



Sons of The American Legion



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Detachment of New York

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Convention Issue 2010

**Dates of  
Special Interest:**

- July 14th—17th Detachment Convention; Syracuse, NY
- July 23rd-31st Boys Nation; Washington, DC
- August 3th—8th Junior Shooting Sports Champ.
- August 13th—17th AL Baseball World Series
- August 27th—29th SAL National Convention
- Sept 11th—Patriot Day
- Sept 16th - American Legion Day
- Sept 17th—Citizenship Day
- Sept 18th—POW MIA Recognition Day

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# COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

by David Bishop

## Fellow Sons Members

As my year as Commander comes to an end, I want to thank all of you for giving me the privilege and honor of representing you as your Commander. I thank you for giving me an opportunity to travel to every county in the state, to see and hear all the great things we do as an organization for our veterans, children, communities, state and nation. I also want to thank all of my officers, commission, committee chairmen and committee members for all their hard work this year. Because of your commitment, dedication and belief in what you are doing is what makes our Detachment one of the most respected Detachments in the country. I want to thank all of our squadrons who donated to my project and to the National Emergency Fund during my visitations, but more importantly thank you for your friendships.

I mentioned at my homecoming dinner the biggest thrill and honor I had this year was the



Commander Dave places a wreath at the New York Column of the WW11 Memorial at Washington, DC

placing of the Detachment of N.Y. wreath at the base of the N.Y. column of the WWII memorial in Washington DC. I placed that wreath in honor of my father's service and all New Yorkers who served and to those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country during WWII.

Thank you everyone for a tremendously rewarding year.

## FROM THE ADJUTANT'S DESK

by Robert J. Avery

Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to welcome all delegates attending our 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Detachment Convention in Syracuse. Our guests this year include the National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion, Mark Arneson from the great Detachment of Georgia and the Leading Candidate for National Commander David Dew from the great Detachment of Texas. I know our Convention will be a success as we complete our work for the Administrative Year and then begin the next.

As of June 22<sup>nd</sup> we are still trying to obtain our 100% goal in membership, and we stand at 96.79%. We need 865 members for our 100% goal. We are in 33<sup>rd</sup> place in the Nation and

within the Eastern Region we are 3<sup>rd</sup> place. As we wrap up this membership year, everyone's assistance is needed in bringing those last renewals. It would be fantastic for us to be at 100% when we meet in Syracuse, and certainly when we arrive in Milwaukee for the National Convention in August.

The 2011 cards will be mailed out to the Squadrons who have submitted an Officer Certification Form (OCF) for the 2011 year. Your Squadron's membership cards are NOT sent out unless we have received an OCF. As far as we know, your Squad has no Officers and is not active unless we receive your Officer Report. You need to report your 2011 year officers even if

they are remaining the same! The 2011 Year Membership Target Dates are as follows:

10% SEPTEMBER 9, 2010

25% OCTOBER 20, 2010

35% NOVEMBER 17, '10

45% DECEMBER 8, 2010

60% JANUARY 20, 2011

75% FEBRUARY 9, 2011

80% MARCH 9, 2011

90% APRIL 13, 2011

100% MAY 11, 2011

105% \*JULY 27, 2011

\*Delegate Strength Target Date

I would like to thank all of our Squadrons for everything you do! Your untiring work in your local communities, assistance to children and youth and of course to The American Legion continues. I wish all of you the very best!

Robert J. Avery  
Detachment Adjutant

### American Legion Baseball

American Legion Baseball is a national institution, having thrived through a world war, several national tragedies, and times of great prosperity as well as great despair. The league still stands atop the traditional values upon which it was founded nearly 85 years ago. Since 1925, American Legion Baseball has taught hundreds of thousands of

young Americans the importance of sportsmanship, good health and active citizenship. Most importantly, American Legion Baseball has been, and continues to be, a stepping stone to manhood for millions of young men who have gone on to raise families or play the sport at the highest level.



The upcoming World Series in Spokane, Wash., Aug. 13-17, can be heard on your computer as the big event will once again be streamed live via the Legion's Web site.

## Membership

Gentlemen,

We came a long way in two years. We have shown that we can make target dates and we can get 100% in our Districts. This takes a lot of hard work and a lot of time away from your family. But we need to not forget that there are still a lot of members not turned in and we have to work on keeping them around. It's great to get 10 or 20 new members, but be careful to not lose this many at the same time. We always have a problem with this. Na-

tional always pushes for us get new members, which is okay, but not ok when you are losing memberships you had. I know that you can lose one or two from people passing away. Let's remember to make phone calls to all squadron members who have not renewed.

Make sure that all Squadrons turn in their officer certification forms. Let's not wait until January to turn them in.

Thank you for a great year. Let's keep the people on

board that want to work as a team to get 100% every year...not the ones who have negative minds.

Thank You,  
Ted Armbrust  
Membership Chairman

Calling for  
renewals!



### CONGRADS TO THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY of RICHMOND COUNTY

By Staten Island SAL  
Members

Once a year, Staten Island plays host to the Navy with Fleet Week in NYC. This year, the Sons assisted with the arrivals of the Fleet, but the main Hosts, were our own Richmond County Auxiliary. The ladies really made the Homeport of New York a special place for not only the Veterans, our Servicemen (Navy and Marines), but most of all our local community. It all started with the refurbishment of the cafeteria, that was a chore to clean, then decorating, and finally the cooking of meals. The Auxiliary were there from morning till night manning all station. Most noticeable, were Dorothy Conway, PCP, Johanna Broderick, PCP, Cathy O'Donnell, PCP supported by an army of auxiliary members all work-

ing together as a fine oiled machine, but the glue that held it all together was our own 2<sup>nd</sup> District MOM, Diane Gerber, who is also the current District President, County President and Unit President of Richmond County. After speaking and learning about what happens, we found out that with their help the Children of Staten Island Schools are afforded the chance to tour these ships and learn about our servicemen and the duties they perform during WAR or PEACETIME. The children come away with the knowledge of what the word VETERAN actually means. During one day, they process over 2,900 children touring the ships, each with their own tour guide, a member of the NAVY, on board one of the ships.

This has been happening for

many years, and the Auxiliary have been there like a fixture.

We felt that it's about time we recognize part of what our Le-



Parents, Teachers and School Children waiting to board Ship for Guided Tour by Naval Officer

gion Family does in our own community and let the state also know. Once again, congratulations and keep up the great work you are doing for our servicemen and veterans of the community.

# Americanism Commission

## by James Coates, Chairman

We had another great year with our Essay Contest and received essays from across our great state, from Long Island to Orchard Park. I can think of no better way to report to you than to share what our winners have written.

**What America Means to Me**  
Jaimee Starzee; JFK Elementary, W. Babylon, NY—  
1st grade

America to me means having the best teacher in the whole wide world and her name is Mrs. Safara. I also think about how I can have a big fish in a fish tank in my house. I can have a big house to live in where I can drink clean water, take showers, and watch T.V. I feel lucky to be in America because I saw a show on my T.V. that was filmed in Bangladesh, India where people live in slums with no bathrooms or beds to sleep in. Children had to bathe in dirty water from water holes where animals urinate. Their moms had to walk far with large jugs and wait in line for hours to get clean water from the main water spout to drink. Kids did not have schools to go to, regular clothes to wear and they didn't even play. They just looked sad and skinny. We do not live like that.

In the summer-time, I am able to go on a boat and see fish jump out of the water. Then when we land on the beach, I can play in the sand, swim and find sea-shells. In the winter-time I can

go skiing on top of big mountains. I can play soccer games on big green fields. In America, we can all go to parks and run free. We have parks called Six Flags where we can scream and laugh on big rides.

America has so many food choices we can buy. I can even choose an instrument I want to play. Its great to be able to see butterflies in my backyard flying around me. I am able to live with my family, sit around a table, eat at anytime and listen to music like Frank Sinatra on a stereo.

Thomas F. Callaghan V;  
Eggert Road Elementary,  
Orchard Park, NY;  
2nd Grade

What America means to me is that we have many opportunities. It also means that we are free. The people in America can have different opinions and not get punished for them. I am proud to be an American citizen because we are able to vote for our own leaders. Boys and girls have the same rights and opportunities in the United States. They can do the same things and grow up to be whatever they want.

Our country began by fighting for freedom from England and King George the III so we did not have to be told how to do things. Our country allows it's people to say things against the government and not be punished. Men and women in our military also help keep our country safe. My dad went to Iraq and Afghanistan. I

was sad that he was not home for Christmas, but I understood he was doing something important.

America tries to treat other people and countries the way that we want to be treated. I am proud that America tries to help the Earth and help other countries like Haiti. Many people in our country donated money to help the people of Haiti. Our country tries not to get into wars with other countries unless there is a good reason.

These are all of the reasons why America is important to me and I am proud to call America my home.

Jamison White; Van Rensselaer Elementary School;  
3rd Grade

It means leadership and a honor to be an American. It is a worthy and welcoming country; calm, trusting, caring and loving. It means civil rights and freedom. America also means a blessing to me. I love America so much. It is very important to me. It means everything to me. Also the Declaration of Independence means a whole lot to me. It satisfies me and comforts me to be an American. I love America; it is awesome. It has a good community, good state, good country, good towns, cities and villages. It is also a peaceful country. They have friendly teachers, schools, friends and friendly presidential candidates. It means liberty to me. It is also a fun community. I love America so very much!

Continued on page 5 ...

Americanism Report  
continued from page 4

### **What America Means to Me**

Chetna Khunteta;  
Old Country Road School;  
4th Grade

America is an amazing country to live in for many reasons. The primary reason is the freedom America provides to its citizens. Further, the freedom can be defined as freedom of speech, religion, and to live without violating other citizens rights. The strength of America lies in its citizens who are governed by a constitution that promotes humanity. For example, the availability of education to all citizens develops individual characteristics and self worth.

Other reasons that make America a wonderful country are a clean and healthy environment, opportunity for higher standard of living for hard-working people, and provides ample food, shelter, and prosperity for the citizens. America is an ideal country to prosper and enjoy life.

Moman Abbas;  
Old Country Road School;  
5th Grade

U.S.A. is fulfilled of hope, dreams, education, and mostly freedom. In this document, I will explain to you how I feel about the U.S.A.

I feel that U.S.A. is a world-wide nation that is famous everywhere around the world. I mean people in other countries die to come to this loveable and beautiful place. As in my parents, they used to work so hard in totally bad conditions. My father's father died when my father was 8 years old. My grandma was poor so my Dad started working for a really mean owner. My Dad worked 20 hours a day. My mom got transferred to a lot of owners. Still I was born here and I haven't been there. I never worked in these conditions. In U.S.A. I'm free and slavery over here ended after the Civil War back in the 1800's. So U.S.A. has a lot of freedom, dreams, education, and hope.

We're all Americans, so let's start living like one. We all are so lucky to be here. Over here skin, traditions, cultures, and language doesn't matter. So you can come from a different country and still celebrate what you

came for. U.S.A. has awesome holidays that are really fun.

That's how I feel about my homeland. I got an education here. I'm a citizen here. I love U.S.A.!

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America is a united nation

My homeland, my nation

Eagles are symbols because of the bald eagle

Racism is not allowed in America

It feels great to be here

Cause we're all united, nothing can break this nation

America is once again a united nation



## 60 Minutes Veterans Benefits Frustrations

Two wars and a recession have dramatically increased the number of claims that are veterans are submitting to the Department of Veterans Affairs. Our veterans have paid the price for compensation and medical care, but their claims are being denied and / or are backed logged at an alarming rate. During Fiscal Year 2008 VBA received 888,000 claims disability claims requiring a rating decision and 755,000 other non-rating claims, for a total of more than 1.6 million (or 4,501 per day). These numbers are huge. Why are some claims being denied? As 60 Minutes interviewed two veterans one from the Vietnam War and one from the War on Terrorism military records are not accurate in some cases. A veteran who recently was in Iraq was injured by a roadside bomb is receiving benefits from head injuries he received but was denied benefits when he was diagnosed with PTSD. The VA answer to this denial was there no proof he was injured. Does this make sense? He receives compensation for one disability but not for another caused by the same incident. Another veteran who served out country during Vietnam was stationed in South Korea when his outfit was ordered to fly missions in Vietnam when the Tet Offensive broke out. He was wounded and later in his life when returned home applied for benefits but was de-

nied because there was no proof that he was in Vietnam. Many years later, he did get his service records straightened out and he is now receiving his just due.

What is being done to remedy these problems? VBA (VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION) has aggressively hired across the nation, adding nearly 4,200 new employees since January 2007. Because it takes at least two years for a new employee to become fully trained in all aspects of claims processing, we're only now beginning to see the full impact of those employees hired at the outset of this initiative in terms of increased decision output. This fiscal year through May 2009, VBA has completed 9.3% more than the same period during FY08 and 19.8% more than the same period in FY07. Our newly hired workforce will continue to make progress in delivering more decisions to Veterans.

The VBA are also leveraging the knowledge and experience of recently retired claims processors. VBA has hired back more than 90 recent retirees as rehired annuitants. These rehired annuitants assist in completing rating decisions and training and mentoring new employees.

The VA is admitting their rating system for disabilities is outdated. The current rating system was instituted in the 1940's and some changes have occurred through the years, but a complete update for the

system need to be initialized now.

The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) has undertaken a new information technology strategy to improve business processes to reduce the average days to complete rating claims and improve consistency. The first step is to create a Virtual Regional Office. This would include using new software and agile technology to enhance the process of the claims from reducing the number of days it takes to process a claim to improving consistency. With this, VRO will also include the use of the internet so that a veteran will have access to his or her records and that all employees who handle the claims will have relative information to the records of any veteran who is in the process of submitting a claim.

As you can, see there are improvements on the way, but we, as Sons of The American Legion, need to keep informed and continue to lobby our elected officials that are Heroes, Our Veterans receive what was promised to them when they were inducted into our Armed Forces.

Submitted by,

Thomas Kurk



# V. A. & R. Commission

by Thomas Kurk, Chairman

## SONS HELPING VETERANS

In the Detachment of New York, we have a strong belief and dedication to our Veterans. As stated in our Preamble, "We male descendants of veterans of the Great Wars, associate ourselves together as Sons of The American Legion". The key word being VETERAN. If it was not for our veterans, we would not exist as Sons of The American Legion. The members of the Detachment of New York have taken on many projects to benefit our veterans and their families.

Our premier project is our "They Marched For Us, We Walk For Them" Walk-A-Thon. This state widewalk-a-thon is now in its third year. The Sons have partnered with the members of the American Legion

Auxiliary and sponsor walk-a-thons across the New York State on a selected Saturday in April. This is the third year we have spear headed this walk and have raised over \$58,000 the last two years. Every dollar goes to our veterans at our VA Medical Centers, New York State Veterans Homes and the Fisher House at the Stratton VA Medical Center in Albany, NY. We have many Squadrons, Counties and Districts doing Fund raisers for the NEADS program. The NEADS program is Canines for Combat Veterans. Golf Tournaments and raffles have been quite successful for acquiring donations for NEADS. National Veterans Assistance Day has proved to be a very popular way of saying thank you to our men and women who have served our nation. Free breakfasts and

On Friday morning July 2nd WVOX and Sons of The American Legion radio will conduct our third Independence Day "Holiday Calls from the Troops" taking calls from deployed and recently returned military members. This will be on the Good Morning Westchester program hosted by Bob Marrone. In the past year we have also taken military calls on Labor Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas and Good Friday. Hopefully this adds to the day for our deployed military.

During past shows we have had calls from NY National Guard

Army soldiers, Navy and Air Force members in Afghanistan and Iraq, and Navy sailors on ships. Several times we have been able have family members join the calls. It also works well when our military guests pass the phone so as many as possible can introduce themselves and say hello to family and friends.

Our time schedule will basically be from 6 AM to 9 AM EST on Friday July 2nd. We will schedule the interviews at 15, 30 and 45 minutes after each hour of the program. The military guests can call in to the program at 914-636-0110. Our Army Public Affairs Contact on this is Harrison

lunches at our American Legion Post Homes for our veterans, to making repairs to a veteran's home is just some of the examples what we do for our heroes. Helping with the Holiday Gift Shop, Wheelchair church escorts, pizza parties contribute to the many volunteer hours not just at our VAMC's, but at our New York State Veteran Homes are automatic for our members to be involved in. Last year this resulted in over 6,600 hours volunteered at our New York State Veterans Homes with \$19,000 to these homes. At our VA Medical Centers, 19,000 hours of volunteer service and \$70,000 was donated to the volunteer service departments.

This is just a few of the example what the members of the Detachment of New York Sons of The American Legion are doing for our veterans. We always remember that "Our Veterans Are Our Greatest Resource".

Sarles from the Army's NYC office.

If you are aware of a soldier overseas who has access to a phone or a recently returned military member who would like to participate please let me know, it would be great to say hello to them on July 2nd and thank them for their service.

For info call me at (914) 450-9554 or email at kgk914@aol.com.

Respectfully

Kenneth G. Kraetzer  
Vice Commander

# Legislative Commission

## by Greg "Doc" Gibbs, Chairman

The legislative commission is comprised on the following members on staggered terms: Jerry Shepard, David Perry, Greg Gibbs, Jeff Jordan, Vince Green, and Al Deichler. Doc Gibbs is in his third year as chairman of the commission.

The legislative committee has met and made plans for the first legislative actions of the year, the Washington DC visitation On-the-Hill Days, February 28-March 3, 2010.

This team attended the wreath laying ceremony at the war memorial monuments, the visitation to Arlington Cemetery on Sunday, Feb. 28th. National SAL Commander Arneson laid his wreath at the Iwo Jima USMC Memorial. Our NY Commander Bishop laid his wreath at the World War II Monument in honor of his father's service. Monday, March 1st, they were briefed on the major legislative initiatives. Ken Kraetzer arranged a tour for our group to the Pentagon. We enjoyed the tour and walked a portion of the main Mall while at DC as well as visiting the National Archives building along the way. Tuesday, March 2nd, they went to the Hill and meet with their respective Congressional representative. Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, we debriefed and left for home.

The American Legion Priorities

form the basis of the focus of our Congressional visitations. These were passed out in written form just prior to the visitation days, a copy of which was left with each Congressman. Included in these issues were items such as: medicare reimbursement for VA, speeding up of VA claims, enhancements for the GI Bill educational benefits, and support to fully fund and increase the size of the military.

The next major event was the New York State On-the-Hill days scheduled in Albany on March 14-16. Our SAL members typically connect with our area Legionnaires and meet together with the local Congressional Representatives. Our group attended the briefing on Monday evening put on by the Legion. The focus on issues was direct at this meeting and framed our conversations for our meetings. The next morning we attended the Congressional breakfast with the Representatives present. Typically we sit at tables by county along with Legionnaires and Congressional Representatives that may attend. After breakfast we walked up to the Hill and met with our reps. Meetings are not specifically pre-set, the representatives are expecting us to stop in after the scheduled breakfast and they are in their offices to receive us. SAL members usually meet with several Congressmen while in Albany by going directly from one office to another during the Tuesday time.

Some of the NY State issues include the enforcement of the flag/

pledge laws, support for a 30 day billing cycle for SLA, preserving the Oxford Vets Home, preserving veterans memorials across the state, and free hunting licenses for active duty members.

The following SAL members were in attendance: David Bishop, David Lee, Larry Montello, and Doc Gibbs. All in all, the four of us met with over 14 representatives while in Albany, either through the breakfast or with the direct meeting times.

If you are unable to attend the various events that the Detachment Legislative Commission helps to coordinate throughout the year you can still support veterans and legislation that helps them by writing your Congressmen. We thoroughly support and encourage this involvement. The national Legion and SAL websites have sample letters for supporting veteran-friendly legislation as well as identifying the official areas of concern. Take a single squadron level meeting and devote it to writing letters right there when you have a body of Sons to help the cause. If you need any help in this regard contact any of the Legislative Commission members and we will assist or get you in touch with those who can and help broaden the impact.

We have made an impact in the last few years. Most of the issues the Legion had been focusing on have been addressed by Congress in some fashion the past few years, we have made great strides. We look forward to another solid Legislative Commission year coming up.

## Children & Youth Commission by Bill Lutz, Chairman

The American Legion family Children and Youth spirit is alive and well at James Harvey Spire Post #787, spearheaded by the Son's Adjutant Bill Bell.

Bill has taken the lead for his squadron's Josh Dog program and spread his enthusiasm to all the family members inside his post. Not only do they walk the walk, but as noted in the photo below, they talk the talk. With the help of the Post Commander *and* unit President, Bill took the message of the Josh Dog program to the membership of the post and because of his enthusiasm, they too became believers. Through their efforts, in a very short time, they raised enough money to purchase 6 Josh Dogs to donate to the Golisano Children's Hospital at Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse.

The hospital, just recently opened, is a state of the art, 71 bed facility that serves a 25 plus county region in Central New York. Speaking with Terry Shenfeld, the Cor-

porate Campaign Director for the Upstate Medical Foundation, she noted that since the doors opened, most of the

source of comfort for the recipients.

It is because of the efforts of members like Bill, the Sons of the American Legion, Detachment of New York are able to make a difference, EVERY DAY, in



Front Row – Dave Plato, Janet Bell, Todd Irving,  
Terry Shenfeld, Linda Jackson Back Row – Bill Bell

beds are filled on a DAILY basis. Not every child that is a patient at the facility has the need for the Josh Dogs, but she noted that all too frequently, their inventory is frighteningly low and the donation of these 6 new pets will be a welcome relief to the staff, and a wonderful

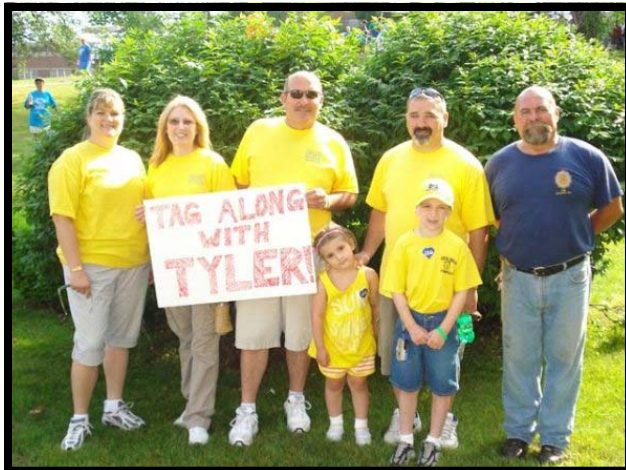
the lives of the children and youth of our communities, state and nation. If you ever wonder if your efforts are making a difference, talk to the people that receive the benefits of our efforts and your doubts will be erased.



## 7th & 8th District News

This year has been a year of many accomplishments in both Districts. They have worked very hard on membership. The numbers have increased over last year. Many of our Squadrons in the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> have upheld the standards of our great organization.

They have supported many of



The 7th District Children and Youth Chairman, Jim Parks presented a \$2,200 check to Team Tyler at the CMN Stroll-A-Thon. Donations were from 7th District Squadron to the CMN Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester.

our American Legion Family programs. For example, both Districts have a scholarship program with the high school seniors in their District. Once again, they gave scholarships to their ROTC programs in their areas.

They have supported CMN, NEF, Gold Star Mother canteen, Zion House for our lady veterans and the list goes on.

It certainly has been a gratifying year in working with both Districts.

Thank you to everyone for the many memories I have



7th District Flag Disposal  
Commander Jerry Shepard inspects the flags

gained throughout our travels. The friendship, comradery, and everything you have done for me this year. Thank you ever so much.

In closing, God Bless all of you and your families. The memories, the good times, and the respect you gave me, thank you again.

**Vice-Commander  
Ross W. Polson**

### District 8 Updates....

The District 8 Kim Huson Memorial Scholarship Award was presented to Matthew Hauser of Hamburg this past month. The scholarship is named in honor of a past Commander of the Lackawanna Mathew Glab SAL Squadron and a founding father of the District 8 Squadron.

Matthew is a student at Frontier High School and a Hamburg Post #527 SAL Member.

He will be graduating this month and plans to attend Alfred University for athletic training. He is active in many sports pursuits and has served as both a football and lacrosse coach for our youth.

This scholarship is given out annually to a high school senior who is pursuing post high school education. Applicants must submit an essay on Americanism and that essay is then judged by the scholarship

committee of the District 8 Sons of The American Legion.

The winning recipient is awarded \$250 to use as they see fit for furthering their education. We are proud to have a Hamburg area recipient this year. The applicants come from all 10 western NY counties and we look forward to watching Matthew's success through the years. Congratulations to Matthew and the Hauser family!

## DOWNSTATE HAPPENINGS: 2<sup>nd</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> DISTRICTS

By: John Rogers, Vice  
Commander

Things have really been popping downstate in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Districts. Some things have been a first for the Legion Family in New York State.

Of course, in Nassau County that squadron that really makes it great for their Legion members, Elmont Squadron, held another spaghetti and meatballs fundraiser dinner and raised funds for their post again.

In Levittown, Squadron #1711 held a Luau, to raise funds for a Children and Youth Program that they really take to heart, The Shining Stars of Nassau. They are a separate division of Little League Baseball that enables boys and girls with physical and mental disabilities, ages 5-18 to enjoy the game of baseball along with other children who participate in this sport. Over 30 businesses donated raffle prizes, and they also had 50/50 raffles. The food, music and comradely of all Legion, Unit and Squadron members made this a night to remember. Congratulations to this Squadron and keep up the great work.

Next we go West to our Island Gem, Richmond County (Staten Island); again the Sons are doing a bang up job. Squadrons all working for the Support of their posts, helping

Legion Members and continuing with their great fundraisers. Again they have scheduled a giant fundraiser at the Staten Island Yankees Game, to raise funds for the Granito-Smith Post. All Legionnaires, Auxiliary, and Squadron members from the 2<sup>nd</sup> District are invited to attend this glorious event.

Now back East, to the County of Kings, for the first ever Past County Officer's Testimonial Dinner, recognizing the Legion County Commander, Auxiliary County President, and Sons County Commander. This is a great accomplishment, seeing the Legion Family of Kings County celebrating such an honorable occasion, and the people that worked really hard for the Veterans of Kings County. This was an affair to remember with attendance over 200 members.

Kings County Squadrons are gearing up for their fundraisers to support their posts. One Squadron is Floyd Bennett #1060, which will have a BBQ and trip to the Brooklyn Cyclones Baseball game in Coney Island, and fund raised will go to support programs at their Post.

An unexpected invitation came to attend the United War Veterans of Kings County and the President of the Borough of Brooklyn at a Patriotism Award presentation, held in the Kings County Borough Hall Rotunda. This award was

given to those who exemplify the meaning of Patriotism. Again the Legion Family shined brightly, the recipients honored were 2<sup>nd</sup> District Commander from Kings County, and the President of Kings County American Legion Auxiliary, a dual member who is also a veteran and a member of Kings County staff.

Another memorable dinner was that hosted by Kings County to honor our wounded veterans. That night four honorees, who fought and were wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan were recognized by the State of NY Assembly, Brooklyn's Borough Presidents Office and the NYC Council, with Certificates of Appreciation for their bravery in protecting our nation.



NY Congressmen, Wounded Warriors recipients & NYC Council presenting awards.

Also, at this affair, funds were raised for the Wounded Warriors Program, which is supported heavily by Kings. Of course, the Sons of Kings were in attendance since one of the honorees was a SAL member himself and his father a Vice Cmdr. American Legion Kings County.

## DISTRICT 1, NEW YORK, NEW YORK:

A milestone was hit this year with the Lt. B.R. Kimlau Chinese Memorial Post in Chinatown, NY celebrating its 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010 with the Installation of their Post, Unit and Squadron officers for 2010-2011. This installation was attended by over 200, including the installing officers, William Kearsing, Department Legion Commander, John Rogers, Detachment SAL Vice Com-

mander, and 1<sup>st</sup> District Auxiliary President.

An installation and anniversary banquet was held afterward with an 11 course dinner served to 1,460 people. Among those in attendance were American Legion Department of New York officers past and present, Auxiliary Department of New York past and present, and of course, officers of the Sons of The American Legion. Other distinguished guests were the American Legion Eastern National Vice Commander, along

with other Departments of the American Legion represented, but the one Post/Squadron that made the longest journey was that of the San Francisco Chinese Memorial Post from California. This was a beautiful way to celebrate 65 years of American Legion History

Just a side note, this is the Post of the leading Candidate for National Commander, Fang Wong.

## RICHMOND COUNTY:

### Americanism (Shows It True Colors)

By: John Rogers, Vice Commander

Anthony J. Navarino, the 2<sup>nd</sup> District Vice Commander (incoming 2<sup>nd</sup> District Commander), took on a monumental program this term. He wanted to enlighten the children of Staten Island the true meaning of Our Flag and the principals behind it. He went about this task by giving brief commentaries at 12 Public and Parochial Schools, involving the Prin-

cipals and students, followed with a presentation of a Flag to every student. This was made possible with the help of our Americanism Chairman Jim Coates, and the Detachment of New York.

Anthony also wanted to take this one step further, and he got his Post, Granito-Smith #1296 and Squadron to purchase flag awareness DVD,s and stickers to present to the principal and students of eight additional Public Schools on Staten Island, bringing the total schools visited to 20, and approximately 5,000+ students becoming aware of what Our Flag stands for and what it means to us.

He, along with his squadron and post members then proceeded to place flags at the final resting place of our Veterans at the Staten Island Cemeteries. And to go one step further he also presented Flags to the local School Bus Drivers to display in their buses so the children would never forget. This was accomplished prior to Memorial Day and Flag Day.

I think everyone would agree with me when I say this is a True Act of Patriotism/Americanism on Anthony's part, and hope to see this spread throughout our great Detachment of New York.

## Newell-Faulkner Post 880

We, the membership of the Newell-Faulkner American Legion Post 880 and the Sons of the American, Squadron 880, Eden, NY 14057, have proposed the re-designation of US Route 62 and US Route 20 highways. The idea behind these proposals is to honor those who have served in the line of duty and service to their fellow Americans, and those who have given their lives for their country.

One goal is to honor these brave and heroic men and women of our military by designating US Route 62 the National Veterans Highway.

US Route 62 runs continuously from the Canadian border at Niagara Falls, NY to the Mexican border at El Paso, Texas. This designation is in process in New York State, and is just a part of the eventual plan, which we hopefully will see the entire route length of US Route 62 designated as such. We, at the American Legion Post 880 and Sons of the American Legion, Squadron 880, believe that this can be accomplished with assistance from the New York State Legislature, but also with assistance of other state governments, and by working with the American Legion and Sons of the American Legion, on the local, state and federal levels and by gaining support and assistance from associated veterans organizations.

Similarly, a second goal is to honor those brave and heroic men and women in not only the military, but firefighters, law enforcement and emergency medical services who have made the ultimate sacrifice, and given their lives in dedication to their country by designating US Route 20 the National Highway of Fallen Heroes. US Route 20 runs continuously from the Atlantic Ocean at Boston, Mass to the Pacific Ocean at Astoria, Oregon. This designation is also in process in New York State, and is just a part of a similar plan, which we hopefully will see the entire route length of US Route 20 designated as such.

Our membership feels that it is not only our choice, but also our honor and duty to preserve the memories of our United States veterans and heroes with these tasks. This may seem like a huge undertaking, but pales in comparison to the sacrifices that our heroes have made to preserve the freedom and quality of life we Americans enjoy today.

A copy of the legislation passed in the New York State Senate is included with this letter for your use as a template.

What we request of you is to support this measure, and to spread this message to other American Legion posts, VFW posts, county and State Associations and encourage them to spread this to member Posts across the country and encourage Legislative members in

the States where Routes 62 and 20 pass through to pass similar legislation. US 62 passes through New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kentucky, Illinois, Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico. US 20 passes through Massachusetts, New York, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho and Oregon. As a point of interest, the only intersection of these 2 roads in the United States is in Hamburg, NY, approximately 10 miles from our Post. This is not limited to those states alone, though. We seek support from all associated organizations.

This process has moved at a very fast pace in the past few months, and did not allow for adequate notice to all organizations about the progress. The most challenging is yet ahead, and we ask for your assistance. Please join us, and support this endeavor. We ask for your help in seeing a companion Bill passed in your state and signed on by your Governor. You may forward your correspondence to "Project Highway", 2912 Legion Drive, Eden, NY 14057, or send e-mail support to SALSquadron880@aol.com.

God bless you, and God bless the United States of America.

Respectfully,

Eden Sons of the American Legion Squadron 880

Kenneth D. SAL, Commander

## COMMUNICATIONS!

How many times have we herd this? The importance of communications. Weather it be from our Squadron officers to their membership; the Squadron to the American Legion Family at the Post; or our membership to the community. How we communicate is the most important duty we have. The message we portray can be a difference between success or failure of our Squadron.

A positive image will help you recruit new members; gain support from your Legion Family and for your fundraiser and bring praise to your Squadron and Post.

Positive communications from each and every member will portray themselves and your Squadron in a beneficial manor.



Sons of The American Legion member are being asked to get on board and participate with the fund raising efforts to elect New York states very own Fang A Wong National Commander.

For information on how you can join the campaign committee contact Robert Avery at (585) 889-3670 or click on the link at [sonsdny.org](http://sonsdny.org).

## Public Relations Commission

The Detachment Public Relations Commission would like to thank every member for their contributions and support. Our goal to report all newsworthy items, to educate ourselves and others of the activities and programs of The American Legion and the Sons of The American Legion.

We are looking for you to brag about what is going on in your Squadron, County or District. What have you been up to, a service project, fundraiser, outstanding member or are you chartering a New Squadron? Photos tell a good story!

Please send your news articles into the Commission for the Post Convention issue by **August 5, 2010**

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