



Jan-Mar 2022

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
Cathy Ward	Secretary
Bill Stratemeier	Treasurer

Visit us on the WEB:

LIAFA.ORG

Visit us on FACEBOOK:

Long Island Air Force Association—LIAFA

Email us at: LIAFA202@gmail.com

Newsletter editor: Steven Latus

CALENDAR OF LIAFA EVENTS 2022

Vietnam Medal Ceremonies:

Sat, Apr. 16, 2022

American Airpower Museum
1230 New Highway
Farmingdale
11:30 AM

Sat, May. 21, 2022

Long Island State Veterans Home
100 Patriots Rd.
Stony Brook
2:30 PM

Thu, Jul 21, 2022

Shootout for Soldiers at Town of Oyster Bay
Field of Dreams
Massapequa
5:00 PM

Sat., Sep. 24, 2022

Museum of American Armor
1303 Round Swamp Rd.
Old Bethpage
11:30 AM

Women's Military Service Ceremony

Oct. 15, 2022

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

81st Anniversary Annual Pearl Harbor Memorial Ceremony—Dropping of the Roses

Wed, Dec. 7, 2022

American Airpower Museum
1230 New Highway
Farmingdale
10:30 AM

President's Message

The Long Island Air Force Association is instituting a new program for Long Island **women veterans and those currently serving**, with the initial ceremony scheduled for October 15, 2022.

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.

Please look to the LIAFA Facebook page and/or our website at LIAFA.org for future notices regarding any upcoming events.

Other Upcoming Events:

Pancake Breakfast

A pancake breakfast to aid the Veterans Assistance Foundation will be held at the Applebee's on 1300 Corporate Drive in Westbury on **SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 8 AM TO 10 AM**. The meal includes pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs and a beverage (coffee, tea, juice or soda). Tickets are \$15 per person and can be purchased at the door or in advance by calling James Merritte at (516) 236-7349.

Walk With Frank Film Screening (Free)

The Bay Shore Alumni Association presents a free private screening of the film *Walk With Frank* on **THURSDAY, APRIL 28 AT 7 PM** at the Little Theater in Bay Shore High School, 155 E. 3rd Avenue in Bay Shore (enter through the gym lobby).

Salute to the Military Expo

SATURDAY, MAY 21, 11 AM TO 3 PM, rain or shine at Levittown Veterans Park (corner of Hempstead Turnpike and Shelter Lane in front of the Levittown Library). Open to all. Featuring services and resources that support active-duty military, reservists, Guards, veterans and their families; art exhibit and authors; live music and entertainment; military memorabilia appraisals (no firearms); demonstrations and simulators; food trucks; accepting nonperishable food donations for veteran pantries.

Entertainers, artists, authors, businesses, organizations and groups with a military affiliation who would like to participate at the Expo can contact Public Relations at 516-731-5728, extension 226 or email pr@levittownpl.org for applications and information.

United Veterans Organization (UVO) Memorial Day Ceremony

SUNDAY, MAY 29, 10 AM TO 11 AM, Eisenhower Park in East Meadow (Veterans Memorial Plaza, Field 6). Attendance is free.

Long Island National Cemetery Memorial Day Ceremony

SUNDAY, MAY 29, 2 PM TO 3 PM at the Long Island National Cemetery, 2040 Wellwood Ave. in Farmingdale. Attendance is free.

§

Announcements and Programs:

COVID Test Kits

All veterans' organizations can request 10 free COVID test kits by contacting the Nassau County Veterans Service Agency. 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 links: www.nassaucountyny.gov/4917/Veterans-Traffic-Court www.nassaucountyny.gov/1928/Traffic-Parking-Violations-Agency

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. Nassau County will provide the vehicles; a valid New York State driver's license is required. To volunteer, please call Christine Sohmer at (516) 572-6526. ***The need is urgent so please help if you can!***

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.

Iraq/Afghanistan Veterans Monument for Eisenhower Park

A fund-raising effort is currently underway to fund the construction and installation of a monument to honor the veterans of Desert Storm (1990-1991), the war in Afghanistan (2001-2021) and the war in Iraq (2003-2011). It will be installed near the Vietnam veterans monument in Veterans Plaza in Eisenhower Park in East Meadow. This effort is being spearheaded by the Nassau County VFW Council in partnership with a committee of veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan.

The website for the committee is IraqAfghanistanmonument.com. It also has a Facebook page—just do a Facebook search for *Iraq/Afghanistan* and the page will be listed first in the search results.

If you or your organization want to send a donation to support the project, please see the attached donation form at the end of this newsletter. You may also donate through the website.

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 or call (516) 463-7302.

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.

General Needs Ltd.

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

Veterans Project by Long Island Cares

This project encompasses several veterans' service programs such as a mobile pantry, job search assistance and Military Appreciation Tuesdays hosted at pantries located in Huntington Station, Bethpage, Hampton Bays, Lindenhurst and Freeport. For more information, please call Michael Haynes at (631) 582-3663, extension 202 or email him at mhaynes@licares.org.

Their website is 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. Weekly group meetings are held in Amityville (Mondays), Bay Shore, Yaphank, Sag Harbor (Tuesdays), East Patchogue, Riverhead, Patchogue (Wednesdays), and Mount Sinai (Thursdays). Snacks and light refreshments are served at all meetings. They also provide services to student veterans at numerous Long Island college campuses and monthly community outreach in Sachem, Huntington Station, and Patchogue. For more information and exact meeting locations, please call (631) 853-8345 or send an email to vetspeertopeer@suffolkcountyny.gov. They also have a Facebook page.

Nassau County Joseph P. Dwyer Vet2Vet Peer Networking Groups

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

Veterans Defense Program

Justice-involved veterans often do not have the funds to hire an attorney and are represented by public defenders. Public defense attorneys are rarely trained to adequately represent veterans who suffer from the invisible wounds of war or to translate the combat experience of their clients to explain resulting

criminal behavior. This program provides training, support and legal assistance to promote trauma-informed effective representation of veterans and service members. The Veteran Defense Program (VDP) is a project of the New York State Defenders Association (NYSDA), a statewide nonprofit organization working to improve the quality and scope of publicly-supported legal representation for people who cannot afford a lawyer. For information and assistance, please call Director Gary A. Horton at (585) 219-4862 or email him at ghorton@nysda.org. Their website is nysda.org/page/AboutVDP.

Donate a Bicycle to Beacon House to Help a Veteran

Beacon House provides housing in 42 locations throughout Nassau and Suffolk counties. On any given day, over 255 men, women and children from the tri-state area benefit from programs that address homelessness, physical disabilities, PTSD, TBI, mental health issues and addiction. Non-veterans, too, have access to housing, drug/alcohol addiction services and job skills/readiness development programs. Contact Ed Aulman at mardivi1@optonline.net or call him at (516) 921-0595. A charitable donation receipt will be provided by Beacon House.

§

Seeking applicants for Col. Francis S. Gabreski and LTC Alphonse Parisi Scholastic Grants

Eligible applicants for our \$1,000 Scholastic Grant program are high school seniors going on to college. Applicants must have a military connection to apply. Examples include: a dependent of an active-duty military member, ANG/NG member or other reserve component member. Students with relatives who are veterans are also eligible. Students can go to our web page at LIAFA.org to see if they qualify and to download an application (click on "Scholastic Grant Application", then click on "Grant Application" and finally click on "Grant Application" again). *Please note that the application form must be printed and mailed.* The deadline for applying is June 30th.

§

Supporters' Corner

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Band

*By: John Sasso
Commander, USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 22-7, Fort Salonga, NY*

If you have ever attended any LIAFA events, you have had the opportunity to hear the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Band. The ensemble performs for many regional Coast Guard ceremonies and a multitude of other occasions. The band's mission is to support the military community, including the LIAFA, while simultaneously supporting and promoting the Coast Guard focus on recreational boating and safety.

The band members come from all walks of life; some are professional musicians and music educators, others are insurance salesmen, teachers, engineers, retired veterans and students, all of whom share a

passion—and that passion is music. The Coast Guard Auxiliary Band members range in age from 17 to 93. This certainly speaks loudly as to the love of music transcending generations. As a division of Homeland Security, all auxiliarists must be U.S. citizens, be at least 17 years old and pass a background check. The musicianship, talent and overall camaraderie amongst these individuals cannot go unnoticed. Rehearsing most Tuesday evenings from 7:30 PM until 9:30 PM at the Northport Middle School, these civilian uniformed volunteers prepare and perfect their musical repertoire for a long list of performances including veterans' ceremonies, public concerts, parades and festivals throughout the tri-state area. The Coast Guard Auxiliary Band has performed at the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum for Coast Guard Appreciation Day and has marched in a number of parades down 5th Avenue in Manhattan with the Coast Guard Sector NY.

If you or any member(s) of your family play a band instrument and share a passion for music, consider joining us in supporting the LIAFA, performing and creating lifelong bonds with other talented musicians.

For interested musicians, please contact: USCGABand@gmail.com or the Flotilla Commander, John Sasso, at 631-617-1412.



The USCG Auxiliary Band playing at the American Airpower Museum on September 18, 2021 at LIAFA's 34th Vietnam medal ceremony

Did you know . . .

The world's first controlled, engine-powered flight with a heavier-than-air craft lasted only 12 seconds and took place on December 17, 1903 on a field near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. Orville Wright piloted the plane while his brother Wilbur ran alongside holding the right wing to balance the machine during the flight. For safety reasons, they decided to fly as low to the ground as possible. The plane flew a distance of 120 feet at a ground speed of 6.8 miles per hour, attaining a maximum altitude of about 10 feet.

Taps



Gail S. Halvorsen, the original Candy Bomber in the Berlin Airlift, died at age 101 on February 16 of respiratory failure in a hospital in Provo, Utah. The Berlin Airlift (“Operation Vittles”) began on June 26, 1948, only two days after the Soviet Union had blocked all major road, rail and canal links to West Berlin, cutting off electricity as well as a steady supply of food and coal to that portion of the city controlled by the Western Allies. The only viable option for the Western Allies was to fly in those much-needed supplies to West Berlin, which was surrounded by the Soviet occupation zone. After one drop, Halvorsen noticed a group of about 30 children standing outside the fence on Tempelhof Airport. He gave them some gum and told them that he would drop more from his plane the next day. Halvorsen, his co-pilot and his engineer pooled their candy rations and dropped the packages attached to handmade parachutes made from handkerchiefs. After several weeks, this effort was greatly expanded by the airlift commander, Lt. General William H. Tunner, into Operation Little Vittles, which was now carried out every other day by many additional pilots and which lasted from September 22, 1948 through May 13, 1949. Halvorsen retired as a Colonel after 31 years of service on August 31, 1974. He had five children with his first wife Alta, whom he had married in 1949 and who died in 1999. Five years after Alta’s death, he married his high school sweetheart, Lorraine Pace. He was active in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormons) and served as assistant dean of student life at Brigham Young University from 1978 to 1988.





Nassau County, N.Y. Desert Storm / Iraq / Afghanistan Monument



IraqAfghanistanMonument.com
NCMonumentCommittee@gmail.com

Dear Supporter,

It gives us great pleasure to announce the first **Desert Storm/Iraq/Afghanistan Monument** of its size in Nassau County, NY. This monument will be located at the Veterans Memorial in Eisenhower Park, East Meadow, NY. The Nassau County VFW council is spearheading this project working with other local Veteran associations.

How many veterans do you know that have served in Desert Storm, Iraq and Afghanistan?

This monument will be a permanent way to honor the courage, dedication and bravery of United States servicemen and women who have served in these wars. Thousands of these veterans continue to serve their country and communities alike. Many have also made the ultimate sacrifice and many others continue to suffer with physical and/or mental injuries/illnesses (PTSD) due to the wars. This monument will provide a much-needed sanctuary and reflection space for veterans along with their families.

To help make the monument a reality, we need your help and we kindly request that you consider donating. Your generosity will be recognized on our website, IraqAfghanistanMonument.com

Monument Sponsorship Levels and Pricing (All Donations tax deductible- NC VFW Council- 11-2774017)

Sponsorship Level	
5 Star Sponsor	\$20,000
4 Star Sponsor	\$19,999 - \$10,000
3 Star Sponsor	\$9,999 - \$5,000
2 Star Sponsor	\$4,999 - \$1,000
1 Star Sponsor	\$999 - \$150
½ star Sponsor	\$149 - \$1

Fundraising Goal- \$125,000



Please make checks out to **Nassau County VFW Council** and they can be mailed to
112 Lambert Ave, Farmingdale, NY 11735

Please don't let these veterans' sacrifices be forgotten. You have the power to make a difference.

Thank you for supporting our veterans and please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions. (Email above)

Sincerely,

The Iraq/Afghanistan Monument Committee

Nassau County Iraq/Afghanistan Monument Committee Members

Chris Peterkin (Committee Chair, NC VFW Council Commander); **Ralph Esposito** (NC Veterans Service Agency Director); **Pat Iulucci** (NC VFW Council Treasurer); **Virginia Cervasio** (Gold Star Mother & Heroes Among Us Executive Director); **Matthew Schmidt** (Nassau Police Veterans Association President & Founder & Iraq War Veteran); **Rick Gales** (VFW Trustee); **John Carter** (Senior Vice-Commander VFW Post 516 & Iraq War Veteran); **Phoebe Erwin** (Desert Storm War Veteran); **Kevin Colon** (VFW Post 9592 Post Commander & Iraq War Veteran); **John Chiara** (Afghanistan War Veteran); **Steve Latus** (L.I. National Cemetery Memorial Org.); **Morris Miller** (UVO Committee Member); **Andy Booth** (UVO President)



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 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 50th Anniversary
Commemorative Sponsor

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



COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL APPLICATION

Name _____

Phone # _____ Cell # _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

Branch of Service _____ Rank/Grade _____

Vietnam service dates _____

Units assigned and location during war _____

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

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



For information call:
631-754-6383

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