



Jul-Sep 2023

# LI 202 AFA NEWS

## Chapter Officers

Fred Di Fabio	President
Steven Latus	Vice President
Ray Donnelly	VP Corporate Development
Kenneth J. Nevor	VP Veterans Affairs
Andrea Nordquist	VP Media Relations
Cathy Ward	Secretary
Bill Stratemeier	Treasurer

Visit us on the WEB:

[LIAFA.ORG](http://LIAFA.ORG)

Visit us on FACEBOOK:

Long Island Air Force Association—LIAFA

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

Newsletter editor: Steven Latus

## CALENDAR OF LIAFA EVENTS

2023

### Vietnam Medal Ceremonies

**Sat, Oct 28, 2023**

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

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

**Thu, Dec 7, 2023**

American Airpower Museum  
1230 New Highway  
Farmingdale  
10:30 AM

## President's Message

The Long Island Air Force Association has instituted a new program for Long Island **women veterans and those currently serving**, with the second ceremony having been held on September 30.

The requirements are:

- 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.
- 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).

You will find an award application towards the end of this newsletter. You can also download one from our website at [LIAFA.org](http://LIAFA.org).

**Please look to the LIAFA Facebook page and/or our website at [LIAFA.org](http://LIAFA.org) for future notices regarding any upcoming events.**

## Recent Events

### Shootout for Soldiers

*By: Ray Donnelly*

*VP Corporate Development, Long Island Chapter #202, Air & Space Forces Association*



Against a backdrop of red, white, and blue, the Long Island Lacrosse Community kept its promise of support to our nation's veterans with its ninth annual Shootout for Soldiers (SFS) fundraiser held on July 13-14, 9 AM to 9 AM. Beginning in 2014, the Long Island Shootout for Soldiers has gone from strength to strength.

The SFS team crushed its fundraising goal of \$150,000 with \$180,000 already received and receipts still being totaled. This will add to the over \$1 million already raised since 2014, demonstrating how one great team—the Long Island Lax Community and its sponsors—is supporting another—our nation's veterans.

The event itself was what people have come to expect from SFS—great on-the-field action, the jamboree-like atmosphere, and special ceremonies like the Vietnam Veterans Medal Ceremony hosted by the Long Island Air Force Association, a valued partner of SFS.

New attendees this year included Richie Meade, a star player at Nassau Community College and North Carolina who served for fifteen years as the head coach at the U.S. Naval Academy. Richie was a coach at the All-Veterans Game, one of the many special matchups that highlight the lacrosse action.

That action extended to the many youth teams, the always spirited wheelchair game, as well as the special needs community. The women's game's rapid growth was also on display, exemplified by the NYPD women who fielded a team for the second year in a row.

With heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all our players, coaches, volunteers, and valued sponsors, we look forward to you joining us next year as we mark our tenth anniversary! Shootout for Soldiers' efforts stand out as the best lacrosse community in the nation that comes together to be ... ***Long Island Lax Strong!***



### **39th Vietnam 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Medal Ceremony**

**Twenty-two Vietnam veterans** were presented with Vietnam 50th Anniversary Commemorative Medals and Certificates of Appreciation on Thursday, July 13, at John J. Burns Park in Massapequa Park during the annual Shootout for Soldiers. Distinguished guests included Town of Oyster Bay Supervisor **Joseph Saladino**, National Executive Director of Shootout for Soldiers for Team RWB **Erik Mineo**, Shootout for Soldiers Co-Chairmen **Mike Nelson** and **Tom Campolettano**, Chairman Emeritus of Shootout for Soldiers **Harry Jacobs**, Board Member of Long Island Metro Lacrosse Foundation and Nassau County Judge **Honorable Christopher G. Quinn**, Oyster Bay Town Councilman **Steve Labriola**, Nassau County Legislator **Rose Marie Walker**, Associate Professor and Aviation Center Director at Farmingdale State College, USAF Col. (Ret.) **Michael Canders** and Nassau County Veterans Service Agency Director **Ralph Esposito**. Special thanks to our supporters—Shootout for Soldiers, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Band, 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.



Some of the medal recipients with (from left to right, starting with the second from the left in the back row): Ralph Esposito, Ken Nevor, Rose Marie Walker, Michael Canders, Christopher G. Quinn, Joseph Saladino, Steve Labriola, Bill Stratemeier and Fred Di Fabio. Kneeling with the "Welcome Home" sign is Christopher De Luca.  
 Photo credit: Joseph Saladino's Facebook page

## **Cradle of Aviation Unveils Newly Restored F-14**

On September 14, over 100 people looked on as U.S. Navy Tomcat fighter F-14D BuNo 164603 Felix 101 found its final resting place outside the entrance to the Cradle of Aviation Museum in Uniondale (the mailing address is in Garden City). The F-14D was the final production variant of the F-14. Notable attendees were Museum president Andrew Parton, Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman and distinguished guest retired U.S. Navy Captain Robert 'Hoot' Gibson, a former F-14 pilot who later became a NASA astronaut. This particular aircraft was the 711<sup>th</sup> of 712 F-14s built by Grumman at its Calverton facility and had accumulated 4,436 flight hours and 1,281 aircraft carrier catapult launches. It also has the distinction of having made the final flight by a Navy F-14, when it flew from Naval Air Station Oceana in Virginia Beach, VA to Republic Airport in Farmingdale, NY on October 4, 2006. It also led the first manned strike of Operation Enduring Freedom on October 7, 2001, which hit an SA-3 SAM anti-aircraft battery and its attendant radar installations near Kabul's international airport in Afghanistan. The aircraft had been parked at 600 Grumman Road West in Bethpage until June 2022, when it was moved to the Cradle of Aviation's Hangar 5 after Northrop Grumman sponsored and financially supported the aircraft's restoration. The Museum's curator, Josh Stoff, and the restoration lead, Peter Truesdell, oversaw the project from start to finish.



*Photo credit: Facebook page of Elaine Phillips, Nassau County Comptroller*

## **2nd Women’s Military Service Medal Ceremony**

**Twenty-four veteran and active-duty women** were awarded the Women’s Military Service Medal on Saturday, September 30 at St. Joseph’s University in Patchogue. Distinguished guests included New York Air National Guard Col. (Ret.) **Paul Salas**, Deputy Director of the Vietnam War Commemoration Maj. **Jennifer Stretch**, Associate Dean of St. Joseph’s University Dr. **Gail C. Lamberta**, and Director of the Suffolk County Veterans Service Agency **Marcelle Leis**. Special thanks to our supporters—Shootout for Soldiers, Long Island ABATE, St. Joseph’s University, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Band, 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.



*Women's Military Service Medal Ceremony*

§

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Vietnam Memorial Traveling Wall—*The Wall That Heals***

*The Wall That Heals* and its accompanying Education Center will be on display from **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5 THROUGH SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8** at Tanner Park on Kerrigan Road in Copiague. Attendance is free. Open for viewing 24 hours a day; closes at 2 PM on Sunday. The opening ceremony is on Thursday, October 5 at a time to be announced; closing ceremony is on Sunday, October 8 at 1:45 PM.

The Vietnam Memorial Traveling Wall is a three-quarter scale replica of the Washington, D.C. Vietnam Veterans Memorial; it is 375 feet long and stands 7.5 feet high at its tallest point. The memorial wall is

a tribute to and a remembrance of the military service members who made the ultimate sacrifice for freedom during the Vietnam War.

As on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., the names on *The Wall That Heals* are listed by day of casualty. Beginning at the center/apex, the names start on the East Wall (right-hand side) working their way out to the end of that wing, picking up again at the far end of the West Wall (left-hand side) and working their way back in to the center/apex, joining the beginning and end of the conflict at the center. Visitors can do name rubbings of individual service member's names on *The Wall That Heals*.

Volunteers are needed while *The Wall That Heals* is on display at Tanner Park. To sign up, please fill out the form found at [www.townofbabylon.com/FormCenter/Veterans-13/The-Wall-That-Heals-Volunteer-Sign-Up-87](http://www.townofbabylon.com/FormCenter/Veterans-13/The-Wall-That-Heals-Volunteer-Sign-Up-87). For more information on the event itself, please call Cathy Hyde at Councilman DuWayne Gregory's office at (631) 957-3127. Also go to [www.townofbabylon.com](http://www.townofbabylon.com) over the next few months to see any program changes.

For more info on *The Wall That Heals*, go to [www.vvmf.org/The-Wall-That-Heals/](http://www.vvmf.org/The-Wall-That-Heals/). *The Wall That Heals* is a program of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, the nonprofit organization that was authorized by Congress in 1980 to build the Vietnam Veterans Memorial (commonly referred to as *The Wall*) in Washington, D.C.



*The Wall That Heals—photo from their website*

## **14<sup>th</sup> Annual Roslyn Rocks**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, STARTS AT 7 PM** at Roslyn High School, 475 Round Hill Road, Roslyn. Hosted by the Roslyn Rescue Fire Company for the Nassau County Firefighters Operation Wounded Warrior (a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization **not** affiliated with the Wounded Warrior Project or any

other Operation Wounded Warrior organization). Featured artists include The Vogues, Bobby Wilson (Jackie Wilson's son), Dennis Tufano (original lead singer of The Buckingham), and Manhattan Skyline, with music and vocals by The Coda Band and The Chiclettes. Sponsored in part by Susan and David Diamond. Please call (516) 587-7187; tickets are \$45.

### **United Veterans Organization of Nassau County (UVO) Annual Veterans Day Ceremony**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 10 AM TO 11 AM** at Veterans Memorial Plaza (Parking Field 6A) in Eisenhower Park, East Meadow.

### **Long Island National Cemetery Memorial Organization (LINC MO) Annual Veterans Day Ceremony**

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2 PM TO 3 PM** at Long Island National Cemetery located at 2040 Wellwood Avenue, Farmingdale.

### **Veterans Annual Winter Stand Down**

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 9 AM TO 1 PM** at the Freeport Armory, 63 Babylon Turnpike, Freeport. It will be a drive-through-only event; the only items distributed will be clothes, boots, toiletries, and nonperishable foods. For more information, call the Nassau County Veterans Service Agency at (516) 572-6565.

§

## **Announcements and Programs**

### **Photos of Women Veterans Wanted**

From the Facebook page of *Long Island Veterans Bulletin* (edited):

“In search of the best photos of women veterans from Nassau County for cover image consideration of the next newspaper special section. You must be the original photographer; subject person(s) must agree to be in print if selected. Deadline is Saturday, October 14. High-res will be needed for print, but low-res screenshots, texts, and private messages will be accepted for consideration.”

### **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 PM 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.

- The CLJA, included as a provision under the PACT Act, separately allows individuals exposed to toxic water at Camp Lejeune between August 1, 1953 and December 31, 1987 to sue the U.S. government for damages/benefits. There is a sunset provision in the CLJA, which means that a **CLJA claim must be filed no later than August 9, 2024.**

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

### **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, 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.

### **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 AM 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 our 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!

## **Nassau County Veterans Support Grant Program**

The Nassau County Veterans Support Grant Program funds are potentially a one-time \$10,000 payment granted to eligible 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(19) veterans' posts or organizations located in Nassau County that experienced economic hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There is an online application at [ndc.smapply.io/prog/nassau\\_county\\_veterans\\_support\\_grant\\_program/](https://ndc.smapply.io/prog/nassau_county_veterans_support_grant_program/). Applicants needing assistance can leave a voicemail at (646) 825-9617 or send an email to [ncveterans@ndconline.org](mailto:ncveterans@ndconline.org) and someone will contact you within 48 hours.

**NOTE:** Per the updated online application, **future applications are on hold until further notice!**

## **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).

## **Volunteer Drivers Wanted for Veterans**

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, 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!***

## **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 Linda Zorn at (516) 572-5187 for more information and to find out which kinds of food are most needed on any given day. No amount is too small!

## **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, contact 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**

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 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 Street in Hempstead. No pre-registration is necessary. For more information, please contact Audrey Lewis at (516) 489-2322, ext.1260 or send her an email at [alewis@mhanc.org](mailto:alewis@mhanc.org). Also check out their website: [veteranshealthalliance.org](http://veteranshealthalliance.org).

### **Veterans Defense Program**

Justice-involved veterans often do not have the funds to hire an attorney and are represented by public defenders. Public defense attorneys are rarely trained to adequately represent veterans who suffer from the invisible wounds of war or to translate the combat experience of their clients to explain resulting criminal behavior. This program provides training, support, and legal assistance to promote trauma-informed effective representation of veterans and service members. The Veteran Defense Program (VDP) is a project of the New York State Defenders Association (NYSDA), a statewide nonprofit organization working to improve the quality and scope of publicly-supported legal representation for people who cannot afford a lawyer. For information and assistance, please call Director Gary A. Horton at (585) 219-4862 or email him at [ghorton@nysda.org](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. Contact 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 and for application forms, please contact Allison Ridam Krivosheiw at (516) 236-3245 or [alliridam@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.we-are-vets.us).

# **D**id you know . . .

**The fictional character Colonel Robert Hogan of the television show *Hogan's Heroes* (1965-1971), played by actor Bob Crane, had a real-life counterpart in the person of Army Air Forces Second Lieutenant Robert Steadham Hogan of the 450<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group.** On

January 19, 1945, Lieutenant Hogan was a B-24 bomber pilot flying out of Italy on a 26-ship mission to attack the enemy's railway system in Brod, Yugoslavia. Despite heavy and accurate flak over the target (no enemy fighters were present), only four aircraft sustained minor damage and all returned safely to base—except for Hogan's plane *Daisy-Mae*, which took a direct hit between the number 1 and number 2 engines. The stricken plane caught fire and the left wing broke off, causing it to go into a flat spin. The bomb bay doors were jammed open, which was fortunate as it allowed Lt. Hogan and his flight navigator Chester Zukowski to fall out of the hole and parachute to the ground; they were the only survivors. Both were captured; Hogan was sent to Oflag XIII B, a POW camp outside of Nuremberg and Zukowski was sent to a different camp. Oflag XIII B was adjacent to Stalag XIII D (Oflags were for POW officers; the Stalags were for enlisted men). In the TV series, officers and enlisted men were shown as being interned together in Stalag XIII C near the town of Hammelburg (misspelled in the show as Hamelburg).

The following website has some interesting details, quoted below.

[www.uncommon-travel-germany.com/hogans-heroes.html#hogansheroesroberthogan](http://www.uncommon-travel-germany.com/hogans-heroes.html#hogansheroesroberthogan)

“Though there was little similarity between his real-life experience and the *Hogan's Heroes* series, there were three significant things that were similar: 1) the commandant wore a monocle like Colonel Klink, 2) there was a big, fat, goofy sergeant like Sergeant Schulz, and 3) the prisoners had a "secret" radio.

As for item #3, that radio was not very "secret". In fact, the commandant of the Stalag [*sic*] allowed the POW's to continue to operate their "clandestine" radio because the commandant got more reliable information from that source than he did from the official Nazi propaganda.”

From the website of the Jefferson County Historical Association:

“Dr. Hogan loved *Hogan's Heroes*, says Richard [Hogan, his son]. He didn't tell his family about sending a fan letter to Bob Crane telling him of their uncanny similarities. The show's producers wrote back noting that *Hogan's Heroes* was totally based on a fictional World War II stalag, as were the characters. However, after thinking it over for a couple of weeks in 1966, they took up Dr. Hogan's invitation to visit Birmingham, setting up a press conference at the Airport Motel with Crane, Dr. Hogan and his sons Richard and Jim. Afterward the Hogans entertained Crane with lunch at the Country Club of Birmingham.”

Robert Hogan was awarded the Purple Heart and the Air Medal with two Oak Leaf clusters. After the war, he attended college and then medical school and became one of the first full-time rheumatologists in Birmingham, AL. He married Alice Katherine “Kitty” Hardin in June 1949; they had a daughter Nelle Lindsay as well as two sons, Robert and James. He passed away in 1981 at the age of 58.



*L: Bob Crane as Col. Hogan; R: Werner Klemperer as Col. Klink*

## ★★★ Supporters' Corner ★★★

### **Military Blue Star Mothers of Nassau County NY 14**

*By: Andrea Nordquist*

*President, Military Blue Star Mothers of Nassau County NY 14*

A long-standing effort to recruit new members to the Blue Star Mothers organization in Nassau County this year has been met with success and resulted in a flurry of activity. Andrea Nordquist, President of Blue Star Mothers of Nassau County NY 14, challenged her members to spread awareness at parades, street fairs and military-based ceremonies, and they accepted the challenge. They are an amazing group of mothers and associates who go above and beyond what is asked of them.

The Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. is a non-partisan, non-political, non-sectarian organization. It was formed at the beginning of World War II. There are now more than 6,000 members from over 200 Chapters throughout the nation. They are mothers who have sons and daughters who are currently serving or have served in the military. They work with many other veteran and military groups. Blue Star Mothers continue to send care packages to our deployed men and women who miss a bit of home. They participate in many ceremonies and parades, visit vets at the VA, send meals to veterans in special housing and donate to other veteran groups.

Blue Star Mothers take great pride in their children who are serving our great nation, and they are a great source of support, information and comfort for other mothers who also have children in the military. They encourage mothers of military members, past and present, to reach out to them. The website for Military Blue Star Mothers of Nassau County NY 14 is [bluestarmothersny14.org](http://bluestarmothersny14.org). The email address is [President.ny14@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:President.ny14@bluestarmothers.us).



# Taps



**John Farina** of Copiague passed away on August 9 at age 87 from complications related to acute leukemia. John joined the Army in 1954 at age 18 and served about four years with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Armored Division in what was then West Germany. After his discharge, he returned to Brooklyn, where he met his future wife, Yolanda. The couple moved to Copiague in 1957 and got married in 1959. The couple eventually had three sons—Anthony, Vincent and John. John began delivering cargo from Kennedy Airport to locations across the metropolitan area and became a member of Teamsters Local 295. After 25 years, he retired at age 47. “His philosophy was to work as hard as you can when you're young, save your money and you retire and enjoy your life,” Anthony Farina said. After retirement, he began to get involved in local community organizations, becoming a post commander for the VFW as well as an active member of the Copiague Youth League, the American Legion, and Our Lady of Assumption parish. One of his proudest achievements was helping to rebuild Copiague’s Veterans Plaza and adding a statue to honor World War I soldiers, who were nicknamed "doughboys." In May of this year, the corner of Ferndale Court and Hawkins Boulevard in Copiague was named John Farina Way in honor of his community service. John is survived by his wife and sons, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

*(Credit to Newsday for the details of this obituary)*



*John Farina, left, in 2015 next to the "doughboy" statue in Copiague he helped bring to the hamlet, with retired state Assemblyman Bob Sweeney and former Town of Babylon Councilwoman Jacqueline Gordon.*

*Photo credit: Johnny Milano*

**(Continued on next page)**

## Taps (continued)



**Mark Koppelman**, recently of South Florida, passed away on August 18 at the age of 85 from undisclosed causes. He was born in Brooklyn and grew up in Bensonhurst. He was a Vietnam-era Army veteran who served in the pictorial service. He had a lengthy career in title insurance sales until he retired in 2013. He was active in the Masons, the Real Estate Square Club and later in the Jewish War Veterans, serving in many leadership positions. He and his wife Susan married in 1968; she died of cancer at age 59 in 2004.



*Mark Koppelman*

**Richard Napolitano** of Williston Park passed away on June 14 after an undisclosed illness. He was a decorated Vietnam Army veteran who had just received the Vietnam 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Medal at our May 13 ceremony at the Museum of American Armor. He is survived by his wife Rosemarie, their three children and several grandchildren.



*Richard Napolitano and his wife Rosemarie*

**Joseph Oliveri** of Oyster Bay passed away on September 27 at the age of 82 from undisclosed causes. Joe was an Air Force veteran, member of the American Legion, Oyster Bay AMVETS Post 21 2nd Vice Commander, Knights of Columbus-4th degree and 45-year member of Saint Dominic parish.



*Joseph Oliveri*



Want to receive our .....

# WOMEN'S MILITARY SERVICE MEDAL



**Are you a veteran or currently serving?**

The Long Island Air Force Association proudly presents this award to honor women and their families for their commitment and service.  
**(Awarded to women currently serving and veterans of all services)**

## APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Branch of Service \_\_\_\_\_ Rank/Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Service dates \_\_\_\_\_

Verification of service is required: DD-214 for veterans, ID or other documentation for women currently serving (black out your Social Security Number)

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](http://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.**

**Medal is not awarded posthumously**

PRESENTED BY THE LONG ISLAND AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION



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



For information call:  
631-754-6383

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