



Suffolk County American Legion Minutes and Reports

May 5, 2023

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SUFFOLK COUNTY AMERICAN LEGION

May 5th, 2023 minutes

Wilson Ritch Post 432

Meeting opened by Commander Antonacci, at 2000 hours with proper respect and ceremony. Roll call of Post's showed 20 present, and all officers present and/or accounted for. Commander Edward Haran, welcomed all.

Minutes accepted M/Shadler, 2nd/Issaacs. Finance report accepted M/Bruggerman, 2nd/Pankowski. Finance report included.

Commanders Report Included.

Division Commanders reports are included.

The following Committee Reports included.

Boys State, Convention, Legion Riders, MIA/POW, Legislative/ Service Officer, SAL Advisor, Liaison to Auxiliary, National Commanders Dinner, and Hospital Welfare

Nominations: 2023-2024

Riverhead Post 273 has nominated Robert Robesch for County Treasurer.

New Business: PTS Training Cancelled, not enough signed up for class.

PUFL Dues: 12 Posts still not paid.

Ways And Means won by Commander Fred Tartaglione.

Good of the Legion: Leading Candidate for 2023-2024 Suffolk County Commander, Ken Dolan, is having a meet & greet on June 3rd at 3pm at Post 944 Kings Park.

Meeting closed at 2145 with respect and ceremony.

Kevin Eaton, 2nd Division Commander,

Standing in for Jim Beecher, SCAL Adjutant.

Subject Commanders Report
From please21@aol.com
<please21@aol.com>
To: please21@aol.com
<please21@aol.com>
Date Today at 11:46 AM

1) I Attended the Testimonial Dinner for
National Commander Vincent Troio at
Antun's Queens NY on Fri April 14 2023

2) I Attended the Funeral Service for
Frank Frumento Commander of Four "S" Post
1635 on Monday April 17 2023

3) I Attended the 40/8 meeting on April 28th
At Post 651 Sayville Ny

[Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS](#)

Report - National Commanders Dinner

mikebets@optonline.net <mikebets@optonline.net>

Fri 5/5/2023 9:14 AM

To: Eaton, Kevin <kaeaton760@outlook.com>; Beecher, Jim <jbeecher@optonline.net>; ROBESCH, ROBERT <rrobesch@optonline.net>

This year's National Commanders Dinner took place at Antuns in Queens on Friday April 14 honoring National Commander Jim Troiola from New York. Overall, there were over 650 tickets sold to this event. Suffolk County purchased the most amount of tables of any county in southern New York, 13 tables sold. Out of this number, we sold 127 tickets.

I would like to thank the Suffolk County American Legion Family for their great support for this event! Specifically, I would like to thank the following for their purchase of tables to this event: Northport Post 694 - two tables, Joseph Kovarik Post 1146 - 2 tables, Eastport Post 1545, Wilson Ritch Post 432, Wilson Ritch Auxiliary 432, Joseph Loeffler Post 1006, American Legion Riders Smith Weaver Post 651.

Once again, thank you all for your support!

Michael Pankowski

National Commander Dinner Ticket Chairperson

Suffolk County American Legion

Suffolk County American Legion

Financial report

5-May-23

For the period ended April 30 , 2023

General Account:

opening Balance 43,242.64

Deposits:

<u>Date</u>	<u>remitter</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Description</u>
6-Apr	Various	910.00	Nat'l Cdr Dinner
19-Apr	Variou	390.00	Roby Testimonial
19-Apr	SCAL Aux	135.00	Dept Cdr Share
19-Apr	W+M	120.00	
19-Apr	C+Y	73.00	
19-Apr	Woodhaven Post	350.00	Nat'l Cdr Dinner
30-Apr	Interest	4.37	
Total deposits		1,982.37	

<u>Check#</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Amt.</u>	<u>Description</u>
1788	18-Apr	150.00	Post 273 Mtg Food
1787	20-Apr	109.70	B. Santo Essay Contesi
Total disbursements		259.70	

Ending balance 44,965.31

Monies held:

SAL	4,908.50
PTS	1,716.12
VAVS	1,700.00
3rd Div	5,030.00
1st Div	709.12
Total	14,063.74

Boy's State	38,650.16
Savings	7,521.87
CD	26,201.70
	72,373.73

Total All accounts 117,339.04

Total available 103,275.30

AMERICAN LEGION – Suffolk County

May 2023 Report



First Division Report:

No April Meeting – Conflict on the same date due to the National Commanders Visitation at Anton's: Friday April 14th It was good to see some of the 1st Div. Posts in attendance. A great time had by all.

POST Updates: Reminders sent out on Bylaws/Consolidated reports

Greenlawn Post 1244– I will be attending their Post Installation Ceremony on 05/10.

Amityville Post 1015 – Alex in Florida. Info will be sent to Joe Regina to update the directory

Feustel-Kurdt Post 1120, Lindenhurst- No Report

Hunter Squires Jackson Post 1218, Amityville – Bylaws completed. Building Renovations Starting.

Northport Post 360 – No Updates.

Huntington Post 360 – No Updates.

Sgt. John Sardiello Post 1634, West Babylon – No Updates.

Wayne Middleton Post 1839, West Babylon – Transitioning in progress. 3 new members.



Next Meeting: Monday May 22, 2023 @ 1830 hours (6:30pm)

VOTE: First Division Officers

Location: Hunter Squires Jackson
#7223 VFW Post Amityville, NY 11701
Time: 630 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Lenore Brathwaite
1st Division Vice Chairperson

SUFFOLK COUNTY AMERICAN LEGION

MAY 5TH, 2023

2ND DIVISION VICE COMMANDER'S REPORT

APR 12TH, 2023: I ATTENDED THE SCAL MEETING IN RIVERHEAD.

APR 14TH, 2023: I ATTENDED THE NATIONAL COMMANDERS DINNER, IN QUEENS.

APR 17TH, 2023: I ATTENDED THE WAKE OF FOUR "S" POST 1635 COMMANDER FRANK FRUMENTO.

APR 21ST, 2023: 2ND DIVISION MEETING WAS HELD AT DONALD C. MUNRO POST 944 IN KINGS PARK.

QUORUM: YES (7) POSTS IN ATTENDANCE.

SPECIAL GUEST: PAST COUNTY COMMANDER ROBY JOHNSON IN ATTENDANCE.

MEMBERSHIP: INFORMED EACH POST OF ITS CURRENT TOTALS AS OF APR 21ST, 2023.

INFORMED POST'S, THAT AT THE LAST COUNTY MEETING, 8 OF 11 POSTS REPRESENTING THE 2ND DIVISION, WERE IN ATTENDANCE.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE DISCUSSED: BOYS STATE INFORMATION MEETING ON APRIL 26TH FOR CANDIDATES AND THEIR PARENTS.

SUBMITTING CONSOLIDATED POST REPORTS AND PAST COUNTY COMMANDERS TESTIMONIAL.

DONALD C. MUNRO POST 944 POST COMMANDER KEN DOLAN SPOKE ON HIS POSTS 100TH ANNIVERSARY GOLF OUTING FUNDRAISER.

RUSY BOHM POST 411 ROBY JOHNSON SPOKE ON HAVING A CEREMONY FOR TOWN OF ISLIP HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES THAT ARE ENTERING THE MILITARY.

JOSEPK KOVARIK POST 1146 COMMANDER, PAUL CALTABIANO REPORTS THAT HE HAS A MEMBER OF HIS POST THAT IS WILLING TO HELP OUT WITH POSTS APPLYING FOR GRANTS.

APR 26TH, 2023: I ATTENDED THE BOYS STATE INFORMATIONAL NIGHT IN BABYLON.

APR 27TH, 2023: I ATTENDED THE SAL WALK-A-THON IN ISLIP.

APR 29TH, 2023: I ATTENDED THE LONG ISLAND HONOR FLIGHT HOMECOMING AT MACARTHUR AIRPORT.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE 2ND DIV. WILL BE ON MAY 19TH, 2023 AT SMITH WEVER POST 651 IN SAYVILLE. DINNER IS AT 7PM, MEETING AT 8PM.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

KEVIN EATON

CMDR 2ND DIVISION

**AMERICAN LEGION 3rd DIVISION – SUFFOLK COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK
BROOKHAVEN TOWN, LI, NY**

April / May 2023 Monthly Report

At our last 3rd Division meeting held on Friday April 21, 2023 at William Merritt Hallock Post #155 – Lake Ronkonkoma, there were 4 Posts present. They were: Selden-Post 1633, Wilson Ritch-Post 432-Port Jefferson Station, Brunn-Prchal/Leisure Knoll-Post 1888-Ridge and William Merritt Hallock-Post 155-Lake Ronkonkoma.

Membership. A Q&A session got underway when this potential Membership proposal was brought to our attention. A Multi-Year Membership is being considered. This would be a 1-5 Year Membership. Details are still being worked out and it is still a Proposal. Very Interesting indeed.

Children & Youth. As of our March 2023 meeting, the Children & Youth fund continues to grow. A Major emphasis is being put upon to grow the Children & Youth fund.

Sick Call. Our Longtime member Fred Miller is Not doing well. Please keep him in your Thoughts and Prayers.

April Events –

National Commander Jim Troiola Visitation on Friday April 14, 2023 at Antun's in Queens Village, NY was a "Full House". The camaraderie was Overflowing.

The Nomination Committee is Finalizing Nominations for Upcoming Elections. Nominations from the Floor will also be considered.

May Events –

The Brunn-Prchal/Leisure Knoll Post #1888 in conjunction with the Leisure Knoll Association is holding a "Community Expo" on Friday May 19, 2023 from 11:00am-4:00pm at Leisure Knoll in Ridge, NY. The Event is Open to the Public. A number of organizations will be there including Law Enforcement, Elected Officials and more.

Our next meeting will be on Friday May 19, 2023 at William Merritt Hallock Post #155 – Lake Ronkonkoma – 115 Church St. Meeting starts at 7:00pm with Dinner at 6:00pm.

Report Submitted by:

Ulf Moeller, Commander
Richard Knutson, Adjutant
3rd Division

Suffolk County American Legion's Business Meeting held on 5-May-2023.
Suffolk County American Legion Vice Commander.
Fourth Division's Commander's Report.

Suffolk County American Legion's Fourth Divisions Posts:

- (1) Alfred Grebe Legion Post No. 1045-Fisher's Island.
This post reports that there was a Birthday Party Celebration for their post member Joe Rogan, age 92. This post also reported that they are in the planning stages for legion post activities in their local school.
- (2) Mitchell Legion Post No. 281-Shelter Island.
On April 15th, the Fourth Division Commander, Rob DeVito, and PCC Mike Pankowski, attended and performed a swearing in ceremony for this post's new Commander, Mike Mundy, and the new executive officers of this post. This post also acquired one new member.
- (3) Burton Potter Legion Post No. 185-Greenport.
This post reports that they acquired one new member. Also this post is preparing for upcoming fund raising events for June and July, 2023.
- (4) Riverhead Legion Post No. 273.
This post reports that they acquired one new member, and they are working on acquiring another new member. This post has a Band performing every Thursday Night that has increased patrons for their post. This post held five different events, Birthdays, Weddings, etc. This post also had a new post Air Conditioning Unit installed.
- (5) Griswold-Terry-Glover Legion Post No. 803-Southold.
This post reports that they are preparing for their upcoming Scholarship Awards Program for selected students from the Southold and Greenport High Schools. Preparations are also being made for the NJROTC Awards Night Ceremony for Southold High School Students to be held the end of the Month of May, 2023. It was reported in a local newspaper that a long time friend and supporter of the Southold American Legion Post No. 803, Richard Mullens one of the owners of Mullen Motors of Southold, has passed on. Mullen Motors of Southold always provided vehicles from their place of business to assist and transport disabled and elderly veterans during Southold Town Parade events.
- (6) Raymond Cleaves Legion Post No. 861-Mattituck.
This post reports that they acquired one new member. This post is also preparing for the upcoming Scholarship Awards Program for a selected student from the Mattituck High School. This post will participate along with the Southold Legion Post in the NJROTC Awards Ceremony held this month also. The Mattituck Legion Post is hosting the Annual Memorial Day Parade this year in the Hamlet of Mattituck scheduled for May 29th. There are numerous preparations being made by this post to accommodate this parade. Post

861's Chaplain attended a NOA(NO ONE ATTENDS) Memorial Service for deceased veterans at Calverton Cemetery on April 12th, 2023. Also, Post 861's Commander is assisting a family of a deceased veteran to have the cremated remains of this veteran to be dispersed into the Long Island Sound.

This is the Fourth Division Commander's Report.

Respectfully submitted by,
Rob DeVito
Suffolk County American Legion Vice Commander.



SUFFOLK COUNTY AMERICAN LEGION 5TH DIVISION

REPORT FOR 5 MAY 2023

The 5th Division met on 25 April at Hand-Aldrich Post #924 in Hampton Bays. Posts # 388, 834, 924 and 1545 were present. Welcome remarks were made by post commander John Lenihan and dinner was served prior to the meeting. The following reports were received:

1. EAST HAMPTON POST #419 - (via e-mail) Post is moving along with elections on 6 May during the general meeting and swearing in at the 31 May Board of Directors meeting. Preps continue for flag placing ceremony on 21 May. Memorial Day observances to consist of wreath-laying at Main Beach at 0900, parade step-off at 1000, followed by memorial service at Hook Mill monument with luncheon at post afterwards. Post reviewing scholarship applications.. Post is sponsoring 1 Boys State candidate.
2. CHELBERG & BATTLE POST #388 - Renovations continue. New restaurant tenant hopes to open in mid-June. Memorial Day parade preps underway, permit in place. Post hosted local HS Booster club on 15 April. Big success, club donated \$500 to post and raffle of disco ball netted \$800! Post CDR attended Eagle Scout Court of Honor on 16 April presented check & certificate to this year's Eagle Scout. On 8 May post will host 'I-Tri' girls' bicycle safety class. Program is for middle school-aged girls as they prep for a scaled-down triathlon. Sag Harbor Elementary School 4th grade to visit post for discussions with veterans and tour of museum on 23-24 May. On 8 June, post (in conjunction with local VFW post) will host the VA for a Veterans' outreach program from 6-9PM. All are welcome. Post is sponsoring 1 Boys State candidate.
3. MALCOLM ROSS WHITE POST # 433 - D5 CDR met with #433 Commander Bob Grisnik earlier this week. Bob has been hit with yet another medical issue but is working on plans for Memorial Day observance and July 4th parade in Southampton Village. Working on getting membership caught up to date.
4. HAND-ALDRICH POST #924 - Post CDR attended Eagle Scout Court of Honor on 1 April, presented check to new Eagle Scout. 10 members attended tour of MacArthur airport on 4 April. Post hosted public meet & greet for Republican candidates for County/Town positions on 6 April - similar event held for Democrat candidates in March. Wake service held on 11 April for post chaplain Kip Kirby. On 20 April 8 members participated in a tour of the Amazon facility in Westhampton Beach. On 22 April 15 post members participated in the Great East End Cleanup. Area assigned was Good Ground Road between Ponquogue Avenue and Springville Road. Local Council member Rick Martell met with post at start of event stating that they had many more attendees than other groups he had met with earlier. New sign up and running - looks great.

Awaiting hearing with Southampton Town Architectural Review Board on 27 April regarding plans for proposed renovations to post. Memorial Day plans in process, post currently reviewing applications for scholarships. Post is sponsoring 3 Boys State candidates.

5. ARTHUR ELLIS HAMM POST #834 - Post working on preps for Memorial Day service at the Westhampton Cemetery. Still waiting for start of renovations at new community building on Old Riverhead Road.

6. EASTPORT POST #1545 - Held 'post clean-up' day on 22 April. Post will hold a garage sale on 13 May. Plans coming together for Memorial Day parade and observances in conjunction with local Fire Department and Boy Scouts. Post will also participate in flag placement at Calverton National Cemetery. Post members will reprise visits to in-patient veterans at Long Island Veterans Hospital at Stony Brook. On 11 June post members will participate in car show in Brookhaven, proceeds to go to the VA hospital. Post golf outing set for 30 June at Cherry Creek Golf Links in Riverhead. Elvis impersonator to perform at the post on 8 July. Post is sponsoring 3 Boys State Candidates.

7. Division Commander reminded posts of Samsung Scholarship deadline (25 June) and need for submission of Post Data Reports, Consolidated Post Reports & updated by-laws. Encouraged members to sign up for Roby Johnson's testimonial. Reminded posts sending candidates to Boys' State of mandatory meeting at Babylon on 26 April. Also discussed the passing of Ken Potts (102) in Utah, one of the last two surviving crew members of USS ARIZONA. This leaves Lou Conte (101) in California as the sole surviving crew member. Division Commander reminded posts to mark their calendars for the upcoming County Convention on 10 June.

8. Next meeting of the 5th Division will be held at 6:30PM on Tuesday, 24 May at Eastport Post #1545.

Respectfully Submitted,

P. E. Gerecke

P. E. GERECKE

Commander, 5th Division

CONVENTION report

Will be held on Saturday June 10th at the American Legion Post 1006 Brentwood. Registration will be opened from 09:30 and continue till 1:45.

Post everlasting to start at 11:00.

Lunch will be provided from 12 to 1:45

Convention will convene at 2

Please note Legion bar will be closed to all convention personnel from 2 till close of convention.

LINCMC report

Saturday May 27 gates will open at 06:30 for placing of flags.

Sunday May 28 Memorial Day program at 14:00 hour

Boys State

SUFFOLK COUNTY AMERICAN LEGION

May 2023 Report

Legionnaires, Suffolk County is sending 54 delegates to Morrisville this year. I want to thank all who made this program a success.

We had an informational meeting at Babylon Post 94, on April 26th, with many of the boys and parents in attendance. I need to send a special thanks to PCC Mike Pankowski, 10th District Finance Officer Tom Wagner, SAL Past National Commander Chris Cerillo, and Brentwood Boys State Chair, Steve Menendez. These Legionnaires really contributed to making the evening a success.

Bus schedules are in News You Can Use.

For God and Country,

Jim Beecher

Legislative:

Concurrent Receipt Update

The **Major Richard Star Act (H.R.1282, S.344)** has reached a milestone in support with **293 co-sponsors in the House**. The House sponsor Rep. Bilirakis (Fla.) will enter this legislation as the first bill to be on the 118th Congress Consensus Calendar. The House must consider at least one measure on the Consensus Calendar during any week in which the House convenes. **Entry on the consensus calendar is an achievement that can also further influence negotiations on the FY2024 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA)** during difficult congressional budgetary control measure discussions. **Last year, more than two thirds of Congress supported the Star Act with 336 in the House and 67 in the Senate.** Members are strongly urged to weigh in on this issue by way of calling, both their house and senate representatives.

News from the VA:

Ending Veteran Homelessness

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recently reported that the agency has exceeded its goal of housing 38,000 homeless veterans by placing 40,401 veterans in permanent housing, which is 6 percent above goal. The VA also noted that 2443 veterans returned to homelessness and of those, 86 percent have been rehoused or are on the path to being rehoused.

Veterans who are experiencing homelessness has decreased by 11 percent since January 2020. In total, the **estimated number of veterans experiencing homelessness in America has declined by 55.3 percent since 2010.** The Legion has supported initiatives for the VA and other agencies to enhance and invest in efforts to ensure that veteran homelessness is rare, brief, and non-recurring.

Budget Cut Proposals Would Hurt Veterans

WASHINGTON — While the Budget details a [plan](#) to honor our country's sacred obligation to care for America's Veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors, the proposal to cut a broad range of critical programs by 22% would threaten critical services for Veterans – both at VA and across the federal government. The proposed 22% budget cut to VA would:

- **Threaten Medical Care for Veterans.** The proposal would mean 30 million fewer Veteran outpatient visits, and 81,000 jobs lost across the Veterans Health Administration, leaving Veterans unable to get appointments for care including wellness visits, cancer screenings, mental health services, and substance use disorder treatment.
- **Undermine Access to Telehealth.** Access to remote care through telehealth is essential for Veterans, particularly in rural areas. By reducing funding for necessary IT infrastructure and support, the proposal would impair VA's ability to expand video-to-home telehealth services and limit the availability of medical equipment that can be provided to Veterans so they can attend important telehealth appointments from home.
- **Worsen Wait Times for Benefits.** Under the proposal, the Veterans Benefits Administration would eliminate more than 6,000 staff, increasing the disability claims backlog by an estimated 134,000 claims and forcing Veterans and their surviving loved ones to wait longer for the benefits they have earned, including pensions, life insurance, GI Bill educational supports, and employment services.
- **Prevent Construction on the Health Care Facilities that Veterans need.** Veterans deserve to receive care in state-of-the-art facilities, but the median VA hospital was built nearly 60 years ago – compared to just 13 years ago in the private sector. This proposal would cut up to \$565 million for major construction projects, including critical clinical upgrades to hospitals and clinics. These cuts would negatively impact Veteran health care across America.
- **Fail to Honor the Memory of All Veterans.** The proposal would require VA's National Cemetery Administration to eliminate approximately 500 staff, jeopardize NCA's ability to maintain the final resting place of Veterans to national shrine standards, and delay the opening of 5 new national cemeteries that will serve nearly 1.6 million Veterans and eligible family members.

Beyond the direct impact on Veterans who use VA, these **proposed cuts would negatively impact Veterans who access critical services across the federal government. Specifically, these proposed cuts would:**

- **Cut Housing for Veterans.** Every Veteran deserves a good, safe home in this country they fought to defend. The proposal would eliminate funding for Housing Choice Vouchers for as many as 50,000 Veterans, putting them at greater risk of homelessness.
- **Increase Food Insecurity for Veterans.** About 1.3 million Veterans rely on SNAP. This proposal would take food assistance away from Veterans who are older by adding burdensome, bureaucratic requirements, and it would limit states' flexibility to protect especially vulnerable people currently subject to work requirements. That would increase the likelihood that Veterans and their families go hungry.
- **Deprive Veterans of mental health, substance use, and other health services.** This proposal would mean deep cuts to Department of Health and Human Services community mental health centers, mental health and substance use prevention grants, and other public health programs. Supporting Veterans and their families in the community, especially those not enrolled in VA health care, has been a priority for HHS and these cuts could reduce access to timely care and services.
- **Eliminate Job Training and Other Supports to Homeless Veterans.** The proposal would mean that 4,200 fewer Veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness would receive job training, counseling, and job readiness services provided through the Department of Labor's Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program.

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May5, 2023,

American Legion Riders Suffolk County Report

Suffolk county riders participated in the following through April.

4/7 -- Wellness checks on Veterans at Long Island State Veterans home

4/13 Funeral for Korean war Veteran

4/14 Escort for US Army Veteran

4/20 Funeral William Brightman

4/26 Funeral Escort for Vietnam Veterans Navy Calverton

Riders sponsored Boys state candidate form 2022 Tom Golio received appointment.
To west Point. Boys state played a critical role in is application review.

David M. Isaacs
Suffolk County Chairman
American legion Riders

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'David M. Isaacs', is written over a solid horizontal line.

Auxiliary News

May 13 - Auxiliary will
be having their Memorial
Service for departed Members

June 3 - Election of 2023-24
Auxiliary Officers at Rasy Bohm

July 15 - Installation of
2023-24 Auxiliary Officers
at Rasy Bohm

Girls State "Meet n Greet" was
well attended on April 29



SUFFOLK COUNTY AMERICAN LEGION

MAY 5TH, 2023

S.A.L. ADVISORS REPORT

ON APRIL 27TH, 2023 THE STUDENTS FROM ISLIP HIGH SCHOOL AS WELL AS SOME MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS MARCHED THRU DOWNTOWN ISLIP UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF RENEE DECRESCENZO CLOCK, ENROUTE TO ISLIP TOWN HALL WHERE THEP PRESENTED A CHECK IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1000.00 FOR THE WALK-A-THON SPONSORED BY THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AND AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

KEVIN EATON

S.A.L. ADVISOR

POW-MIA Report

For April 2023

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

WORLD WAR 2

The following were lost December 7th 1941 on the USS Oklahoma:

Navy Electrician's Mate 3rd Class Cecil E. Barncord, 24,

Navy Mess Attendant 2nd Class Archie Callahan, Jr., 19,

Europe Theater:

Ploiesti, Romania

U.S. Army Air Forces 1st Lt. John B. Thomas, 23,

U.S. Army Air Forces Staff Sgt. Ralph D. Kolb, 19,

KOREAN War:

U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Ellis Coon, 30, POW

Army Sgt. Richard E. Crotty, 22,

Army Cpl. Luther H. Story, 19,

U.S. Army Cpl. George T. Grimes, 19,

Currently from WWII, there are 72,232 still unaccounted for. 7,503 still missing from the Korean. 1,579 American servicemen and civilians still unaccounted for from the Vietnam War, 5 missing from the Gulf War and 126 from the Cold War.

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



April 8, 2023

FREDERICK JAY LOUCKA
405A LIBERTY WAY
AMITYVILLE, NY 11701-2548

You May Qualify for Disability Benefits

During a recent VA health care appointment, you reported that you may have experienced one or more exposures to herbicides, radiation, and/or toxins during your time in service. Based on your exposure, you may be eligible for disability benefits due to a recent legislative change.

What is Happening

On August 10, 2022, President Biden signed the Sergeant First Class (SFC) Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022, also known as the PACT Act, into law. This legislation brought about the following changes:

- Expands the list of locations, timeframes, and presumptive conditions related to herbicide exposures.
- Removes the manifestation period and its compensable level requirement for certain disabilities occurring in Persian Gulf War Veterans.
- Expands locations for Persian Gulf War Veterans.
- Expands the list of presumptive conditions and timeframes for certain diseases associated with burn pits and toxic exposures.
- Expands the list of risk activities for radiation exposures.

If you have already filed a disability compensation claim based on the PACT Act, please disregard this letter.

How This May Affect Veterans Exposed to Herbicides

If you were previously denied disability compensation benefits, you may now be eligible and are encouraged to apply if you performed covered service in the following locations during the specified timeframes:

- Thailand at any United States or Royal Thai base during the period beginning January 9, 1962, and ending June 30, 1976, regardless of where on the base you were located or what military job specialty you performed.
- Laos during the period beginning December 1, 1965, and ending September 30, 1969.
- Cambodia at Mimot or Krek, Kampong Cham Province, during the period beginning April 16, 1969, and ending April 30, 1969.
- Guam or American Samoa, or in the territorial waters thereof, during the period beginning January 9, 1962, and ending July 31, 1980.

- Johnston Atoll, or on a ship that called at Johnston Atoll, during the period beginning January 1, 1972, and ending September 30, 1977.

Additionally, two new presumptive conditions associated with herbicide exposure have been added:

- Monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS)
- Hypertension (also known as high blood pressure)

How This May Affect Persian Gulf War Veterans

If you were previously denied disability compensation benefits, you may now be eligible and are encouraged to apply if you are a Persian Gulf War Veteran and you have an undiagnosed illness or medically unexplained chronic multi-symptom illness (MUCMI). A Persian Gulf Veteran now includes service in Afghanistan, Israel, Egypt, Turkey, Syria, and Jordan, along with those who served in the Southwest Asia theater of operations which includes Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the neutral zone between Iraq and Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, the Gulf of Aden, the Gulf of Oman, the Persian Gulf, the Arabian Sea, the Red Sea, and the airspace above these locations.

How This May Affect Gulf War Era and Post-9/11 Veterans

You may be eligible for disability compensation benefits and are encouraged to apply if you are a covered Veteran as noted below and you have one of the conditions which are now presumptively associated with exposure to burn pits and other toxins, even if there is no record of evidence of such disease during the period of service.

A “covered Veteran” means a Veteran who performed active military, naval, air or space service while assigned to a duty station in the below locations and timeframes.	
In, or in the air space above...	On or after...
Bahrain Iraq Kuwait Oman Qatar Saudi Arabia Somalia, or United Arab Emirates	August 2, 1990
Afghanistan Djibouti Egypt Jordan Lebanon Syria Yemen Uzbekistan	September 11, 2001

The following conditions are now presumptively associated with exposure to burn pits and other toxins for covered Veterans:

brain cancer	chronic bronchitis
gastrointestinal cancer of any type	chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
glioblastoma	chronic rhinitis
head cancer of any type	chronic sinusitis
kidney cancer	constrictive bronchiolitis or obliterative bronchiolitis
lymphoma cancer of any type	emphysema
melanoma	granulomatous disease
neck cancer of any type	interstitial lung disease
pancreatic cancer	pleuritis
reproductive cancer of any type	pulmonary fibrosis
respiratory cancer of any type	sarcoidosis
asthma that was diagnosed after service	

How This May Affect Veterans that Participated in a Radiation-Risk Activity

If you were previously denied disability compensation benefits, you may now be eligible for and are encouraged to apply if you participated in one of the following radiation-risk activities:

- participated in the cleanup of Enewetak Atoll during the period beginning January 1, 1977, and ending December 31, 1980.
- participated onsite in the nuclear response effort following the collision of a United States Air Force B-52 bomber and refueling plane that caused the release of four thermonuclear weapons in the vicinity of Palomares, Spain, during the period beginning January 17, 1966, and ending March 31, 1967.
- participated onsite in the nuclear response effort following the on-board fire and crash of a United States Air Force B-52 bomber that caused the release of four thermonuclear weapons in the vicinity of Thule Air Force Base, Greenland, during the period beginning January 21, 1968, and ending September 25, 1968.

What We Need from You

- If you **have not** previously submitted a disability compensation claim for your exposure-related disability and would like to do so, please submit **VA Form 21-526EZ, Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits**.
- If you **have** previously submitted a claim for disability compensation for your exposure-related disability but were not found eligible, please submit **VA Form 20-0995, Decision Review Request: Supplemental Claim**.
- If you wish, you may submit additional evidence, such as medical records or a biopsy report, with your application. Also, VA can assist you in gathering new and relevant evidence to support your claim.

- For more information on herbicide exposure, please see VA's page on herbicide exposure at www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange. For more information on Gulf War exposures, please see VA's page on Gulf War Veterans' illnesses at <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/gulfwar>. For more information on radiation, please see VA's page on ionizing radiation exposure at <https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/hazardous-materials-exposure/ionizing-radiation>.
- You may have your provider complete a Disability Benefits Questionnaire (DBQ) based on your current condition. For more information and for access to the DBQs, see https://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/dbq_publicdbqs.asp.

Where to Send Your Correspondence

Documents may be submitted by mail, in person at a VA regional office or electronically. However, VA recommends submitting correspondence electronically as this is the fastest method of receipt.

VA provides several tools to assist in electronic submission. To learn more about how to submit documents and claims electronically, visit www.va.gov/disability/upload-supporting-evidence. You can also go directly to <https://eauth.va.gov/accessva/?cspSelectFor=quicksubmit> to digitally upload any correspondence using QuickSubmit.

By visiting www.va.gov you can also check your claim status and learn about other VA benefits.

If you prefer to mail your correspondence, please use the mailing address below:

Compensation Benefits
Department of Veterans Affairs Compensation Intake Center P.O. Box 4444 Janesville, WI 53547 Toll Free Fax: (844) 531-7818

This address serves **all United States and foreign locations**.

Fraud Prevention and Reporting Resources

- Be cautious of companies claiming to be contacting you on behalf of the VA. Contact VA directly at 1-800-827-1000 if you are unsure about the authenticity of a message you've received.
- No individual or organization may charge you a fee for filing an initial VA claim. Only VA-accredited agents and attorneys may charge a fee to assist you with additional claims or appeals once VA has made a decision on your initial claim.
- Use the Office of General Counsel Accreditation tool to confirm and validate accredited representatives at a Veteran Service Organization, agent, or attorney credentials at www.va.gov/ogc/apps/accreditation/index.asp.
- To report suspected fraudulent activity, please contact VA's Office of Inspector General at <https://www.va.gov/oig/hotline>.

If You Have Questions or Need Assistance

Find a Local, Accredited Representative	https://www.benefits.va.gov/vso Note: Veterans Service Organizations can help you with a claim for benefits, free of charge.
VA Website: PACT Act	www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits
VA Forms Website	www.va.gov/find-forms
Frequently Asked Questions	www.va.gov/resources
Submit a Question: <i>Include your full name and VA file number</i>	https://ask.va.gov
Toll Free Number	1-800-827-1000 Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. ET
TTY, Federal Relay	711
VA Regional Office Location	www.va.gov/find-locations

Veterans Crisis Line Dial 988 then Press 1

You can also send a text message to 838255 to receive confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.
For more information, visit www.veteranscrisisline.net

Thank you for your service to our country.

Sincerely,

Beth Murphy
Executive Director, Compensation Service
Veterans Benefits Administration



RIVERHEAD POST No. 273

89 HUBBARD AVENUE
RIVERHEAD, NEW YORK 11901
May 5, 2023

Mr Roby Johnson, PCC
Nominations Chairman
Suffolk County American Legion

Dear Commander Johnson,

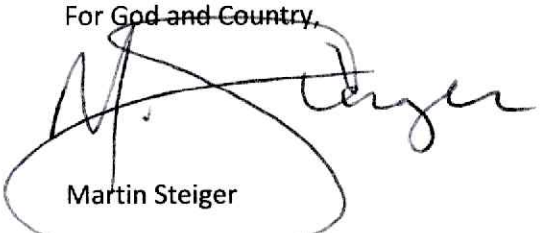
At a regular meeting of Riverhead Post 273 held tonight, the membership voted to endorse the candidacy of Robert A. Robesch, PCC for the high office of Treasurer of the Suffolk County American Legion. Commander Robesch earned his eligibility for the Legion by his service in the U.S. Navy Onboard USS Coral Sea and other stations from December 1966 until November 1972.

He has also served as Post Commander at Williston Post 144 (2000-2002; 2014-2016) and as commander of the Nassau County American Legion (2008-2009). He is currently serving as the 10th District Judge Advocate, Membership coordinator for Districts 2 and 10 and as treasurer/ Adjutant of post 273.

We are confident that Commander Robesch will do an excellent job as Treasurer of the Suffolk County American Legion.

Respectfully submitted.


For God and Country,



Martin Steiger

Commander Post 273

DuWayne



SAVE THE DATE
THE WALL
THAT HEALS
October 5 - October 8
Tanner Park

The Wall That Heals is a three quarter replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC that travels across the country. The exhibit honors more than 3 million Americans who served in the US armed forces in the Vietnam War and bears the name of the 58,281 men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam. The Wall That Heals will be at Tanner Park October 5 - 8. All information will be forthcoming in newsletters, on the Town's webpage and Facebook page. You may access the webpage by visiting www.townofbabylon.com and clicking the Community tab at the top of the page and scrolling over to veterans. Our Facebook page is Town of Babylon - Government.

