



# SOUND OFF



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Commander - Eric Spinner July 2024 Editor Dan Roper

## COMMANDER'S REPORT by Commander James T. Randle

In May at the Nassau County Committee Convention at Massapequa Post Kerry Englander was elected County Commander for 2024-2025.

Installation was on Sunday June 9<sup>th</sup> at Leonard's Palazzo, Great Neck. It was attended by Eric and Rosanne Spinner and Ellen and me.

On Monday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, I went to the Mineola High School Senior Award Breakfast and gave an award to a senior, Connor Scott, for his patriotism, scholarship and leadership. He received a good Citizen Medal from me and from the post one hundred dollars. PC Frank Busa and Mary Ann Busa went to Herricks High School for their Senior Award Breakfast. Student Jaime Chua received the award there.

We went to Meadow Drive school on June 11 for Flag Day. Legionnaires and Auxiliary handed out small flags. Present were Sally Mitchell, Ruth Valetine, Gail Cinelli, Susan Otto, Legionnaires Bob Mitchell, Tom Rumore, Bob Valentine, Ray Cross, Bob Myron, and John Incremona and myself.

I also went with Ellen to Massapequa Post on June 13<sup>th</sup> for the County Auxiliary Election of new County President Phoebe Boykin-Ervin of Elmont Post 1033. She was previously 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

All Legionniers were invited to the Auxiliary meeting on June 18, Tuesday. I thank the auxiliary for their continuous help for veterans and children.

At the general meeting Eric Spinner was installed on June 20 by newly-elected Nassau County Commander Kerry Englander. At that meeting Mayor Paul Ehrbar gave a donation to the Legion in the amount of \$1,000.00.

Happy hour is still on Wednesday from 3:00 to 5:00. Past Commander John Lawless encourages all Legionnaires to come in and say hello.

I will be going to the Levittown Post1711 organizational meeting on Friday, June 28.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- July 2 Tuesday Army Air Corps Established (1926)
- July 4 Thursday Independence Day and Parade in Williston Park 9:30 am
- July 8 Monday Executive Meeting 7:00pm
- July 16 Tuesday **No Auxiliary Unit Meeting July and August**
- July 18 Thursday Post General Meeting 7:30pm
- July 20 Saturday Lunar Landing (1969)
- July 21 Sunday Veterans Administration Created (1930)
- July 23 Tuesday AMVETS Day
- July 23 Tuesday Waves Naval Reserve Birthday
- July 26 Friday Nassau County Committee Meeting at Levittown Post 1711 7:30pm
- July 27 Saturday End of Korean War (1953)
- July 28 Sunday Parents' Day

From July 15 to July 20 the Department of New York, holds their 2024 convention in Niagara Falls.

August 23 to August 29 National American Legion holds their 2024 National Convention in New Orleans, LA.

I received a letter from Thomas M. Pascale, Chief of the Williston Park Fire Department inviting us to the Independence Day parade. For 97 years the Williston Park Fire Department has hosted the parade on July 4<sup>th</sup>. Let's make sure we join in. We meet at the top of Broad Street.

After 4 years as your Commander, I want to thank all Legionnaires who helped when needed. I think our new Commander, Eric Spinner, will be a good commander and with everyone's help the post will get back on track. The Nassau County Committee will have a meeting at the post on Friday, August 16, in the Legion Room at 7:30 pm.

As Past Commander I will be sending to Dan Roper the "Dates to Remember" and pictures for the *Sound Off*. I will help the new commander, Eric. I will represent the post at the Nassau County meetings and serve as Post Historian and 10<sup>th</sup> District Historian.

**Exec. Meeting – Monday, July 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.....**

**General Meeting – Thursday, July 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.**

## FLAGGING OF HOLY ROOD CEMETERY

*by Jack Afonso*

On May 23rd over 20 men and women from Post 144 arrived at Holy Rood Cemetery and flagged over 160 sites. This mission was completed in just over one hour. One group did return later to finish due to heavy rain.

These were the heroes:

Paul Marsh, Bob Langenbach, Sal Valente, Barbara Afonso, Joanne Langenbach, Steve Horvath, Christine Horvath, Bob Guastella, John Lawless, Rich Cinotti, Tom Rumore, Artie Catania, Sally Mitchell, Susan Otto, Sandy Lee, Gail Cinelli, Jan Marino, Margo Bores, Mary Ann Busa, Joan Antonicelli, Peter Antonicelli and Frank Busa.

Thank you for a great job done by all. I apologize if I missed anyone.



## FLAGGING OF THE GRAVES

*by Bob Valentine*

Thanks to our post members who traveled far and wide to flag the graves of those deceased veteran comrades whose graves are scattered throughout the New York area.

Our travellers were:

Queens of Peace, Locust Valley and St. Margaret - Bob & Ruth Valentine; Pinelawn and New Montefiore - Eric Spinner; Maple Grove - Joe Dwyer; Bronx & Yonkers - Bob & Mary Robesch. St Charles - Rudy and Marie Jonak; St Mary's - Frank and Mary Ann Busa; St. John's and Calvary - Norm and Barry Jardine.

## You're Invited

The Village of Williston Park has again invited the members of Post 144 and their families for a night at the Pool. Bring food, beverages and your bathing suit. The date is July 11 at 6p.m. The pool will be open to pool members. The next date is August 8th at 6 P.M.



## POLL WORKERS NEEDED

Looking forward to the next election there is a real need for poll workers. Poll workers play a critical role in elections and our democracy and election officials have been reaching out to the veteran community in search of workers.

If you are interested you may earn as much as \$200 a day. Simply go to [vetthe.vote](http://vetthe.vote) on your computer and find additional details.

## LOCAL VET HONORED

All of the members of American Legion Post 144 send congratulations to Mineola resident Tony Catalano. Our neighbor-vet was recently honored by Mineola Mayor Scott Strauss. Sergeant Catalano is 103 years of age and served in combat in Europe.

*Tony, we are all proud of you!!!!*

## NEW COMMANDER AT POST 144

A new commander has proudly taken the helm at our post American here in Williston Park. Eric Spinner, previously chaplain for both Post 144 and Nassau County, has readily shouldered this responsibility and the members of the post look forward to a successful year under his leadership. Past Commander James Randle will remain as an advisor whenever needed. He will also continue his service as Historian for Post 144 and District 10 American Legion.

Legionnaire Bill Lorusso will be stepping into Commander Spinner's shoes as chaplain of Post 144.

All the members of Williston Post 144 wish our new commander a satisfying and productive tenure in his upcoming role.



*New Commander Eric Spinner accepts the gavel from new County Commander Kerry Englander at Williston Post 144 General Membership meeting*

## NEWS FROM THE AUXILIARY

by Marilyn Bauman

Our last meeting of the 2023-2024 year has come to an end with our meeting of June 18th presided over by President Christine Horvath. The Legion was invited to this meeting and there were five Legionnaires in attendance.

Christine mentioned about the Post Everlasting Service where 5 members of the Auxiliary were remembered and also the flagging of the graves at Holy Rood Cemetery.

Gail Cinelli reminded us to keep track of any community service over the summer and report it to her in September for her report. That also goes for any donations you may be giving over the summer to Big Brothers, Big Sisters, any children's groups and also to veteran organizations. I know that your donations continue during the summer and these chairs would like to report them. Please keep a list of them. Thank you.

Dianne Karl, Education Chair announced that, once again, our Unit had a scholarship winner, Anastasia Moraitakis won the Department District Award in the amount of \$1,000.00. Congratulations!!

Also, a Citizenship Certificate, lapel flag pin and \$100. was presented to Rebecca Syers of St. Aidans School.

Our Girls State candidate will be Emily George. Hopefully, she will visit in the fall to give us an account of her time.

Pat Lorusso, National Security Chair, reported that 17.5 lbs. of toiletries were sent to our service women. Pat will resume collecting items in the fall. Thanks for all you have donated thus far.

Sally Mitchell, Poppy Chair, gave an extensive report about where the poppies were distributed: flyers mailed to Post and Auxiliary with a poppy enclosed, available at a Car Show at the Post, to the Rotary, Seniors, District members, the Williston Park Village Board, and parishioners at Notre Dame RC Church. Two hundred and twenty ALA Poppy coloring books and a poppy were distributed to the 2nd Grade students at St. Aidan's School and Meadow Drive School. Many Auxiliary members helped in these efforts and all were thanked. From the Post, Dan Roper and Bob Valentine were also thanked for their efforts in this project.

Ellen Randle, Ways & Means Chair, reported that a "Grocery Bingo" may be in the works for the fall. We haven't had this type of bingo in quite some time and maybe it is time once again.

Sue Otto and Gail Cinelli presented an idea to have a dinner for the members. Gino's was originally the venue, but the date we wanted was not available. There will be a robo call with more info, date, time and cost soon.

The Williston Street Fair is Sunday, September 15th. We are still in need of scratch off tickets for our Lottery Board. Also please think of some larger prizes we can offer. A group of members could go in on the cost of same. Please let Chris know what your thoughts are.

Our first meeting in the fall will be on Tuesday, September 17th, starting at 7 PM.

GOD BLESS AMERICA, OUR VETERANS  
AND OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN



## AUXILIARY NEWS

Mary Ann Busa, Chairman Children & Youth

On June 10, 2024, a member gave a citizenship award to a Herricks student, Siya Gupta.

A member donated \$12.00 to St. Joseph Indian School which provides for 200 Lakota Sioux children each year.

A member donated \$19.00 to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

A member donated \$5.00 to Shriners Research Hospital.

A member donated to Holy Trinity in Hicksville for children, clothing, food, notebooks, and school supplies.

A member donated clothing to Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Long Island.

I want to thank all the ladies for their help for Children and Youth each month. The Children and Youth Program would not be a success without the help of members of Unit 144.

Thanks, so much.



Auxiliary members Sally Mitchell, Ruth Valentine, Gail Cinelli and Susan Otto joined in for Flag Day with the students from Meadow Drive School in Albertson.

# Happening Around the Post



*On June 20<sup>th</sup> Mayor Ehrbar was a guest at our General Meeting. He presented Commander Randle with a token of appreciation from the village. Thank you from our entire membership.*



*(l. to r.) New officers of Post 144 are: Commander Eric Spinner, PC Frank Busa, John Incremona, PC James Randle, Bob Valentine, PC Jack Afonso and Norm Jardine*



*(Photo left) Legionnaires and Auxiliary members enjoy the Flag Day program with the students of Meadow Drive school.*



*(Photo right) Commander Randle presenting Patriotism Award to Connor Scott at Mineola High School*

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