



LI 202 AFA news

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CALENDAR OF LIAFA EVENTS 2026

Vietnam Medal Ceremonies

Wed, Jul 8, 2026

During Shootout for Soldiers
Town of Oyster Bay Field of Dreams
5619 Old Sunrise Highway
Massapequa
5 PM

Women's Military Service Medal Ceremonies

Sat, May 2, 2026

Cradle of Aviation Museum
Charles Lindbergh Blvd
Garden City
11:30 AM

85th Anniversary Annual Pearl Harbor Memorial Ceremony— Dropping of the Roses

Mon, Dec 7, 2026

American Airpower Museum
1230 New Highway
Farmingdale
10:30 AM

President's Message

We are still accepting applications for both the Vietnam 50th Anniversary Commemorative Medal as well as the Women's Military Service Medal. Please see toward the end of this newsletter for applications as well as the requirements for each medal.

As of March 31, we have 893 chapter members.

This newsletter's emailing list is based upon the AFA National online chapter roster, which is not open to the general public.

Of the 893 chapter members as of March 31, we have email addresses for only 575 members and 48 of those email addresses are invalid.

Membership is up due to the recent inclusion of Mission Members. Mission Membership is AFA's free, digital-only membership tier designed to bring more Airmen, Guardians, families, and supporters into the AFA community. It includes essential access to news, events, and mission updates.

Therefore, if you change your email address or have never supplied AFA National with your email address, please log into your account on afa.org, click on *My Account* and enter that information into your profile. Doing so enables us to email you our quarterly newsletter after the end of each calendar quarter.

Recent Events

Veteran Resource Fair—Suffolk County

Hosted by the Economic Opportunity Council of Suffolk, Inc. – Supportive Services for Veterans Families and Blue Point Brewing Co. on **January 27** at the Blue Point Brewpub at 225 West Main St. in Patchogue, this event featured food distribution provided by Long Island Cares and Island Harvest, housing support, mental health services and community support resources from local veteran-focused organizations.



PSEG volunteer passing out food to a veteran

Photo credit: PSEG's Mark Gross' Instagram page

Vietnam War Medal of Honor Recipient from Riverhead Honored with Film

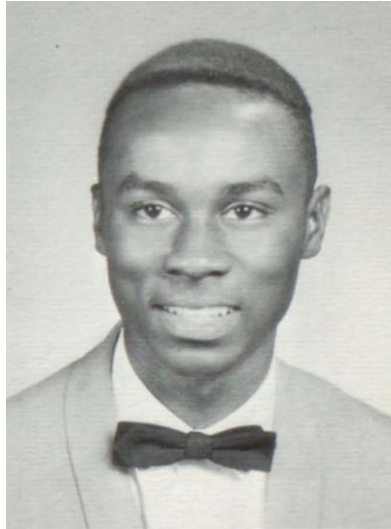
From the vietnamveterannews.com website about the **JANUARY 29** screening of the documentary:

The featured story is titled: ***Film about Riverhead Medal of Honor recipient Garfield Langhorn Jr. premieres at The Suffolk.*** It appeared on the **Riverhead Local** website and was submitted by **Denise Civiletti**.

Civiletti reported that sixth grade students at Pulaski Street Intermediate School took part in a powerful and emotional learning experience with the first-ever screening of a documentary honoring PFC Garfield M. Langhorn Jr., Riverhead's only Medal of Honor recipient and Suffolk County's sole Vietnam War Medal of Honor honoree. The Suffolk Theater was filled to capacity with students, educators, and more than 30 members of the Vietnam Veterans of America, whose presence underscored the enduring bravery and sacrifice of those who served in Vietnam.

The documentary, produced by the Suffolk County chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America, traces Langhorn's life, character, and ultimate act of heroism. Vietnam veteran Clarence Simpson narrated

portions of the film, reading from official Department of Defense records and Langhorn's Medal of Honor citation, bringing firsthand gravity and respect to the story. The film includes a haunting real audio transmission recorded moments before Langhorn sacrificed his life during a fierce ambush in Vietnam in January 1969, when he jumped on a live grenade to save wounded comrades.



Garfield M. Langhorn, Jr., Riverhead High School, 1967 yearbook photo
Photo credit: Vietnamveterannews.com website

Joseph Austin of Freeport Turns 100

On his 100th birthday, **Tuesday, March 3**, at the Bayview restaurant on Freeport's Nautical Mile, Joseph Austin celebrated the occasion surrounded by his wife of 70 years, Marilyn, their four children, and friends.

Freeport Mayor Robert Kennedy and the Village of Freeport presented Austin with a special citation and held a procession of local fire and police department vehicles to honor his milestone birthday.

He has led an extraordinary life, having worked as a lab technician with renowned scientist Jonas Salk, who invented the first successful polio vaccine in 1955. He was also:

- A Tuskegee Airman trainee (an unfortunate crash took him out of the program) who served during the Korean War,
- An electrical engineer at Grumman, where he helped develop the Lunar Excursion Module (LEM) used to carry the Apollo 11 astronauts to the moon in 1969.
- During his more than 30-year career at Grumman, he also helped develop the Navy's F-14 Tomcat jet fighter.
- As an older adult, he contributed positively to the Freeport community, teaching typing classes and coaching Little League for many years.
- A long-term member of and a lecturer for the Nassau Mineral Club.

Austin now channels his love of minerals and engineering through making hundreds of pieces of jewelry from semi-precious stones, which he gives to his family and friends.



Longtime Freeport resident Joseph Austin celebrated 100 years of life with his wife, Marilyn, and their children on March 3.

Photo credit: Village of Freeport

Upcoming Non-LIAFA Events

Welcome Home Honor Flight Long Island Veterans

SATURDAY, MAY 2, WITH A SUGGESTED ONE-HOUR EARLY ARRIVAL TIME OF 10:20 PM at Long Island MacArthur Airport in Ronkonkoma. The return flight from Washington, D.C. is due to land at MacArthur at **11:20 PM**. Please come and give our veterans a well-deserved “WELCOME HOME” after their special day visiting the WWII, Korean and Vietnam Memorials and Arlington National Cemetery. Everyone wishing to attend is advised to visit the Southwest Airlines website at <https://www.southwest.com/air/flight-status/> for any possible delay notifications for SW flight #3161.

Veterans Stand Down

FRIDAY, MAY 8, 9 AM–1 PM at the Butler Building (across from the Cradle of Aviation Museum) at Mitchel Field, 1 Charles Lindbergh Blvd. in Garden City. Hosted by the Nassau County Veterans Service Agency, the stand down will offer veterans the opportunity to get informed about veterans benefits, housing, employment and community resources that are available from governmental and other veteran support organizations. Veterans will need to bring proper identification for the event and are encouraged to also bring a copy of their DD Form 214 if they wish to speak with a veterans counselor about VA benefits.

2026 Annual High School Enlistee Recognition Ceremony by Our Community Salutes of Brookhaven

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 6 PM-9 PM (doors open at 6 PM) at Sunset Harbour, 90 Colonial Dr., East Patchogue.

They are now accepting registrations **for only Senior Enlistee, Parent/Guardian of Enlistee, Military Recruiter, Educator, Family Member of Enlistee, Local Veteran, Community Leader, Elected Official, Speaker, Sponsor, Volunteer, Business Leader and Other** for our event. Register at <https://community.ocsusa.org/brookhaven/>.

Our Community Salutes of Brookhaven, NY is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization supporting the next generation of patriots enlisting in the U.S. Armed Services after graduation from high school. It recognizes and supports seniors who plan to enlist in the military immediately after high school graduation and provides them with resources that aid in their transition into military service. It helps the parents, guardians and families of high school seniors enlisting in the military and provides them with information and resources to support their son's or daughter's transition into the military. It helps communities provide the collective support of like-minded parents, families, educators, business leaders and veterans coming together for the purpose of honoring our nation's newest service members.

For more information, please call Robert J. Vecchio at (631) 255-8809.

American Legion Riders Annual Fundraiser BBQ and Blessing of the Bikes

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 10 AM-3 PM at Elmont American Legion Post 1033, 60 Hill Ave., Elmont, rain or shine. *Registration for bike blessing is 10 AM; bike blessing will be held around 12 noon.* Hamburgers, hot dogs, beverages, music, 50/50 and raffles, and cash bar available. Requested donations: **\$25** for riders, **\$20** for passengers/guests. For more information, please call the post at (516) 354-9884.

WWII C-47 D-Day Living History Immersive Flight Experience

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 10 AM at the American Airpower Museum, 1230 New Hwy., Hangar 3 in Farmingdale. This immersive living history program lasts approximately two hours including your 20-25-minute flight in the legendary WWII Douglas C-47 "Skytrain." The American Airpower Museum C-47 D-Day Flight Experience is a one-of-a-kind immersive living history educational program. Tickets are **\$375** per passenger. Visit <https://www.americanairpowermuseum.com/event/wwii-c-47-d-day-living-history-immersive-flight-experience/> to book tickets and to find more information on eligibility and program details.

2026 Annual High School Enlistee Recognition Ceremony by Our Community Salutes of Nassau County

TUESDAY, MAY 19, 7 PM-10 PM (doors open at 6 PM) at Nassau County Police Department Training and Intelligence Center, 1 Law Enforcement Way, Garden City. Speakers include Major **Travis Bird**, USMC, Recruiting Station New York and **Patrick Ryder**, Commissioner of Police, Nassau County Police Department.

Our Community Salutes of Nassau County, NY is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization supporting the next generation of patriots enlisting in the U.S. Armed Services after graduation from high school. It recognizes and supports seniors who plan to enlist in the military immediately after high school graduation and provides them with resources that aid in their transition into military service. It helps the parents, guardians and families of high school seniors enlisting in the military and provides them with information and resources to support their son's or daughter's transition into the military. It helps communities provide the collective support of like-minded parents, families, educators, business leaders and veterans coming together for the purpose of honoring our nation's newest service members.

For more information, please call Andrea Nordquist at (516) 476-9094. Andrea is president of Military Blue Star Mothers of Nassau County NY 14, which sponsors, supports and participates in this event.

Register at <https://community.ocsusa.org/nassau-county/>.

Concert Honoring Our Nation's 250th Anniversary

TUESDAY, MAY 19, START TIME 7 PM at the Lt. Michael P. Murphy Navy SEAL Museum, 50 West Avenue in West Sayville. Music by the North Shore Community Band. Join us for a night of celebrating America and honoring U.S. Navy SEALs and all veterans with patriotic music. Museum doors will open at 5:30 PM. Concert begins at 7 PM. Admission is free; donations are appreciated. Raffles and light snacks will be available. For more information, please call (631) 589-7325 or send an email to ddonahue@murphsealmuseum.org.

Long Island National Cemetery Memorial Day Flag Placement

SATURDAY, MAY 23, STARTING AT 8 AM AND ENDING UPON COMPLETION at Long Island National Cemetery, 2040 Wellwood Ave., Farmingdale. All those who participate in the placement of the flags on this day will receive a patch in recognition from the Long Island National Cemetery Memorial Organization (LINCMO). Call the cemetery at (631) 454-4949 for more information.

Warbird Flight Experience Weekend – C-47, AT-6, Waco UPF-7 Flights

SATURDAY, MAY 23, 10 AM at the American Airpower Museum, 1230 New Hwy., Hangar 3 in Farmingdale. You will be able to fly aboard the legendary WWII C-47 "Skytrain" paratrooper and cargo transport of D-Day fame, you can take to the skies in the WWII AT-6 "Texan" just as fledgling pilots did as they entered their advanced flight training phase before earning their wings and going on to fighter and bomber aircraft. You can also get the barnstormer's experience with our open-cockpit Waco UPF-7 biplane known for its similarity to early barnstorming planes of the 1930s. Call the American Airpower Museum at (631) 293-6398 for program and ticket information.

United Veterans Organization (UVO) Annual Memorial Day Ceremony

SUNDAY, MAY 24, 10 AM-11 AM at Eisenhower Park, East Meadow (Veterans Memorial Plaza, Field 6). Attendance is free. For more information, please call Morris Miller at (516) 798-3710.

Long Island National Cemetery Annual Memorial Day Ceremony

SUNDAY, MAY 24, 2 PM-3 PM at Long Island National Cemetery, Memorial Garden, 2040 Wellwood Ave., Farmingdale and conducted by the Long Island National Cemetery Memorial Organization (LINC MO). Attendance is free. All organizations interested in having a Color Guard at this ceremony or for more information, please contact Morris Miller at (516) 798-3710.

Memorial Day BBQ at the Marine Corps League

MAY 25, 2 PM at the Marine Corps League building, 99 New York Ave., Massapequa. \$25 per person (\$20 if purchased by May 15; children under 18 are free). All are welcome.

Included: BBQ, canned beer, wine and soda and cash bar. Contact Jim at (516) 503-4963 for tickets.

Long Island National Cemetery Memorial Day Flag Pick-Up

SATURDAY, MAY 30, STARTING AT 8 AM AND ENDING UPON COMPLETION at Long Island National Cemetery, 2040 Wellwood Ave. in Farmingdale. Call the cemetery at (631) 454-4949 for more information.

Paws for a Cause Fundraising Dinner

THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 6 PM-8 PM at Massapequa High School Main Campus, Cafeteria 141, 4925 Merrick Road in Massapequa. Enjoy a buffet-style dinner donated by local restaurants, raffles from local vendors, and a chance to support the veterans, first responders, and animals we serve every day. Proceeds benefit Paws of War. Hosted by Massapequa Public Schools Dog Rescue Club, Key Club, Club America and SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions). Tickets are: adults **\$20**; under 18 **\$10**. Go here to register or donate: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdp5FK1HH-p4rdCyMo8UYOmRshjYF2OqZfKkvBjniVfLADmgA/viewform>.

Veterans Benefits and Information Seminar

FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 10 AM-12 Noon at the Nassau County Bar Association Building, Conference Hall, 15th and West Streets, Garden City. Veterans and family members will be provided briefings on VA Disability Compensation, Aid & Attendance Benefits, VA Survivor and Dependent Compensation (DIC), Veterans Burial Benefits and other important veterans information. Veteran Counselors will be present to answer questions regarding these benefits and to schedule appointments. Veterans in attendance are encouraged to bring their **DD Form 214 MILITARY DISCHARGE FORM** to file for benefits. For any questions regarding the event details and to RSVP, please call (516) 572-6565. Food and refreshments will be served.

NOTE: *This red-brick building has no street number. For GPS, use 133 15th Street, Mineola as your destination.*

Third Annual General Needs Gala

FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 6:30 PM-11 PM at Leonard's Palazzo, 555 Northern Blvd., Great Neck. This year's honorees will be **Paule Pachter**, retired CEO of Long Island Cares and Navy Veteran **Michael**

Sweeney. Tickets are **\$200** per person; **\$175** per person if reserving a table for ten; **\$150** for veterans. Admission includes cocktail hour, seated dinner, open bar, basket raffles and silent auction.

To buy tickets, go to <https://generalneeds.org/event/3rd-annual-gala/>. On this web page, you can also sponsor a vet to attend the gala, sponsor a distribution of clothing, etc. to a vet, or buy an ad to support the gala. To become an event sponsor, please email info@generalneeds.org or call (631) 266 1672. With every ticket purchased or donation made, you are directly contributing to critical resources like mattresses, boots, and essential supplies for veterans in need.

America 250 Across the 4th LD (Legislative District)

SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 1 PM–9 PM at Veterans Park, Hemlock Street and Boyle Road in Selden. Hometown Heroes Veterans Wall Unveiling followed by the Salute to America Procession Parade, historical presentations and re-enactments, colonial-era food and artifacts, historical vendors and craft/selling vendors, assorted music, children’s choir, classic car show, Touch-A-Truck and military vehicles, poster contest, dance routines, line dancing lessons, pizza-eating contest (3 PM), food trucks, line dancing (6 PM) and Southbound Band concert (6 PM–9 PM). Hosted by Middle Country Chamber of Commerce with grant funding provided by 4th LD Legislator Nick Caracappa.

TD Bank Fireworks Show and Concert

THURSDAY, JULY 2, GATES OPEN AT 5 PM at Eisenhower Park in East Meadow (Harry Chapin Theater, Parking Field 6). Attendance is free. *Rain date is Saturday, July 3.* Live music starts at 5:30 PM followed by a spectacular fireworks and drone show by Grucci. Call Cindy Gillen at (516) 572-0396 for more information.

Fleet Week

FRIDAY, JULY 3 THROUGH WEDNESDAY, JULY 8. The 38th annual Fleet Week begins with the Parade of Ships, entering New York Harbor and visible from locations like Battery Park and Hudson River Park. Most ships will be at Manhattan’s West Side piers, primarily Pier 86, Pier 88 and Pier 90 in Hell’s Kitchen. The boats will be accessible for free tours from Thursday until Tuesday, typically from 8 AM to 5 PM. If you want to visit a ship, it is advisable to arrive early to wait in line and to bring valid ID. The Intrepid Museum (Pier 86, W. 46th St. and 12th Ave., Manhattan) will host a number of events during Fleet Week; activities on the pier are free, but entrance to the Museum itself requires a ticket, which can be purchased in person at the Welcome Center box office or online at <https://intrepidmuseum.org/plan-your-visit/visitor-information/tickets>. Service men and women from the U.S. and foreign nations will be arriving aboard the ships. This year’s event coincides with the 250th semiquincentennial anniversary of the United States of America.

FourLeaf Air Show

The U.S. Navy Blue Angels will be headlining this event to be held **SUNDAY AND MONDAY, JULY 5 AND 6, 10 AM-3 PM** at Jones Beach, as part of the semiquincentennial (250th) celebration of the United States. This year’s lineup also includes the U.S. Army Golden Knights parachute team, the U.S. Navy F-35C tac demo team, the U.S. Coast Guard, the 106th Rescue Wing Air National Guard HC-130/HH 60 demo team, Long Island’s own David Windmiller and the SUNY Farmingdale State College Flying Rams, the American Airpower Museum (AAM) Warbirds, the world-famous Skytypers

and their flight squadron of five vintage WWII aircraft and aerobatic flyer Mike Goulian, the most decorated aerobatic flyer pilot in North America. You can watch the AAM Warbirds take off and land from the American Airpower Museum, 1230 New Highway at Republic Airport in Farmingdale during the show.

The air show is free, but there is a **\$10** vehicle use fee for each day upon entry to Jones Beach (to be paid at the Field and not at the toll booths). However, there is no charge for those who have a 2026 NYS Empire Pass Card (*also see note below*). **No pets are allowed! Service animals that assist disabled people are permitted.**

Get there early! In the past, this show has easily seen 200,000 people fill up the beach on a single day. It is not unusual for the parking lots to be filled by 8 AM (if not earlier). When this happens, the parkways are closed and people are turned away. So, it is probably a good idea to arrive before 8 AM, or as early as reasonably possible. For more info, visit <https://www.fourleafairshow.com/> or call the Long Island office of the NYS Parks Department at (631) 321-3510. Jonesbeach.com also has more info.

IMPORTANT NOTE: A phone call last year to the above number provided the additional information that free vehicle entry is also available to NYS Lifetime Liberty Pass holders as well as to veterans who can show any kind of veteran ID, including a driver's license showing veteran status.



WEDNESDAY THROUGH THURSDAY, JULY 8–9, 9 AM-9 AM at the Town of Oyster Bay Field of Dreams, 5619 Old Sunrise Highway in Massapequa. There will be twenty-four one-hour games in a row. Shootout for Soldiers is a nonprofit organization that hosts lacrosse experiences to support American veterans through fundraising and community engagement.

As the front-page calendar shows, LIAFA will hold its 50th Vietnam 50th Anniversary Commemorative Medal Ceremony during the first day of the tournament, **WEDNESDAY, JULY 8 AT 5 PM.**

Long Island Chapter 202 of the Air & Space Forces Association is proud and grateful to be one of the local charity beneficiaries that share in a portion of the net proceeds raised from this event. Shootout for Soldiers is a registered 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.

Annual Fishing Trip—Hooks for Heroes

JULY 2026 (date TBD) at the Nautical Mile (Woodcleft Ave.) in Freeport. **Hooks for Heroes** is a 501(c)3 nonprofit that gives back to American veterans and first responders by providing them with free fishing trips to help cope with the physical and mental injuries incurred during their service. Call (516) 348-0088 for more information.

Italian Night at the Marine Corps League

JULY 25, 7 PM at the Marine Corps League building, 99 New York Avenue in Massapequa. **\$20** per person; tickets must be purchased by July 17.

Menu: baked clams, minestrone soup, Caesar salad, eggplant parmigiana, chicken marsala, pasta primavera, meatballs, sausage and peppers and cash bar.

Contact Jim at (516) 503-4963 for more info.

Nassau County Salute to Veterans Ceremony and Concert

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, STARTING AT 6:30 PM at Eisenhower Park, Harry Chapin Lakeside Theater (Parking Fields 6 and 6A), East Meadow. Salute to Veterans will honor individuals in the veteran community who have devoted their time and lives to helping Long Island veterans. After the honorees receive their recognition and awards, the concert will start at 7:30 PM. Call Ralph Esposito at (516) 572-6565 for more information.

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Announcements and Programs

Changes for New York Drivers under New DMV Point System

This change, effective February 16, 2026, applies to ALL NYS drivers, not just veterans.

The DMV assigns points for certain traffic violations. If you get 10 points in 24 months, your driver license may be suspended. Legal experts expect the 24-month look-back period to apply to violations that occurred before the new rules take effect.

Under the new system, points will remain active for 24 months—a six-month increase that creates a longer window during which multiple violations could lead to license penalties. The threshold for license suspension is also changing. While the old system triggered potential suspension at 11 points within 18 months, the new framework will lower this threshold to 10 points within 24 months.

For more details, go to <https://traffictickets.com/blog/new-york-dmv-overhauls-point-system-with-tougher-penalties-for-drivers/>.

Veterans Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act

This bill, passed in November 2025, increases disability compensation for veterans and survivors by the same percentage as Social Security cost-of-living adjustments.

New York Bill Providing Property Tax Exemption for Veterans with 100% Service-Connected Disability Signed into Law

New York Senate Bill S-1183 was signed into law by Governor Hochul on December 19, 2025. **NOTE:** the exemption is **NOT** automatic; local governments (counties, cities, towns, villages, or school

districts) must adopt a law to implement this exemption. If adopted, the law allows for a full exemption from property taxes on the veteran's primary residence. Veterans must have been discharged under honorable conditions and rated as 100% disabled by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

There are still some outstanding questions regarding eligibility and implementation so please stand by as details are hammered out.

Changes to How Disabled Veterans Can Get VA Automobile Grants

Qualified disabled veterans who have previously received a Department of Veterans Affairs automobile grant to purchase a specially equipped vehicle 30 or more years ago may now be eligible to apply for another one.

The Advancing Uniform Transportation Opportunities for Veterans Act, known as the AUTO Act (signed into law in January 2023), allows veterans with qualifying service-connected disabilities to receive an automobile grant from the Department of Veterans Affairs every 10 years instead of just once in their lifetimes. Under the new law, veterans who haven't received a vehicle grant in 30 years are immediately eligible to apply for another one; and they can then apply for a new grant every 10 years.

Eligibility requirements haven't changed. Veterans and active-duty service members qualify for the automobile grant if they have a service-connected disability that includes at least one of these conditions:

- Loss, or permanent loss of use, of one or both feet
- Loss, or permanent loss of use, of one or both hands
- Permanent decreased vision in both eyes, meaning 20/200 vision or less in the better eye with glasses; or greater than 20/200 vision but with a visual field defect that reduces peripheral vision to 20 degrees or less in the better eye
- Severe burn injuries
- Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis
- Ankylosis in one or both knees or hips (this qualifies for adaptive equipment grants only, not the automobile purchase grant)

The disability must be service-connected or treated as service-connected under 38 U.S.C. 1151, which covers disabilities resulting from VA medical care.

The AUTO Act also updated how VA classifies certain vehicle modifications. The law allows VA to pay for specific modifications as medical services rather than only through the adaptive equipment program. These modifications include van lifts, raised doors, raised roofs, air conditioning and wheelchair tie-downs for passenger use. This change matters because it provides another pathway for veterans to obtain necessary vehicle modifications through VA health care rather than solely through the benefits system.

For more details and how to apply, please go to <https://www.military.com/benefits/veterans-health-care/veterans-can-now-get-va-auto-grants-every-10-years-heres-what-changed.html>.

VA Home Improvements and Structural Alterations (HISA) Grants

The VA Home Improvements and Structural Alterations Benefit (HISA) provides financial assistance to disabled veterans with service-connected medical conditions (and sometimes non-service-connected conditions) who require modifications to their homes, whether owned or rented by the veteran.

This benefit provides medically necessary improvements and structural alterations to Veterans/Servicemembers' primary residence for the following purposes:

- Allowing entrance to or exit from the primary residence
- Use of essential lavatory and sanitary facilities (e.g. roll-in showers)
- Allowing accessibility to kitchen or bathroom sinks or counters (e.g., lowering counters/sinks)
- Improving entrance paths or driveways in immediate area of the home to facilitate access to the home through construction of permanent ramping
- Improving plumbing or electrical systems made necessary due to installation of home medical equipment

You may use HISA benefits to pay for more than one home alteration, until you exhaust your lifetime benefit. HISA benefits approved by VA for use in a particular home alteration but unused by you will remain available for future use.

\$6800 lifetime limitation:

- A service-connected condition
- A non-service-connected condition of a veteran rated 50% or more service-connected.
- A non-service-connected condition of a veteran in receipt of benefits under Title 38, USC Section 1151 for the condition requiring such benefit.

\$2000 lifetime limitation:

- All other veterans receiving medical services furnished under Title 38, USC Sections 1710(a)(2) and (3).

***** IMPORTANT ***:** Do not start a modification until you receive an approval letter from Prosthetic & Sensory Aids Service (PSAS).

For more information, go to <https://www.prosthetics.va.gov/psas/HISA2.asp>.

Veteran Tickets Foundation (Vet Tix)

From the Vet Tix website:

Veteran Tickets Foundation (Vet Tix) is a national 501(c)(3) nonprofit that supports all branches of currently-serving military, including the Guard and Reserves, honorably discharged or retired veterans of all eras, their families, including immediate family of those killed in action, and caregivers of Vet Tixers. Vet Tix provides free or deeply discounted event tickets with a nominal delivery fee to attend sporting events, concerts, performing arts and family activities. Attending these types of community

events improves morale and strengthens family bonds while encouraging service members and Veterans to stay engaged with local communities.

Since 2008, Vet Tix has provided more than 6.4 million free tickets to over 1.2 million verified VetTixers. The nonprofit organization spends over 95 percent back to its programs, giving back to those who have given so much. Visit [VetTix.org](https://www.vettix.org) to learn more, and follow them on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook.

Nassau County DD Form 214 Recording and Veterans Discount Photo ID Card

County Clerk Maureen O'Connell offers a Veterans Recognition Program, allowing veterans the opportunity to record their veteran discharge papers (DD Form 214) free of charge with the Nassau County Clerk's Office. Upon recording these documents, the veteran will be eligible to receive a Veterans Discount Photo ID Card, which provides discounts at participating businesses throughout Nassau County.

For a downloadable list of participating businesses, go to: [Copy of Participating Businesses - Database](#).

For more information, visit the Nassau County Clerk's website at www.nassaucountyny.gov/clerk.

Be on the Alert for Veteran Charity Scams

Making a donation to a veterans charity might seem like a great idea, but if it's a charity that you've never heard of or one that has solicited you in person or by telephone, mail or email, it's worth taking a few minutes to check it out before writing that check, reaching for your wallet or submitting your credit card information. Phony charities claiming to support police, firefighters, veterans or sick children are not uncommon, so it makes sense to do some research before handing over your money. Websites like Charity Navigator and Charity Watch provide information about many charities, including data on their fundraising practices, and often highlight suspect charities. The sites are free and may save you from enriching scammers and depriving legitimate charities of needed donations.

Navy Seeks Interviews with Former Grumman Employees at Calverton

The U.S. Navy is requesting interviews with former employees, or their surviving family members, who worked at the Grumman-operated Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant in Calverton between 1954 and 1996. These interviews will aid in the Navy's environmental remediation at the site, which covers approximately 6000 acres.

Since Grumman vacated the premises in 1996, the site has been a subject of controversy over chemical contamination, with dangerous chemicals such as perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and 1,4-dioxane that have leaked into the Peconic River and threaten the groundwater in the area.

The Navy said it is particularly interested in employees' knowledge of:

- Past operations and activities
- Waste management practices
- Building utilization
- Grounds maintenance
- Aircraft fabrication practices on site

- Any other relevant information, both on- and off-property.

Any former employee at Grumman's Calverton facility interested in participating in an interview or in learning more is asked to send an email to NAVFAC_ML_PAO_ALL@us.navy.mil or call 800-906-9339.

Participation in the interviews is completely voluntary and all information shared during the interviews will be kept confidential.

Free Discount Drug Program for Veterans

VeteranRx offers up to 80 percent off on brand-name and generic prescription drugs for veterans and their families. The program includes more than 35,000 pharmacies around the country, including all major chains. No medical service connection to the VA is necessary. There are no enrollment forms, no age or income requirements, no waiting periods, no eligibility requirements, no exclusions, covers pre-existing conditions, no claim forms to file, no annual or lifetime limits. This program has no service connection requirements. Ask your pharmacist to run both your insurance and the savings card and use the one that saves you the most money. Sometimes the free savings card will offer better prices than your insurance copay. Any veteran and family member of a U.S. Veteran with or without prescription coverage can use this free card. It even covers pet medications. Go to <https://www.veteranrx.com/> for more info.

Veteran Functions at Eisenhower Park

All veterans organizations that wish to hold an event, ceremony or other function at the park must contact the Nassau County Veterans Service Agency to get a permit. This requirement protects the organization as well as the park since the NCVSA holds an insurance policy covering any accidents or injuries that may occur during such events. Please call Ralph Esposito at (516) 572-6512 or Paul Vista at (516) 572-6521.

Veterans Traffic Court (Nassau County)

The Nassau County Traffic and Parking Violations Agency (NCTPVA) at 801 Axinn Ave. in Garden City holds monthly traffic court sessions on the third Thursday afternoon of each month, dedicated to assisting veterans and active-duty military members with resolving violations. NCTPVA will work with the District Court to bundle all traffic violations together. This program is a one-time-only opportunity so don't waste it on minor violations.

For more information, please call the Nassau County Veterans Service Agency at (516) 572-6565. Also see the following link: www.nassaucountyny.gov/4917/Veterans-Traffic-Court.

Veterans Treatment Court (Nassau County)

U.S. military veterans charged with minor nonviolent offenses may qualify for reduced charges or penalties by participating in a court-supervised treatment program. To apply, a pre-screening questionnaire must be completed and forwarded to the district attorney's office. You must then contact the Veterans Treatment Court Project Director to set a clinical evaluation for the purpose of determining treatment needs. If you are found to be eligible, you will be contacted by the D.A.'s office

and a plea offer will be proposed. For more information, please visit their website at www.nassaucountyny.gov/4919/Veterans-Treatment-Court.

Volunteers are also being sought to be mentors; training will be provided. Mentors should be honorably discharged veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces prepared to commit for a minimum of six months. Active employees of the Unified Courts System, active members of law enforcement or members of any other organization that may present a conflict of interest with the mentor program are not eligible. If interested, please call Rosemary Walker at (516) 493-4145.

Nassau County Veterans Service Agency Transportation Program

This program provides free transportation for scheduled VA medical appointments. The veteran will be picked up at his or her residence and driven in a Nassau County Veterans Service Agency vehicle to a designated VA facility.

Locations that are serviced for transportation are:

- VA Clinic, East Meadow
- VA Clinic, Valley Stream
- VA Vet Center, Hicksville
- VA Main Hospital, Northport

All appointments for transportation are required to be reserved two weeks prior to your scheduled VA appointment. Please call Jessica DeLisi (VSA Transportation Coordinator) at (516) 572-6526 to schedule transportation.

The Nassau County Veterans Service Agency is looking for volunteers to transport veterans to and from the aforementioned VA facilities. Please donate any time you have to give on Monday–Friday from 7 AM to 5 PM You pick whatever times and dates work for you. Nassau County will provide the vehicles; a valid New York State driver’s license is required. To volunteer, please call Jessica DeLisa at (516) 572-6526. The need is urgent so please help if you can!

VetMart Food Pantry

The VetMart food pantry at the Nassau County Veterans Service Agency is located at 2201 Hempstead Turnpike, Building Q, East Meadow. Building Q is located on the property of the Nassau University Medical Center (NUMC), around the back of the property.

Veterans may register at the food pantry for eligibility with a Veterans ID Card or DD Form 214 Military Discharge Form. *(Note: Other forms of veteran identification may be accepted, but eligibility will be at the discretion of the agency).* Once registered with the proper veteran documentation, the veteran may come to the food pantry once per week for food distributions; toiletries and other supplies are issued monthly. The Veterans Food Pantry is open Monday through Friday from 9 AM to 12 Noon *(closed Weekends and Holidays)*. For more information/questions about the food pantry or directions to the facility, veterans may call (516) 572-6565.

Nassau County VSA Outreach Events Available

These events are open to all veterans groups based in Nassau County. They include:

- Intake of veteran's contact information and digital storage of veteran's DD Form 214
- Access to veteran's VA digital folder (with processed VA Power of Attorney)
- Access to local experts to expedite VA disability benefit claims
- Option to file future VA claims remotely
- Presentations on the PACT Act and Aid and Attendance benefits
- Assistance in applying for VA Healthcare enrollment

Call the Nassau County Veterans Service Agency at (516) 572-6565 to schedule an event for your veterans group.

Nassau County Veterans Service Agency—Filing VA Claims

Speak with a trained and certified Veterans Service Officer from the Nassau County VSA to help process your VA benefits, such as claims for:

- VA Disability Compensation for eligible veterans who got sick or injured while serving and whose condition worsened due to military service.
- Survivors Pension (DIC) Dependency Indemnity Compensation for the surviving spouse, child or parent of a service member who died in the line of duty or the survivor of a veteran who died from a service-related injury or illness.
- Aid & Attendance Benefit for qualified wartime-era veterans and their surviving spouses who require increased care due to disability or advanced age. Intended to help individuals cover the costs of in-home nursing care, assisted living or nursing home care.
- Burial benefits for eligible veterans to help cover burial, funeral and transportation costs.

Veterans and their families can call (516) 572-6565 to find out more about these VA benefits and to schedule an appointment. Please bring the veteran's DD Form 214 to your appointment; all services are provided free of charge.

Volunteer Drivers Wanted for Veterans—Disabled American Veterans (DAV)

DAV is also looking for volunteer drivers to help veterans get to VA medical appointments. A valid New York State driver's license is required. For more information, please send an email to Robert.Erdody@va.gov or call (631) 235-8220. For a volunteer application, please send an email to Jennifer.Pohl2@va.gov or call (631) 261-4400, extension 7182.

VHUC Veterans Transportation Program

Through the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), the VHA-UBER Health Connect (VUHC) program offers another way for eligible veterans to access transportation to VA-authorized appointments. To qualify, veterans must meet the following criteria:

- Be service connected for 30% or more
- Be traveling to/from treatment for a service-connected condition
- Receive a VA pension or disability
- Have an income that does not exceed the maximum annual VA pension rate

Please call Primary BT Representative Patricia Sangenito at (631) 261-4400, ext. 5579/2661 or Alternate BT Representative Anne O'Rourke at (631) 854-6600 for more information. Both are with Northport VA. (Note: "BT" stands for Beneficiary Travel.)

Nassau County Transportation Program by GoGo

The Nassau County Office for the Aging, together with the New York State Office for the Aging, are piloting this program in Nassau County to serve senior veterans. Trips may be to medical appointments, including to the Northport VA Medical Center. How to use GoGo:

1. Call the Nassau County Veterans Service Agency at (516) 572-6526 to register.
2. Applications will be processed within 48 hours.
3. Office for the Aging will call you with approval.
4. Once you are notified of approval, call GoGo Grandparent at (855) 464-6872 to set up your ride.

Be the One App Now Available

For veterans in crisis, a new app for both Apple and Android devices offers guidance and community resources. The *Be the One* app was developed by Columbia University's Lighthouse Project and tailored to The American Legion's *Be the One* suicide prevention mission. It's available on both Apple's App Store and Google Play and uses the Columbia-Suicide Severity Rating Scale (C-SSRS), that gives anyone anywhere a simple series of questions to ask to determine if a veteran is at risk of suicide, and the severity and immediacy of that risk.

The app can be installed and run on the iPhone, the iPad and Android phones. One of the app's key features is privacy. Your name, address and phone number are not requested or recorded; only your ZIP code is disclosed so that local resources can be shown.

Schedule Be the One Training for Your Post for 2026

The American Legion has partnered with the Columbia University Lighthouse Project to bring in-person training as well as virtual training to Legion Family members. To schedule an in-person training session, email Wendy Lakso at wendy.lakso@nyspi.columbia.edu. She is the director of partnerships, and veteran and military initiatives for the Lighthouse Project.

The online 90-minute virtual training sessions will continue through 2026. They teach the Columbia Protocol that supports suicide risk assessment through a series of six simple questions. All attendees will be asked to complete an online survey before the class and upon completion. These surveys help track the effectiveness of the training and allow us to plan for future development. Go to <https://www.legion.org/advocacy/be-the-one/be-the-one-training> for a list of upcoming online virtual sessions.

Center of Excellence at SUNY Old Westbury

SUNY Old Westbury is home to the only Center of Excellence for Veteran Student Success (CEVSS) in New York State.

CEVSS:

- Provides a single point of contact to coordinate support services for veteran students, regardless of their branch or duration of service.
- Supports veterans with admissions, registration, financial aid, veterans' benefits, academic advising and career development.
- Facilitates support through disabilities services and physical, emotional and mental health counseling as well as all other services available to students.
- Provides career advice and networking opportunities to help veteran students make successful transitions to college and the civilian workforce.
- Facilitates internship opportunities to provides hands-on experience and increase employment opportunities after graduation.
- Assists with employment resources to help veteran students find job openings, create resumes and learn interview skills.

Point of contact:

Jennifer Jaikaran, LMSW

Director, CEVSS

(516) 274-7768

jaikaranj@oldwestbury.edu

CEC Health Care Veteran Support Group

Weekly meetings are held every Wednesday at 1:30 PM at the Merrick Library at 2279 Merrick Ave. in Merrick. Contact Carolyn Cerky at (516) 316-0155.

Upcoming presentations at the meetings are as follows:

- May 6 Honor Flight
- May 20 Veterans Benefits and Information
- June 3 NYS Department of Veterans Affairs
- June 17 Blue Star Mothers

CEC Health Care has its offices at 2146 Jackson Ave. in Seaford, where they offer psychiatric care and evaluation, mental health counseling and therapy, and treatment services for addiction and substance abuse. Their phone number is (516) 622-8888, ext. 2; their website is cechealthcare.org.

New York Vehicle Registration Fee Refund for New Active-Duty Personnel

If you entered the US Armed Forces after you registered your vehicle, will not use the registration and the registration is not revoked or suspended, you may apply for a refund of the registration fee using the New York DMV Refund [Form MV-215](https://dmv.ny.gov/forms/mv215.pdf) (available at <https://dmv.ny.gov/forms/mv215.pdf>). Entry

into military service must be documented by your commanding officer. For any questions, contact DMV's veterans' liaison Anthony T. Greathouse at dmv.sm.VeteransLiaison@dmv.ny.gov.

E-ZPass Disabled Veterans Non-Revenue Program

The New York State Thruway Authority offers free, unlimited travel anywhere on the Thruway to certain qualifying disabled veterans. A disabled veteran who obtains a fee-exempt vehicle registration from the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) may enroll in the Authority's Disabled Veteran Non-Revenue E-ZPass Program. Eligibility is *not* determined by percent disabled designations, specialty license plates or other similar criteria.

You must find out whether you are eligible for a fee-exempt registration before applying for the program by completing Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) [Form 21-4502](#) (automobile and adaptive equipment) and send to your assigned VA Regional Office, either in NYC or Buffalo. The VA will rate your claim, and if approved, you will be notified. Please call the Toll-Free VA number for questions about filling out Form 21-4502 at (800) 827-1000 (hearing-impaired TDD line (800) 829-4833).

The vehicle must be in the name of the disabled veteran applying for the program. Your Tag may be used if you need to travel in another vehicle, but you must be present in that vehicle, and the vehicle must be a passenger (2-axle, 4-tire) vehicle. Veterans who are approved for the program are asked to send in a renewal application and updated fee exempt registration every two years based on the expiration date of the fee-exempt registration.

If you travel on roadways and tolling facilities offering E-ZPass other than the NYS Thruway or outside of New York State, you must establish a revenue account by completing the [E-ZPass Application for Disabled Veteran Revenue Plan](#) (TA-W5080) in order to use your Tag. *(This revenue account form is only for disabled veterans who have been approved for the non-revenue program and would like to set up a revenue account in order to travel outside of the NYS Thruway system.)*

For more information, visit <https://www.thruway.ny.gov/ezpass/veterans.html>.

DD214s and Other Military Service Records Are Available Online

The following VA website is for veterans to gain access to their DD Form 214 and other military service records online: <https://vetrecs.archives.gov/VeteranRequest/home.html#BasicInformation>.

Nassau County Firefighters Operation Wounded Warrior (NCFE-OWW)

A nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization *not* affiliated with the Wounded Warrior Project or any other Operation Wounded Warrior organization, the NCFE-OWW is committed to helping those who put their lives in harm's way to protect the rights granted to us, the citizens of the United States of America. Their mission is to boost the morale of service members wounded in the line of duty. The NCFE-OWW works closely with military representatives of the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Washington DC, the Womack Army Medical Center in Fort Liberty, NC and the Naval Hospital in Camp Lejeune, NC. Together, they ensure that useful clothing, personal entertainment electronics, and get-well cards are properly channeled to recovering service personnel. Donations are brought down to Bethesda Naval Hospital and other Wounded Warrior centers via Fire Truck Caravan. Firefighters from

throughout the Greater New York area join their ‘parade’ from New York to military hospitals in the south. Volunteers are also welcome to join their ranks, even if you are not a firefighter! The NCFE-OWW is comprised of firefighter and EMS volunteers throughout Nassau County who conduct numerous fundraising events throughout the year to help meet their goal of providing material and moral support to the wounded men and women of our Armed Forces. Each year’s efforts culminate with a personal visit of NCFE-OWW representatives to each of the military hospitals in the area to meet with our brave wounded warriors and express their gratitude for the sacrifices that they have endured for our country. In addition to collecting items and visiting our wounded service personnel, the NCFE-OWW organizes, on behalf of the Nassau County fire service, welcome-home receptions for local service members who have recovered from serious injuries. Donations are accepted and greatly appreciated. Please visit their website at www.ncff-oww.org for more information.

CN Guidance and Counseling Services

All services by this nonprofit organization are free for veterans or loved ones of veterans. Services are available in the community or via telehealth and include outreach and engagement, peer support and linkages to community resources. They also provide referrals and warm handoffs to programs within CN Guidance based on eligibility, including therapy, medication management, medication-assisted treatment for substance abuse, case management and primary care physician. For more information, please call (516) 246-0614 or (516) 246-0621 or send an email to vetservices@centralnassau.org.

Veterans News UVO Long Island is looking for volunteers to act as crew members for its weekly show on public access TV (training will be provided.) The show airs on Cablevision channel 115 on Mondays at 6:30 PM and Cablevision channel 20 on Fridays at 6:30 PM. It is also on at various times on Verizon FIOS channel 36, on Lynbrook and Malverne public access channels, on public access MNN TV Network in Manhattan or any time on YouTube by entering *Veterans News UVO*. The crew meets at the North Shore TV Studio at 1111 Marcus Ave., Suite LL27 in Lake Success on the last Tuesday of the month to tape the program. For more information, please email Ed Aulman at mardiv1@optonline.net, or call him at (516) 921-0595.

Veterans Legal Assistance Program

Receive a FREE consultation with attorneys who specialize in elder law, taxes, wills and estates, family law, VA benefits and claims, disability, discharge upgrades, employment, housing, bankruptcy, debtor/creditor matters, Medicare/Medicaid, landlord/tenant disputes, immigration, and criminal law. For more information, email the Hofstra Legal Assistance Project at VLAP@hofstra.edu or call (516) 463-7302.

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 homeless veterans. 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.

Veterans Project by Long Island Cares

This project encompasses several veterans' service programs such as a mobile pantry, job search assistance and Military Appreciation Tuesdays hosted at pantries located in Huntington Station, Bethpage, Hampton Bays, Lindenhurst, Valley Stream and Freeport. For more information, please call (631) 582-3663, extension 142.

Their website is www.licares.org/what-we-do/feed-long-island/veterans-project.

Joseph P. Dwyer Veterans Peer Support Project (Suffolk County)

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 TBI (traumatic brain injury); a diagnosis is NOT required for attendance. All groups are confidential and anonymous. They also provide services to student veterans at numerous Long Island college campuses and monthly community outreach in various locations. For more information, please call (631) 853-8345 or send an email to vetspeertopeer@suffolkcountyny.gov. 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). 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 (park in the municipal lot across the street; use the side parking lot and side entrance closest to the gated area.) No pre-registration is necessary.

For more information, please call (516) 489-2322, extension 1213. Their website is <https://veteranshealthalliance.org/nassau-county-pfc-dwyer/>.

Suffolk 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: Liberty Village, 600 Albany Ave. in Amityville at 6 PM on Mondays; Liberty Landing, 58 Portion Road in Lake Ronkonkoma at 4 PM on Wednesdays; **Seniors 60 and over only**—Rose Caracappa Senior Center, 739 Route 25A in Mount Sinai at 10 AM on the second and fourth Thursday of each month. There are also women-veterans-only Zoom meetings at 11:30 AM-12:30 PM on the first and third Saturday of each month (meeting ID: 932 2123 8672) and women-only MST (Military Sexual Trauma) Group Zoom meetings at 6 PM on Mondays (meeting ID: 886 6132 0754). No pre-registration is necessary. For more information, please call (631) 853-8345 or send an email to vetspeertopeer@suffolkcountyny.gov. Their website is <https://mhaw.org/dwyer/>.

Veterans' Rights Project

The Veterans' Rights Project is able to assist any person who has previous military experience regardless of discharge status. All services are free. Services include housing, family law, public benefits, re-entry services and discharge upgrades.

Their website is <https://legalservicesli.org/resources-self-help/veterans/>.

Contact information:

Hempstead Office: 1 Helen Keller Way, 5th Floor, phone (516) 292-8100

Islandia Office: 1757 Veterans Highway, Suite 50, phone (631) 232-2400

Riverhead Office: 400 West Main St., Suite 200, phone (631) 369-1112

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. Their website is nysda.org/page/VDP.

Donate a Bicycle to Beacon House to Help a Veteran

Beacon House provides housing in forty-two 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. Email Ed Aulman at mardiv1@optonline.net or call him at (516) 921-0595. A charitable donation receipt will be provided by Beacon House.

Walls of Honor

The Walls of Honor is a place of remembrance within Veterans Memorial Plaza at Eisenhower Park in East Meadow. Please note—these are honor walls, not memorial walls, and are open to all currently serving and to all veterans with an honorable discharge, living or deceased, and who are current or former Nassau County residents. There is a \$100 application fee for each name to be engraved. An application is toward the end of this newsletter. For more information, please call Allison Ridam Krivosheiw at (516) 236-3245 or email her at alliridam@gmail.com.

Local 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 and Bernard Fradkin make up the rest of the team. Their website is www.we-are-vets.us.

Honor Flight Long Island

Honor Flight recognizes American World War II, Korean War and Vietnam veterans by flying them to and from Washington, D.C. to see their memorials **at no cost**. The flights, deluxe tour bus service, lunch, dinner and tee shirts are **FREE** to our veterans. Flights depart from MacArthur Airport in Islip. You must submit an application to get on their wait list, where you will be assigned to a flight on a first-come, first-served basis by order of application date. It will be approximately four to five months after applying before you are assigned to a flight. You can download and print an application to mail or you can fill out an online application. Go to <http://www.honorflightlongisland.org/general-9> to do either one. You can find out more information on this same website or you can call Jamie Bowden at (631) 702-2423 or send an email to jbowden@southamptontownny.gov.

Honor Flight Long Island is also looking for Guardian volunteers. Guardians escort the veterans on the aircraft, accompany them throughout the day and make sure our veterans have everything they need for a memorable experience. Prospective Guardians must complete an application and must pay their own way, an expense of \$400.

Prospective Guardians, please note:

- Spouses are NOT eligible to serve as Family Guardians.
- All Guardians must attend the Mandatory Guardian Orientation. A flexible schedule will be created so each Guardian can make one of the several sessions.
- Every Guardian must be between 18-66 years of age or be in peak physical condition and able to handle the rigors of the day (i.e. pushing a wheelchair, extensive walking, bad weather).
- Guardians pay \$400 for the privilege to escort these veterans to D.C.
- Guardians DO NOT need to submit the \$400 donation until it is your turn to fly.
- Guardians will be contacted by Honor Flight Long Island when they have been scheduled for an upcoming flight.

For information on filing a Guardian application, either online or by downloading the form and mailing or emailing a completed form, please visit <https://www.honorflightlongisland.org/copy-of-veteran>.

If you wish to make a donation to support Honor Flight Long Island in its mission, please go to <https://www.honorflightlongisland.org/support-our-mission> or mail a check to Honor Flight Long Island, c/o Southampton Town, 116 Hampton Road, Southampton, NY 11968. Honor Flight Long Island is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization; all donations are fully tax-deductible.

MedEquip Medical Alert Device with Monitoring—FREE for Veterans

This device (available as a pendant or a wristband) with Stat-VA data is the only medical device of its kind that incorporates veteran health information. All you need to do is **press the button** and a responder will know who and where you are and handle the rest. You do not need to have a pre-existing condition to qualify.

- No monthly or subscription fees
- 24/7 responders
- Coast to coast connection
- HIPAA compliant
- Joint Commission Accredited
- GSA approved program
- No contract to sign
- Service can be terminated at any time.
- Fall Detection (available)

Ask your VA doctor or clinician about the **MedEquip Alert with Monitoring**. **The device must be ordered using GSA# GS-35F-202GA.** You can also call (844) 435-7808 or visit <https://www.medequipalert.com/veterans/> for more info.

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Did you know . . .

. . . that, on August 16, 1956, in the skies over southern California, a runaway U.S. Navy target drone aircraft (a propeller-driven, WWII-era Grumman F6F-5K Hellcat) painted in high-visibility red, “won” a battle against two USAF Northrop F-89D Scorpion twin-engine jet interceptors—the so-called Battle of Palmdale.

In the mid-1950s, the Navy was involved in research and development on surface-to-air and air-to-air missiles for the protection of its ships and other assets. Unmanned drones such as the Grumman F6F 5K Hellcat were used to test the missiles’ effectiveness. At the same time, one of the Air Force’s major concerns was how to defend against Soviet long-range nuclear-armed strategic bombers such as the twin-engined jet Tupolev Tu-16 Badger heavy bomber.

At 11:34 AM that morning, the drone took off from NAS (Naval Air Station) Point Mugu on its final mission, headed to the missile test area over the Pacific Ocean. Shortly after take-off, the drone stopped responding to commands from its Navy controllers and instead of continuing out to sea, it started a gentle turn to the southeast toward Los Angeles. The Navy had no aircraft in the area capable of downing the drone, so they called nearby Oxnard Air Force Base. The 437th Fighter-Interceptor Squadron immediately launched two F-89D Scorpions, which at the time was the Air Force’s frontline cutting-edge interceptor. The two-man crew of each jet included a pilot and a radar operator.

The jets headed south toward the drone at full afterburner and soon caught up to it at 30,000 feet, just to the northeast of Los Angeles. The drone turned yet again, this time headed southwest, crossing over Los Angeles, and then turned northwest, circling slowly over Santa Paula. The interceptor crews waited for the drone to fly over a relatively unpopulated area so they could shoot it down with less chance of collateral damage and loss of life.

The Scorpions were equipped with the new Hughes E-6 fire-control system with AN/APG-40 radar and an attack-plotting computer, which gave them a choice of two attack options to fire their weapons (each plane carried 104 unguided Mighty Mouse 2.75-inch folding-fin rockets in two wing pods) while in automatic mode: from behind in a "tail chase" situation or a firing pass from a 90° "beam" position. Since the drone was almost continuously turning, they chose the second mode of attack. Soon the drone turned northeast, passing over Fillmore, then Frazier Park, heading for the western section of the mostly uninhabited Antelope Valley. The fighters attempted to fire in automatic mode several times, but due to a design flaw in the fire-control system, the rockets failed to launch.

At this point, the drone again switched direction, heading back toward Los Angeles. The crews decided to switch to manual fire. Unfortunately, when the E-6 fire-control systems had been installed, the gun sights had been removed. With the radar-guided system inoperative, the crews had no choice but to "eyeball" the unguided rockets' track with no sights. They decided to fire in three salvos, which was the option that gave them the most salvos. When the drone flew over Castaic, the first crew fired a salvo 42 rockets, completely missing the target. The second plane unleashed its 42 rockets, which passed just underneath the drone, with some glancing off the drone's underside but none detonated. Close to the town of Newhall, each jet fired a salvo of 32 rockets—no hits. As the drone headed northeast toward Palmdale, each jet fired a last salvo of 30 rockets—again, no hits. So, a total of 208 rockets had been fired at the drone, and it was still going.

The two jets, now low on fuel, headed for home. The drone, also running low on fuel and with its engine sputtering, started descending, approaching a desolate section of desert eight miles east of Palmdale Regional Airport. Right before it crashed, it severed three Southern California Edison electric cables along an unpaved section of Avenue P. Upon impact, its right wing dug into the sand, causing the drone to cartwheel and disintegrate.

On the ground, although incredibly nobody was hurt, property damage was significant. None of it was caused by the drone. It was a result of those 208 rockets. They were fitted with point-detonating warheads that armed on firing. Of the 208 rockets fired, only fifteen were discovered undetonated. The first set of rockets started brush fires seven miles northeast of Castaic burning 150 acres. The second set reached the ground near Newhall, starting a series of fires near a park and setting fire to some oil sumps. The fires came within 300 feet of the Bermite Powder explosives plant. Other rockets from that set started fires near Soledad Canyon, burning more than 350 acres. Many rockets from the final set struck within the town of Palmdale itself.

From Wikipedia: Edna Carlson, who lived in the home on Third Street East, said that a chunk of shrapnel from one Air Force rocket burst through the front window of her home, ricocheted off the ceiling, went through a wall and came to rest in a kitchen cupboard. More rocket fragments completely

penetrated a home and garage on 4th Street East. One rocket struck right in front of a vehicle being driven west on California State Route 138 near Tenth Street West, of which one tire was shredded, and many holes were punched through the car's body. Two men in Placerita Canyon had been eating in their utility truck; right after they left it to sit under the shade of a tree, a rocket struck the truck, destroying it. Many fires were started near Santa Clarita, with three large ones and many smaller ones in and around Palmdale. It took 500 firefighters two days to bring the brushfires under control. In all, 1000 acres were burned.



Grumman F6F-5K drone
Photo credit: U.S. Navy



F-89D loaded with rockets, 114th Fighter Interceptor Group, 1958
Photo credit: John Mollison, South Dakota Air National Guard

Taps



Louis F. Barreiro of Valley Stream died peacefully in his sleep on January 25 at the age of 100.

As a Marine combat rifleman serving with the 21st Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division during World War II, he took part in three combat landings in the Pacific Theater—Bougainville (1943), Guam (1944) and Iwo Jima (1945).

Regrettably, I have been unable to find out much information about his relatives beyond the secondhand knowledge that his wife predeceased him by many years and that he has a daughter and several grandchildren.



[Louis F. Barreiro in undated photo.](#)
Photo credit: Lieber Funeral Home website

(Taps continued on next page)

Taps (continued)



Raymond Nordquist of North Bellmore passed away on February 22 at age 75. Raymond was the husband of Andrea Nordquist, president of Blue Star Mothers NY 14 and LIAFA's VP of Media Relations.

Ray was a retired member of the Nassau County Police Department, and he owned and operated the International Delicatessen in Bellmore for almost 30 years.

He was interred at Holy Rood Cemetery in Westbury and is survived by Andrea, his wife of nearly fifty years, their children Andrew, married to Danielle; Diana, married to Michael; Gregory, married to Kristan; and their grandchildren Adrianna, Hailey, Madison, Erik, Lukas and Nolan.



[Raymond Nordquist in undated photo.](#)

Photo credit: Charles J. O'Shea Funeral Home website

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Taps (continued)



Coy Van Richardson, Sr. of Freeport, past commander for five years of Freeport American Legion William Clinton Story Post #342, passed away on March 12 at the age of 77 of undisclosed causes.

Coy was an Army Vietnam veteran, serving from May 1968 to May 1970. He was schooled as an Infantry Individual Fire Crewman and served in Vietnam from October 1968 to October 1969. He attained the rank of Specialist 4th Class (SP4), being awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with two Bronze Service Stars, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with 1960 device, Expert Badge (M16 rifle), Sharpshooter Badge (M14 rifle), Marksman Badge (81mm mortar), two Overseas Service Bars and the 1st Award Combat Infantryman Badge.

After his discharge, Coy became a long-haul tractor trailer driver for Cassing, Inc., eventually becoming the dispatcher for the company. Coy was also a church deacon for 29 years at St. John's Baptist Church in Inwood and an American Legion member for the past 25 years. He was instrumental in securing the new building at 925 S. Ocean Avenue for the Freeport post.

He was interred at Calverton National Cemetery and is survived by his wife Patricia (married since 1969), two sons, daughters-in-law and grandchildren.

It is with deep sadness we announce the passing of Freeport resident, Vietnam War Veteran and former Legion Commander Post 342

COY VAN RICHARDSON SR.



Serving in the US Army infantry from October 1968 through October 1969, he was in-country during a very intense transition period of the war following the Tet Offensive. Schooled as an Infantry Individual Fire Crewman he served with 1st Battalion, 59th Infantry. He attained the rank of SP4, being awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal w/ 2 Bronze Service Stars, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal w/ 1960 device, Expert Badge (M16), Sharpshooter Badge (M14), Marksman Badge (81mm), 2 O/S bars and Combat Infantryman Badge (1st award). The combination of the CIB, the Bronze Star, and the Vietnam Service Medal with two stars paints a picture of a soldier who was heavily involved in active operations. That is a distinguished record reflecting significant front-line service during a peak period of the Vietnam War. Thank you for your service to our country Sir. Rest in Peace, may God Bless you.

Coy Van Richardson, Sr.

Photo credit: Sgt. Robert Hendriks Memorial Page on Facebook

Requirements for the Vietnam 50th Anniversary Commemorative Medal

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

A medal application is on the next page. You can also submit the application online from our website at LIAFA.org (please click on the *Veterans* tab).

DD Form 214 *and other required documentation must still be mailed*; please black out your Social Security number and/or Service Number on DD Form 214.

LONG ISLAND CHAPTER #202 OF THE AIR & SPACE FORCES 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 mail a copy of your DD-214 (black out your Social Security Number) and
this completed application to:

Fred Di Fabio, President
67 Pacific Dunes Ct.
Medford, NY 11763-2405



For information call:
631-487-7210

- Visit our web page at **LIAFA.ORG** to view a video of the ceremony.
- Also check out our Facebook page: **Long Island Air Force Association - LIAFA**
- 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.

Requirements for the Women's Military Service Medal

- currently living in Nassau, Suffolk, Brooklyn, Queens, or Staten Island;
- can attend the ceremony (awards are presented only at the ceremony; they are not mailed);
- Female veteran **or** currently serving in any branch of the military as per DD Form 214 for veterans, or ID or other documentation for those currently serving.

A medal application is on the next page. You can also submit the application online from our website at LIAFA.org (please click on the *Veterans* tab).

DD Form 214 *and other required documentation must still be mailed*; please black out your Social Security number and/or Service Number on DD Form 214.



WOMAN'S RECOGNITION CEREMONY

**ARE YOU A WOMAN WHO IS A VETERAN OR
IS CURRENTLY SERVING?**

Long Island Chapter #202 of the Air & Space Forces Association
proudly presents and honors woman veterans and women currently
serving and their families for their commitment and service.

(Awarded to women of all Services and Eras)

APPLICATION

Name _____

Phone # _____ Cell # _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

Branch of Service _____ Rank/Grade _____

Service dates _____

Please mail the completed application and a copy of documentation showing
military service (DD-214 for veterans) (black out your Social Security Number) to:

Fred Di Fabio, President
67 Pacific Dunes Court
Medford, NY 11763-2405

For information,
call: 631-487-7210

- Check out our web page at: **LIAFA.ORG** and visit us on Facebook: **The Long Island Air Force Association - LIAFA**
- Attendance is **FREE**. Bring your family, friends and neighbors.
- You will be contacted to be scheduled for an upcoming ceremony.

**THIS AWARD HONORS LONG ISLAND WOMAN VETERANS AND WOMEN WHO ARE
CURRENTLY SERVING
(Not Awarded Posthumously)**

Official Veteran Registration Form

The Nassau County Veterans Monument Fund, Inc.

PRESENTS:

"WALLS OF HONOR"



The "Walls Of Honor"

offers places of remembrance to residents of Nassau County, NY
within *Veterans Memorial Plaza*,
Eisenhower Park, East Meadow, New York.

The Walls of Honor are exactly what they state, they are Honor Walls, not memorial walls. Stainless Steel Panels, mounted on Granite Walls, Engraved with Veterans names, ensures that the greatest contribution to our legacy of freedom is recognized for generations to come.

GIVE THE GIFT OF A LIFETIME

Reserve a place of **HONOR** for yourself, family member or friend and become part of a monument to the men and women who bravely served this nation through its darkest moments or protected it during times of peace. **Any** Veteran of any U.S. involved war. **Any** Veteran who is currently serving. **Any** Veteran living or deceased. **Any** Veteran who took the oath of enlistment & has been honorably discharged is eligible to be remembered.

The *Walls of Honor* is on-going. As long as veterans apply, there will be room for their names. Once a year we welcome all to attend our **Annual Honoree Dedication Ceremony** where new honorees names are placed on the Walls of Honor.

There is a \$100.00 application fee for each name to be engraved.

Donations are always greatly appreciated.

For additional information please contact Allison Ridam Krivosheiw
cell/text: 516-236-3245 /alliridam@gmail.com

revAR 05/2024



TO REGISTER:



Type or Print all information CLEARLY

Each registration form should include ONE NAME - For additional forms contact Allison or Joan Ridam @ 516-804-5802

NOTE: BE SURE TO INCLUDE A COPY of DD-214 or SEPARATION PAPERS or ANY OTHER TYPE OF PROOF OF SERVICE

Along with Proof of Nassau County Residency

Donor's name:

[Grid of 20 empty boxes for Donor's name]

Address:

[Grid of 20 empty boxes for Address]

Town:

[Grid of 15 empty boxes for Town]

State:

[Grid of 2 empty boxes for State]

Zip Code:

[Grid of 5 empty boxes for Zip Code]

Area code & Phone number (Please circle: Home / Cell)

[Grid of 10 empty boxes for Area code & Phone number]

HONOREE INFORMATION:

All Letters are Capital Letters. For lower case letters, circle the box (e.g. Mc, Mac)
Leave blank boxes for space between words.

1. Name of Veteran being honored:

(First, Middle, Last)

J O H N E . M C C O R M I C K

[Grid of 20 empty boxes for Name of Veteran]

2. Branch of service:

* See below for abbreviations

[Grid of 20 empty boxes for Branch of service]

3. Date of service: (optional) _____

4. If applicable: Prisoner of War - Missing in Action - Killed in Action Please include proof of status.

check box: POW MIA KIA

IMPORTANT: SERVICE MEMBERS' NAMES ARE NOT ENGRAVED ALPHABETICALLY. THEY ARE ENGRAVED IN THE ORDER THEY ARE RECEIVED. THE INFORMATION YOU SUBMIT IS WHAT WILL BE ENGRAVED ON THE WALL. DOUBLE - CHECK YOUR INFORMATION. If you wish to place multiple names on a panel, submit together a separate application for each person. In receipt of this form, the donor will be sent a certificate of acknowledgement.

***Service Branch Abbreviations:**

USA - US Army / USAF - US Air Force / USN - US Navy / USMC - US Marine Corps / USCG - US Coast Guard / USAAC - US Army Air Corps / USAAF - US Army Air Force / USMM - US Merchant Marines / USANG - US Army National Guard / NYARNG - NY Army Reserved National Guard / ANG - Air National Guard / USNG - US National Guard / WAC- Women Army Corp / ABN - Army Airborne / USSF - US Space Force / All service prior year 1900, e.g.: Civil War, Revolutionary War-please contact us.

Submit this completed form, payment and proof of service & residency to:

Nassau County Veterans Monument Fund, Inc

PO Box 7911

Hicksville, New York 11802-7911

For additional information please contact Allison Ridam Krivosheiv cell/text: 516-236-3245 / alliridam@gmail.com

The Nassau County Veterans Monument Fund, Inc. is a 501-(c)(3) non- profit organization. It is a private organization and not part of Nassau County government and has no affiliation with any government agency. Federal Tax # upon request.

Please make check payable to : Nassau County Veterans Monument Fund, Inc.

The Walls Of Honor are open to Nassau County Veteran residences living &/or deceased

A \$100.00 application fee for each Veteran name is all that is required to ensure that future generations know the sacrifice & courage of these brave Americans.