



LI 202 AFA NEWS

Chapter Officers

Fred Di Fabio	President
Steven Latus	Vice President
Ray Donnelly	VP Corporate Development
Kenneth J. Nevor	VP Veterans Affairs
Cathy Ward	Secretary
Bill Stratemeier	Treasurer

Visit us on the WEB:

LIAFA.ORG

Visit us on FACEBOOK:

Long Island Air Force Association—LIAFA

Email us at: LIAFA202@gmail.com

Newsletter editor: Steven Latus

CALENDAR OF LIAFA EVENTS 2022

Vietnam Medal Ceremonies:

Thu, Jul 21, 2022

During Shootout for Soldiers

Location changed to:

John J. Burns Park
4990 Merrick Rd.
Massapequa Park
5:00 PM

Sat., Sep. 24, 2022

Location changed to:

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

Women's Military Service Ceremony

Oct. 15, 2022

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

81st Anniversary Annual Pearl Harbor Memorial Ceremony—Dropping of the Roses

Wed, Dec. 7, 2022

American Airpower Museum
1230 New Highway
Farmingdale
10:30 AM

President's Message

The Long Island Air Force Association is instituting a new program for Long Island **women veterans and those currently serving**, with the initial ceremony scheduled for 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.

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

Other Upcoming Events

Town of Hempstead Salute to Veterans

SATURDAY, JUNE 25, STARTING AT 7:30 PM at Town Park, Point Lookout. Fireworks and concert with members of Creedence Clearwater Revisited. Rain date is June 26. Call (516) 292-9000, ext. 7480 for information.



THURSDAY THROUGH FRIDAY, JULY 21-22, 9 AM - 9 AM at John J. Burns Park, 4990 Merrick Road in Massapequa Park. There are twenty-four 1-hour games in a row and a running score is kept between the two teams, Stars and Stripes. Participating teams play in a 1-hour slot during the event and the event is open to men's and women's teams of all ages. The mission of the Shootout is to use lacrosse as a platform to support American veterans and foster good community relations. Long Island Chapter 202 of the Air Force Association is proud and grateful to be one of the four 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.

As the front-page calendar shows, LIAFA will hold its Vietnam medal ceremony during the first day of the tournament, **THURSDAY, JULY 21 AT 5 PM.**

Shootout for Soldiers has raised over \$5 million since its inception in 2012.

Nassau County Salute to Veterans

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6, STARTING AT 6:30 PM at Eisenhower Park, Harry Chapin Lakeside Theater (Parking Fields 6 and 6A), East Meadow. Salute to Veterans will honor five people in the veteran community who have devoted their time and lives to helping Long Island veterans. After the honorees receive their recognition and awards, the concert will start.

Walls of Honor Ceremony

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 10 AM TO 11 AM at Veterans Plaza at Eisenhower Park in East Meadow. The ceremony will feature the unveiling of additional veterans' names placed on the honor walls.

The Walls of Honor is a place of remembrance within Veterans Memorial Plaza at Eisenhower Park. 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.

Honoring U.S. Veterans—Operation Overlord

On June 6, Suffolk County Executive Steven Bellone honored six veterans at the H. Lee Dennison Building in Hauppauge for their service in World War II.

Two of the veterans served in the invasion of Normandy on D-Day, June 6, 1944. D-Day marked the beginning of Operation Overlord, the codename for the Battle of Normandy in France and the opening of a third front on Nazi-occupied Europe, putting the final nail in the coffin of Hitler's empire and marking the beginning of the end for the German war machine.

Sgt. David George of St. James and **Pvt. Frank Agolia** of Deer Park were presented with the French Jubilee of Liberty Medal by Suffolk County Executive Steven Bellone, Suffolk County Director of Veterans Services Thomas Ronayne and Long Island Air Force Association President Fred Di Fabio. A certificate accompanies the medal.

These medals were minted at the request of the President of the Regional Council of Normandy, France and approved to be presented to veterans attending the 50th Anniversary Ceremony of D-Day on June 6, 1994 at Pointe du Hoc in Normandy, France.

Eligible veterans included all who served in the Normandy campaign from June 6 to August 31, 1944, and who were part of the land forces, off-shore personnel, or airmen flying overhead. Most veterans could not attend the ceremony in France; therefore, the French government authorized special veteran groups in the USA to present the Jubilee of Liberty Medals in ceremonies on their behalf. The Long Island Air Force Association was one of those groups.

The AFA has presented over 500 Jubilee of Liberty Medals to our Long Island veterans since 1994 and these were the last of the medals to be presented, on the 78th anniversary of D-Day.



Jubilee of Liberty Medal



L to R: Thomas Ronayne, Fred Di Fabio, Pvt. Frank Agoglia, Steven Bellone



L to R, in front: Steven Bellone, Sgt. David George, Fred Di Fabio

Air Force Junior ROTC Cadet of the Year

Cadet Sean Nash has been selected as the winner of the Air Force Junior ROTC and Air Force Association Leadership Award for the state of New York. Sean is the Cadet Commander of the Air Force Junior ROTC unit at Patchogue-Medford High School and is now authorized to wear the Outstanding Cadet Ribbon with a silver star. Air Force Junior ROTC is an Eastern Suffolk BOCES program that is offered to students in grades 9–12 at the Patchogue-Medford High School.

Cadet Nash also received a \$200 check and a certificate from LIAFA.

§

Announcements and Programs

COVID Test Kits

All veterans organizations can request 10 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.

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 links: www.nassaucountyny.gov/4917/Veterans-Traffic-Court www.nassaucountyny.gov/1928/Traffic-Parking-Violations-Agency

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. ***The need is urgent so please help if you can!***

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

The website for the committee is IraqAfghanistanmonument.com. It also has a Facebook page—just do a Facebook search for *Iraq/Afghanistan* and the page will be listed first in the search results.

If you or your organization want to send a donation to support the project, please see the attached donation form at the end of this newsletter. You may also donate through the website.

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 or call (516) 463-7302.

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.

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. 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. 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; Audrey Lewis at (516) 489-2322, ext. 1260 or email at alewis@mhanc.org. Also check out their website: 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. Their website is 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 or call him at (516) 921-0595. A charitable donation receipt will be provided by Beacon House.

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 to see if they qualify and to download an application (click on “Scholastic Grant Application”, then click on “Grant Application” and finally click on “Grant Application” again).

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

The deadline for applying is June 30th.

Did you know . . .

The U.S. Air Force has the U.S. military’s only field-duty military working horses. While the Army does have some horses, they are used only for ceremonial purposes. For years, the Air Force horses were employed by the Security Forces to patrol remote and otherwise inaccessible parts of its air bases. Currently, the only remaining mounted horse patrol unit is assigned to the 30th Security Force Squadron at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. This unit patrols over 150 square miles of land around the base as well as the 36 miles of coastline owned by Vandenberg.



Nassau County, N.Y. Desert Storm / Iraq / Afghanistan Monument



IraqAfghanistanMonument.com
NCMonumentCommittee@gmail.com

Dear Supporter,

It gives us great pleasure to announce the first **Desert Storm/Iraq/Afghanistan Monument** of its size in Nassau County, NY. This monument will be located at the Veterans Memorial in Eisenhower Park, East Meadow, NY. The Nassau County VFW council is spearheading this project working with other local Veteran associations.

How many veterans do you know that have served in Desert Storm, Iraq and Afghanistan?

This monument will be a permanent way to honor the courage, dedication and bravery of United States servicemen and women who have served in these wars. Thousands of these veterans continue to serve their country and communities alike. Many have also made the ultimate sacrifice and many others continue to suffer with physical and/or mental injuries/illnesses (PTSD) due to the wars. This monument will provide a much-needed sanctuary and reflection space for veterans along with their families.

To help make the monument a reality, we need your help and we kindly request that you consider donating. Your generosity will be recognized on our website, IraqAfghanistanMonument.com

Monument Sponsorship Levels and Pricing (All Donations tax deductible- NC VFW Council- 11-2774017)

Sponsorship Level

5 Star Sponsor	\$20,000
4 Star Sponsor	\$19,999 - \$10,000
3 Star Sponsor	\$9,999 - \$5,000
2 Star Sponsor	\$4,999 - \$1,000
1 Star Sponsor	\$999 - \$150
½ star Sponsor	\$149 - \$1

Fundraising Goal- \$125,000



Please make checks out to **Nassau County VFW Council** and they can be mailed to
112 Lambert Ave, Farmingdale, NY 11735

Please don't let these veterans' sacrifices be forgotten. You have the power to make a difference.

Thank you for supporting our veterans and please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions. (Email above)

Sincerely,

The Iraq/Afghanistan Monument Committee

Nassau County Iraq/Afghanistan Monument Committee Members

Chris Peterkin (Committee Chair, NC VFW Council Commander); **Ralph Esposito** (NC Veterans Service Agency Director); **Pat Iulucci** (NC VFW Council Treasurer); **Virginia Cervasio** (Gold Star Mother & Heroes Among Us Executive Director); **Matthew Schmidt** (Nassau Police Veterans Association President & Founder & Iraq War Veteran); **Rick Gales** (VFW Trustee); **John Carter** (Senior Vice-Commander VFW Post 516 & Iraq War Veteran); **Phoebe Erwin** (Desert Storm War Veteran); **Kevin Colon** (VFW Post 9592 Post Commander & Iraq War Veteran); **John Chiara** (Afghanistan War Veteran); **Steve Latus** (L.I. National Cemetery Memorial Org.); **Morris Miller** (UVO Committee Member); **Andy Booth** (UVO President)



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

- Check out our web page at: 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 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 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.