



# LI 202 AFA NEWS

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Long Island Air Force Association–LIAFA

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Newsletter editor: Steven Latus

## CALENDAR OF LIAFA EVENTS 2023

### Vietnam Medal Ceremonies

**Sat, May 13, 2023**

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

**Thu, Jul 13, 2023 (revised date)**

During Shootout for Soldiers  
John J. Burns Park  
4990 Merrick Rd.  
Massapequa Park  
5 PM

**Sat, Oct 28, 2023**

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

### Women's Military Service Medal Ceremonies

**Sat, Sep 30, 2023**

St. Joseph's University  
155 West Roe Blvd.  
Patchogue, NY 11772  
11:30 AM

### 82<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Annual Pearl Harbor Memorial Ceremony— Dropping of the Roses

**Thu, Dec 7, 2023**

American Airpower Museum  
1230 New Highway  
Farmingdale  
10:30 AM

## President's Message

The Long Island Air Force Association has instituted a new program for Long Island **women veterans and those currently serving**, with the initial ceremony having been held on October 15, 2022.

The requirements are:

- Female veteran **or** currently serving in any branch of the military as per DD Form 214 for veterans, or ID or other documentation for those currently serving
- Currently living in Nassau, Suffolk, Brooklyn, Queens, or Staten Island
- Can attend the ceremony (awards are presented **only** at the ceremony; they are not mailed)

You will find an award application towards the end of this newsletter. You can also download one from our website at [LIAFA.org](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.**

And welcome aboard to Andrea Nordquist, our new VP of Media Relations! Andrea is the current president of Military Blue Star Mothers of Nassau County, Chapter 14 of Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.

## Upcoming Events

### Pancake Breakfast

A pancake breakfast to aid the Veterans Assistance Foundation will be held at the Applebee's on 1300 Corporate Drive in Westbury on **SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 8 AM-10 AM**. The meal includes pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, and a beverage (coffee, tea, orange juice or soda). Tickets are \$15 per person and can be purchased at the door or in advance by calling James Merritte at (516) 236-7349.

### Vet Fest

A free resource-sharing event to benefit veterans, service members and their families will be held on **SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 10 AM-2 PM** at the VA Medical Center, 79 Middleville Rd. in Northport. *In case of inclement weather, April 30 is the rain date.* Sponsored by the Veteran Suicide Prevention Coalition and supported by various veteran service providers, complimentary services and resources offered will include help for housing, food security, substance abuse, Naloxone training, mental health, healthcare, and suicide prevention. Food and drink will be available. 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](mailto:amy.millheiser@va.gov).

### Bethpage Air Show

The U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds will again be headlining this event to be held **SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, MAY 27 AND 28, 10 AM-3 PM** at Jones Beach. This year's lineup also includes the U.S. Army Golden Knights parachute team, the U.S. Marines F-35B demo, the U.S. Navy Growler Legacy Team, the 106<sup>th</sup> Air National Guard Rescue Wing, the Skytypers, Folds of Honor Biplane, Farmingdale State College Aviation, the Warbird Thunder Airshows, and the American Airpower Museum Warbirds. LIAFA will have a table display at the American Airpower Museum 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 27, STARTING AT 6:15 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.

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

## **Navy and USMC Helicopter Landings**

**SATURDAY, MAY 27, 10 AM (NAVY) AND 12 PM (USMC)**, Eisenhower Park in East Meadow (Kite Field, parking at Field 6A). Attendance is free.

## **United Veterans Organization (UVO) Memorial Day Ceremony**

**SUNDAY, MAY 28, 10 AM-11 AM**, Eisenhower Park in East Meadow (Veterans Memorial Plaza, Field 6). Attendance is free. **NOTE:** The unveilings of the Iraq/Afghanistan Veterans Monument and the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Monument are also *projected* to happen right after this event.

## **Long Island National Cemetery Memorial Day Ceremony**

**SUNDAY, MAY 28, 2 PM-3 PM** at the Long Island National Cemetery, 2040 Wellwood Ave. in Farmingdale. Attendance is free.

## **Gold Star Mothers & Family Ceremony**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 10 AM-11 AM**, Eisenhower Park in East Meadow (Veterans Memorial Plaza, Field 6). Attendance is free.

## **Veterans Summer Stand Down**

**TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 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, boots, nonperishable food, toiletries, housing assistance and peer counseling will be available.

## **Walls of Honor Ceremony**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 10 AM-11 AM**, Eisenhower Park in East Meadow (Veterans Memorial Plaza, Field 6). Attendance is free.

## **TD Bank Fireworks Show and Concert**

**SUNDAY, JULY 2, GATES OPEN AT 4 PM**, Eisenhower Park in East Meadow (Harry Chapin Theater). Attendance is free. Rain date TBD. Call Cindy Gillen at (516) 572-0396 for more information.

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## **Announcements and Programs**

### **\*\*\*Cradle of Aviation Museum Brick Program\*\*\***

Pave a way to the future with a custom engraved brick installed in the museum's F-14 Tomcat Plaza (unveiling planned for Spring 2023) or its existing Sally Ride Circle; the museum is located on Museum Row, Charles Lindbergh Blvd. in Garden City. Your tax-deductible brick donation will help support museum preservation programs and ensure the Cradle's ability to deliver quality education programs well into the future. The bricks will be laser-engraved and can honor a family member or loved one, or feature your business or organization. Bricks are available from \$125 to \$500, depending upon the amount of text and any clipart depicted. To see the available options, to order online or to download a printable order form, please visit [cradleofaviation.org/support/brick-program.html](http://cradleofaviation.org/support/brick-program.html).



Artist's rendition of Tomcat Plaza



"The First American Woman in Space," statue of NASA astronaut Sally Ride was unveiled on June 17, 2022

## **Nassau County Firefighters Operation Wounded Warrior (NCFF-OWW)**

A nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization *not* affiliated with the Wounded Warrior Project or any other Operation Wounded Warrior organization, the NCFF-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 NCFF-OWW works closely with military representatives of the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Washington DC, Womack Army Medical Center in Fort Bragg, 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 NCFF-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 NCFF-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 NCFF-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. Their website is [www.ncff-oww.org](http://www.ncff-oww.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](http://clothingdonations.org) or call (631) 582-0242 to schedule a pick-up. Please put the donation outside before 7 AM on the scheduled pick-up 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 our local Nassau County VVA Chapter 82.

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

## **Nassau County Veterans Support Grant Program**

The Nassau County Veterans Support Grant Program funds are potentially a one-time \$10,000 payment granted to eligible 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(19) veterans' posts or organizations located in Nassau County that experienced economic hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There is an online application at [https://ndc.smapply.io/prog/nassau\\_county\\_veterans\\_support\\_grant\\_program/](https://ndc.smapply.io/prog/nassau_county_veterans_support_grant_program/). Applicants needing assistance can leave a voicemail at (646) 825-9617 or email [ncveterans@ndconline.org](mailto:ncveterans@ndconline.org) and someone will contact you within 48 hours.

## **COVID Test Kits**

All veterans organizations can request ten free COVID test kits by contacting the Nassau County Veterans Service Agency. Please call Ralph Esposito at (516) 572-6512 or Paul Vista at (516) 572-6521.

## **New Suicide and Crisis Hotline Phone Number**

Effective July 16, 2022, **988** is the new Suicide and Crisis Lifeline number, which offers 24/7 call, text and chat access to trained crisis counselors who can help people experiencing suicidal, substance use, and/or mental health crisis issues, or any other kind of emotional distress. People can also dial 988 if they are worried about a loved one who may need crisis support. Veterans can use this new option by dialing 988 and then pressing 1 to contact the Veterans Crisis Line.

## **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: <http://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 go to <http://www.nassaucountyny.gov/4919/Veterans-Treatment-Court> or call Rosemary Walker, the Veterans Treatment Court Project Director, 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, 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) 572-6565 for more information and to find out which kinds of food are most needed on any given day. No amount is too small!

## **Veterans Legal Assistance Program**

Receive a FREE consultation with attorneys who specialize in elder law, taxes, wills and estates, family law, VA benefits and claims, disability, discharge upgrades, employment, housing, bankruptcy, debtor/creditor matters, Medicare/Medicaid, landlord/tenant disputes, immigration, and criminal law. For more information, contact the Hofstra Legal Assistance Project at [VLAP@hofstra.edu](mailto: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](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 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, meeting times and 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). 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 email her 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 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. Contact Ed Aulman at [mardivi@optonline.net](mailto:mardivi@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](http://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 contact Allison Ridam Krivosheiw at (516) 236-3245 or [alliridam@gmail.com](mailto:alliridam@gmail.com).

### **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](http://www.we-are-vets.us).



**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.**

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# **D**id you know . . .

Mitchel Field in Uniondale was NOT named after Brigadier General Billy Mitchell, the pioneering advocate for American military airpower, who is widely considered to be the father of the U.S. Air Force. The tip-off is in the spelling—Billy Mitchell’s last name ends with two l’s while the name of the airfield contains just a single l at the end.

The site where Mitchel Field now stands has been used as a military post since Revolutionary War days, when it was an Army enlistment center. It was converted into an airfield in 1909 due to its flat, treeless, hard clay surface and had several names before finally being christened Mitchel Field in 1918 in honor of John Purroy Mitchel (interestingly, his last name is spelled incorrectly in the photo below).



Library of Congress; Bain News Service, publisher

So, who is this Mitchel with the single l? Born July 19, 1879, in the Bronx, he was trained as a lawyer and in 1907 he was hired by the New York City Corporation Counsel to investigate potential corruption in the office of Manhattan Borough President John F. Ahearn. That investigation led to Ahearn being found guilty of nepotism on a large scale and he was dismissed from his position by the governor. Mitchel went on to investigate the borough presidents of the Bronx, Queens, and Brooklyn. They were all found guilty on corruption charges and were removed from office just as Ahearn had been. In 1913 Mitchel, now with a firm reputation as an effective reformer, ran for mayor on the Republican ticket against Edward E. McCall, the candidate of the powerful and corrupt Tammany Hall Democratic political machine. Mitchel won by 121,000 votes, making him the second-youngest mayor in New York City history at age 34 and earning him the moniker “Boy Mayor of New York.” Although he did an excellent job of clearing up corruption, especially in the New York City Police Department, and was initially quite popular, Mitchel’s star began to fade due to his fiscal policies, his controversial education reforms, and his support for universal military training—a draft. He went on to lose the Republican primary in 1917 but ran anyway as a pro-war fusion candidate with a media campaign that emphasized patriotism and denounced Germans, Jews, and his fellow Irish as enemy sympathizers. He lost.

Almost immediately after his loss, Mitchel enlisted in the Air Service (as the Air Force was then called), completed pilot training and attained the rank of major. On the morning of July 6, 1918, while flying back from a training exercise to Gerstner Field in Louisiana, Mitchel’s plane suddenly went into a nosedive, causing him to fall from his plane due to an unfastened seatbelt. The 500-foot fall led to his death. His body was returned to New York City, where 10,000 people thronged the streets and twenty aircraft showered the mourners with flowers as they marched along Fifth Avenue on the way to his Requiem Mass and funeral at St. Patrick’s Cathedral. Among his pallbearers was Theodore Roosevelt, who said of Mitchel, “In all our country, there was no finer American and no more upright and able public servant.” He was buried at Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx.



*Memorial in Central Park, New York City*

# ★★★ Supporters' Corner ★★★

## American Airpower Museum



Any of you who have attended our annual Pearl Harbor memorial ceremony or some of our Vietnam veteran medal ceremonies are certainly familiar with this venerable aviation museum located at Republic Airport on 1230 New Highway in Farmingdale. The museum is housed in one of the few remaining Republic Aviation hangars built in 1940 to support wartime production of the little-known P-43 Lancer fighter and the renowned P-47 Thunderbolt fighter-bomber during World War II. After World War II, Republic Aviation would go on to produce jet aircraft; Republic was acquired by Fairchild in 1965 and became a division of Fairchild, which itself went through several acquisitions until becoming defunct in 2003.

The museum was founded in 2000 by Jeff Clyman and his family, with the help of then-governor of New York, George Pataki, which brought aviation history to life to honor our veterans, local aviation pioneers, the men and women who built and flew the aircraft and the legacy of New York's part in the Arsenal of Democracy through the twentieth century and up to today.

From the museum's website, its mission: The mission of the American Airpower Museum is the preservation of aviation and military history, to educate the public and the next generation of Americans about the courage, valor, sacrifice, and heroism of our nation's veterans, aviation pioneers, and aviation industry workers of the arsenal of democracy. We accomplish this mission by preserving, displaying, and flying operational and static examples of our nation's legendary airpower and ground vehicles in our collection as well as through our related displays, exhibits and event programs. We strive to create an experience at our museum that will educate and inspire future generations in the subjects of aviation, engineering, math, science, and history.

At the museum, you will find flying aircraft such as the North American P-51D Mustang fighter, North American B-25 Mitchell bomber, Curtiss P-40M Warhawk fighter, North American AT-6D Texan

trainer aircraft, Douglas C-47B Skytrain transport aircraft and Grumman TBM-3E Avenger torpedo bomber, among others; static aircraft such as the Republic F-84E Thunderjet fighter, Republic F-105D Thunderchief fighter-bomber, Fairchild Republic A-10 Thunderbolt II (AKA Warthog) close air support aircraft and General Dynamics F-111A Aardvark strike, recon and electronic countermeasures aircraft; and exhibits such as the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders Tribute, D-Day Airborne Display, Tuskegee Airmen, War Correspondents, and the Vietnam War. The museum is also currently restoring a Consolidated PBY-6A Catalina flying boat. PBYs were used extensively during World War II in anti-submarine warfare, patrol bombing, convoy escort, search-and-rescue, and cargo transport, and were built in greater numbers than any other flying boat. They served with every branch of the United States Armed Forces, and in the air forces and navies of many other nations.



*This plaque is now hanging at the museum on the wall by the gift shop.*

The museum is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization and is not subsidized by state or local government; it relies heavily on admission fees, membership fees, private donations, and corporate sponsorships to keep the facility in operation, and to maintain the flying and static aircraft on public display. The museum is open Wednesday-Sunday, 10:30 AM-4 PM. You can donate online, or you can contact them at [info@americanairpowermuseum.org](mailto:info@americanairpowermuseum.org) for more information on how to donate to their general fund or specifically to an aircraft's maintenance and/or restoration, or about becoming a private or corporate sponsor in support of their mission. To find out more about admission or membership, please visit their website at <https://www.americanairpowermuseum.com>. They also have a Facebook page.

*Editor's Note:* I first became involved with the Long Island Air Force Association in 2011 by visiting their table display at the museum during one of the museum's events.

## Taps



**John Baptisto Fiore** of Glen Cove passed away on December 31 at the age of 73 after complications from hernia surgery. An Army veteran, John was in the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division (Company A, 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 5<sup>th</sup> Cavalry) in Vietnam in 1969 serving as a Light Weapons Infantryman. He participated in forty-five helicopter combat missions, earning him an Air Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Combat Medal, and the National Defense Medal. He was the commander of VFW Post 1819 in Port Washington and American Legion Post 422 in Whitestone. John made sure that no “unclaimed veteran” was ever buried with nobody in attendance. At their funerals, he would recite the poem, “Bury Me with Soldiers,” and then accept the flag because he treated veterans as family. John is survived by his son John and his two sisters, Grace Cafaro of Ridge Pike, PA and Ann Meredith of Waverly, TN.



John Baptisto Fiore  
Photo Credit: Howard Schnapp

**(Continued on next page)**

## Taps (continued)



**John H. Leignadier** of Glen Cove passed away on January 12 at the age of 92. John served in the Air Force during the Korean War and was a helicopter pilot and medic during times of war and peace. John went on to become a member of the United States Marshals Service as well as an inspector with the Glen Cove Auxiliary Police. He is survived by his wife Rosemarie.



John H. Leignadier  
From [obituariesnotice.com](http://obituariesnotice.com)

**Howard D. Sonneborn** of Oyster Bay passed away on January 16 at the age of 91. He served in the Army from 1949 to 1952, was a Korean War veteran and was a charter member of AMVETS Post 21 in Oyster Bay. He is survived by his wife Virginia, his children Howard D., Jr., and Debra-Lynn Beardsley, and his brother Herman.



Want to receive our .....

# WOMEN'S MILITARY SERVICE MEDAL



**Are you a veteran or currently serving?**

The Long Island Air Force Association proudly presents this award to honor women and their families for their commitment and service.  
**(Awarded to women currently serving and veterans of all services)**

## APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Branch of Service \_\_\_\_\_ Rank/Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Service dates \_\_\_\_\_

Verification of service is required: DD-214 for veterans, ID or other documentation for women currently serving (black out your Social Security Number)

Fred Di Fabio, President 67 Pacific Dunes Court Medford, NY 11763	For information call: 631-754-6383
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- Check out our web page at: [LIAFA.ORG](http://LIAFA.ORG) and visit us on Facebook: **The Long Island Air Force Association - LIAFA**
- Attendance is **FREE**. Bring your family, friends and neighbors.  
**You will be contacted to be scheduled for an upcoming ceremony.**

**Medal is not awarded posthumously**

PRESENTED BY THE LONG ISLAND AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION



## THE LONG ISLAND AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION (LIAFA)

A Department of Defense (DOD) Vietnam 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.