



Jul-Sep 2021

# LI 202 AFA news

## Chapter Officers

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Cathy Ward	Secretary
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*Visit us on the WEB:*

***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

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 34 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:

**There are no Vietnam Medal Ceremonies scheduled for the rest of 2021**

### 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



After having been canceled last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Shootout for Soldiers 24-hour lacrosse tournament was back in action on Thursday, July 22-23, 9:00 AM-9:00 AM at the Town of Oyster Bay Field of Dreams, 5619 Old Sunrise Highway in Massapequa. There are twenty-four one-hour games in a row and a running score is kept between the two teams, Stars and Stripes. Participating teams play in a one-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. 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. **This year, Long Island raised \$179,230, a record amount for our veterans!**

LIAFA held its 33<sup>rd</sup> Vietnam medal ceremony at 5 PM on July 22 during the Shootout. **Twenty Vietnam veterans** were presented with Vietnam 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Medals and Certificates of Appreciation. Distinguished guests included Town of Oyster Bay Supervisor **Joseph Saladino**, Shootout for Soldiers Co-Chairmen **Harry Jacobs** and **Mike Nelson**, Team RWB Program Manager **Erik Mineo**, 106<sup>th</sup> Rescue Wing Operations Group Commander **Col. Jeffrey Cannet**, 106<sup>th</sup> Rescue Wing Chaplain **Lt. Col. Brian McNamara**, New York State AFA President **Maxine Rauch** and Rabbinic Chaplain **Joni Brenner**.

Thank you to our sponsors, Shootout for Soldiers Long Island and Telephonics Corporation, as well as special thanks to the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Band, American Legion Riders from Greenlawn Post #1244, Patriot Guard Riders, Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) Chapter #82 Color Guard and Blue Star Mothers.



*VVA Chapter 82 Color Guard*



"The Big Check"



Erik Mineo and Mike Nelson with Coast Guard Auxiliary Band in the background





*Some of the Shootout contestants*



## **Long Island Metropolitan Lacrosse Foundation 9/11 Ceremony**

As LIAFA was hosting our Vietnam Vets Medal Ceremony described above, down the road our friends at the Long Island Metropolitan Lacrosse Foundation (LIMLF), which has faithfully supported LIAFA for many years through its Shootout for Soldiers event, was holding the 9/11 Memorial Rededication Ceremony at Farmingdale State University.

Soon after the tragic events of 9/11, members of LIMLF realized that among the lost were twenty-nine lacrosse players from our area. To honor those players, LIMLF, with assistance from Farmingdale State University and many others, created the Long Island 9/11 Lacrosse Memorial. The memorial was dedicated on September 9, 2005, with family members of those who were lost in attendance.

Now with the generosity of the lacrosse community and its friends, LIMLF raised more money to add to the memorial three individuals (John Swaine, John Vigiano and Joseph Vigiano) who perished in the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and five first responders (Robert L. Burns, Kevin C. Miller, Kevin D. Nuckel, Matt Perlungher and Michael Romano) who have since died of 9/11-related illnesses.

LIMLF also updated the memorial with new lighting and benches, memorial bricks, benches and a bolt from the World Trade Center. John Danowski, the Head Coach at Duke, was the guest speaker. A copy of his words is in the attached link; it was an extraordinary speech. We assure you they will touch your soul and raise your spirits.

<https://www.usalaxmagazine.com/usa-insider/senior-men/john-danowski-delivers-stirring-remarks-at-limlf-9-11-memorial-rededication>



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

**Twenty-nine Vietnam veterans** were presented with Vietnam 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Medals and Certificates of Appreciation during LIAFA's 34<sup>th</sup> Vietnam medal ceremony on September 18 at the American Airpower Museum in Farmingdale. Distinguished guests included Congressman **Andrew Garbarino**, State Senator **John Brooks**, Commander of Joint Task Force Empire Shield **Col. Paul Salas**, Senior Advisor to the Director, Vietnam 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration **Col. (Ret.) Jose Ramos**, Operations Manager of the American Airpower Museum **Larry Starr**, and Rabbinic Chaplain **Joni Brenner**. We'd also like to thank our sponsors Shootout for Soldiers, Telephonics and the American Airpower Museum as well as the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 82, American Legion Riders Greenlawn Post 1244, Patriot Guard Riders, Civil Air Patrol Cadet Squadron 8 and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Band Flotilla 22-7.

### **§**

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

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

### **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. The effort is being spearheaded by the Nassau County VFW Council in partnership with a committee of veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan.

An initial fundraiser is being held on **Friday, October 15 from 6 PM to 9 PM** at BrewSA Brewing Company, 180 Woodcleft Avenue on the Nautical Mile in Freeport; there will be food and an open bar. There is a \$40 minimum donation per person to attend; you can pay at the door. If paying by check, please make it payable to "NC VFW Council" and write "Iraq/Afghan monument" on the memo line. If you or your organization simply want to send a donation to support the project, please mail your check to NC VFW Council, PO Box 1344, North Massapequa, NY 11758.

### **Walls of Honor Ceremony**

The unveiling of the 2021 veterans' names placed on the memorial walls will take place on **Saturday, October 16 from 10 AM to 11 PM** at Veterans Plaza at Eisenhower Park, East Meadow.

### **Nassau County American Legion Fallen Comrade Memorial Service**

The ceremony will take place on **Saturday, October 16 from 12 noon to 1:30 PM** at the Harry Chapin Theater at Eisenhower Park, East Meadow. **Please bring a lawn chair with you.**

### **Veterans Picnic**

The Nassau County Veterans Service Agency is hosting a Veterans Picnic on **Saturday, October 23, from 11 AM to 2 PM** at the Kite Field by Parking Field 6 in Eisenhower Park in East Meadow, to be held rain or shine. There will be free food, beverages and music as well as information about services offered by the Nassau County Veterans Service Agency. It will be open only to veterans and their families. **Please RSVP by calling (516) 572-0347.**

### **UVO Veterans Day Ceremony**

The United Veterans Organization of Nassau County (UVO) is holding its annual Veterans Day ceremony on **Sunday, November 7 at 10 AM** at Veterans Plaza in Eisenhower Park, East Meadow.

### **LINCMO Veterans Day Ceremony**

The Long Island National Cemetery Memorial Organization (LINCMO) is holding its annual Veterans Day ceremony on **Sunday, November 7 at 2 PM** at Long Island National Cemetery located at 2040 Wellwood Avenue in Farmingdale.

### **Virtual Veterans' Legal Assistance**

Please contact [VLAP@hofstra.edu](mailto:VLAP@hofstra.edu) to schedule an appointment and receive your Zoom appointment link. Hofstra Law will be hosting a one-day virtual legal assistance clinic event for ALL veterans on **Sunday, November 7 from 9 AM to 1 PM**. 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.

### **Mission Margraten Plus**

This is a fundraiser event, all the proceeds of which will go toward bringing 17 World War II veterans to The Netherlands in May 2022 for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Dutch liberation (the original May 2020 trip was postponed twice due to COVID). These veterans will be among the honored guests.

The event will feature Director Anthony Giacchino's 2021 Academy Award-winning best documentary short subject, "Colette," followed by his six short films titled "Aftermath." Each short film tells a unique story of six different World War II veterans. Three of those veterans will be in attendance. Big band music will be performed before the screening by one of our 100-year-old World War II veterans and his Sound of Music orchestra.

The event will take place on **Saturday, November 13 from 2 PM to 6 PM** at the Great Neck South Middle School, 349 Lakeville Road in Lake Success. The suggested donation per person is \$25; you may pay at the door or text **WW2GO** to **243725**.

Mission Margraten Plus is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. For more information, please visit the website at [missionmargratenplus.org](http://missionmargratenplus.org).

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

The Stand Down is scheduled to take place at the Freeport Armory (63 Babylon Turnpike, Freeport) on **Tuesday, November 23 from 9 AM to 1 PM**. Due to ongoing building renovations, the event will be a drive-through only and the only items distributed will be clothes, boots, toiletries and nonperishable foods.

### **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.



## **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 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](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.

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## ***Did you know . . .***

**Martha McSally, former Congresswoman and Senator from Arizona**, served in the U.S. Air Force from 1988 to 2010. She is the first American woman to fly in combat (1995 in an A-10 Warthog as part of Operation Southern Watch enforcing the no-fly zone over southern Iraq) as well as the first to command a fighter squadron (in July 2004 at the 354<sup>th</sup> Fighter Squadron at Davis-Monthan AFB in Arizona, which subsequently deployed to Afghanistan). She retired from the Air Force with the rank of Colonel.

**Seventeen hundred and sixty PlayStation 3 gaming consoles** were a vital part of an Air Force computer network called the "Condor Cluster." At the time this network was the DOD's fastest computer and the world's 33<sup>rd</sup> largest supercomputer. It was built at the Air Force Research Laboratory and was designed for radar enhancement, pattern recognition, satellite imagery processing, and artificial intelligence research for current and future Air Force projects and operations. Compared to one made with more traditional components, the network consumed far less energy and was also much less expensive. Unfortunately, in 2010 Sony pushed a firmware update that revoked the device's ability to install alternate operating systems, which is what the Air Force PlayStations were running on (Linux). The Air Force didn't need the firmware update nor could Sony force it on those devices, but if one of the PlayStations were to go down, it would be the end of the cluster since any new or refurbished replacement devices would lack the ability to run Linux. This development also spelled the end of several similar academic networks.

**James (Jimmy) Stewart ("It's A Wonderful Life" actor)** was the first major American movie star to enlist in the U.S. Army in February 1941 (he initially tried to enlist in 1940 but was rejected for being underweight). Stewart went in as a Private, but because he was already an accomplished pilot, the Army granted his request for a commission, sent him through flight and bombardier schools and made him an instructor. He went on to command the 703<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Squadron in England and began flying combat missions in B-24 Liberators. He eventually became Chief of Staff of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Combat Wing, 2<sup>nd</sup> Air Division of the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force, flew 20 combat missions and ended the war as a Colonel. He remained in the Air Force Reserves and was promoted to Brigadier General in 1959. Stewart deployed one last

time to Vietnam as an observer on B-52s during Operation Arc Light in 1966. Upon reaching the age limit of 60, he retired on May 31, 1968. In 1985, President Ronald Reagan promoted him to Major General from the retired rolls and awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Stewart was one of the founding members of the Air Force Association in 1946.





## 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** 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.