



Apr-Jun 2021

# LI 202 AFA news

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*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*

## President's Message

I'm pleased to announce that we have scheduled a new Vietnam Medal Ceremony, the first one we've held since February 2020. It will take place during the Shootout for Soldiers event on July 22 (see page 2 for more details on that event). In addition, we have just added one more ceremony in September.

We're still accepting applications from any Long Island Vietnam veterans who wish to receive a Vietnam 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Medal at one of our upcoming ceremonies. To date we have held 32 Vietnam 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Medal Ceremonies and have presented medals to almost 1,000 veterans.

The requirements are:

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

You will find a medal application at the end of this newsletter. 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.**

## CALENDAR OF LIAFA EVENTS 2021

### Vietnam Medal Ceremonies:

#### Thursday, July 22, 2021

Shootout for Soldiers at Town of Oyster Bay Field of Dreams  
5619 Old Sunrise Highway  
Massapequa  
5:00 PM

#### Saturday, September 18, 2021

American Airpower Museum  
1230 New Highway  
Farmingdale  
11:30 AM

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

#### Tue, Dec. 7, 2021

American Airpower Museum  
1230 New Highway  
Farmingdale  
10:30 AM

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

## **Other Upcoming Events, Meetings and Programs**



Thursday, July 22-23, 9 AM - 9 AM at the Town of Oyster Bay Field of Dreams, 5619 Old Sunrise Highway in Massapequa. There are twenty-four 1-hour games in a row and a running score is kept between the two teams, Stars and Stripes. Participating teams play in a 1-hour slot during the event and the event is open to men's and women's teams of all ages. The mission of the Shootout is to use lacrosse as a platform to support American veterans and foster good community relations. Long Island Chapter 202 of the Air Force Association is proud and grateful to be one of the local charity beneficiaries that share in a portion of the net proceeds (after expenses) raised from this event. Shootout for Soldiers is a registered 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.

From the Shootout for Soldiers website: Team Red, White & Blue (Team RWB), a nonprofit organization forging America's leading health and wellness community for veterans, today announced that it will acquire Shootout for Soldiers (SFS), a nonprofit organization using lacrosse as a platform to support American veterans and foster community engagement.

Under the terms of the agreement, part of a six-month process led and approved by Shootout for Soldiers' management team, local organizers, and Board of Directors, Team RWB will assume all IP and rights, and merge budgets by the end of fiscal year 2021.

"Team RWB sees a great opportunity to scale and grow Shootout for Soldiers, supporting more veterans than ever and fostering generous community engagement," said Mike Erwin, Executive Director of Team RWB. "Team RWB looks forward to showing our nation's veterans that their best days are ahead of them leveraging lacrosse as a unique platform for our organization."

Team RWB has been organizing local events across the nation for more than 10 years and has deep experience in developing nationwide tours. A partner of Shootout for Soldiers since 2015, Team RWB has attended over 45 events to date.

"What's most exciting about this acquisition is that Team RWB has the operational experience, resources, and vision to scale Shootout for Soldiers," adds Tyler Steinhardt, Founder of Shootout for Soldiers. "I'm looking forward to being part of this transition and continuing to deepen the ties between the lacrosse community and our nation's veterans."

Shootout for Soldiers has raised over \$4.5M since its inception, running 50 events in 15 different cities nationwide with more than 25,000 unique participants.

### **Walk With Frank—The Movie**

Keep an eye out for this one, which has been in production for the past couple of years and has recently been released. As most of you may remember, then 70-year-old Frank Romeo of Bay Shore started his 750-mile walk through New York State back on March 1, 2019 and finished his journey in Bay Shore on June 8, 2019.

From the [IMDB.com](https://www.imdb.com) website: *Walk With Frank* is a film about self-discovery, mental health, and one man's journey towards understanding and embracing PTSD. Ambushed and critically wounded in the jungles of Vietnam, Frank's life went down a dark spiral of drug and alcohol abuse, prison, and family discord. As a cathartic release of his mental anguish, he discovered art as a means to heal himself and help others find their own path forward. For his 70th birthday, Frank decided to walk across New York State as a way to gain attention to his cause, his education curriculum and to give a voice to so many suffering from PTSD. By walking Frank hopes to shed light on the true experience of the American soldier, the ongoing struggles facing the mental health and homeless communities, and hopefully inspire others to open up about their own mental illness.

This film is being made available for a special online screening from July 4<sup>th</sup> through July 11<sup>th</sup>. Donations are requested and are tax-deductible but are **not** required. There will also be a Zoom Q&A session on Sunday, July 11<sup>th</sup> from 1 PM to 4 PM with Frank and the filmmakers. Visit the following web page and go to the bottom of the page for links to register to watch the film and to join the Zoom Q&A session.

[http://www.walkwithfrankfilm.com/specialevent?fbclid=IwAR2NjsNx7vTVovGV6e2QMt6BD1VExG76USTDIMSd0aRWLcmB72GW\\_tjJwxU](http://www.walkwithfrankfilm.com/specialevent?fbclid=IwAR2NjsNx7vTVovGV6e2QMt6BD1VExG76USTDIMSd0aRWLcmB72GW_tjJwxU)

*Walk With Frank* also has a Facebook page.

### **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).

### **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 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](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 St. in Hempstead at 5:15 PM on Mondays and 6:30 PM on Wednesdays; Levittown Public Library, 1 Bluegrass Lane in Levittown at 2 PM on Thursdays (biweekly); First Presbyterian Church, 178 S. Ocean Ave. in Freeport at 6:30 PM on Thursdays. There are also spouse/partner meetings at 6:30 PM on Tuesdays and women-only meetings at 6:30 PM on Wednesdays, both at Mental Health Association, 16 Main St. in Hempstead. No pre-registration is necessary. For more information, please contact Brent Russell at (516) 489-2322, ext. 1213 or email at [brussell@mhanc.org](mailto:brussell@mhanc.org); Audrey Lewis at (516) 489-2322, ext. 1260 or 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 42 locations throughout Nassau and Suffolk counties. On any given day, over 255 men, women and children from the tri-state area benefit from programs that address homelessness, physical disabilities, PTSD, TBI, mental health issues and addiction. Non-veterans, too, have access to housing, drug/alcohol addiction services and job skills/readiness development programs. Contact Ed Aulman at [mardiv1@optonline.net](mailto:mardiv1@optonline.net) or call him at (516) 921-0595. A charitable donation receipt will be provided by Beacon House.

### **Rally Commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the End of World War II (POSTPONED)**

Due to COVID-19 restrictions on large gatherings, this event has been **POSTPONED** until further notice. The Village of Lynbrook will be hosting the rally.

Novelty War Bonds to help cover the rally expenses can be bought through the village's website <https://www.lynbrookvillage.net/bond> (click on the big red button) in the name of a family member or in honor of someone who served. These "bonds" will be offered in the following denominations:

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

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



## North American F-86 Sabre



*North American F-86 Sabre (U.S. Air Force photo)*

Most commonly associated with the Korean War (June 1950–July 1953), the F-86 Sabre was the USAF's first swept-wing jet fighter. It was developed in the late 1940s by North American Aviation, the company that had produced one of the finest prop-driven fighters of World War II, the iconic P-51 Mustang. In mid-1944, the US Army Air Forces drafted a requirement for a medium-range, single-seat, high-altitude jet-powered day escort fighter/fighter bomber. Early studies of the initial design for the XP-86 (eXperimental Pursuit) revealed that its performance was about equal to that of its rivals, the Lockheed XP-80 and the Republic XP-84. Those rival designs were more advanced in their development stages, so much so that the fear was that the XP-86 would be canceled. In order to meet a flight-speed design requirement of 600 mph and to leapfrog its rivals, North American resorted to a radical and controversial change to its initial design plans and incorporated a swept wing, which had been shown

by wartime German engineers and designers to greatly reduce drag and delay compressibility problems. Based on studies of the German data, a wing angle of 35° was selected in order to delay the onset of shock waves, which allowed for higher speeds. An automatic slat design, based on that used by the German Messerschmitt Me-262 jet fighter, was used to enhance low-speed stability. A General Electric J-47 engine generating 5200 pounds of thrust was used for the power plant. The initial armament was six .50-caliber M-3 machine guns mounted in the nose, just aft of the jet intake. In the waning days of the Korean War, a limited number of Sabres were modified to carry four 20-mm cannon in place of the machine guns.

The P-86A was the first production version of the Sabre. North American had received an order for 33 production P-86As on November 20, 1946, even before the first prototype had flown. The prototype was rolled out on August 8, 1947, with the first flight occurring on October 1, 1947. The first production model P-86A-1-NA flew on May 20, 1948. The P-86 was redesignated F-86 in June of 1948 when the P-for-pursuit category was replaced by the F-for-fighter designation. The F-86A set its first official world speed record of 671 mph on September 15, 1948 at Muroc Dry Lake (now part of Edwards AFB in the Mojave Desert in California); the pilot was USAF Major Richard L. Johnson.

The F-86 entered service with the Air Force in February 1949 when the first F-86As were delivered to the First Fighter Group, 94<sup>th</sup> Squadron at March AFB in California. That same month, a contest was held within the group to choose a name for the new fighter. "Sabre" was chosen and made official on March 4, 1949.

When the Korean War first broke out in 1950, the U.S. had only straight-wing jet aircraft like the P-80 Shooting Star and the F-84 Thunderjet in theater and although they achieved some early success, they were greatly outclassed when the swept-wing Soviet MIG-15 entered the fray in November 1950. In response, three squadrons of F-86s were rushed to the Far East in December. The MIG-15 was still superior to the early F-86 in terms of ceiling, acceleration and rate of climb and it wasn't until the introduction of the F-86F in 1953 that the two planes were more closely matched. The crucial difference was the pilots—the American pilots were better trained and were more experienced. The F-86 also was later equipped with the A-1CM gunsight-AN/APG-30 radar, which used radar to automatically compute a target's range and greatly improved the pilot's ability to acquire and destroy his target. Of the 41 American pilots who earned the title of ace during the Korean War, all but one flew the F-86 Sabre, the sole exception being a Navy F4U Corsair night fighter pilot. Although a victory ratio of 10:1 for the F-86 versus the MIG-15 was initially claimed, subsequent reviews have placed that ratio as being closer to 2:1.

Later in the war, the Sabre was also used as a fighter-bomber; it could carry 2000 pounds of bombs and 8 (later 16) 5-inch rockets. Used in this role, however, its combat radius was severely reduced. Therefore, the straight-wing F-84 Thunderjet became the primary strike aircraft of the war.

After the Korean War, the Sabre served in various stateside and overseas units during the early Cold War. The Sabre design was even incorporated into the Navy's carrier-capable FJ-2 and FJ-3 Fury, introduced in 1954 and featuring folding wings and a longer nose landing strut. As newer supersonic Century-series fighters like the North American F-100 Super Sabre (1954), the McDonnell F-101 Voodoo (1957), the Convair F-102 Delta Dagger (1956), the Lockheed F-104 Starfighter (1958), the Republic F-105 Thunderchief (1958) and the Convair F-106 Delta Dart (1959) were brought into active service, Sabres were transferred to Air National Guard (ANG) units or to allied air forces. The last ANG F-86s continued in service until 1970. About 6200 Sabres were built in the U.S. before production ceased in December 1956. Those built under license in allied countries brought the production total to 9860, making the F-86 Sabre and its variants by far the most-produced Western jet fighter in history.

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## Did you know . . .

**The Air Force was the first service branch** to create a provisional Cyber Command in 2006. Today USCYBERCOM is a unified DoD command.

**“Star Trek” creator Gene Roddenberry and DeForest Kelley, who played Dr. McCoy in the original TV series and several subsequent “Star Trek” movies** were each former Airmen. Roddenberry enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps in December 1941 and served in the Pacific as a B-17 pilot. He flew 89 combat missions and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross as well as the Air Medal before being discharged as a captain in 1945. Kelley served as an enlisted man in the U.S. Army Air Forces from 1943 to 1946. He was assigned to the First Motion Picture Unit in California, the same unit where other actors such as Clark Gable, William Holden and Ronald Reagan had served.

**During World War II, a single American P-51 fighter plane** held off 30 German fighters from attacking a squadron of B-17 bombers for over half an hour. Major James H. Howard is credited with shooting down as many as six of the enemy planes over Oschersleben, Germany on January 11, 1944, and he continued to dive on them even after he had run out of ammunition. He was promoted to lieutenant colonel the following month and awarded the Medal of Honor in June 1944. Howard was the only fighter pilot in the European Theater of Operations during the war to receive the Medal of Honor. After the war, now in the Air Force Reserve, he was promoted to brigadier general.

### Taps



**Michael Collins**, the NASA astronaut who was the command module pilot for the Apollo 11 mission to the moon on July 20, 1969, died of cancer on April 28 at the age of 90 at a hospice facility in Naples, Florida. He remained alone aboard the command module orbiting the moon while Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first men to set foot on the moon. Shortly after the mission, he left active duty with the Air Force as a colonel and was in the Air Force Reserves from 1970 to 1982, where he was subsequently promoted to major general. He was briefly the assistant secretary of state for public affairs under Richard Nixon. He was also the director of the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C. from 1971 to 1978.

**John Warner**, longtime U.S. senator and sixth husband of Elizabeth Taylor, died May 23 at his home in Alexandria, Virginia of heart failure at the age of 94. Warner had served in the Navy during the last months of World War II. After attending college and law school, he enlisted in the Marine Corps and served in the Korean War. He was Secretary of the Navy from 1972 to 1974 and also served in the U.S. Senate from 1979 to 2008.



# 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.