



Jul-Sep 2020

LI 202 AFA news

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Visit us on the WEB:

LIAFA.ORG

Visit us on FACEBOOK:

Long Island Air Force Association—LIAFA

Email us at: LIAFA202@gmail.com

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CALENDAR OF LIAFA EVENTS 2020

Vietnam Medal Ceremonies:

There are no further Vietnam medal ceremonies scheduled for the remainder of 2020 due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

Annual Pearl Harbor Memorial Ceremony—Dropping of the Roses:

Mon, Dec. 7, 2020

American Airpower Museum
Farmingdale
10:30 AM

*** Attendance at this year's Pearl Harbor ceremony will likely be restricted and may be live-streamed. Please go to our Facebook page or to our website at liafa.org for more information as we get closer to the event date.

President's Message

Although we've had to cancel several of our Vietnam Medal Ceremonies over the past few months due to COVID-19 and may have to do so again, we're still accepting applications from any current Long Island Vietnam veterans who wish to receive a Vietnam 50th Anniversary Commemorative Medal at one of our upcoming ceremonies. To date we have held 32 Vietnam 50th Anniversary Commemorative Medal Ceremonies and have presented medals to almost 1,000 veterans.

The requirements are:

- Served in the Vietnam theater of operations in any branch of the military as per DD Form 214
- Currently living in Nassau, Suffolk, Brooklyn, Queens or Staten Island
- Can attend the ceremony (medals are presented **only** at the ceremony; they are not mailed)

You will find a medal application at the end of this newsletter. Please feel free to use it to apply for a medal yourself, or to give it to a qualified friend or family member who would be interested in applying. You can also download an application from our website at LIAFA.org.

Please note that, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, some events may have to be curtailed or canceled. Please look to the LIAFA Facebook page and our website at liafa.org for future notices regarding upcoming events.

Be sure to practice social distancing and wear a mask when going to a store, meeting or restaurant, which will help to protect not only you but also others with whom you may come in contact. Let's be safe out there!

POW/MIA Ceremony

A curtailed annual POW/MIA ceremony was held at Veterans Plaza at Eisenhower Park on September 18 shortly before and during sunset. Attendance was limited to 40 people mostly consisting of representatives from various veteran groups. Nassau County Executive Laura Curran was in attendance as well as Ralph Esposito and Paul Vista from the Nassau County Veterans Service Agency.

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Normally at this time, we would be reporting on the annual Shootout for Soldiers Lacrosse tournament and the attendant Vietnam Medal Ceremony. Unfortunately, as was mentioned in last quarter's newsletter, the event was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We eagerly look forward to next year with the hope that the virus situation will have improved sufficiently so that the tournament may once again take place.

Long Island Chapter 202 of the Air Force Association is proud and grateful to be one of three local charity beneficiaries that share in a portion of the net proceeds (after expenses) raised from this event.

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Other Upcoming Events, Meetings and Programs

We strongly recommend calling or emailing the appropriate organization for any events that are listed below to make sure that they have not been canceled, restricted or postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as many of them have been.

Veterans Annual Winter Stand Down

At the moment, it is scheduled to take place at the Freeport Armory (63 Babylon Turnpike, Freeport) on November 24 from 10 AM to 2 PM. The Winter Stand Down will be very different due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Only select organizations will be asked to participate due to building capacity issues with state and local regulations. Only five people at a time will be admitted to the building and the only items distributed will be boots, jackets, underwear, undershirts and food packages. Please monitor the Nassau County Veterans Service Agency website for further developments, including possible postponement or cancellation: <https://www.nassaucountyny.gov/1945/Veterans-Service-Agency>

Military Appreciation Tuesdays by Long Island Cares

Every Tuesday from 9 AM to 5 PM at their Huntington Station, Freeport and Lindenhurst locations. This is a chance for veterans and their families to access food, personal care items, household products and pet food (also school supplies when available). There is also a mobile food pantry for disabled vets. For more information, please call (631) 582-3663, visit their Facebook page or go to their website LICares.org.

General Needs Ltd.

Located in East Northport, this is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that distributes NEW clothing as well as personal items such as toiletries to needy veterans on a monthly basis. If you would like to donate, volunteer, sponsor a distribution or if your business or organization would like to assist General Needs (or if you would just like more information), please call them at (631) 266-1672 or email them at Info@GeneralNeeds.org. You can also visit their website at www.GeneralNeeds.org or go to their Facebook page to see any upcoming events.

VetsWork by Long Island Cares

This program provides help for veterans seeking employment by assisting with creating a resume, writing a cover letter, learning interview skills and more. They also offer online courses, seminars and exercises that help veterans handle career adjustment issues. For more information, please call Fern Summer at (631) 824-6385 (email at fsummer@licares.org) or Michael Haynes at (631) 824-6386. Their website is www.vetswork.org.

Joseph P. Dwyer Veterans Peer Support Project

A joint initiative of the Suffolk County United Veterans and the Suffolk County Veterans Service Agency, it serves veterans, service members and their families with post-service transitional issues such as PTSD and traumatic brain injury; a diagnosis is NOT required for attendance. All groups are confidential and anonymous. Weekly group meetings are held in Amityville (Mondays), Bay Shore, Yaphank, Sag Harbor (Tuesdays), East Patchogue, Riverhead, Patchogue (Wednesdays), and Mount Sinai (Thursdays). Snacks and light refreshments are served at all meetings. They also provide services to student veterans at numerous Long Island college campuses and monthly community outreach in Sachem, Huntington Station, and Patchogue. For more information and exact meeting locations, please call (631) 853-8345, send an email to vetspeertopeer@suffolkcountyny.gov or go to mhaw.org/dwyer/programs-services/peer-support-groups. They also have a Facebook page.

Nassau County Joseph P. Dwyer Vet2Vet Peer Networking Groups

Vet2Vet consists of small groups of veterans who meet weekly to share knowledge, provide mutual support and share resources. Confidential and open to all veterans regardless of discharge status. Free to attend; no pre-registration is required. Meetings are at: Mental Health Association, 16 Main St. in Hempstead at 5:15 PM on Mondays and 6:30 PM on Wednesdays; Levittown Public Library, 1 Bluegrass Lane in Levittown at 2 PM on Thursdays (biweekly); First Presbyterian Church, 178 S. Ocean Ave. in Freeport at 6:30 PM on Thursdays. There are also spouse/partner meetings at 6:30 PM on Tuesdays and women-only meetings at 6:30 PM on Wednesdays, both at Mental Health Association, 16 Main St. in Hempstead. No pre-registration is necessary. For more information, please contact Brent Russell at (516) 489-2322, ext. 1213 or email at brussell@mhanc.org; Audrey Lewis at (516) 489-2322, ext. 1260 or email at alewis@mhanc.org. Also check out their website: veteranshealthalliance.org.

Veterans Defense Program

Justice-involved veterans often do not have the funds to hire an attorney and are represented by public defenders. Public defense attorneys are rarely trained to adequately represent veterans who suffer from the invisible wounds of war or to translate the combat experience of their clients to explain resulting criminal behavior. This program provides training, support and legal assistance to promote trauma-informed effective representation of veterans and service members. The Veteran Defense Program (VDP) is a project of the New York State Defenders Association (NYSDA), a statewide nonprofit organization working to improve the quality and scope of publicly-supported legal representation for people who cannot afford a lawyer. For information and assistance, please call Director Gary A. Horton at (585) 219-4862 or email him at ghorton@nysda.org.

Donate a Bicycle to Beacon House to Help a Veteran

Beacon House provides housing in 42 locations throughout Nassau and Suffolk counties. On any given day, over 255 men, women and children from the tri-state area benefit from programs that address homelessness, physical disabilities, PTSD, TBI, mental health issues and addiction. Non-veterans, too, have access to housing, drug/alcohol addiction services and job skills/readiness development programs. Contact Ed Aulman at mardiv1@optonline.net or call him at (516) 921-0595. A charitable donation receipt will be provided by Beacon House.

Veterans News UVO Long Island is looking for volunteers to act as crew members for its weekly show on public access TV. The show airs on Cablevision channel 20 on Tuesdays at 6:30 PM and on channel 115 on Thursdays at 3:30 PM or any time on YouTube by entering *Veterans News UVO*. The crew meets at the Cablevision Studio in Hauppauge to tape the program, usually on the last Tuesday of each month at 1 PM. Please contact Ed Aulman at mardiv1@optonline.net or call him at (516) 921-0595.

Community Food Distribution by Island Harvest and Wells Fargo

October 10, 17 and 24 from 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM at Wells Fargo Bank, 145 Fulton Ave., Hempstead. You can drive up and volunteers will place the food in your car's trunk. Pedestrians are also welcome. If you have any questions, please call Karen at Island Harvest at (631) 873-4775.

New Website for Veterans

We-Are-Vets.us is a local Long Island website presenting a mix of information, history and memories for active duty troops, veterans and interested civilians. Eric Spinner is the webmaster while Gary Glick, Marvin Gold, Pat Yngstrom, Paul Grieco and Jack Holzman make up the rest of the team. Check it out!

***** Parade Commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the Ending of World War II *****

The Village of Lynbrook will be hosting the parade. ***Please see the following page for details.***

Novelty War Bonds to help cover the parade expenses can be bought through the village's website www.lynbrookvillage.net/announcements/75th-anniversary-world-war-ii-parade/ (click on the red button at the bottom of the page) in the name of a family member or in honor of someone who served. The war bonds will be offered in the following denominations:

Victory Bond (\$20), Liberty Bond (\$100), Freedom Bond (\$500), Constitution Bond (\$1,000) and Peace Bond (\$5,000) (**Disclaimer—these are DONATIONS, not actual investment bonds**).

All bonds purchased will be recognized online and at Greis Park, which will serve as the parade's final stop. After all parade-related expenses are paid, the remaining funds will be forwarded to the United Veterans Organization (UVO) to administer an endowment to aid homeless veterans.

ALL VETERANS WANTED

INTRA-MUNICIPAL PARADE COMMEMORATING THE

75TH

ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENDING OF WWII

STEP OFF AT
10:00AM
11/7/2020
(RAIN OR SHINE)

*** Attendees are
expected to wear masks
and social distance ***

All are welcome to celebrate with our Veterans in this once in a lifetime event. A guest speaker will be present at closing ceremonies and Veterans' services will be available.

ARMORED VEHICLES

WWII RE-ENACTORS

LOCAL MARCHING BANDS

CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS

**FLOATS DEPICTING ICONIC
MOMENTS OF WWII**

**WWII MEMORABILIA
DISPLAY AT GREIS PARK**

FOOD AND ENTERTAINMENT

**NOVELTY "WAR BONDS" ARE
AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT
LYNBROOKVILLAGE.NET**

All Bonds purchased would be recognized on-line, as well as, at Greis Park, where the parade will terminate. After expenses (i.e. any transportation, printing, food, or web site administration costs) all remaining monies will be forwarded to the United Veterans' Organization (UVO) to administer an endowment for disbursement to aid the homeless veterans.

Parade Route: Commencing on Merrick Road in Lynbrook from Ocean Avenue, heading west, turning left on Horton Avenue, ending in Greis Park.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: 516-599-8300 ex.201
Or at lynbrookvillage.net

Convair B-58 Hustler



B-58A Hustler—Official US Air Force photo

If you've ever seen the 1964 Cold War thriller *Fail Safe*, then you've seen the B-58, the first operational bomber capable of Mach 2 flight. Developed during the 1950s to replace the Boeing B-47 Stratojet in the strategic bomber role, the B-58 entered service with SAC (Strategic Air Command) in March 1960. Its design was unusual-looking for a bomber of the period, based as it was around a large delta wing with four General Electric J79-GE-1 turbojet engines carried in underwing pods. There was no bomb bay; the first models carried a single nuclear weapon plus fuel in a large pod underneath the fuselage. On later models, four external hardpoints were added to carry an additional four bombs.

The plane took a crew of three including the pilot, bombardier/navigator and defensive systems operator with each seated in separated tandem cockpits. Later versions of the B-58 came equipped with a novel ejection capsule that could eject at 70,000 feet at speeds up to Mach 2; a protective clamshell would totally enclose the seat and it was even buoyant so it could serve as a lifeboat. The only defensive weapon was a single tail-mounted radar-aimed 20 mm cannon with 1200 rounds of ammunition. The B-58 was also one of the first planes to incorporate aluminum honeycomb panels in its construction.

It was originally conceived as a high-speed, high-altitude bomber designed to avoid Soviet interceptors. When the later introduction by the Soviets of high-altitude surface-to-air missiles made this mission extremely perilous, the B-58's role was changed to achieve low-level-penetration, which severely limited its range (which was not great to begin with) and its speed. The performance of the B-58 was exceptional, but it was a difficult plane to fly, largely due to the large delta wing as well as a tendency for the fuel in the pod to move around during flight and suddenly change the aircraft's center of gravity. In addition, it was a complex aircraft that required considerable maintenance with specialized equipment and was also expensive to operate. The B-58 also had a high accident rate—

26 of them were lost in accidents, 22.4% of total production. General Curtis LeMay was never satisfied with the bomber and after having flown in one, declared that it was too small, too expensive to maintain and required an excessive number of aerial refuelings to complete a mission. In 1965, Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara ordered that the B-58 be retired by 1970 due mainly to the high sustainment cost for the fleet. The B-58 was retired by January 1970 and was replaced by the General Dynamics F-111 Aardvark, which had entered service in 1967 and was able to perform the low-level mission less expensively and with the added flexibility of being able to deploy with conventional weapons.

During its rather short ten-year service life, the B-58 set 19 world speed records, including the longest supersonic flight in history in 1963 when it flew 8,028 miles from Tokyo to London (via Alaska) with five aerial refuelings in 8 hours, 35 minutes and 20.4 seconds, averaging 938 MPH. The name of the plane was *Greased Lightning*. Since B-58 pilots were the only USAF pilots experienced in long-duration supersonic flight, several former Hustler crew members were selected to fly the Lockheed SR-71 Blackbird at the start of that program.

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Did you know . . .

John Denver's father, LtCol Henry J. Deutschendorf, Sr., held several speed records as a B-58 pilot.

The Pentagon, unlike many other distinguished buildings, contains no marble. Italy is the world's main source of marble. Since the Pentagon was built during World War II and Italy was then one of the Axis powers, the USA had no access to this raw material.

The US Army is actually older than the USA itself. Prior to the Declaration of Independence and the ensuing conflict with Great Britain, the Massachusetts Provincial Congress called for an organized colonial army of 26 regiments. This authorization would be further ratified by the Second Continental Congress on June 14, 1775, which is celebrated as the birthdate of the US armed forces.

Ray-Ban sunglasses originated with a request to Bausch & Lomb in 1929 by US Army Air Corps Colonel John Macready to create aviation sunglasses that would reduce glare and fogging-up, which was a problem with the goggles then being used by pilots. The prototype was created in 1936 and further refined with impact-resistant lenses and metal frames. The end result was the Ray-Ban Aviator, which was patented in 1939.

Taps



George W. Biggs, a member of the famed Tuskegee Airmen, died at a senior care facility in Tucson, AZ on September 19 at age 95; no cause of death was given. He enlisted in 1943 at the age of 18 and was trained as a navigator. He also flew B-47 and B-52 bombers in the Korean and Vietnam wars while earning numerous military honors.

Vincent P. Greco, World War II Army veteran and member of Freeport American Legion William Clinton Story Post 342, died on July 20 at the age of 95.

Winston Groom, author of the novel *Forrest Gump*, died at his home in Fairhope, AL of a suspected heart attack on September 17 at the age of 77. Groom had served with the Army's Fourth Infantry Division from 1965 to 1969, which included a tour in Vietnam, one of the settings for the novel. The book spawned a 1994 movie of the same name starring Tom Hanks, Sally Field and Gary Sinise, which earned him widespread fame.

Cecil "Steve" Stibbens, Marine gunnery sergeant who was the first *Stars and Stripes* reporter sent to cover the Vietnam War, died in Dallas, TX on September 19 at age 84. Stibbens was awarded a Bronze Star with "V" device for his work with *Stars and Stripes* and was named Military Photographer of the Year for both 1963 and 1964.



THE LONG ISLAND AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION (LIAFA)

A Department of Defense (DOD) Vietnam 50th Anniversary
Commemorative Sponsor

LIAFA proudly presents the Vietnam 50th Anniversary
Commemorative Medal to thank and honor Vietnam War
veterans and their families for their commitment and service.
(Awarded to living Long Island Vietnam Vets of all services)



COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL APPLICATION

Name _____

Phone # _____ Cell # _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

Branch of Service _____ Rank/Grade _____

Vietnam service dates _____

Units assigned and location during war _____

Please send a copy of your DD-214 (block out your Social Security Number) and
this application to:

Fred DiFabio, President
67 Pacific Dunes Ct.
Medford, NY 11763



For information call:
631-754-6383

- Visit our web page at LIAFA.ORG to view a video of the ceremony.
- Attendance is **FREE**. Bring your family, friends and neighbors.
- You will be contacted to schedule you for one of our upcoming ceremonies upon receipt of your application.