

SUFFOLK COUNTY AMERICAN LEGION
BOYS STATE REPORT
October 2022

Legionnaires, Boys State will cost a lot more than expected. As we all know, almost everything has increased. Boys State has a small increase last year, but it will not cover what is needed this year. The cost per delegate will be \$600. Its expensive, but still less than Girl's State.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Beecher, SCAL Boys State Chair

September 7, 2022



Law & Order – At this time no posts have placed any candidate(s) for consideration as Law & Order award recipient for 2022 -2023. I have received several questions about the process for consideration of the award. If you have any questions call me at 631-338-6353.

Nominations – At the writing of this we have one nomination for Ken Dolan, for County Commander 2023-2024. There are currently no nominations for any other positions.

Joint Department Visitation 9/14/2022 – At 10:00 am County Commander Steve Antonacci and I went to the Floral Park Motor Lodge to escort Department Commander Dave Riley to Babylon Post 94 for breakfast. Auxiliary Department Madam President Nancy Babis was escorted by 10th District Auxiliary President Evelyn Gerlett and SCAL President Dee Stegemann. SAL Detachment Commander Tim Van Patten II and his father Tim, Sr. were escorted by PCC Jim Beecher. Thank you to SAL Commander Bill Wolf, Jr., Chris Cerullo and all who attended and helped with the escorting of our department leaders.

After breakfast we went to the Armed Forces Plaza in Hauppague to visit the War Memorials. While at the Plaza Suffolk County Legislators Steve Flotteran and Trish Bergin presented Certificates of Appreciation to the honored guests. While leaving the Armed Forces Plaza we were escorted to the Lt. Michael Murphy Navy Seal Museum in West Sayville. Upon leaving the museum we were escorted to Joseph Loeffler Post 1006 for dinner. Many thanks to Brenda, Ernie and the entire staff at Joseph Loeffler Post 1006 for all their assistance in a very successful affair.

It was a great turnout, with approximately 100 in attendance. Once again, my thanks to all who helped make the Legion Family Visitation a success.

Respectfully submitted

Roby Johnson,
JPCC



VETERANS ENDING SUICIDE TOGETHER

Mission

<https://www.operationvest.org/>

- Every single day, more than twenty US veterans die by suicide. Tragically, approximately every 26 seconds someone attempts suicide.
- The causes are as unique and varied as the veterans themselves. Operation VEST's mission is to eradicate suicide one at a time by addressing the different needs of our veteran population. We aim to create awareness and remove stigma surrounding mental health so our veterans and active military can heal.
- Operation VEST works alongside other local organizations and with veterans to help our heroes fight the battle within. We believe we can achieve this by working together!

What We Do

- At Operation VEST, we promote awareness and inform the public of the staggering statistics affecting our veterans through programs, local events and social media.
- Operation VEST connects veterans to veterans, veterans to non-profits, and non-profits to other non-profits because TOGETHER is how we will effect change!
- A portion of funds Operation VEST raises helps to cover the cost of alternative healing for our veterans who are dealing with Post Traumatic Stress. This is done through partnership with other local veteran service organizations.
- We have also partnered with Suffolk County and have launched a program, STAY Bag, to help individuals and family members of those who may be dealing with suicidal thoughts and tendencies.

The **Operation VEST STAY Bag Program** was created in proud partnership with Suffolk County and the Long Island Veterans Coalition for Suicide Prevention. This program aims to provide veterans with the tools needed to stop thoughts of self-harm. The STAY Bag is a kit with items designed to recreate positive memories, occurrences, or behaviors along with valuable resources which are geared to inspire the individual to STAY another day.

H.R.7589 - REMOVE Copays Act

S.4951

117th Congress (2021-2022)

Introduced in House (04/26/2022)

Reduce and Eliminate Mental Health Outpatient Veteran Copays Act or the REMOVE Copays Act

This bill prohibits the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) from imposing or collecting any co-payment for the first three mental health outpatient care visits in a calendar year for a veteran who is enrolled in the VA health care system.

S.4958 - A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend the authority for financial assistance for supportive services for very low-income veteran families in permanent housing, and for other purposes.117th Congress (2021-2022)

S.4922 - Gerald's Law Act

To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide a burial allowance for certain veterans who die at home while in receipt of hospice care furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

S.4766 - A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to revise the rules for approval by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of commercial driver education programs for purposes of veterans educational assistance, and for other purposes.

S. 4721 To amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the amount paid by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to veterans for improvements and structural alterations furnished as part of home health services.

S. 4646 To amend title 38, United States Code, to shorten the timeframe for claims by beneficiaries and the payment of benefits under Department of Veterans Affairs life insurance programs, to improve the management of undisbursed life insurance benefits by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

POW-MIA Report
For September of 2022

The remains of eight of our fallen comrades have been recovered, identified and returned to their loved ones.

WORLD WAR 2

USS California:

Navy Seaman 2nd Class Pete Turk, 20,
Corregidor Island, Cabanatuan POW camp.
Army Pfc. John L. Ferguson, 20, POW

Europe:

Netherlands

U.S. Army Sgt. Garland W. Collier, 25,

Ploiesti, Romania See **

U.S. Army Air Forces Staff Sgt. Moses F. Tate, 23,
U.S. Army Air Forces Staff Sgt. Roy Carney, 20,

KOREAN War:

U.S. Army Pfc. Melvin J. Little Bear, 21, POW
U.S. Army Pfc. Adelaido M. Solis, 19, POW
U.S. Army Cpl. Joseph J. Puopolo, 19, POW

Currently from WWII, there are 72,271 still unaccounted for. 7,525 still missing from the Korean. 1,582 American servicemen and civilians still unaccounted for from the Vietnam War, 5 missing from the Gulf War and 126 from the Cold War.

Note **

The prominent source of the Axis fuel supply was the Romanian Refineries of Ploiesti. On the first of August 1943, an air attack called operation Tidal Wave was initiated from Libya. A hundred and seventy-seven Liberator's with a total of 1,741 aircrew formed the attack force. The plan of attack was to go in at a low level, 250 feet, to insure maximum effect on the target.

Ploiesti had one of the heaviest and best-integrated air defense networks in Europe and German intelligence was given prior knowledge of a coming raid. So, because of this, operation Tidal Wave became the costliest for the USAAF. With 53 aircraft and 660 aircrew lost. In 1999 the Air War College at Maxwell AFB issued a report stating Ploiești was "one of the bloodiest and most heroic missions of all time."

53 B-24s destroyed (35 claimed by Romanians) 55 B-24s damaged, 310 aircrew killed or missing, 190 aircrew captured or interned. Only 88 Aircraft returned to Libya.

**To all those who gave their lives and lay in unmarked repose; may your souls rest
with God in eternal peace.**

From: mikebets@optonline.net
To: Beecher, Jim <jbeecher@optonline.net>
Date: Oct 7, 2022 2:33:40 PM
Subject: report National Commanders Dinner

This year's National Commander Dinner at Antuns in Queens New York will be held on Friday April 14. Since we are expecting a sold out event this year in honor of our National Commander from New York Jim Troiola, I am asking everyone and all post to contact me as soon as possible to let me know if they are attending. This will help us when we need to commit to our tickets in January. There is a strong possibility that tickets will NOT be available after January.

The following people/posts have committed to tables:

Sayville Riders (table of 10)

Eastport Post (table of 10)

Evelyn Gerlett (3)

Mike Pankowski (1)

Please contact me (631-800-4061 or mikebets@optonline.net) as soon as possible.

Thank you

Michael Pankowski

Chairperson for National Commander Dinner Ticket Sales