



LI 202 AFA NEWS

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CALENDAR OF LIAFA EVENTS 2024

Vietnam Medal Ceremonies

Sat, May 11, 2024

American Airpower Museum
1230 New Highway
Farmingdale
11:30 AM

Fri, Jul 12, 2024

During Shootout for Soldiers
John J. Burns Park
4990 Merrick Rd.
Massapequa Park
11:00 AM

Sat, Nov 2, 2024

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

Women's Military Service Medal Ceremonies

Sat, Sep 14, 2024

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

83rd Anniversary Annual Pearl Harbor Memorial Ceremony— Dropping of the Roses

Sat, Dec 7, 2024

American Airpower Museum
1230 New Highway
Farmingdale
10:30 AM

President's Message

We are still accepting applications for both the Vietnam 50th Anniversary Commemorative Medal 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 (DD214 and other required documentation must still be mailed; black out Social Security number) at LIAFA.org.

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

Upcoming Non-LIAFA Events

Veterans Civil Legal Assistance Clinic

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 10 AM-3 PM, Hofstra University Law Atrium, 900 Fulton Ave., Hempstead. Receive a FREE consultation with attorneys who specialize in elder law, tax law, wills and estates, family law, VA benefits and claims, disability, discharge upgrades, employment disputes, housing, bankruptcy, Medicare/Medicaid, landlord/tenant disputes and immigration. For more information, email the Hofstra Legal Assistance Project at VLAP@hofstra.edu or call (516) 463-7302.

Veterans Conference—The Journey Home—Long Island Blue Star Moms NY6

SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 10 AM-2 PM, the Ballroom at Farmingdale State College, 2350 Broadhollow Rd., Farmingdale.

- The conference will feature newly elected Suffolk County Executive Edward Romaine and Veterans Service Agency directors Ralph Esposito from Nassau and Marcelle Leis from Suffolk.
- Keynote Speakers: Hear from distinguished veterans who have navigated the return to civilian life, sharing their stories and strategies for success.
- Vendors providing services for health care, education, employment, and legal services tailored specifically for veterans' needs.
- Networking Opportunities: Connect with fellow veterans, military families, and organizations dedicated to providing support and opportunities for those who served.
- Resource Fair: Access a wealth of information from local and national service providers who can assist with benefits, counseling, and much more.

A box lunch will be served on a first-come, first-served basis. Admission is free, but pre-registration is highly encouraged as space is limited. To register for the conference, please go to the following link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/veterans-conference-the-journey-home-tickets-807659430097>. For more information on the event or to become a sponsor (levels are shown on the prior link), please text 631-662-4576 or email president.ny6@bluestarmothers.us.

Vet Fest

A free resource-sharing event to benefit veterans, service members and their families will be held on **SATURDAY, MAY 18, 10 AM-2 PM** at the Farmingdale Village Green, 361 Main St., Farmingdale. *In case of inclement weather, May 19 is the rain date.* It is sponsored by the Veteran Suicide Prevention Coalition and supported by various veteran service providers. Complimentary services and resources offered will include help for food security, mental health, health screening, equine therapy, substance abuse, Naloxone training, education, peer-to-peer, problem gambling, housing, employment, legal help and financial advisory services. Food and drink will be available; entry is free. If you are interested in being a vendor at Vet Fest, please contact Amy Millheiser at (631) 261-4400, ext. 5574 or email her at amy.millheiser@va.gov.

Veterans Summer Stand Down

TUESDAY, MAY 21, 9 AM-1 PM, Freeport Armory, 63 Babylon Tpke. in Freeport. Drive-thru/walk-up event only; hosted by the Nassau County Veterans Service Agency. Clothes, sneakers, nonperishable food, toiletries, housing assistance and peer counseling will be available. For more information, please call the Nassau County Veterans Service Agency at (516) 572-6565.

Fleet Week New York

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22 THROUGH TUESDAY, MAY 28. The 36th annual Fleet Week at the Intrepid Air and Space Museum begins with the Parade of Ships. Participating Fleet Week ships can be viewed at Pier 86, Pier 90, and the Intrepid Air and Space Museum in Manhattan, Brooklyn Cruise Terminal and Homeport Pier on Staten Island. Service men and women from the U.S. and foreign nations will be arriving aboard the ships. Ships from Germany will also join the celebration.

Navy and USMC Helicopter Landings

SATURDAY, MAY 25, 10 AM (NAVY) AND 12 PM (USMC), Eisenhower Park in East Meadow (Kite Field, parking at Field 6A). Attendance is free. For more information, please call the Nassau County Parks Department at (516) 572-0200.

Bethpage Air Show—20th Anniversary!

The U.S. Navy Blue Angels will again be headlining this event to be held **SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, MAY 25 AND 26, 10 AM-3 PM** at Jones Beach. This year's lineup also includes the U.S. Army Golden Knights parachute team, the U.S. Navy F-35C demo team, the A-10C Thunderbolt II demo team, the Skytypers, the Warbird Thunder Airshows, Farmingdale State College Aviation, the American Airpower Museum Warbirds, and aerobatic flyers Mike Goulian and David Windmiller. LIAFA will have a table display at the American Airpower Museum, 1230 New Highway at Republic Airport during the show; you can watch the AAM Warbirds take off and land from there. We'd love for you to stop by our table at the American Airpower Museum and say hello!

Long Island National Cemetery Memorial Day Flag Placement

SATURDAY, MAY 25, STARTING AT 8:00 AM at the Long Island National Cemetery, 2040 Wellwood Ave. in Farmingdale. The Long Island National Cemetery Memorial Organization (LINC MO) is proud to announce that all those who participate in the placement of the flags on this day will receive a patch in recognition. Call the cemetery at (631) 454-4949 for more information.

LINC MO asks for your support in covering the cost of these patches. Checks should be made payable to "LINC MO" with "Patches" written on the memo line. Please mail all checks to:

Robert Smith
32 Cherubina Lane
North Babylon, NY 11703

United Veterans Organization (UVO) Memorial Day Ceremony

SUNDAY, MAY 26, 10 AM-11 AM, Eisenhower Park in East Meadow (Veterans Memorial Plaza, Field 6). Attendance is free. For more information, please call Morris Miller at (516) 798-3710.

Long Island National Cemetery Memorial Day Ceremony

SUNDAY, MAY 26, 2 PM-3 PM at Long Island National Cemetery, 2040 Wellwood Ave. in Farmingdale and conducted by the Long Island National Cemetery Memorial Organization (LINC MO). Attendance is free. For more information, please call Morris Miller at (516) 798-3710.

Gold Star Mothers & Family Ceremony

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 10 AM-11 AM, Eisenhower Park in East Meadow (Veterans Memorial Plaza, Field 6). Attendance is free. For more information, please call Emily Torres at (917) 971-8748.

TD Bank Fireworks Show and Concert

WEDNESDAY, JULY 3, GATES OPEN AT 5 PM, Eisenhower Park in East Meadow (Harry Chapin Theater). Attendance is free. *Rain date is Friday, July 5.* Call Cindy Gillen at (516) 572-0396 for more information.



THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, JULY 11 AND 12, 9 AM-9 PM EACH DAY, John J. Burns Park, 4990 Merrick Road in Massapequa Park. Shootout for Soldiers has announced a shift in its operational framework, moving from a collaborative partnership under Team Red, White & Blue (Team RWB), and returning to an independent entity. Shootout for Soldiers is a nonprofit organization that hosts lacrosse experiences to support American veterans through fundraising and community engagement.

As the front-page calendar shows, LIAFA will hold its 44th Vietnam 50th Anniversary Commemorative Medal Ceremony during the second day of the tournament, **FRIDAY, JULY 12 AT 11:00 AM.**

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

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Announcements and Programs

Lifetime Liberty Pass for New York State Residents

Starting April 1, eligibility for the Lifetime Liberty Pass will expand 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, beginning on 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 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.

More PACT Act Information

Just recently, the VA 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 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 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.

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 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 the local Nassau County VVA Chapter 82.

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

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.

Veterans Treatment Court (Nassau County)

U.S. military veterans charged with minor nonviolent offenses may qualify for reduced charges or penalties by participating in a court-supervised treatment program. To apply, a pre-screening questionnaire must be completed and forwarded to the district attorney's office. You must then contact the Veterans Treatment Court Project Director to set a clinical evaluation for the purpose of determining treatment needs. If you are found to be eligible, you will be contacted by the D.A.'s office and a plea offer will be proposed. For more information, please visit their website at www.nassaucountyny.gov/4919/Veterans-Treatment-Court. ***Volunteers are also being sought to be mentors; training will be provided. Please call Rosemary Walker at (516) 493-4145.***

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 on Monday–Friday from 7 AM to 5 PM You pick whatever times and dates work for you. Nassau County will provide the vehicles; a valid New York State driver's license is required. ***To volunteer, please call Jessica DeLisa at (516) 572-6526. The need is urgent so please help if you can!***

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!

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

Veterans News UVO Long Island is looking for volunteers to act as crew members for its weekly show on public access TV (training will be provided.) The show airs on Cablevision channel 115 on Mondays at 6:30 PM and Cablevision channel 20 on Fridays at 6:30 PM It is also on at various times

on North Hempstead's North Shore TV on Verizon, on Lynbrook and Malverne public access channels, on public access MNN TV Network in Manhattan or any time on YouTube by entering *Veterans News UVO*. The crew meets at the North Shore TV Studio at 1111 Marcus Ave., Suite LL27 in Lake Success on the last Tuesday of the month to tape the program. For more information, please email Ed Aulman at mardiv1@optonline.net, or call him at (516) 921-0595.

Veterans Legal Assistance Program

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

General Needs Ltd.

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

Veterans Project by Long Island Cares

This project encompasses several veterans' service programs such as a mobile pantry, job search assistance and Military Appreciation Tuesdays hosted at pantries located in Huntington Station, Bethpage, Hampton Bays, Lindenhurst, 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. They also provide services to student veterans at numerous Long Island college campuses and monthly community outreach in various locations. For more information, please call (631) 853-8345 or send an email to vetspeertopeer@suffolkcountyny.gov. They also have a Facebook page.

Nassau County Joseph P. Dwyer Vet2Vet Peer Networking Groups

Vet2Vet consists of small groups of veterans who meet weekly to share knowledge, provide mutual support and share resources. Confidential and open to all veterans regardless of discharge status. Free to attend; no pre-registration is required. Meetings are at: Mental Health Association, 16 Main 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. Also check out their website: 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.

Contact information:

Hempstead Office: 1 Helen Keller Way, 5th 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. Their website is 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 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.

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 call Allison Ridam Krivosheiw at (516) 236-3245 or email her at alliridam@gmail.com. If you just want to download an application form, go to www.nassaucountyny.gov/DocumentCenter/View/30304/Wall-of-Honor-Application-2020.

Local Website for Veterans

We-Are-Vets.us is a local Long Island website presenting a mix of information, history and memories for active-duty troops, veterans and interested civilians. Eric Spinner is the webmaster while Gary Glick, Marvin Gold, Pat Yngstrom and Bernard Fradkin make up the rest of the team. Their website is www.we-are-vets.us.

Honor Flight Long Island

Honor Flight recognizes American World War II, Korean War and Vietnam veterans by flying them to 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.

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 \$150 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 or calling her at (516) 877-4812.

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 and click on the *Education* button near the top of the page to see if they qualify and to download an application.

Please note that the application form must be printed and mailed.

The deadline for applying is June 30th.

Did you know . . .

The spark that ignited the idea for the Global Positioning System (GPS) was the launch by the Soviet Union on October 4, 1957, of Sputnik 1, which was the first satellite to successfully orbit the earth. The fact that the Soviets had beaten the Americans in this phase of the so-called Space Race produced a great deal of dismay among the American public, but it was not a great surprise to the CIA and President Eisenhower, who had been made aware of Soviet progress in this area by secret spy plane reconnaissance photos. A group of scientists at the Applied Physics Laboratory (APL) at Johns Hopkins University used the Doppler Effect to track the movement of the satellite's radio transmissions and therefore were able to track the location of the satellite as it circled the Earth. They later expanded on the idea thusly: if a satellite location could be determined from the ground via the frequency shift of its radio signal, then the location of a receiver on the ground could be determined by its distance from a satellite. In 1958, the Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA) used this principle to develop *Transit*, the world's first global satellite navigation system. The first satellite for *Transit* was launched in 1960. In the mid-1960s the program was transferred to the Navy and by 1968, 36 satellites were operational. Meanwhile, the Air Force had formed a new satellite navigation program called *621-B* in response to recommendations from studies conducted by The Aerospace Corporation. In this system, each satellite would be equipped with its own clock that would be periodically updated via a signal from ground stations. As a consequence of technical advancements during the 1960s such as solid-state microprocessors, computers, and bandwidth utilization techniques, the satellites would later carry their own atomic clocks, with no need to synchronize their time with a ground station. This innovation meant that GPS units did not need a clock so they could be reduced in size, eventually small enough to fit inside a cell phone. In 1978 the first of the NAVSTAR satellites was launched, followed in succeeding decades by improved satellites that led to our current GPS system, which is currently operated and maintained by the U.S. Space Force.



*SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket carrying the GPS III satellite launched from Cape Canaveral.
Photo credit: SpaceX*

★★★ Supporters' Corner ★★★

Museum of American Armor

This 25,000-square-foot museum, which has hosted several of our Vietnam medal ceremonies over the years, is located just inside the boundaries of Old Bethpage Village Restoration at 1303 Round Swamp Road in Old Bethpage. It's open Friday–Sunday from 11 AM to 3 PM. Admission is \$15 for adults; \$12 for seniors, children 5–12, volunteer firefighters and persons with disabilities; FREE for children 4 and under, and active military. Their website is www.museumofamericanarmor.com; their phone number is (516) 454-8265.

The museum's inventory includes an M4 Sherman medium tank, M5 Stuart light tank, M18 Hellcat tank destroyer, Long Tom 155 mm howitzer, replica German Tiger I heavy tank, replica German Sturmgeschütz (Stug) mobile assault gun and various armored cars, half-tracks and reconnaissance vehicles. They also have various "experiences" throughout the year where, for a fee, you can ride on some of the vehicles, including the WWII Half-track Experience, Armor Experience and WWII Encampment Weekend. As you can imagine, acquiring and maintaining these vehicles is expensive so the admission and other fees are needed to help with the expenses.

Volunteers are always needed. To volunteer online and to find out what the requirements are, please go to <http://www.museumofamericanarmor.com/visit-us#contact>.

The museum is also preparing for a June 6, 2024, commemorative event to mark the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy, France, which took place on June 6, 1944. The D-Day invasion, codenamed Operation Overlord, is considered to be the largest amphibious invasion in military history, involving approximately 160,000 American, British and Canadian troops, 6500 ships and 13,000 aircraft. Members of a club of historical re-enactors, who will be wearing period uniforms, and a World War II amphibious landing craft will participate in the activities. Registration for the event will open in May. As we get closer to June 6, more information will be posted on the museum's website, <http://www.museumofamericanarmor.com/calendar#DDAY>. Two Long Islanders are known as having been killed in the invasion—Charles Thomas Byrnes, 18, of Elmont and Sidney Gerhard Dudgeon, 27, of Farmingdale.

Local elected officials as well as labor and business leaders have agreed to participate in public events and to do community outreach to publicize the upcoming D-Day ceremony. The president and founder of the museum, Lawrence Kadish, is also underwriting an essay contest for high school seniors and college students that will send the winner and a parent to Normandy, France for an 11-day tour of the battle sites.



*A lineup of some of the Museum's combat vehicles and tanks.
Photo credit: Museum of American Armor website*



Photo credit: Museum of American Armor website

Taps

Kenneth F. (“Kenny”) Cadieux of Rockville Centre passed away on January 19 at age 92 after complications from surgery. Kenny was an Army Korean War veteran who served with the 955th Field Artillery Battalion. Kenny was a member of American Legion Post #246 in Baldwin and had been an officer, including president, of several veterans organizations, including the UVO (United Veterans Organization of Nassau County), LINC MO (Long Island National Cemetery Memorial Organization), Nassau County Veterans Advisory Board, Monument Committee, Homeless Veterans Project and Forty & Eight, a veterans group that sponsors a nursing scholarship program. He was also the long-time Judge Advocate for both the UVO and LINC MO, where his encyclopedic knowledge of *Robert’s Rules of Order*, and of the constitution and bylaws of the organizations proved invaluable. Kenny was the Director of Personnel for the Town of Hempstead until his retirement in 1995.

In 2014, Kenny was named commander of the state American Legion’s 10th district, which encompasses Nassau, Suffolk and Queens. He was a recipient of the Nassau County Distinguished Veteran Service Award in 2016.

The following text is from the obituary by Ben Fiebert that appeared in the February 2, 2024, digital issue of the Baldwin LI Herald. It perfectly encapsulates the type of person that Kenny was:

Colon [Frank Colon, commander of American Legion Post #303 in Rockville Centre] recalls how Cadieux helped many homeless vets. They both collected more than 100 bags of clothing and donated it to the United Veterans Beacon House in Suffolk. Colon said that Cadieux’s house ... was the “central collection location” for the American Legion of Nassau County, so locals would give items to him for donation.

“He would collect wheelchairs, hospital beds, walkers, you name it,” Colon said. “He did a whole bunch of work for the veterans.”

Colon remembers driving with Cadieux in Colon’s truck to Staten Island to pick up a donated electric wheelchair. They drove all over in that truck, collecting donations, and Colon said he would always remember the time they spent together.

“He’s going to be sorely missed,” Colon said. “He was my best friend, so I’m really going to miss him.”

Colon said that Cadieux cared about his community, and “always did the right thing.”

“He did a lot,” his friend added. “There was no stopping. He never stopped. He kept on going.”

Kenny’s wife Geraldine, died in 2008. He was a devoted father to Phillip, Christopher and Maria Cadieux, Margaret DiMeo (Mark), Carol Gray (Charles), Olga Matheu (Miguel) and a fond brother of Roland and Carol Cadieux. He was also grandfather to Alexis Huezo, Danielle and Ryan Mann, Tessa and Vinny DiMeo, Emma and Matt DiMeo, Kenny and wife Caroline Thorp.

(Continued on next page)

Taps (continued)



*L to R: Nassau County Executive Edward P. Mangano, honoree **Kenneth Cadieux** and Nassau County Veterans Service Agency Director Ralph Esposito during the August 6, 2016, ceremony presenting Kenny with the Nassau County Distinguished Veteran Service Award.*

Photo credit: Nassau County

Steven John (Steve) Mason of Elmont passed away on March 13 at age 75; no cause of death was given. A Marine Vietnam combat veteran, he served from May 1968 through August 1970 and attained the rank of Lance Corporal. Steve served as a rifleman and earned the Combat Action Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with 1 Bronze Star, RVN Cross of Gallantry with palm and frame, Vietnam Campaign Medal with 60 Device and Rifle Expert Badge. Steve was a member of the Elmont American Legion Riders Post 1033 and the Patriot Guard Riders and attended many veteran events wearing his dress uniform.

Steve is survived by his children: Steven Mason and his wife Marselha, Corinne O'Malley and her husband Mike, and Emilie van Raak and Philip. Steve is also survived by his six grandchildren: Christopher, Jayla, Cecilia, Michelle, Kimmy and Mikey. Steve is also survived by his big brother Allyn Mason.

Steve is also survived by the love of his life, and best friend, Lillian Garraputo, whom he especially enjoyed spending summers with on his boat, the Annie Em, cruising around the South Shore waters and beaches.

(Continued on next page)

Taps (continued)



Steven Mason

Photo credit: Joe Martin, Patriot Guard Riders

(Continued on next page)

Taps (continued)



Paul Zadoff of Bethpage passed away on February 27 at age 103; no cause of death was given. Paul was a staff sergeant in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II and participated in the Battle of Iwo Jima. In recent years he was especially known for his personal renderings of *God Bless America* during many veterans events.



*Paul Zadoff at the podium singing "God Bless America" during the Nassau County Annual Salute to Veterans on August 6, 2022
Photo credit: Katrina O'Brien/LI Herald*

(Continued on next page)

Taps (continued)



Robert M. (“Bob”) Kraft of Oyster Bay passed away on January 10 at age 89; no cause of death was given. Bob was an Army veteran (1957-1963) and was a charter member of AMVETS Oyster Bay Post 21.



Robert Kraft

Photo credit: Kraft family via Oyster Bay Funeral Home

Lou Conter of Grass Valley, California, the last survivor of the sinking of the battleship *USS Arizona* during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, passed away on April 1 at his home at age 102; the cause of death was congestive heart failure. He enlisted in the Navy in 1939 and was a 20-year-old quartermaster third class at the time of the Pearl Harbor attack. As *Arizona* was burning and sinking quickly, he, along with others, helped rescue injured survivors and abandoned ship in a lifeboat when their senior surviving officer was sure that they had rescued all those still alive.

After Pearl Harbor, Conter was selected for flight training and became a pilot flying PBY patrol bombers, which the Navy used to look for submarines and bomb enemy targets. He flew 200 combat missions in the Pacific with a “Black Cats” squadron, which conducted dive bombing at night in planes painted black. He survived being shot down twice, once in shark-infested waters off New Guinea. After the war, he became an intelligence officer and flew combat missions in Korea while being assigned to the aircraft carrier *USS Bon Homme Richard*. Later, he became the Navy’s first SERE (survival, evasion, resistance and escape) officer. He helped establish the program, training Navy pilots how to survive if they were shot down in the jungle and captured as POWs. By the end of his 27-year Navy career in 1967, he had attained the rank of lieutenant commander (O-4).

In his later years, he made it a point to take part in the annual Pearl Harbor remembrance ceremonies held at the Pearl Harbor National Memorial in Hawaii. Even when ill health prevented him from attending for the last three years, he sent recorded messages to be played for the audience.

His wife Valerie, to whom he had been married for 45 years, passed away in 2016. He is survived by his daughter Louann Daley, sons Tony, James and Jeff, stepson Ron Fudge and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

(Continued on next page)

Taps (continued)

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*Lou Conter at the 75th Pearl Harbor Memorial Ceremony on Dec. 7, 2016, in Honolulu.
Photo credit: Craig T. Kojima/Honolulu Star-Advertiser via AP, Pool, File*

Richard G. DeJesu of Oyster Bay passed away on April 4 at age 83 from an accidental fall. Richard was a proud U.S. Navy Veteran (1958–1961), a Past Commander of AMVETS Department of New York, and a past Post Commander of AMVETS Massapequa Post 88 and AMVETS Oyster Bay Post 21. He was honored in 2019 as Veteran Volunteer of the Year by the Town of Oyster Bay in recognition of his twenty years of service to AMVETS. Richard is survived by his wife Laura, his children Richard (Shelley), Renee (Patrick) and Alan (Dawn), his grandchildren Samantha, Danielle, Joseph and John, and his sister Beverly (Kerber). He also had a brother, Frank, who predeceased him.

(Continued on next page)

Taps (continued)



Richard DeJesu

Photo credit: Francis P. DeVine Funeral Home web page



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