



# Nassau County Legionnaire



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## COMMANDERS REPORT

### 1<sup>st</sup> Division

THE MID-WINTER CONFERENCE HELD BY DEPARTMENT WAS VERY INFORMATIVE ON ALL LEVELS, PROGRAMS AND POLICIES.

WE ENJOYED OUR HOSPITALITY ROOM WITH SUFFOLK COUNTY. ALL WHO ATTENDED HAD A GREAT TIME

**ON FEBRUARY 6TH** WE WILL BE HOLDING OUR FOUR CHAPLAINS CEREMONY AT THE BELLMORE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN BELLMORE. ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND.

FOR THE NEXT TWO MONTHS ARE LAW AND ORDER MONTHS. PLEASE IF YOU HOLD A LAW & ORDER NIGHT LET THE COUNTY CHAIRMAN RON SABO AND ME KNOW OF THE TIME AND PLACE OF YOUR AWARDS.

OUR MEMBERSHIP HAS MET ITS GOALS SO FAR, HOWEVER MANY POSTS NEED SOME WORK TO ACIEVE 100%. IN THE PAST FEW YEARS POST'S HAD LESS THAN TEN (10) MEMBERS TO RENEW BUT FELL SHORT.

**YOUR DIVISION COMMANDER WILL BE CONTACTING YOU.**

PLEASE BE SAFE IN THE SNOW AND WATCH YOUR STEP ON THE ICE !

I WISH TO THANK COUNCILWOMAN ANGIE CULLEN AND THE FREEPORT SCHOOLS FOR THE DONATION OF BOXES OF VALENTINES MADE BY THE CHILDREN FOR OUR TROOPS OVERSEAS. THEY WILL BE SHIPPED OUT BY REGGIE BUTT IN TIME FOR VALENTINES DAY.

Happy New Year to one and all. Hope you all finished digging out from the blizzard of 2010, I don't know about you by I still have a 2½ foot high snow/ice ridge in front of the house and the first storm of 2011 is getting ready to drop a whole bunch more.

Division Membership Officer Art Swanson, PDistC, and I visited the Oceanside Post, they had a lively meeting followed by some delicious pizza and comradarie, thank you Commander Dan Danyluk for the invite and hospitality.

I was privileged to attend the Baldwin Post Installation, my sincere thanks to Commander Richie Meyer for the invite and best wishes to him and all the newly installed officers.

On a sad note, I attended the wake of Commander Paavo Nurmi of the J. Franklin Bell Post #81 (Inwood), he did an outstanding job keeping the Post running and had succeeded in getting his Post to 94% membership.

Membership is the life blood of the American Legion, we need to step up our efforts to renew our current members for this year, the Division is in 3<sup>rd</sup> Place. We also need to ask people to join, if you see someone wearing a hat or jacket that indicates they were or are in the service just ask them 2 questions – Are you a veteran? (if the answer is Yes then ask) Do you belong to the American Legion? (if the answer is No, ask them to join), it's that simple.

Speaking of membership there will be a 1<sup>st</sup> Division meeting on January 18, 2011, 7:30pm at the Malverne Post, the major topic will be MEMBERSHIP, please have your Post represented, if possible your Membership Officer also.

John J. Hassett  
Cell – (516) 313-1402  
[Cdr344@optonline.net](mailto:Cdr344@optonline.net)

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Division Report

County Commander, Staff and Fellow Legionnaires,

I hope you are all holding up well to old man winter. There will be a 2nd Division meeting on Saturday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011. The meeting will be held at the Elmont Post located at 60 Hill Avenue, Elmont, N.Y. 11003. It will begin promptly at 9:00 AM and should take from an hour to an hour and a half. All the 2nd Division Posts Commanders, County Commander Frank Colon and staff are invited, as well as the past county commanders. On the agenda is membership and any other specific concerns that individual posts might have. It is imperative that all posts are represented as attendance will be taken. So please make every effort to assign someone to attend on your behalf if you cannot attend. Hospitality will be covered by the host Post.

Finally, I remind you to contact me with any specific questions or concerns. Do not hesitate to call me if I can be of assistance.

For God and Country

Manny Rodriguez

[MRodriguezUSA@gmail.com](mailto:MRodriguezUSA@gmail.com) / Direct 516. 847.4872

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## Third Division Report

Neither rain, nor sleet nor snow, or the frozen tundra at the Williston Post, stayed the following Third Division Membership Meeting held on Wednesday, January 19.

Charles A Fowler, Glenwood Landing, Howard Van Wagner, Manhasset, Nassau Police, Robert H. Spittel, William Longuet, Williston and Young Simmons.

My sincerest thanks to Angelo Grande, County Membership Chairman, for doing his usual great job in guiding all of us through the cloudy waters that is membership.

According to Angelo's facts and figures, the Third Division is first in the County. Thank you all for your dedicated work. There are five posts in the

Third Division at 90% or better. **DON'T GIVE UP – 100% is the County goal!** Contact Reggie OR Angelo for any assistance you may need.

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Thank you to Frank Oliveri. Williston's Post Commander, for his hospitality in having the post available for the Division meetings. Also my sincere thanks to Jim Barton, former Third Division Commander and PCC Bob Robesch for their friendship ND mentoring.

Also, thank you to Ellen Barton, Karen Deem and Fran Wagner for the very tasty baked goods for the after meeting social.

For God, Country and the American Legion  
Louise M. McCann

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## Education & Scholarship Committee

I am proud to report that Phase #2 of the Education & Scholarship Committee will be completed on January 31, 2011, when letters are mailed to the high schools in Nassau County announcing the \$1000 American Legion Scholarship.

I want to thank the members of the Victor Murtha Post 972 for their donation for the scholarship committee giving us a total of \$1115.

Harry D. Ransom, PCC, Chairman  
Education & Scholarship Committee

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## “HOMELAND SECURITY”

REGINALD BUTT, JR. PCC CHAIRMAN

At the Mid-Winter Conference the Department Chairman of Homeland Security has asked the District Chairman to submit the County chairman and all the Post Chairmen information which is: name, address, telephone number and e-mail address (if they have one). Please submit this information to me and I will compile a list to submit to the Department.

Remember with all the current activity around the country and the world, **“IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING”**

## Legionnaire of the Year

Joseph P. Slattery Jr., PCC Chairman  
516-433-4227

Commanders: Last call, you all. Now is the time for all Commanders to come to the aid of their Posts. February is your last full month to select and honor a member of your Post as "Post Legionnaire of the Year" and enter your selection in the County level Program. March 1st. is the County deadline for nominations. If you haven't done it by now, you have almost run out the clock. BUT... It's still not too late. So, this snowy weekend, take the time to do your job. Have your Post make the selection at this months Post meeting and then formally write up the resume and cover form. Follow the strict guidelines and send it to me before the deadline. (Additional copies are available here tonight)

You owe it to your Post to nominate your member who is always there for the good of the Legion and your Post.

Honor and recognize that special Legionnaire. You'll be glad you did. This Program is a great way to inspire and motivate others to get involved in you Post activities. Any questions give me a call or better yet email me at docjoepc@yahoo.com.  
Remember== "You need to be in it to win it"

## Membership Officer's Report

Angelo Grande

Congratulations!

Nassau County has reached its 85% membership goal. Let's try to reach 90% by February 15<sup>th</sup> and our 100% goal by the end of May. We can do it, yes we can. Our membership team is ready and willing to help any Post reach its goal. When going gets tough, the tough get going. *Let's get going!*

**A quote from W. Michael Bowen, Department Membership Chairperson:** "Continue to contact your delinquent members by phone or a personal contact. All you have to do is "JUST ASK" them to renew or try to recruit new members to join our great organization".

**A message from your Department Membership Task Force:** Membership is the key ingredient in keeping a post, county or district a successful and viable organization. Your dedication to these duties and responsibilities will ensure a successful year for the American Legion. The legacy that you leave to the future generation of veterans, start with you!

### A True Success Story

Nick Yaworski, Membership Officer - Elmont Post #1033

The Elmont Post started with a 2011 goal of 202 members and 17 PUFLS. They now have 248 members, which amounts to 122.77%. They made 100% membership by 11/5/10. Nick recruited 32 new members and reinstated 12 members. His Post's goal is getting 300 members, which they had in 2003. He will continue to recruit, retain and reinstate members as long as he is his Post Membership Chairman. Please note that the above figures may be higher but some of the transmittals may still be in transit. The figures listed are based on the 1-19-11 Membership Report. Nick was recognized for his outstanding membership accomplishments at the American Legion Conference at the Desmond Hotel in Albany. He was entered into a raffle and won \$100 which he intends to donate to Children and Youth. His name will also be entered into another contest and may win a trip to the National Convention in Minneapolis. *We are proud of Nick.*



### VALENTINES FOR VETS

COUNCILWOMAN ANGIE CULLIN FROM THE HEMPSTEAD TOWN BOARD AND FRANK COLON, NASSAU COUNTY COMMANDER POSE WITH A CLASS OF STUDENTS FROM FREEPORT WIT SOME OF THE THOUSANDS OF VALENTINES THEY PREPARED FOR OUR TROOPS OVERSEAS.

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH

FRED NIELSEN – CHAIRMAN

At December's County Meeting I reported that in January we would begin our outreach and early planning for the Children and Youth Dinner at the Glen Cove Boys and Girls Club. We have indeed made that outreach and are working with the Board Members to set a date in the next 2 weeks to sit down for our Planning Meeting for our Children and Youth Activity this spring. I will report the results of that meeting in February.

### Americanism Report

Always it will be with the Americanism Report that the Dragon Boat Project will be reported. But first.

During January, Past 10<sup>th</sup> District Commander, Willibe Wilson and I met with Americanism chairman, Louise McCann in whose absence and on whose behalf I report this evening. On the table were the "bones" of a new initiative, a new way for us to relate to the Boy Scouts of Nassau County, instilling, sharing, and empowering 100% Americanism. At the Chairman's direction, Willibe Wilson and I met with Scout Executive David Richardson. When we described the Americanism-Scouting Coalition as a means for the American Legion and the Scout Executive at the County level to build an action agenda together that maximizes Legion's opportunities to nurture in our Scouts the Americanism for which they are so eager through joint Americanism projects. As well the Americanism-Scouting Coalition affords the Scout Executive a systematic, proactive means to identify his priority needs with which the Legion can lend assistance. David Richardson enthusiastically agreed to work with us to create the best Mutual benefit from the Americanism –Scouting Coalition and immediately sent the matter to his Executive Committee for action. We met shortly thereafter with Scouting Chairman, Past County Commander, Charles Mills. The Scouting Chairman was generous in his counsel and encouragement and gave the Americanism Scouting Coalition his blessing.

### The American Legion Dragon Boat Project:

The Dragon Boat Project Committee activity for January: Our Sponsorship Request Verification Process has been successfully tested and is fully operational. When you submit your paid Cube Sponsorship Request, you will receive a Verification Email within 7 days. When you have confirmed the information we have on record as correct, your Evan Lui "Thank Vets First" Cube will be folded by the Scouts.

Our Team Recruitment is ongoing through the networking efforts of CEO of VetsFirst, Paul Tobin. Currently we are working with the Glen Cove Mayor's Office and our Coaching Staff to select the best waters in the area for Team workouts.

The County Commander has approved that next month at our County Meeting, 2 time National Women's champions, Women in Canoe, Will be our Speakers. I will request that Paul Tobin speak with us in March about this special collaboration between the American Legion and VetsFirst to benefit our Disabled Vets.

On February 6 Joe Slattery, President of the UVO has invited Dragon Boat Spokesperson Reggie Butt to address the Organization so that this can truly be a project common to us all in which every Veteran Organization participates.

If you have not as yet sponsored a "Thank Vets First" Cube please do so By going to our county Web Site where Ken Cadieux has put up the Cube sponsorship Registration Form so you print it off, fill it out and send it in to the Address he has on the Form.

**Remember EVERY VET SHOULD SPONSOR A CUBE FOR DISBALED VETS.**

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### BOYS STATE PROGRAM

REGINALD BUTT, JR. PCC

The Post Boys State Chairmen should be planning their program with the schools. Visit the schools and talk with the Guidance Counselors or Principals. I have the Boys State Packets, 51 to be exact. Get your boys picked and send me a check for \$400 per boy and I will deliver the packets. There are changes to the packets and application form and I will cover this with you when I give you the packets. Boys state runs 26 June thru 1 July.

All applications must be completed and returned to me no later than 30 April. If your post can not get a boy from your local schools I always have boys needing sponsorship, call me. Make the check out to Nassau County American Legion and earmark it "Boys State", sent it to me Reginald Butt, Jr., 93 Simcoe Street, Oyster Bay, NY 11771-2207.

If any one needs help with interviewing the boys, call me I will come and help you.

## NASSAU COUNTY AMERICAN LEGION

### 2011 Scouting Awards

All nominations must be on white 8-1/2 x 11" paper and received by Charles G. Mills, 56 School Street, Glen Cove, New York 11542 by March 15, 2011.

Nominations must include the names, addresses, and phone numbers of both the person making the nomination and the person or unit being nominated. Nominations of persons under 22 years old must include his or her date of birth.

All accomplishments of the candidate both in and out of scouting may be included. The following awards will be given:

**Eagle Scout of the Year.** Nominees for this award must be in High School. They must be Eagle Scouts. They must be at least 15 years old by Mar 31, 2011. They must not reach their 20th birthday by May 31, 2011. They must be members of a BSA unit sponsored by an American Legion Post or members of the BSA and the sons or grandsons of an American Legion member.

**The Eileen Ferguson Award.** Nominees for this award must be a youth member of a special needs BSA unit, a venturing crew, an exploring post, or a Sea Scout Ship.

**Young Boy Scout of the Year.** Nominees for this award must be active members of a Boy Scout Troop and less than 15 years old on May 31, 2011.

**Cub Scout of the Year.** Nominees for this award must be Cub Scouts and not eligible to cross over to the Boy Scouts before May 31, 2011

**Adult Scout Leader of the Year.**

**Scout Troop of the Year.**

**Cub Pack of the Year.**

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## SUPPORT FOR TROOPS ON ACTIVE DUTY

REGINALD BUTT, JR. PCC

There was only 1 package shipped in January 2011. I will be sending out packages during the first two weeks of February. If you have Valentine Day card from the schools get them to me as soon as possible. The shipping takes 7 to 10 days and I will need time to package them. I will contact the individual at Camp Drum to adopt a troop as they have another 3,500 troops departing for Afghanistan in late in early March. If any post would like to adopt a troop please contact Mike Plum via e-mail at [PLUMMIKE@aol.com](mailto:PLUMMIKE@aol.com).

## Adopting a Platoon

In November of 2010 Cathedral Post 1087, Commander Ed. Giacin suggested we adopt a platoon from a letter posted in the County Newsletter.

Mike Guerriero, 2nd Vice was fortunate enough to make contact through Email with a platoon from a National Guard outfit stationed in the area of Watertown NY.

A gentleman named Mike Plum put us in contact with the CO of a platoon that would be leaving for a tour of duty in about 3 weeks. I contacted Captain John Wlasniewski to keeping in contact with his platoon when they arrived at their destination.

In December Capt. John contacted me by Email and told me they were Bravo Co 3-10 part of a Air Support group.

They were transporting supplies and troops running 8 to 12 hour shifts. I told him our intentions were to send his troops lots of various items such as hard candy, cookies, toiletries, magazines etc.

To date, through the generosity of Legion, Auxiliary members and friends, we have sent 14 boxes of goodies which Capt. John has gratefully acknowledged and thanked us on behalf of his troops. He has sent us pictures of some of his men and women and also a picture that includes his platoon and other support troops that make up their company.

We will continue to support them for as long as their tour of duty exists.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michael Guerriero

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## Stolen Valor.

The American Legion has joined federal prosecutors in arguing that a federal court in Denver should uphold a law making it illegal to lie about being a military hero. The veterans group filed a friend-of-the-court brief with the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Prosecutors are asking the appeals court to overturn a lower court ruling that the Stolen Valor Act violates free speech. The law makes it a crime punishable by up to a year in jail to falsely claim to have received a medal from the U.S. military. A federal appeals court in California has also ruled the law is unconstitutional. Prosecutors there have asked the court to reconsider. Neither the Colorado nor California appeals court has said when it might rule.



John Hassett, 1st Division Commander, Joe Reale, Adj and Tresurer Andy Booth at the Mid-Witer Conference.



John Hassett, Frank Colon and Angelo Grande.



**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

Medical Center (632)  
79 Middleville Road  
Northport NY 11768-2290

**NASSAU COUNTY AMERICAN LEGION**

Dear Mr. Cadieux,

On behalf of the veterans and staff at the Northport VA Medical Center we would like to thank you for your organizations generous donation of toiletry items, of socks, hats, and various clothing items for the veterans.

Thank your members for their thoughtfulness and concern. Your kindness has truly enhanced the lives of our veterans.

Sincerely,  
**LYN OTT**  
Voluntary Service Specialist

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**REHAB REPORT**

**FOR THE INFORMATION OF ALL CONCERNED THIS IS A PARTIAL LIST OF WHERE ALL THE DONATED ITEMS GO.**

- NORTH PORT VETERANS HOSPITAL**
- STONYBROOK NURSING HOME**
- ST ALBANS HOSPITAL**
- VETERANS BEACON HOUSES**
- VETERANS COMMUNITY HOMES**
- SALVATION ARMY HOMELESS SHELTER**
- MAMA'S HOMES FOR UNWED MOTHERS (2)**
- NASSAU COUNTY GIFT WRAP PROJECT**
- TROOPS SUPPLIES AND PACKAGES**
- NASSAU COUNTY STANDDOWN (2)**
- HOLLY PATERSON NURSING HOME**
- HOMELESS VETS AND FAMILIES**
- NASSAU COUNTY AUXILIARY PROJECTS**

**BOOKS ARE DISTRIBUTED TO VA, NURSING HOMES, SR CITIZENS HOMES, HOSPITALS AND BOOKS FOR THE TROOPS PROJECTS.**

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**WHAT'S NEW AT NATIONAL**

**What we are doing for you today:**

- [Attending Reserve Officers Association National Security Symposium in Washington, D.C.](#)
- [Legion opposes proposal to cut VA spending](#)
- [DoD sponsors 'Hiring Heroes' career fairs](#)
- [Legion's PTS-TBI committee meets in D.C.](#)
- [Women veterans survey deadline Jan. 31](#)
- [Support necessary in the workplace](#)
- [Four Chaplains memorial services, Feb. 6](#)
- [MLB All-Star tickets open to public](#)
- [Legion lauds White House families focus](#)
- [Legion, USAA co-brand a credit card](#)
- [D.C. staff stands down for homeless vets](#)

NORTHPORT REHAB SCHEDULE 2010 - 2011

TEAM # 6 FEBRUARY 12, 2011

YOUNG SIMMONS #1765  
NORTH BELLMORE # 1749  
CATHEDRAL # 1087  
ROCKVILLE CENTRE # 303  
MANHASSET #304  
AVIATORS # 743

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TEAM # 7 MARCH 12, 2011

NEW HYDE PARK-ERNIE PYLE #1089  
ANDREW FATSCHER # 854  
LYNBROOK # 335  
JAMES F. BRENGAL #456  
CHARLES A. FOWLER # 160  
WILLISTON # 144

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TEAM # 8 APRIL 9, 2011

MINEOLA MEMORIAL #349  
LEVITTOWN # 1711  
FRANKLIN SQUARE # 1014  
BELLMORE # 948  
VICTOR MURTHA #972  
EUGENE S. SMITH #175

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TEAM # 9 MAY 14, 2011

UNIONDALE # 1487  
ROBERT VAN COTT #1139  
ROOSEVELT MEMORIAL # 1051  
OCEANSIDE MEMORIAL #1246  
WILLIAM BRADFORD TURNER # 265  
JOE MURPHY # 1957

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**FOR A CHANGE OF DATE OR IF YOUR POST  
CAN'T MAKE IT CONTACT CHAIRMAN**

**JOHN RADIN, SR AT 431-5192**

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Consolidated Reports for 2011

**The reports are due to Albany NOT LATER THAN 19 Mat 2011.** I would like this mentioned at the meeting and put in the Legionnaire for the next couple of months. **Additionally, as a reminder a copy need to be sent to me, as well as, the one going to Albany.**

VA Homeless Vets Update 19:

A homeless-prevention program by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), which seeks to help Veterans and families who are on the verge of becoming homeless, has moved 25 closer to implementation. The program marks the first time that VA will fund services for the spouses and children of Veterans at risk of becoming homeless. "The problems that lead to homelessness begin long before Veterans and their families are on the streets," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "By putting more resources into intervention programs for people at risk of becoming homeless, we can reduce suffering and increase the opportunities for turning around these lives." Shinseki's comments came as VA formally announced that it is taking applications from private non-profit organizations and consumer cooperatives interested in providing needed services to at-risk Veterans and their families.

With funding from VA for the program, called Supportive Services for Veterans Families, community organizations will be better able to provide counseling, training, education assistance, direct time-limited financial assistance, transportation, child care, rent, utilities, and other services to participating Veterans and family members. In January, VA is sponsoring free grant-writing workshops for community organizations interested in applying for funds under this program. The workshops will be held in Chicago, Los Angeles, Seattle, Houston and New York City. When the "Notice of Funds Availability" applications are available, they will be posted on the VA Web site at [www1.va.gov/homeless/ssvf.asp](http://www1.va.gov/homeless/ssvf.asp). Details about the workshops and other information about the program are available on the Internet at [www1.va.gov/homeless](http://www1.va.gov/homeless). Community organizations can also contact VA at 1-877-737-0111 or at [SSVF@va.gov](mailto:SSVF@va.gov). [Source: VA News Release 16 Dec 2010 ++]

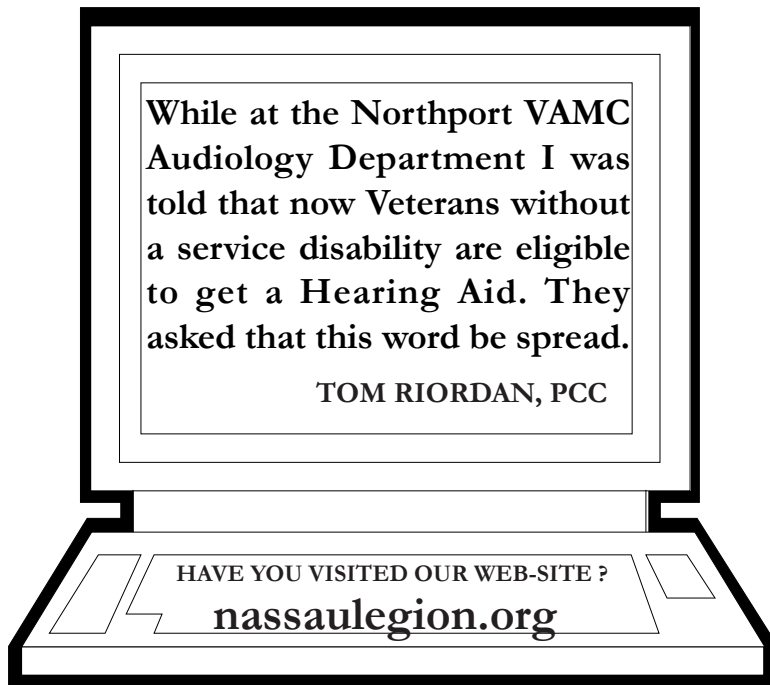


BALDWIN POST INSTALLATION

NASSAU COUNTY LEGIONNAIRE  
121 POWELL AVENUE  
ROCKVILLE CENTRE, N.Y. 11570

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
MASSAPEQUA, N.Y. 11758  
PERMIT # 8

MEMBER  
National American Legion Press Association  
New York State Legion Press Association



OR CURRENT RESIDENT

### DATES TO REMEMBER

#### FEB 2011

- 6 UVO MEETING - CRADLE OF AVIATION 9:30 AM
- 6 COUNTY FOUR CHAPLAINS SERVICE - BELLMORE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
- 12 TEAM #6 VISIT TO NORTHPORT - DAY AT THE RACES
- 13 NASSAU VOITURE 803 40/8 NURSES TRAINING BALL - MALVERNE 1-5 PM
- 19 MILITARY BALL - POST COMMANDERS NIGHT- STUART THOMAS MANOR
- 25 **COUNTY MEETINGS AT HEMPSTEAD POST - ADVISORY 7:15 PM**  
**COUNTY MEETING 8 pm**

#### MARCH

- 6 UVO MEETING - CRADLE OF AVIATION 9:30 AM
- 12 TEAM #7 VISIT TO NORTHPORT - DAY AT THE RACES
- 15 DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING SCOUTING AWARDS APPLICATIONS
- 25 **COUNTY MEETINGS AT HEMPSTEAD POST - ADVISORY 7:15 PM**  
**COUNTY MEETING 8 pm**

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### Statistics

There were 1.8 million living women veterans in 2008. In 2008 453,250 women veterans enrolled in the VA health-care system for care. The number of women veterans enrolled in the system is expected to grow by 33 percent in the next three years. Over 102,126 female veterans served in OEF/OIF as of September 2008. Of those, 44.2 percent have enrolled in the VA health-care system. Post-traumatic stress disorder, hypertension, and depression were the top three diagnostic categories for women veterans treated by VA health care. Twenty-two percent of women screened positive for military sexual trauma, compared to 1.2 percent of men. Of all the OEF/OIF veterans who used VA health care in 2007, 16.7 percent of women and .8 percent of men screened positive for MST.