



Oct-Dec 2018

LI 202 AFA news

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Visit us on the WEB:

LIAFA.ORG

Visit us on FACEBOOK:

Long Island Air Force Association – LIAFA

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CALENDAR OF LIAFA EVENTS 2019

Vietnam Medal Ceremonies:

Sat, Feb 9, 2019

Museum of American Armor
Bethpage
11:30 AM

Sat, Mar 23, 2019

LI State Veterans Home
Stony Brook
2:00 PM

Sat, Apr 20, 2019

Cradle of Aviation Museum
Garden City
11:00 AM

Thu, Jul 18, 2019

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

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Memorial Day Weekend:

Sat & Sun, May 25-26, 2019

American Airpower Museum
Farmingdale
Table Display - All Day

Annual Pearl Harbor Memorial Ceremony—Dropping of the Roses:

Sat, Dec. 7, 2019

American Airpower Museum
Farmingdale
10:30 AM

President's Message

We're still looking for current Long Island Vietnam veterans who wish to receive a Vietnam 50th Anniversary Commemorative Medal at one of our upcoming ceremonies. To date we have held 25 Vietnam 50th Anniversary Commemorative Medal Ceremonies and have presented medals to over 800 veterans.

The requirements are:

- Served in Vietnam or 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)

We would like to invite all our members to show their support and to join their comrades at these upcoming events. We know that some of you may be unable to attend, but if you would like to help, you may donate to the chapter and support these programs.

Donations can be sent to:

Long Island Air Force Association
Fred Di Fabio, President
67 Pacific Dunes Court
Medford, NY 11763

You will find a medal application at the end of this newsletter. Please feel free to use it to apply for a medal yourself, or to give it to a qualified friend or family member who would be interested in applying. You can also download an application from our website at LIAFA.org.

Other Upcoming Events, Meetings and Programs

Additional Vietnam Medal Ceremony

September 21, 2019 at 11:00 AM at the Cradle of Aviation Museum in Garden City.

General Needs Ltd.

Located in Northport, this is a nonprofit organization that distributes NEW clothing as well as personal items such as toiletries to needy veterans on a monthly basis. 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 president and founder Lonnie Sherman at (516) 672-9595 or email him at LonnieSherman@GeneralNeeds.org. Visit their website at www.GeneralNeeds.org or go to their Facebook page.

Veteran Peer Night (all vets) and Female Veteran Peer Night (female vets only)

Held at the Veteran Activity Center, 2184 Pond Road, Ronkonkoma. Hosted by Boots on the Ground NY. Stop in to chat with other Veterans, watch TV, play a game of pool, break bread with us, or assist in an activity that may support our Veteran Support Programs. We may also on occasion have guests that come in to offer advice on anything from taxes, financial, mental health, etc. The food and personal care pantries are available all evening. Some weeks the group may go to outside activities, bowling, movies, adventure park, etc. so please check event each week, or call the VAC and leave a message at (631) 615-2200. No paperwork, no fees, no membership, completely confidential. ***Please go to their Facebook page to find out the 2019 schedule, which was not available at the time of this issue.***

Food Pantry Drive and Care Package Supply Collection

On the third Saturday of each month, 10 AM to 3 PM at Veteran Activity Center (VAC), 2184 Pond Road, Ronkonkoma. Hosted by Boots on the Ground NY. This event is for food-drive drop-off only (canned, boxed or frozen food, coffee, snack packets, condiments and cleaning supplies.

Military Appreciation Tuesdays by Long Island Cares

Every Tuesday from 9 AM to 5 PM at their Huntington Station, Freeport and Lindenhurst locations. This is a chance for veterans and their families to access food, personal care items, household products and pet food (also school supplies when available). There is also a mobile food pantry for disabled vets. For more information, please call (631) 582-3663.

VetsWork by Long Island Cares

This program provides help for veterans seeking employment by assisting with creating a resume, writing a cover letter, learning interview skills and more. For more information, please call Fern Summer at (631) 824-6385 (email at fsummer@licares.org) or Michael Haynes at (631) 824-6386.

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; however, a diagnosis is not required for attendance. All groups are confidential and anonymous. Weekly group meetings are held in Amityville, Bay Shore, Yaphank, Sag Harbor, Hauppauge and Ronkonkoma. 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, Northport/East Northport, and Mastic-Moriches-Shirley community libraries. For more information, please call (631) 853-8345, send an email to vetspeertopeer@suffolkcountyny.gov or visit their website at www.dwyerproject.org. 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 Ln. in Levittown at 2 PM on Thursdays; 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.

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 a lawyer. For information and assistance, please call Director Gary A. Horton at (585) 219-4862 or email him at ghorton@nysda.org.

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77th Pearl Harbor Memorial (Dropping of the Roses) on December 7, 2018

Sadly, this year there were no Pearl Harbor survivors in attendance. 99-year-old survivor Seymour Blutt of Manhattan (who was in the 11th Bombardment Group, Army Air Corps, Hickam Field) died on January 10, just a little over a month after he had attended last year's ceremony. We will miss him.

This year there was a special remembrance ceremony commemorating the death of former president George H. W. Bush. After the roses were blessed, the colors were retired, and the indoor ceremony ended around noontime, 78 roses (77 red roses, with 1 white rose for 9/11) were presented to the pilots of the GEICO Skytypers, who then departed to drop the roses over the Statue of Liberty at 12:55 PM to mark the exact time of the Pearl Harbor attack.

Many thanks, as always, to our sponsors: Shootout for Soldiers, Telephonics Corporation, Long Island State Veterans Home, Atlantic Aviation, and National Defense Industrial Association.

Special thanks are also due to the U.S. Auxiliary Coast Guard Band, vocalist Flotilla Staff Officer Louis DiLeo, Sergeant at Arms Paul Massi, USMC, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 82, Plainview VFW Post 5942, Patriot Guard Riders, American Legion Riders Post 1244, Rolling Thunder Chapter 6, U.S. Military Motorcycle Club, American Airpower Museum, GEICO Skytypers, Navy Operational Support Center, Civil Air Patrol Squadron 8, Costco of Melville, Town of Babylon and Applebee's.

Some pictures from the event are on the following pages. Please go to our website at LIAFA.org for more photos.





L to R in review line: Fred Di Fabio, LIAFA President; Maj Gen (Ret) Anthony Kropp; Col (Ret) Bill Stratemeier, LIAFA Treasurer; Col Michael Bank, 106th Rescue Wing Commander; Maj Patrick McCarty, 106th Rescue Wing Chaplain; CMSGT Michael Hewson, 106th Rescue Wing Command Chief. In plane: Chris Orr (pilot) and Joe Daly (backseater).

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Did you know . . .

30 of the 45 presidents served in the Army, 24 during time of war, two earned the rank of 5-star General (President Washington and President Eisenhower) and one earned the Medal of Honor (President Theodore Roosevelt).

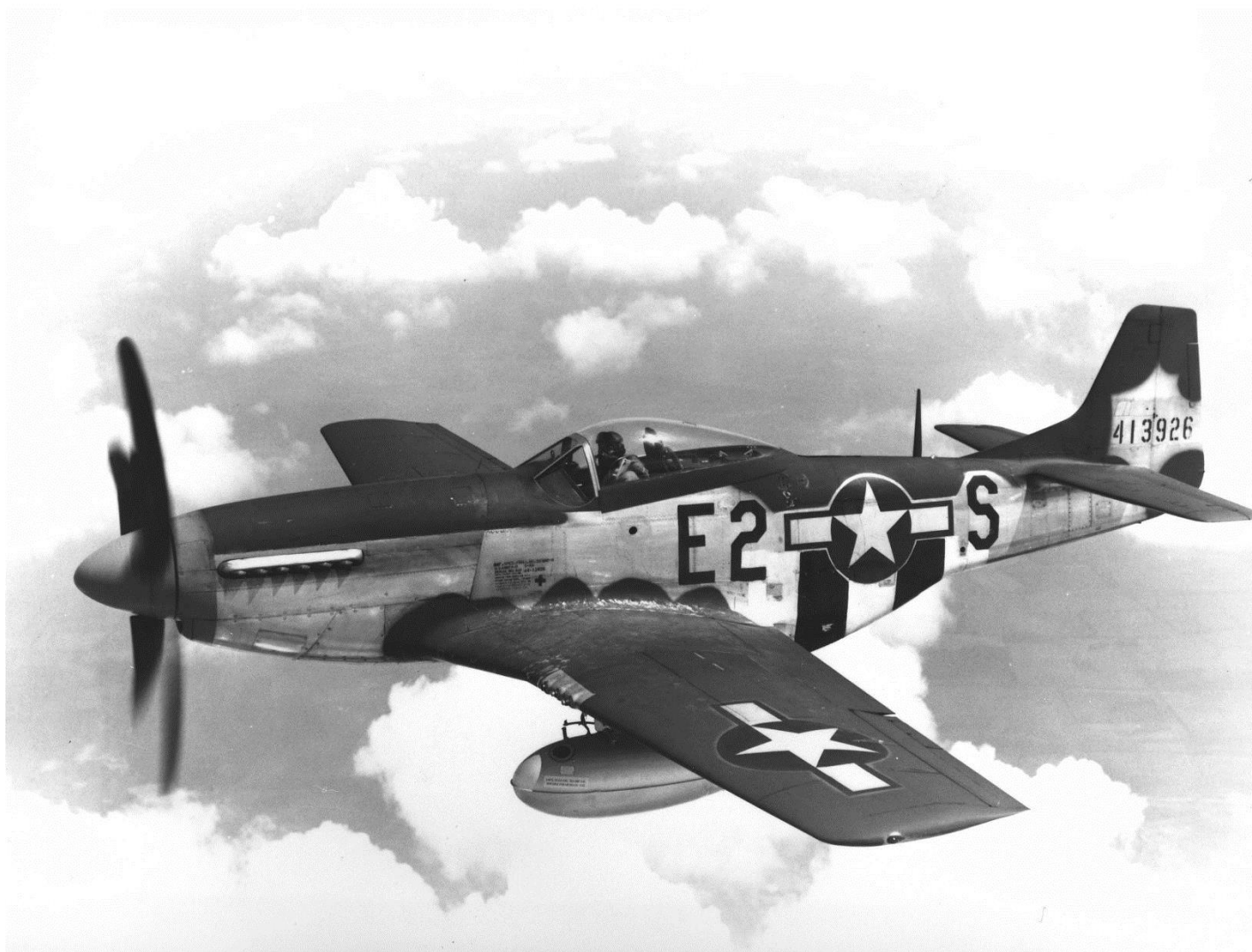
Only one president (James Buchanan) served as an enlisted man in the military and did not go on to become an officer.

The Civil War was by far the bloodiest war in the history of the U.S. military with more than 618,000 soldiers losing their lives. World War II comes in a distant second, with about 405,000 lives lost.

Fewer than 1% of American families have a family member in active military service, and only 22% of U.S. senators and congressional representatives have served in the military.

The Air Force's F-117 fighter uses aerodynamics discovered during research into how bumblebees fly.

The P-51 Mustang—The Bomber’s “Little Friend” During World War II



North American P-51D from the 375th Fighter Squadron. Photo courtesy of the U.S. Air Force.

During the early days of American daylight bombing raids against Nazi Germany, the B-17s and B-24s of the U.S. Army Air Forces (USAAF) Eighth Air Force conducted their missions with no fighter escort, the theory being that the numerous machine guns on the bombers would provide overlapping fields of fire that would serve to protect them against enemy fighters. The American flyers were rapidly disabused of this notion as their planes were systematically hacked out of the sky by flak and enemy fighters such as the Messerschmidt Bf 109 and Focke-Wulf 190. The Schweinfurt-Regensburg Mission in August 1943 stands as an example of these early raids—265 bombers reached the German border and out of these, 60 were lost in a single afternoon and 95 were heavily damaged, leaving 557 men missing in action, about half of whom had been taken prisoner by the Germans. There were fighter escorts (P-47s) accompanying the bombers, but they simply did not have sufficient range to provide protection all the way. German fighter pilots actually waited for the moment when the escort fighters had to turn back for lack of fuel before commencing their attacks on the bombers. Something had to be done.

Enter the P-51. It had begun life in 1940 as a response to a request from the British to North American Aviation to provide fighter planes for the RAF. They had requested P-40s, but North American offered to build an entirely new fighter using the same Allison V-1710 engine as the P-40. This engine performed well enough at low altitudes, but at higher altitudes (above 15,000 feet), it was not terribly impressive. In April 1942 a British test pilot, Ronald Harker, flew the Mustang and suggested that the plane would be much more effective with the Rolls Royce Merlin engine. The Americans began working along the same lines using the Packard license-built version of the Merlin. The first Merlin-equipped Mustang, the P-51B, flew in November 1942. At 30,000 feet, the Merlin-equipped Mustang flew almost 100 MPH faster than the Allison-equipped version. In addition, the Mustang had a large gas tank (425 gallons) and burned about half the gasoline per mile as other American fighters did. Fitted with extra drop-tanks (first available with the P-51D), the Mustang could fly about 2600 miles, more than enough to escort the bombers all the way to their targets in Germany and back. The Mustang was fast (437 MPH top speed for the P-51D) and packed a punch with six 50-caliber machine guns (the earlier B and C models had only 4 machine guns). The signature look of the P-51D was its new bubble canopy, also a British innovation, which provided the pilot with an unobstructed 360-degree view. It could also turn more tightly than both the Bf 109 and FW 190. Use of the Mustangs as escort fighters began in late 1943 and paved the way for Allied air supremacy over Europe and eventual Allied victory over Nazi Germany. In fact, Reichsmarschall Hermann Göring, commander of the German Luftwaffe during the war, was quoted as saying, "When I saw Mustangs over Berlin, I knew the jig was up."

Taps



George H.W. Bush died November 30 at age 94. He was the 41st U.S. president (1989-1993) and was also vice president under President Ronald Reagan from 1981 to 1989. Other positions he held included congressman from Texas (1967-1971), ambassador to the UN (1971-1973) and director of the CIA (1976-1977). He flew 58 combat missions in the Pacific during World War II as a naval aviator flying the Grumman Avenger torpedo bomber, winning the Distinguished Flying Cross as well as three Air Medals. He also won the Presidential Unit Citation awarded to USS San Jacinto, the carrier on which he served. His wife, Barbara Bush, whom he had married on January 6, 1945, predeceased him on April 17, 2018.

Happy Holidays from 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 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 (sanitize your Social Security Number) and this
application to:

Fred DiFabio, President
67 Pacific Dunes Court
Medford, NY 11763



For information call:
631-754-6383

- The Long Island Air Force Association has awarded to date over 650 medals during 21 ceremonies
- Visit our web page and view the video to gain a sense of the ceremony: **LIAFA.ORG**
- Checkout our Facebook page at: Long Island Air Force Association - LIAFA
- 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.

THIS MEDAL IS TO HONOR OUR LONG ISLAND LIVING VETERANS
(Not awarded posthumously)