pets.

Keep enough emergency supplies in home to meet your need for at least three days. Assemble a disaster kit with items you may need in case of evacuation. A first kit with your family's prescription medications is essential.

Have a complete checklist on of things that need to be done or checked out. Check on neighbors and the elderly to see if they need help. Evacuate immediately if told to do so.

This is just a few things that you can do in any type of emergency and they can be a big help to the emergency crews that will be trying to help you. With all the current disasters around the globe we should make sure we are prepared because it could happen to us.

The saying “IF YOU SEE OR HEAR SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING” still holds true. In the past couple of months there has been numerous incidents at airports. Several security breaches were found because people saw them and reported them. The people causing these incidents have been caught and now face jail time if convicted. In England, for example, a airport in Northern England was shut down due to bad weather. A young man 20 years old was upset and twittered that if they didn't get their act together he was going to blow up the airport. He was arrested and is now facing jail as a terrorists. These type of incidents when seen or hear must be reported, we must always be observant. Terrorism could strike at any time.

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## County Legionnaire Newsletter

If you have a change of address or an Officer changes, please let me know so that I can correct the mailing label for the County Newsleter. Your Commander, Adjutant and County Rep should now be receiving a copy. If not Contact me. Ken C.

## SUPPORT FOR TROOPS ON ACTIVE DUTY

REGINALD BUTT, JR. PCC

Since the County Meeting in December 2009, I shipped out 30 packages and 31 large envelopes (mostly books). I have received several cards thanking the Nassau County American Legion for all the support. I will read only one card which is from a Kimberlee L. Keller of the US Air Force in Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. She was the President of Bagram Airfield Top 3 and the some of the boxes of candy with other items that I sent before Christmas was added to the amount collected, 21,000 pounds from 825 groups, individuals and businesses. I was given two new names for mailing packages and I will be shipping out more during the second and third week in February. If you know someone over in Iraq or Afghanistan please provide me their address.

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## CELL PHONE COLLECTION PROGRAM

REGINALD BUTT, JR. PCC

I shipped out 65 phones right after the start of the New Year, they had a value of \$56.05. I am awaiting receipt of that check. I received a check for \$98.10 which I send to the County Treasurer and asked that it be divided between the Legacy Memorial Scholarship and the NEF. I picked up phones from the Town of Hempstead, and some that were dropped off at my house, these phones plus what I received tonight, will be shipped out early next week. The recycling company has requested that the minimum shipment be 50 cellphones. Keep collecting cell phones and 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, make it worthwhile for me to drive to where ever you may be. Your other option is to drop them off at my home.



Monument to War Dogs at Eisenhower Veterans Plaza

## REHABILITATION SCHEDULE 2010

TEAM #6: FEBRUARY 13.2010

YOUNG SIMMONS #1765  
NORTH BELLMORE #1749  
CATHEDRAL #1087  
ROCKVILLE CENTRE #303  
MANHASSET #304  
AVIATORS #743

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TEAM # 7: MARCH 13, 2010

NEW HYDE PARK ERNIE PYLE #1089  
ANDREW FATSCHER #854  
LYNBROOK #335  
JAMES F. BRENGAL #456  
CHARLES A. FOWLER #160  
WILLISTON #144

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TEAM # 8: APRIL 10, 2010,

MINEOLA MEMORIAL #349  
LEVIT'TOWN #1711  
FRANKLIN SQUARE #1014  
BELLMORE #94  
VICTOR MURTHA #972  
EUGENE S. SMITH #175

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TEAM # 9: MAY 8, 2010

UNIONDALE #1487  
ROBERT VAN COTT #1139  
ROOSEVELT MEMORIAL #1051  
OCEANSIDE MEMORIAL #1246  
WILLIAM BRADFORD TURNER #265  
JOE MURPHY #1957

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Remember your donation of \$50.00 if attending or \$100.00 if not attending. If your Post can't make the date assigned please call me at 435-7066 and let me know.

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NASSAU VOITURE 803 - 40/8  
NURSE'S TRAINING BALL

THE 40/8 NURSE'S TRAINING BALL WILL BE HELD AT THE MALVERNE POST 44 ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH.

SIX NURSE'S WILL RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS FROM THE VOITURE THIS YEAR.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SUPPORTED OUR JOURNAL FOR THIS GREAT PROJECT.

## ORATORICAL REPORT

The Nassau County Finals for the County Oratorical program were held at the Glenwood Landing Post #336 on the 9th of January, with the 1st place winner coming from Hicksville High School and the 2nd place winner coming from Holy Trinity High School. This years finals contestants were all excellent and the judges spent an extended amount of time to finally decide on the placement of the contestants.

This year we had a greater number of students participate in this years contest and I would like to thank all of the Posts for getting the information out to all the schools in their areas. I would also like to thank the following for their generous assistance during the contests held this year:

Bill Davison, PDC, Art Swanson, PDC, Reggie Butt, Jr., PCC, Bill Ost, PCC, Bob Rheal, PCC, Rich Hochbrueckner, PCC, Joe Oliveri, Linda Pettrizzi, and Andy Booth. Finally I would like to once again thank the Posts, that opened their doors and hosted the contests: Elmont Post #1033, Plainview Post #1812, Levittown Post #1711, and Glenwood Landing Post #336. Thank you one and all for making this successful program!!  
William G. Harms  
Oratorical Chairman

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### Scouting Awards

Charles G. Mills, Chairman

Eagle Scout of the Year: Open to any TRC Eagle Scout who has will not have attained the age of 19 by March 31, 2010.

Boy Scout of the Year: Open to any TRC Boy Scout who will not have attained the age of 16 by March 31, 2010.

Cub Scout of the Year: Open to all cub scouts.

The Eileen Ferguson Award: Open to all TRC Sea Scouts, Venturers, Explorers, or members of special needs troops and packs.

Scoutreach Award: Open to all TRC Scoutreach cubs and scouts.

Leader Award: Open to all TRC Boy Scouts of

Troop of the Year: Open to any TRC troop.

Pack of the Year: open to any TRC pack.

All nominations must be sent to Charles G. Mills, 56 School Street, Glen Cove, New York 11542 (fax 516-759-4329) and received by March 15, 2010.

They should be in black ink on white 8-1/2" by 11" paper and include the name and address of the nominee and the unit leader. The date of birth (in the case of individuals) and all scouting affiliations of the nominee must be included. All details of the reason the nominee deserves the award must be included.

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### VA TO EXTEND MORE BENEFITS TO VETERANS AFFECTED BY AGENT ORANGE

On October 13, 2009, the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced his intent to establish presumption of service connection for three additional illnesses associated with Agent Orange exposure. Resulting from studies conducted by the Institute of Medicine (IOM), part of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), the illnesses recognized to be added to the list of presumed illnesses are, B cell leukemia, such as hairy cell leukemia; Parkinson's disease, and Ischemic Heart Disease (IHD).

B-cell leukemia describes several different types of lymphoid leukemia which affect B cells. B-Cell Lymphoma occurs when B-Cells mutate and become cancerous. Subsequently, as the cancerous B-Cells clone themselves, the cancer proliferates.

Parkinson's disease is a neurological syndrome usually resulting from deficiency of the neurotransmitter dopamine characterized by rhythmical muscular tremors. In the United States, at least 500,000 people are believed to suffer from Parkinson's disease, and about 50,000 new cases are reported annually.

IHD, also known as coronary artery disease (CAD), is the lack of blood supply to the heart muscle caused by coronary artery disease and heart attacks. Its risk increases with age, smoking, high cholesterol, diabetes, and hypertension. IHD is the leading cause of death in the United States for both men and women.  
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The next step in the process is for VA to publish a proposed implementing regulation in the Federal Register. There will be a 60 day public comment period following publication of the proposed regulation. A final regulation will be published in the Federal Register once VA has considered all public comments.

38 U.S.C. § 1116(c)(1) states that the VA should adhere to the following timeline when promulgating regulations to implement presumptive service connection for agent orange-related diseases:

A. Not later than 60 days after the date on which the Secretary receives a report from the National Academy of Sciences, the Secretary shall determine whether a presumption of service connection is warranted for each disease covered by the report.

In this case, the Secretary determined that presumptive service connection was warranted for Parkinson's disease, ischemic heart disease and B cell leukemia on October 13, 2009.

B. If the Secretary determines that a presumption is warranted, the Secretary, not later than 60 days after making the determination, shall issue proposed regulations setting forth the Secretary's determination.

If VA adheres to this requirement, they must issue proposed regulations by Saturday, December 12, 2009.

C. Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Secretary issues any proposed regulations, the Secretary shall issue final regulations. Such regulations shall be effective on the date of issuance.

However, in *Liesegang v. Secretary of Veterans Affairs*, 312 F.3d 1368, 1378 (Fed. Cir. 2002),

the Court indicated that there is no harmful error if the VA misses the specific deadlines under § 1116 (c)(1), as long as final regulations are issued within 210 days of the date the VA receives a report from the National Academy of Sciences.

The most recent National Academies, Institute of Medicine Report, *Veterans and Agent Orange: Update 2008*, was released on July 24, 2009. Presuming that this is the date the VA "received" the

report, the final regulations are required to be published no later than February 19, 2010, pursuant to *Liesegang*.

The American Legion remains concerned that the Secretary has yet to comment on another condition, hypertension, noted by the IOM in both their 2006 and 2008 reports. Hypertension is a condition which leads to other serious medical conditions. The IOM concluded two years ago that there is limited or suggestive evidence of an association between hypertension and herbicide exposure, which is the same category that ischemic heart disease and Parkinson's disease. As of this writing, it has been over two and a half years and the VA remains silent on this medical condition.

As of this time, VA has yet to make a determination as to the disposition of claims presently within the system that may be affected by this proposed regulation. It is possible that a stay may be issued on the affected claims until a final regulation affecting them is published. Service Officers can best serve their veterans by ensuring that claims still in the system that relate to these issues are preserved in the system, and should exhaust any appeal or reconsideration measures available to them. In the case of veterans who have not filed a claim relating to these conditions, they should be advised to file now to preserve the earliest possible effective date, rather than waiting to determine the outcome of the final rule, as this could represent potentially several months of accrued benefits.

Any question about this regulation or new guidance should be directed to your local accredited service officer (normally at your County Veterans Service Agency or Department).

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**CHAPLAINS REPORT**  
**BOB PACHAS, CHAPLAIN**

It was good to see Pete Holowecki at the County Meeting, Welcome Back !

PCC Bob Reahl is at home recuperating from eye surgery. Give him a call.

If you hear of a sick or hospitalized member, please let me know.

## HISTORIAN REPORT

JAMES T. RANDLE

To all Post's Historians:

The Legion year is half over. I hope the Post Historian is putting together their Post Narrative or Scrapbook or Pictorial History. The current Officer's Guide, contains the basic instructions for a Post Historian in compiling a post history. Call me I can help or if there is any questions. I can send you a copy of the guide. The books are to be from May 2009 through April 2010. I have set a date for receiving the books at the County Meeting Friday May 21. Your post book will be judged and Awards will be given out at the County Convention in Friday June 4 with the winning book to go to Department Convention in July.

Address: 106 Rose lane  
New Hyde Park N.Y. 10040  
516 270-3876

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## PUBLIC RELATIONS

James T. Randle - CHAIRMAN

## THE COUNTY NEWSLETTERS CONTEST

To the Post's of Nassau. County and Historian's of that post or The Public Relations person; There is a Newsletters Contest; to enter submit three Newsletters, the best ones from June 2009 to March 2010; any three that explores the Public Relations of your Post. Submit them in a yellow folder, and put the Post Name and the Editor of the Newsletter. Send it to the County Meeting by April 23 with your Post County Rep. they will be judged and Awards will be given out at the County Convention June 4-5. You can call me for help @ 516 270-3876  
Address: 106Rose Land,  
New Hyde Park N.Y. 11040

## NATIONAL CEMETERY REPORT

Ken Cadieux, Chairman

At the L.I. National Cemetery in Farmingdale we have struck a bargain with the Arborist Association of L.I. to trim and prune all the trees in the Cemetery at no cost to us for the work. About 70 Companies will send their men and equipment to the Cemetery on Arbor day to do the work.

We are to supply them with a long sleeved shirt embroidered with their emblem, a light breakfast and a barbecue luncheon. We have estimated the cost to be around \$4,000.00 It is well worth the cost as it would cost from \$150,000,00 to \$200,000.00 to have this work done if we had to pay.

We are in dire need of support funds to have this project become a success. Forms were distributed to all posts at the County Meeting in January. All donations will be acknowledged with a receipt and all monies collected will be used for Long Island National Cemetery in Farmingdale only.

Make all checks payable to LINCMO, Inc and mail to me:  
Ken Cadieux  
121 Powell Avenue,  
Rockville Cemtre, N.Y. 11570

We thank all the Post's for their continued support for the finest National Cemetery in the system. We are very proud of the efforts made by all veteran's organizations to make sure that our honored dead have a final resting place that honors and remembers all our Military personnel & their families.

## MEMBERSHIP

Joseph Reale, Membership Officer

The new TOP 10 Membership Award was unveiled at the Mid-Winter Conference in Albany in January.

Any member who signs up 10 new or delinquent members (2008) or later will be recognized for their achievement on a plaque for each Post, with their name and the year in which they accomplished this outstanding support of our membership program.

This will be a yearly award and every Legion member will have the same opportunity to be a recipient of this Top 10 Membership Award.

And the particulars and the incentives are listed below. -

- I. This years time frame: From January 25th till Convention call in June (date to be announced)
2. Recruit 10 new or delinquent members (2008) or later. And save copies of the Membership application for your records
3. With each transmittal, have a separate list of the new members and the members name who recruited them. (For Cassi's records.)
4. Have them into Department by Convention Call in June.
5. The number one Post with the most Top 10 recruiters will be recognized at the Department Convention in July.
6. All Post with Top 10 recruiters will receive a Plaque for their Post with the names of the recipients with proper recognition.

Tools that are at your disposal, can be received from Cassi, at Department Headquarters and information may be requested of all Area Coordinators.

- Delinquent membership list dated back into the nineties.
- DMS list by zip codes for your areas.

- Pamphlets and brochures on legion benefits for the new members.

- Membership applications and any other support information to assist you.

Legionnaires, our goal, is to be the best that we can be in Membership in the National Organization.

Our Founding Father's devised and organization to assist our Disabled Veterans, their widows and orphans, and to help all of our Veterans and their families.

Our Job is to see that this continues for all generations of Veterans in the future.

We will accept nothing less, than the Best for our Veterans. Numbers count! Sign up those new members today and be a part of the winning team,

“The Department of New York American Legion!”

For the Good of the American Legion; and May God Bless our Veterans and us all!

**W. Michael “Mick” Bowen,  
Department Membership Chairman**

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## AID AND ATTENDANCE

VA offers a special pension known as Aid & Attendance (A&A) that is largely unknown. This pension allows for veterans and surviving spouses who require the regular attendance of another person to assist in eating, bathing, dressing or taking care of the needs of nature to receive additional monetary benefits. It also covers blind or patients in a home, nursing home, or assisted living facility who qualify due to mental and physical incapacities. A veteran is eligible for up to \$1,554 per month, while a surviving spouse is eligible for up to \$998 per month. A couple is entitled for up to \$1,842 per month. This pension benefit is not dependent on service-related injuries for compensation.

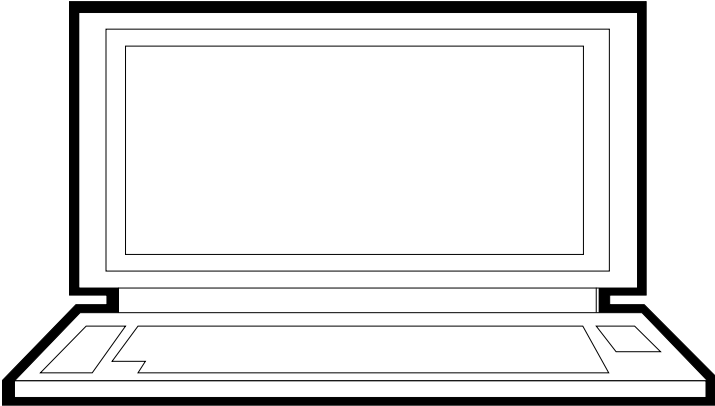
A&A Benefit is the third tier of a VA program called Improved Pension. The other two tiers are basic & housebound. Each tier has its own level of benefits & qualifications. If needed, you are encouraged to contact VA to get more information on this program, its levels of benefits & the qualifications for each. Any wartime veteran with 90 days of active duty, even with only one day during a period of war, is eligible to apply for A&A. A surviving spouse of a wartime veteran may also apply, if the marriage ended due to the death of a veteran. The individual applying must qualify both medically & financially. Eligibility must be proven by filing the proper VA application for Pension or Compensation that requires a copy of DD-214 or separation papers, medical evaluation from a physician, current medical issues, net worth limitations, & net income, along with out-of-pocket medical expenses. To qualify, an applicant must have less than \$80,000.00 in assets excluding their home & vehicles.

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



**DATES TO REMEMBER**

- Feb 12 **Lincolns Birthday - Fly Your Flag !**  
13 **Team #6 Northport Rehab Visit**  
15 **Presidents Day - Fly Your Flag !**  
20 **Military Ball / Post Commanders Night - Stuart Thomas Manor Farmingdale 5 - 11 P.M.**  
22 **Washingtons Birthday - Fly Your Flag !**  
23 **2nd Division Caucus - Levittown Post 1711 3123 N. Jerusalem Ave, Levittown**  
26 **County Meetings at Plainview Post**  
**7 pm Staff Meeting, 7:15 pm, Advisory Meeting, 8 pm County General Meeting.**
- Mar 13 **Team # 7 Northport Rehab Visit**  
14 **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS**  
17 **Happy St Patricks Day !**  
20 **Spring Begins**  
26 **County Meetings at Plainview Post**  
**7 pm Staff Meeting, 7:15 pm, Advisory Meeting, 8 pm County General Meeting.**  
28 **Palm Sunday**  
30 **Passover**  
31 **3rd Division Caucus - Williston Post 144 8 PM**
- Apr 2 **Good Friday**  
4 **Happy Easter**  
10 **Team # 8 Northpost Rehab Visit**  
23 **County Meetings at Plainview Post**  
**7 pm Staff Meeting, 7:15 pm, Advisory Meeting, 8 pm County General Meeting.**