



Oct–Dec 2024

# LI 202 AFA NEWS

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|                  |                             |
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Visit us on the WEB:

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[Long Island Air & Space Forces Association–LIAFA](#)

Email us at: [LIAFA202@gmail.com](mailto:LIAFA202@gmail.com)

Newsletter editor: Steven Latus

## CALENDAR OF LIAFA EVENTS 2025

### Vietnam Medal Ceremonies

**Sat, Jun 28, 2025**

Long Island State Veterans Home  
100 Patriots Rd  
Stony Brook  
2:00 p.m.

**Wed, Jul 9, 2025**

During Shootout for Soldiers  
John J. Burns Park  
4990 Merrick Rd  
Massapequa Park  
5:00 p.m.

**Sat, Sep 27, 2025**

American Airpower Museum  
1230 New Highway  
Farmingdale  
11:30 a.m.

### Women's Military Service Medal Ceremonies

**Sat, Apr 26, 2025**

Cradle of Aviation  
Charles Lindbergh Blvd  
Garden City  
11:30 a.m.

### 84<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Annual Pearl Harbor Memorial Ceremony— Dropping of the Roses

**Sun, Dec 7, 2025**

American Airpower Museum  
1230 New Highway  
Farmingdale  
10:30 a.m.

## President's Message

We are still accepting applications for both the Vietnam 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Medal Ceremony as well as the Women's Military Service Medal Ceremony. The requirements for each are:

Applies to both medals:

- 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)

Applies only to Vietnam 50th Anniversary Commemorative Medal:

- Served in the Vietnam theater of operations in any branch of the military as per DD Form 214

Applies only to Women's Military Service Medal:

- 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.

You will find both applications at the end of this newsletter. You can also apply online from our website at [LIAFA.org](http://LIAFA.org) (DD214 and other required documentation must still be mailed; black out your Social Security number).

**Thank you to all our members for your support and a big thank you also to our currently-serving men and women all over the world, and to our veterans. Let us all hope and strive to make the new year better than the old.**



*Image courtesy of the Military Officers Association of Sarasota, Inc.*

## **Recent Events**

### **46<sup>th</sup> Vietnam 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Medal Ceremony**

**Twenty-nine Vietnam veterans** were presented with Vietnam 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Medals and Certificates of Appreciation on **Saturday, November 2**, at the Museum of American Armor in Old Bethpage. Distinguished guests included the Director of the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Major General **Edward J. Chrystal, Jr.**, Assistant Air and Space Attaché, Australian Embassy, Royal Australian Air Force Group Captain **Amy Beck**, Founding Trustee of the Museum of American Armor **Gary Lewi**, New York Congressman (D-CD3) **Tom Suozzi**, Veteran Case Worker for Congressman Tom Suozzi **Ed Aulman**, Nassau County Veterans Service Agency Director **Ralph Esposito**, Suffolk County Veterans Service Agency Director **Marcelle Leis** and Chaplain of District 11 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars **Robert Robesch**. Special thanks to our supporters: Shootout for Soldiers, Long Island State Veterans Home, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Band, Blue Star Mothers, American Legion Riders from Greenlawn Post 1244, Patriot Guard Riders, Rolling Thunder Chapter 6, Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) Chapter 82 Color Guard and Lt. Quentin Roosevelt Civil Air Patrol Cadet Squadron NY-288.

RAAF Group Captain **Amy Beck** was given a special presentation to honor the approximately 60,000 Australian military troops who served together with American troops during the Vietnam War. 521 were KIA while more than 3000 were wounded.



*Christopher De Luca holding the “Welcome Home” sign. In the back (L to R) are LIAFA VP for Corporate Development **Ray Donnelly**, New York Congressman (D-CD3) **Tom Suozzi**, LIAFA treasurer Col. (Ret.) **Bill Stratemeier**, Major General **Edward J. Chrystal, Jr.**, Director of the Nassau County Veterans Service Agency **Ralph Esposito** and Director of the Suffolk County Veterans Service Agency **Marcelle Leis**. LIAFA president **Fred Di Fabio** is standing and applauding to Christopher’s left.*

*Photo credit: Ken Nevor*



*L to R: Maj. Gen. **Edward J. Chrystal, Jr.**, RAAF Group Captain **Amy Beck** and LIAFA Treasurer Col. (Ret.) **Bill Stratemeier**.*

*Photo credit: Steven Latus*



Royal Australian Air Force Group Captain **Amy Beck** accepting a certificate honoring the 60,000 Australians who served alongside American troops in Vietnam. Standing to her right is U.S. Army Major General **Edward J. Chrystal, Jr.** while LIAFA president and U.S. Air Force Vietnam veteran **Fred Di Fabio** is to her left.

*Photo credit: Ken Nevor*



Vietnam veteran **James Crawford** of the U.S. Navy receives a commemorative medal and certificate of appreciation from U.S. Army Major General **Edward J. Chrystal, Jr.** Crawford's 13-year-old grandson Anthony, a youth cadet in the Civil Air Patrol, volunteered to take pictures of the medal recipients for their families.

*Photo credit: Newsday/Kendall Rodriguez*

## Veterans Annual Winter Stand Down

The annual Winter Stand Down, hosted by Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman and the Nassau County Veterans Service Agency Director Ralph Esposito, took place on **Tuesday, November 26** from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Freeport Armory. More than 100 people, including students from Mepham High School (Bellmore) and Calhoun High School (Merrick) and veterans, came on the Monday morning before the event to help pack the items into bags to be distributed at the stand down. It was a drive-through-only event (with some arriving by foot); items distributed included turkeys, hams, clothes, boots, toiletries, gift cards and nonperishable foods; all items were brand new. Roughly 600 veterans came to the event and received a bag of goodies and information on resources available to help them throughout the year. All excess food was delivered to the Vet Mart run by the Nassau County Veterans Service Agency.

Among the volunteers at the stand down were Nassau County Legislators **Debra Mulé** (D-Freeport) and **Seth I. Koslow** (D-Merrick), and Freeport Mayor and U.S. Navy veteran **Robert T. Kennedy**. Participating organizations were the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, General Needs, Disabled American Veterans, Reworld (formerly Covanta), Long Island Cares, Island Harvest, Covert Avenue and Gotham Avenue Elementary Schools in Elmont (donated cases of food), PSEG Long Island, Nassau County Veterans Service Agency, Beacon House, Vietnam War Veterans Association, New York Islanders, P.C. Richard & Son, National Grid, and the Incorporated Village of Freeport.



*One of the medal recipients with family.*

*Photo credit: Ken Nevor*



Some of the volunteers for the Annual Winter Stand Down. Legislator **Seth I. Koslow** is 2<sup>nd</sup> from the left while Mayor **Robert T. Kennedy** is 5<sup>th</sup> from the left.

*Photo credit: Office of the Legislative Minority*



Mepham and Calhoun High School leadership class students celebrated a day of community service on behalf of veterans. **Ralph Esposito**, Director of the Nassau County Veterans Service Agency, is in the 2<sup>nd</sup> row, far right.

Photo credit: Holden Leeds/Herald Photos

## **Two Veterans, a Liberator and the Liberated, Honored in Ronkonkoma**

A 99<sup>th</sup> birthday party for Gene Levy of Northport on November 27 was turned into an emotional meeting at BLD's Restaurant in Ronkonkoma when Jean Sklar, 95 and a Holocaust survivor, entered the room. Levy, whose birthday was on November 25, enlisted in the Army at age 17. He served as a rifleman and a Jeep driver in the 398<sup>th</sup> Regiment, 100<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, which entered Europe in September 1944 and was ordered to hold its position outside the town of Bitche during the Battle of the Bulge in December; after the German offensive *Operation Northwind* the following January it would go on to capture Bitche in March. After the war, Levy served in the Office of Military Government, United States, interviewing prisoners during the occupation of Germany. He later returned home to marry and raise a family on Long Island.

Levy is a member of Vets & Friends, a group that meets for breakfast at BLD's Restaurant every Wednesday morning. These meetings serve as a place where veterans and nonmilitary members can converse and find community. Diane "Dee" Mihailovich, a member who knows Levy from the group, had known Sklar's daughter-in-law for some time and came up with the idea for Levy and Sklar to meet after reading Sklar's memoir, *Disappeared*.

Sklar, who was born in 1929 in France to a Jewish family, was about twelve when the Nazi's took his parents and several siblings and deported them to Auschwitz, where they were killed. He, along with several of his siblings, escaped capture, using fake identities and forged documents to survive. He and his brother Jacques moved to the US in 1947; his younger sister Paulette also survived. Four years later, during the Korean War, Sklar was drafted and sent to Germany, where he served as a Morse code operator. After his discharge, he married his late wife, Tillie, and they moved to Hauppauge to raise three children.

As Levy entered the restaurant with his son around 9:15 a.m., applause rang out; a few minutes later, when Sklar arrived, there was another round of applause. The entire left side of BLD's was filled with friends, family, and Paws of War and Vets & Friends members. After taking their seats at the table, the two men were presented with individual proclamations by the Suffolk County Executive's Office. The nonprofit group Paws of War, along with Vets & Friends, hosted the birthday gathering to honor Levy and Sklar.



*Gene Levy (foreground) applauds with others as he's joined by Jean Sklar, holding a proclamation*

*Photo credit: James Carbone/Newsday*

### **83<sup>rd</sup> Pearl Harbor Memorial Ceremony (Dropping of the Roses)**

The ceremony was held at the American Airpower Museum in Farmingdale on **Saturday, December 7**. Special recognition was given to four World War II veterans in the form of proclamations presented by Nassau County Veterans Service Agency Director **Ralph Esposito** and Suffolk County Veterans Service Agency Deputy Director Col. (Ret.) **Jim Brennan**.

Other distinguished guests included American Airpower Museum President **Jeff Clyman**, Skytypers Air Show Team Pilot **Tom Daly**, Senior Enlisted Leader, Navy Operational Support Center, Chief **Alvin Valencia**, and Rabbinic Chaplain **Joni Brenner**.

69-year-old Jerry Hydrusko, nephew of the late Joseph Hydrusko (who started the rose-dropping tradition back in 1970; he was a Navy corpsman at Pearl Harbor during the attack) was among the



family members attending the ceremony. Jerry said of his uncle, "He was a very giving person and he wanted to give back. It was important for him to preserve the moment. We will see this continue for many, many generations."

After the roses were blessed, the colors were retired, and the indoor ceremony ended, eighty-four roses (eighty-three red roses and one white rose for 9/11) were presented to the crew of the Skytypers Air Show Team's SNJ-2 *Texan* aircraft, who then took off to drop the roses over the Statue of Liberty at 12:55 p.m. to mark the exact time of the Pearl Harbor attack.

Many thanks, as always, to our supporters: Shootout for Soldiers, Long Island State Veterans Home, NDIA (National Defense Industrial Association), American Airpower Museum, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Band, vocalist for the 11<sup>th</sup> New York Regiment USV-A Col. Louis DiLeo, Sergeant at Arms Paul Massi (USMC veteran), Skytypers Air Show Team, Navy Operational Support Center, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 82, Patriot Guard Riders, American Legion Riders Post 1244, Rolling Thunder Chapter 6, Civil Air Patrol Lt. Quentin Roosevelt Cadet Squadron NY-288, Blue Star Mothers, Costco of Melville, Applebee's Restaurant and the Town of Babylon.

Following are some pictures from the event:



*LIAFA treasurer Col. (Ret.) Bill Stratemeier addresses the crowd. Four World War II veterans are sitting, two on each side of the table displaying the roses.*

*Photo credit: American Airpower Museum*



*U.S. Navy sailors prepare to present the roses to the crew of the Skytypers Air Show Team SNJ-2 “Texan” right before the start of the flight that will drop the roses over the Statue of Liberty. Air Force veteran **Mike Brockey** of Syosset was the pilot and Navy Vietnam veteran **Mike O’Leary** was the backseater who dropped the roses.*

*Photo credit: American Airpower Museum*



*The color guard from Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 82. They have been a dependable and much-appreciated fixture at all LIAFA ceremonies.*

*Photo credit: Ken Nevor*



*Ralph Esposito, Director of the Nassau County Veterans Service Agency presents a proclamation to **Frank Agoglia**, a 101-year-old World War II D-Day Army veteran, during the ceremony.*

*Photo credit: Rick Kopstein/Newsday*

## Laying of Remembrance Wreaths at Long Island National Cemetery

The Civil Air Patrol (CAP) continued its annual tradition of partnering with *Wreaths Across America* at Long Island National Cemetery (LINC) in Farmingdale on **Saturday, December 14**. CAP's Long Island Senior Squadron (LISS) participated with other volunteers in laying wreaths at the gravesites to honor the veterans and family members interred there.

From the website of the *Metropolitan Airport News*:

“While sponsoring a wreath is a relatively easy thing to do, the impact it makes is more far-reaching than one would expect,” commented LISS Commander Lt. Col. **Michael Gieraltowski**. “Aside from the financial support the sponsorship provides for CAP activities, it affords the opportunity for our senior and cadet members to recognize and remember our deceased veterans and reflect on the sacrifices so many have made in the defense of our country and values,” continued the US Army and New York Army National Guard veteran.



*Members of the CAP Long Island Senior Squadron (LISS) preparing to lay wreaths at Long Island National Cemetery.*

*Photo credit: Metropolitan Airport News*

## Upcoming Non-LIAFA Events

### Four Chaplains Memorial Service

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2:30 p.m.** at the United Methodist Church of Hempstead at 40 Washington St. in Hempstead.

## Announcements and Programs

### 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) 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](http://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](http://www.nassaucountyny.gov/4919/Veterans-Treatment-Court). **Volunteers are also being sought to be mentors; training will be provided. Please call Rosemary Walker at (516) 493-4145.**

### Volunteer Drivers Wanted for Veterans—Nassau County Veterans Service Agency

The Nassau County Veterans Service Agency is looking for volunteers to transport veterans to and from the Northport VA, East Meadow VA Clinic, Valley Stream VA Clinic and Hicksville Vet Center. Please donate any time you have to give on Monday–Friday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. 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!**

## **Food Donations Requested**

The Vet Mart food pantry at the Nassau County Veterans Service Agency needs your food donations. Please bring your canned and other nonperishable goods to them at 2201 Hempstead Tpke., Building Q, East Meadow. Please call (516) 572-6565 for more information and to find out which kinds of food are most needed on any given day. No amount is too small!

The Vet Mart hours of operation are Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–12 noon.

## **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](mailto:Robert.Erdody@va.gov) or call (631) 235-8220. For a volunteer application, please send an email to [Jennifer.Pohl2@va.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Pohl2@va.gov) or call (631) 261-4400, ext. 7182.

## **Lifetime Liberty Pass for New York State Residents**

Since April 1 of this year, eligibility for the Lifetime Liberty Pass has expanded to encompass the following (**for New York State residents only**):

1. All veterans, regardless of whether they have a VA disability compensation rating and who were discharged or released from service under conditions other than dishonorable.
2. Gold Star parents, Gold Star spouses and Gold Star children.

This pass provides free admission to all New York State parks. Additionally, pass holders are also entitled to free admission to the two Town of Hempstead golf courses in Merrick (9 holes) and Lido Beach (18 holes).

To apply for the Lifetime Liberty Pass, please go to the following website:

<https://www.parks.ny.gov/admission/lifetime-liberty-pass.aspx>.

Also, since April 1, a veteran who has the veteran distinguishing mark on their New York State driver's license or nondriver's ID card will be able to use that license to gain free admission at New York State parks that have a *staffed* admission gate. Parks that have only an *unstaffed* admission kiosk, however, will require the use of the Lifetime Liberty Pass.

## **DD214s and Other Military Service Records Are Available Online**

The following VA website is for veterans to gain access to their DD214 and other military service records online: <https://vetrecs.archives.gov/VeteranRequest/home.html#BasicInformation>.

## **PACT Act and Camp Lejeune Justice Act (CLJA) Deadlines**

The information below is from an article by Elizabeth Hartman of the law firm Bergmann & Moore LLC in the October 2023 issue of *The American Legion Magazine*:

- **There is no deadline to file a PACT Act claim** through the VA. You can always contact an accredited American Legion service officer to file a claim. The “deadline” that is shown on several law firms’ websites references filing an *Intent to File* (ITF). If you had filed an ITF by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on August 14, 2023, that ensured that your benefits (if ultimately approved) would have dated back to the implementation date of the PACT Act—August 10, 2022—in essence, giving you a bonus year of benefits and a year from the date of the ITF to finalize your claim. There is no deadline for filing the PACT Act claim itself. Your claim will simply be considered from the date you filed rather than from the implementation date.

If you have any questions before filing a claim, Elizabeth Hartman can be contacted at (252) 497-7255. She is the Bergmann & Moore CLJA liaison with The American Legion.

### **More PACT Act Information**

The VA has announced that all veterans who were exposed to toxins and other hazards while serving are eligible to enroll in VA Healthcare. This means that all Vietnam War, Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan, the Global War on Terror or any other combat zones after 9/11 are eligible to enroll directly in VA Healthcare without first having to apply for benefits. For more information on the PACT Act, presumptive conditions and locations, visit [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) and search on *PACT Act*, or call the Nassau County Veterans Service Agency at (516) 572-6565 or the Suffolk County Veterans Service Agency at (631) 853-8387.

### **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](http://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 hand-offs 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](mailto:vetservices@centralnassau.org).

## **Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) Donation Programs**

If you're looking to donate clothing, books, small appliances or pretty much anything else, and also want to help veterans, go to [clothingdonations.org](http://clothingdonations.org) or call (631) 582-0242 to schedule a pick-up. Please put the donation outside before 7 a.m. on the scheduled pickup date, clearly marked *Vietnam Veterans of America*, so that the driver can see it from the street. VVA has found that the most profitable way to sell household discards is through bulk-purchase agreements with private retailers on a bid basis. A portion of the proceeds goes to the local Nassau County VVA Chapter 82.

VVA also has a separate program for car donations. Go to [vietnamveteranscardonation.org](http://vietnamveteranscardonation.org) or call (800) 435-7838 to schedule a donation—FREE towing is provided!

## **Purple Heart Foundation Donation Programs**

Purple Heart Foundation also accepts donations of new and used clothing. It has drop-off locations at Smith Haven Mall in Lake Grove and at Walt Whitman Mall in Huntington Station. They also offer a pickup service. To schedule a pickup, please call 888-944-3767 or visit the GreenDrop website at <https://scheduling.gogreendrop.com/pickup>.

Purple Heart Foundation also accepts vehicle donations. Please call 888-414-4483 or go to their website at <https://purpleheartfoundation.org/donate-a-car/>.

**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 p.m. and Cablevision channel 20 on Fridays at 6:30 p.m. 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:Info@GeneralNeeds.org). You can also visit their website at [www.GeneralNeeds.org](http://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, and Freeport. For more information, please call Michael Haynes at (631) 582-3663, extension 202 or email him at [mhaynes@licares.org](mailto:mhaynes@licares.org).

Their website is [www.licares.org/what-we-do/feed-long-island/veterans-project](http://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](mailto: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 Street in Hempstead at 5:15 p.m. on Mondays and 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays; Levittown Public Library, 1 Bluegrass Lane in Levittown at 2 p.m. on Thursdays (biweekly). There are also spouse/partner meetings at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and women-only meetings at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, both at Mental Health Association, 16 Main Street 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 contact Marisol Mateo at (516) 489-2322, ext. 1260 or send her an email at [mmateo@mhanc.org](mailto:mmateo@mhanc.org). Also check out their website: [veteranshealthalliance.org](http://veteranshealthalliance.org).

## **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 [www.nslawservices.org](http://www.nslawservices.org).

## Contact information:

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

Islandia Office: 1757 Veterans Hway., 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](mailto:ghorton@nysda.org). Their website is [nysda.org/page/AboutVDP](http://nysda.org/page/AboutVDP).

## **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](mailto:mardiv1@optonline.net) or call him at (516) 921-0595. A charitable donation receipt will be provided by Beacon House.

## **Long Island Vets Help**

The Economic Opportunity Council of Suffolk, Inc. and the Long Island Coalition for the Homeless have partnered to produce a resource directory devoted specifically to the needs of veterans navigating civilian life on Long Island. For more information, go to their website at [longislandvetshelp.org](http://longislandvetshelp.org).

## **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. There is a \$100 application fee for each name to be engraved. For more information, please call Allison Ridam Krivosheiw at (516) 236-3245 or email her at [alliridam@gmail.com](mailto:alliridam@gmail.com).

***NOTE: A new requirement has been put in place that applicants must be current or former Nassau County residents. A copy of the newly-revised two-page application form has been attached to the end of this newsletter.***

## **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](http://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 Washington, D.C. to see their memorials **at no cost**. 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 email him at [jbowden@southamptontownny.gov](mailto:jbowden@southamptontownny.gov).

## **RISE Study Regarding Veterans and Stress**

The ReACH (Relationships, Aging, Coping & Health) Lab at Adelphi University has launched the RISE (Relational Influences on Sleep & Emotion) Study to learn more about how veterans cope with stress in their daily lives and how it affects their sleep and well-being. They are looking for veterans who are at least 65 years old and are married (or living with a partner). Participants will be compensated for their time and effort with a maximum of \$75 worth of gift cards. Participation includes an initial survey and seven brief daily surveys that will be emailed to you, along with the **option** to wear a watch-like device (after visiting their lab) to help them measure your sleep. If you wish to learn more, please contact the lead researcher, Dr. Christina Marini, by emailing her at [cmarini@adelphi.edu](mailto:cmarini@adelphi.edu) or calling her at (516) 877-4812.

## **Free COVID-19 At-Home Test Kits**

Everyone, not just veterans, can now request four (4) free COVID-19 at-home test kits (limited to one set per household) by going to the following website: <https://covidtests.gov>. These new test kits are designed to detect the recent virus strains and, they hope, the forthcoming winter ones. If you already have unused test kits at home, this site can also direct you to the FDA's website so that you can find out if those older test kits have expiration dates that have been extended.

Now would also be a good time to get the updated COVID-19 vaccine to help protect you from severe disease, hospitalization and death. It is especially important to get your 2024–2025 COVID-19 vaccination if you are age 65 or older, are at high risk for severe COVID-19, or have never received a COVID-19 vaccine. Vaccine protection decreases over time, so it is important to stay up to date with your COVID-19 vaccine.



## *Did you know . . .*

**On Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1941, two young Army Air Forces pilots, after spending the previous evening at a dance and afterwards at a late-night poker game at the officers' club, and still wearing their tuxedo pants, rose up to fight the Japanese planes attacking Pearl Harbor and were *almost* (supposedly) awarded the Medal of Honor.**

21-year-old 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Kenneth M. Taylor and 23-year-old 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. George Welch were both new pilots with the 47<sup>th</sup> Pursuit Squadron, U.S. Army Air Forces at Wheeler Field on Oahu, Hawaii. Prior to December 7, as part of a security plan to disperse the squadron's planes away from Wheeler, they had flown their P-40B fighters to Haleiwa Fighter Strip, which was about a ten-mile drive away. Haleiwa was a bare-bones unpaved landing strip used mainly to simulate real battle conditions for gunnery training, but on the morning of December 7, eight Curtiss P-40 Warhawks and two Curtiss P-36 Hawks were on the field. Haleiwa was on the opposite side of the island from Pearl Harbor, but it was near the flight path of the first wave of Japanese fighters and bombers.

Accounts differ about exactly what happened that morning, with some saying that the two pilots had gone to sleep after the poker game and were awakened about an hour later around 7:51 a.m., when Japanese planes attacked Wheeler. Others claim that the poker game had just wrapped up right before the attack and that the two were discussing taking an early morning swim. Whatever the case, after hearing that two-thirds of the planes at Wheeler and Hickham Fields had been destroyed or badly damaged in the Japanese assault and without waiting for orders, Taylor called ahead to have their planes fueled and armed, and the pair then raced Taylor's new Buick to Haleiwa, completing the trip in about 15 minutes, despite being strafed while on the way. After they had arrived and climbed into their planes, the crew chiefs informed them that they should disperse their planes. Welch answered, "To hell with that" and they both took off, even though their planes had been only partially provisioned with .30-caliber ammunition for the four wing guns and no .50-caliber bullets for the two nose-mounted guns.

After taking off, they soon arrived over Marine Corps Air Station Ewa, which was seven miles west of Pearl Harbor and the first installation to be hit during the attack. Their arrival came just as at least twelve Aichi D3A "Val" dive bombers of the second Japanese attack wave were strafing the airfield, having already dropped their bombs at Pearl Harbor. Despite being outnumbered six to one, Taylor and Welch went after the Vals. Welch's guns made one catch on fire, though unbeknownst to him, that pilot subsequently made it back to his carrier. Taylor shot down another two and then they both converged on a third Val, sending it crashing onto the beach.

Out of ammunition, they both flew back to Wheeler, where they were able to get .50 caliber ammunition (Haleiwa didn't carry any). While they were on the ground, they were advised to leave the airplanes, but they were able to convince those officers into allowing them to continue fighting. While the re-arming was happening, more Vals began strafing Wheeler. The two then took off, both realizing that, if they took off heading away from the incoming planes, they would become easy targets. They therefore took off heading directly at the Japanese, firing as they went.

Once airborne, Taylor headed for a group of Japanese planes, but due to a combination of clouds and smoke, he wound up entering in the middle of a group of seven or eight A6M Zero fighters that were accompanying more Val dive bombers. Taylor was closing in for a head-on pass with a Val when the Japanese rear gunner in another one of the Vals fired at Taylor's aircraft and one of the bullets came within an inch of Taylor's head, splintering in the cockpit. He was wounded by shrapnel in his left arm and his leg. As Taylor began performing evasive maneuvers, Welch fell in behind Taylor's attacker and shot him down with his .50-caliber guns. Welch then went on to down a Zero while Taylor scored another kill on a Val. Luckily for the both of them, the Japanese planes may have been low on fuel since they soon all turned and headed back to their carriers. The pair continued to fire until they ran out of ammunition, at which point they broke off their attack and returned to Haleiwa.

Military records show that Taylor was credited with two kills that day while Welch was credited with four kills, although new research of Japanese combat reports confirms that Taylor also got four kills. Their efforts were credited with diverting the Japanese from destroying the Haleiwa air strip, but another factor was that Japanese intelligence did not know of the air strip's existence before the attack.

For their actions that day, they were each awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the U.S. Army's second-highest honor for valor in the heat of combat, on January 8, 1942 (Taylor also received a Purple Heart for his wounds). Some sources claim that both men were initially recommended for the Medal of Honor by General Henry "Hap" Arnold, but that their commanding officer had denied the honor because the two men had taken off without permission. However, no documentation has ever been found to substantiate this claim.

Taylor was a technical advisor for the 1970 film *Tora! Tora! Tora!*, a story about the attack on Pearl Harbor and the events that led up to it. He was portrayed in the film by actor Carl Reindel while actor Rick Cooper portrayed Welch.

Taylor retired as a colonel in the Air Force in 1967 after serving 27 years. Soon thereafter, he started as the Assistant Adjutant General for the Alaska Air National Guard, retiring as a brigadier general in 1971. He died on November 25, 2006, of a strangulated hernia at an assisted living residence in Tucson, Arizona and was buried at Arlington National Cemetery. He was survived by his wife of 64 years, Flora, his son Kenneth M., Jr. and his daughter Jo. His son joined the Air Force in 1966, was a Vietnam veteran and retired in 1997 as a brigadier general, commanding the Alaska Air National Guard, the same position and rank that his father had.

After a bout with malaria in 1943 that ended his combat career (348 combat missions with 16 confirmed victories), Welch was approached by North American Aviation in the spring of 1944 to become a

company test pilot and, with the recommendation of General Arnold, he resigned his commission and accepted the job. He went on to work for the company as chief test pilot, engineer and instructor during the Korean War. On October 12, 1954, while on a test flight in the F-100 Super Sabre, his plane disintegrated during a 7-G pullout at Mach 1.55 and crashed. When found, he was still strapped into his ejection seat but critically injured. He was evacuated by helicopter to the USAF Plant 42 hospital but was pronounced dead on arrival. He was buried in Arlington National Cemetery.



*L to R: 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Ken Taylor and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. George Welch*

*Photo credit: Air Force Archives*



*P-40B Warhawk G-CDWH at Duxford Aerodrome 2011. It is the only airworthy P-40B in the world and the only one that survived the Pearl Harbor attack.*

*Photo credit: Tony Hisgett - Flickr: Curtiss P-40B 41-13297 4, CC BY 2.0,  
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=17235690>*

# ★★★ Supporters' Corner ★★★

## Skytypers Air Show Team

The Skytypers Air Show Team (formerly the GEICO Skytypers) have been dropping the roses over the Statue of Liberty for LIAFA's December 7 Pearl Harbor ceremony "Dropping of the Roses" since 1996. Even before that, they had been dropping the roses following the death in 1974 of Joseph Hydrusko, who had been doing the rose-dropping himself since 1970 as his way of honoring the men and women who had died during the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. Joe had been a U.S. Navy corpsman serving at Pearl Harbor at the time of the attack and had saved countless lives during it.



*Skytypers Air Show Team's SNJ-2 Texan aircraft in flight*

*Photo credit: Skytypers website*

Skytypers began in 1932 when founder Andy Stinis was hired by a little-known beverage company to promote its product. That company was Pepsi-Cola and for the next 22 years, Pepsi used skywriting as its major mass advertising medium to build its brand. In 1946 Andy developed Skytyping, which was a faster, more advanced method of skywriting using multiple aircraft to display more complex sky displays and messages that were longer-lasting and more readable at longer distances. Andy also was awarded a patent in 1964 for computer-controlled Skytyping using multiple aircraft.

In 1965 Greg Stinis, Andy's son, hired Mort Arken to run the East Coast division while he concentrated on running the West Coast division. Mort, a retired Navy aviator and a showman with extensive sales experience, loved the business and in the 1970s bought the East Coast division and the six SNJ-2 aircraft from Andy Stinis. This company was incorporated in 1985 under the name SNJ-2 Corp.

In 1992 Mort's son Larry Arken acquired the business from his dad. Larry had worked and flown with his father for years and was an accomplished aviator. Mort would continue to work with Larry until his death in 2007 at the age of 83. Larry also became a commercial airline pilot and is the current CEO of SNJ-2 Corp. The company currently does far more flight demonstrations than skytyping, although if conditions permit, they will often do some skytyping before the air show. No doubt, the most well-known air show in our metropolitan area in which the Skytypers Air Show Team takes part is the annual Bethpage Airshow, which takes place at Jones Beach over the weekend before Memorial Day. This show also features either the Air Force Thunderbirds or the Navy Blue Angels, together with the American Airpower Museum Warbirds, the Army Golden Knights Parachute Team, the 106<sup>th</sup> Rescue Wing NY Air National Guard HC-130/HH-60 Helicopter Demonstration Team as well as other performers.

Over the years, Skytypers (East Coast and West Coast divisions) has provided its services for the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles, Superbowl games, Macy's parades, Fourth of July celebrations and over the White House in Washington, D.C. Companies that have contracted with Skytypers to provide Skytyping and aerial formation demonstrations include GEICO, Anheuser-Busch, Miller Brewing Company, Coors, Pepsi-Cola, Universal Pictures, Toyota Motors, Disneyland, Coppertone, Solarcaine, Ford, and General Foods.

Most of the pilots are former military and most are commercial pilots who fly for the Skytypers Air Show Team on the weekends. The World War II-era planes that the Skytypers Air Show Team flies are U.S. Navy North American SNJ-2 Texans (designated as AT-6 Texans in the U.S. Army Air Corps and in its successor, the U.S. Army Air Forces). Originally serving as military training aircraft (their nickname is "Pilot Maker"), they are a popular warbird used for airshow demonstrations and have also been used to simulate various historical aircraft, including the Japanese Mitsubishi A6M "Zero" fighters and Nakajima B5N "Kate" torpedo bombers in the 1970 film *Tora! Tora! Tora!* Over 15,000 of the type (including all variants) were built shortly before and during the war.

Skytypers Air Show Team pilots have been dropping the roses for LIAFA's Pearl Harbor ceremony for 29 years. Some of the recent pilots acting in this role have been Tom Daly, Michael O'Leary, Michael Brockey, Jim Record, Joe Daly, Chris Orr and Nick Zirolli.



## Taps



**Walter Geary** of Baldwin passed away on October 28 at the age of 73 of undisclosed causes. Walter was a Marine Corps veteran (1968-1972) and continued his military reserve service with the Army National Guard until 1974. Walter joined the NYPD in 1975, working in the 83<sup>rd</sup> and 101<sup>st</sup> precincts, and the Manhattan North Narcotics Bureau followed by the Arson and Explosion Squad. He retired in 1992 from the 106<sup>th</sup> Detective Squad after suffering a heart attack.

Walter was the adopted child of Walter and Jennie Geary from Baldwin and was a brother to four siblings: Victoria Cornicello, married to John; Janeen Violante, married to Joe; Rosemarie Mahon, married to Roy; and Michael Geary, married to Merry. He is survived by his wife, Virginia, his four children: Brian Geary, married to Jackie; Damian Healy, married to Michelle; Meaghan Zuckerbrot, married to David; and Caitlin Geary, and his five grandchildren: Nathan Healy, Luke Healy, Emily Geary, Jackson Geary and Leah Geary.

For many years, Walter was also the unofficial photographer for LIAFA, capturing many of the moments during our ceremonies that were featured in this newsletter and on our website.

Semper Fi, Marine. Fair winds and following seas.



*Walter Geary*

*Photo credit: Fullerton Funeral Home, Baldwin*

**Gene W. Schroer** of Lynbrook, an Army veteran, passed away appropriately on Veterans Day, November 11, at age 77 after a long illness. He leaves behind his loving wife of 52 years, Linda Schroer, and a daughter, Rosemary Schroer. He is also survived by his sister, Clara Anne White of Tamarac, FL as well as many cousins, nieces, nephews, brothers-in-law (John Bernhardt, James Bernhardt and Michael Bernhardt), a sister-in-law (Bonnie Lance) and her husband, James Lance.

Gene was an avid photographer, an interest he started while in the Army. Since 1970 he has held many positions involving computers and technology. He loved to travel and was a volunteer with many organizations including The Safe Center in Bethpage and the VFW in East Rockaway. In recent years he became a ham radio operator and was also the director of the public access cable TV show “Veterans News,” a production of the United Veterans Organization of Nassau County.



*Gene W. Schroer*

*Photo credit: Flinch & Bruns Funeral Home,  
Lynbrook*

**Bob Fernandez**, a Navy veteran and survivor of the December 7, 1941, Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, has passed away at the age of 100 on December 11 in Lodi, California at the home of his nephew, Joe Guthrie. Fernandez was a 17-year-old cook serving aboard the seaplane tender USS *Curtiss*, which was anchored on the opposite side of Ford Island from Battleship Row. She was one of the few ships that were able to get underway during the attack, surviving a bomb hit and an enemy plane that crashed into one of her aircraft-handling cranes (a plane that the ship's crew claimed they shot down). Fernandez served for six years in the Navy, all of them aboard the USS *Curtiss*.



*Bob Fernandez at home in Lodi, California*

*Photo credit: Godofredo A. Vásquez/AP*

**Warren Upton**, the oldest living survivor of the Pearl Harbor attack and the last surviving crew member of the battleship USS *Utah*, passed away on December 25 at age 105 of pneumonia at a hospital in Los Gatos, California. He was a Navy veteran who served as a radioman. At the war's end, he joined the Navy Reserve, returning to action during the Korean War. He later settled in California's Bay Area, where he worked as a bank teller and later as a radio technician for United Airlines and General Electric. He became a leader in his local chapter of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association.

The USS *Utah* was a training ship that was moored at Pearl Harbor on the morning of December 7. She was struck by two torpedoes early in the attack, sinking quickly. 58 of her 519 crew members were killed.



*Warren Upton*

*Photo credit: legacy.com*

**Harry Chandler**, another survivor of the Pearl Harbor attack, passed away at the age of 103 on December 30 at a senior living center in Tequesta, Florida. Chandler was a Navy corpsman who was raising the flag at the mobile hospital at Aiea Heights when the attack began. He witnessed the bombings of the USS *Arizona*, USS *Oklahoma*, and USS *Nevada*, and rushed to aid the wounded sailors, pulling them from the water and washing oil from their bodies. He remained in the Navy Reserve for decades after World War II, retiring in 1981. After his death, only 14 Pearl Harbor survivors are still alive.



*Harry Chandler*

*Photo credit: legacy.com*



## THE LONG ISLAND AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION (LIAFA)

A Department of Defense (DOD) Vietnam 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Commemorative Sponsor

LIAFA proudly presents the Vietnam 50<sup>th</sup> 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 Di Fabio, 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.
- 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.



# WOMAN'S RECOGNITION CEREMONY

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

The Long Island Air Force 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 send a copy of your DD-214 **showing military service** (black out your Social Security Number) and this completed application to:

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

For information,  
call: 631-754-6383

- 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)

JOHN E. McCORMICK

[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.