

April 1, 2025  
Volume 2, Issue 4

# The Aviator

## American Legion

### James Ely Miller Post 833

51 Juniper Ave

Smithtown, NY 11787

Phone: 631-724-1804

Email: [commander@alpost833ny.org](mailto:commander@alpost833ny.org)

Website: [alpost833ny.org](http://alpost833ny.org)

### US95th Aero Squadron

the "Kicking Mules"



the first fighting aero squadron to the front



#### MEETING:

**Post 833:** 1st Monday of the Month  
7pm Meeting

**SONS:** 3rd Wednesday of the Month  
7pm Meeting

51 Juniper Ave Smithtown, NY 11787

## Welcome

Welcome to *The Aviator*. Please read through as I hope you will find it informative.

April is an important month for James Ely Miller Post 833. April is when the slate for Officer positions is finalized and locked in for the May vote. It is with heavy heart that I announce I will not be seeking the position of Commander. Over the last 3 years we have accomplished many things at Post 833. Through the acquisition of grants, we have replaced the roof, the Hall floor, and the parking lot. This spring we will add a new fence and windows to that list. I am very proud of the work that has been done. Unfortunately, these changes have not come easy. At almost every turn there have been elements at the Post that has fought these changes. This group has conspired to put up road blocks and even sabotage the very work that has been completed at the Post. After three years I no longer have the time nor the energy to fight them any longer. I had hoped that as the Post was revitalized more of the inactive membership would come around and be a counter force. Unfortunately, that did not occur.

The leading nominee for Commander of the Suffolk County American Legion has asked that I become their Adjutant for 2025-2026. Although it is possible to hold both the Post Commander and County Adjutant roles, I have decided that I will only take on one position. I have chosen to be Adjutant.

Too many feel the Post exists to be their private club and to line their pockets. My sincerest hope is that whoever is elected Commander of Post 833, they continue its **REAL** mission: to provide support for Veterans, Active Duty Military, and their families.

Regards,  
Bill Coderre

## Upcoming Events

#### **APR 04: 2nd Annual Thomas Mooney Veterans Breakfast**

Smithtown HS West Library  
100 Central Rd  
Smithtown, NY 11787  
9:00am

See Flyer on Page 9  
(Let me know if you plan to attend)

#### **APR 04: SCAL Monthly Meeting**

Eastport Post 1545  
East Port NY 11941  
7pm: Dinner  
8pm: Meeting

#### **APR 07: Monthly Meeting**

James Ely Miller Post 833  
Smithtown, NY 11787  
6pm: Dinner  
7pm: Meeting

#### **APR 16: SAL Monthly Meeting**

James Ely Miller Post 833  
Smithtown, NY 11787  
7pm: Meeting

#### **APR 18: 2nd Division Monthly Meeting**

Sherwood Brothers Post 1152  
Saint James, NY 11780  
6:30pm: Dinner  
7:00pm: Meeting



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### Post Officers

**Commander: Bill Coderre**

**1st Vice: Don Lettieri**

**2nd Vice: Richie Pandolf**

**3rd Vice: George Garcia**

**Adjutant: Ron Fischer**

**Finance Officer: George Church**

**Chaplain: Anthony Cannella**

**Sgt. at Arms: Lou Forrisi**

**Judge Advocate: Ed Hemp**

**Service Officer: Courtney Nagle**

**Historian: George Church**

**Membership Chair: Al Krauth**

**Compliance: Wayne Crerend**

**Homeland Security: Kevin Eaton**

## Past Events

*"The secret of change is to focus all of you energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new."*



Down the road from the home of Fred Wagner. (now the Byzantine Catholic Church Rectory) The gambrel barn, then belonging to Fred and Annie Wagner at their Sunny Brook Farm, is now the Captain James Ely Miller American Legion Post 833.

The land was once part of Fred's 180-acre Sunny Brook Farm. The land was purchased in 1928 from WWI American aviator Clarence Bernard Maloney who flew with the RAF until injured in France some seven months after Captain Miller was killed in action.

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Katherine Mazaroski, a Junior at Sacred Heart Academy  
Nassau County, New York

## Oratorical Contest Congratulations Katherine Mazaroski of Nassau County

Katherine Mazaroski, a Junior at Sacred Heart Academy in Nassau County, New York, is The American Legion New York State Oratorical Champion for 2025. This year's contest was conducted on March 8 at the Crown Plaza-Desmond Hotel, Albany.

As this year's champion, Katherine Mazaroski wins a \$6,000 scholarship. She competed against four other finalists from a cross section of the state in the 88th Annual American Legion High School Scholarship Program – "A Constitutional Speech Contest" — for the Department of New York. She was sponsored by the Carle Place Post 1718, Nassau County, 10th District, and Zone 2.



Other contestants were:

- Bradley Chen (Kings County, 2nd District, Zone 1), sponsored by Lt. B.R. Kimlau Post 1291, who won a \$4,000 scholarship.
- Lucas Christopher (Monroe County, 7th District, Zone 5), sponsored by Cottrell-Warner Post 942, who won a \$2,500 scholarship.
- Yasmine Issa (Schoharie County, 3rd District, Zone 3), sponsored by Sharon Springs Post 1269, and Nicholas Thomas (Herkimer County, 6th District, Zone 4), sponsored by Hugick-Purcell-Shephard Post 616, both winning a \$2,000 scholarship each.



## Membership

The renewal process for 2025 began July 1, 2024. The Legion Membership year is July 1st to June 31st. Renewal notices are sent out in the beginning of July.

If dues are paid to the local post, it takes a little longer for national to be notified about the renewal and the member may receive another renewal notice. If this occurs, please contact Post 833 to ensure that we have received your dues.

To avoid this, we **STRONGLY** suggest that you renew your membership online. By doing so, your membership will be renewed immediately avoiding any delays in notification to national.

Go to: <https://mylegion.org/PersonifyEbusiness/Membership/Renew>

You will need your Legion ID # and Last Name

Scroll Down (slightly) and you'll see where to enter your info.

### VOAGC Members:

If you have not paid your 2025 dues by January 1, 2025, Your FOB will be deactivated.

### Important Note: 2025 Dues Increase

Due to National and County raising dues, Post 833 dues will increase to \$55 for 2025 (This was voted on at the January meeting)

*"Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices."* Harry S. Truman, April 16, 1945



## MYLEGION

All members are encouraged to register online at [www.mylegion.org](http://www.mylegion.org) Once an account has been established, you will be able to:

- Update your personal information
- Sign up to receive the Digital Dispatch, a monthly e-newsletter sent directly to subscribers' e-mail inboxes that features stories from the print publication. The e-newsletter features headlines with clickable links to the full stories on the [Digital Dispatch website](#).
- Opt-in to receive E-newsletters on important Legion topics.



## 2025 - 2026 Elections

**March Post 833 meeting:** Nomination of candidates for elected positions are presented to the membership.

Nominations will be posted in the office.

**April Meeting:** Nominations for Election of new Officers are finalized.

**May Meeting:** Slate will be voted on by membership (See finalized nomination slate)

(\*Post 833 Member Must Present a Valid/Current 2025 Membership Card to Vote\*)

**June Meeting:** New Officers take their position in office

**\* If interested in running for a position, make sure your name is on the slate by the end of the April meeting. \***



## Building Revitalization

The Roof has been replaced. All work was completed on 11/3/2023. The DASNY reimbursement check was received on 1/2/2024.

The Hall Floor has been replaced as well. There was extensive structural damage due to water and insects over the past 100 plus years. Due to Palermo Flooring, the floor is structurally sound and will last at least another 100 years. All work was completed 3/28/2024.

The parking lot was completed on October 9, 2024. North Shore Paving did a fantastic job. We look forward to many years of, worry free, service.

The Building Revitalization program was initiated so that James Ely Miller Post 833 will continue to be able to honor it's Mission.



## Boys' State June 28—July 3, 2025

American Legion Boys' State is a week-long program that immerses high school youth (currently completing their junior year) in citizenship and leadership training.

Post 833 is looking to Interview and Sponsor up to 3 delegates for Boys' State 2025. If you know any young men, presently in 11th grade (Juniors), let them know about Boys' State.

For more information, please visit the Department of New York Boys State Webpage. [Click Here for the New York Boys State Webpage](#)



### AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE AND NATION AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE

Since 1935, American Legion Boys State has been one of the country's most revered and selective government instruction programs, teaching high school students about the operation of local, county and state governments. Fifty American Legion departments conduct this program, serving more than 17,000 young men each year. The American Legion Auxiliary sponsors a similar program for young women called Girls State.

At American Legion Boys State, young men learn about the rights, privileges, duties and responsibilities of a franchised citizen. Elected and appointed local officials offer participants objective, practical training in city, county and state governance, and activities are conducted such as legislative sessions, court proceedings, law enforcement presentations, assemblies, band, chorus and recreational programs.

American Legion posts select participants to attend their respective Boys State program after receiving recommendations from school officials. Usually posts, local businesses or community organizations pay the cost of attendance.

American Legion Boys State participants go on to achieve success in a variety of fields. Notable alumni include astronaut Neil Armstrong, basketball legend Michael Jordan and national television news journalist Tom Brokaw.



American Legion Auxiliary proudly hosts ALA Girls State, an amazing week of learning focused on responsible citizenship and love for God and country.

Girls State provides high school Juniors across the State the opportunity to create and govern a 51st mythical state. Girls are chosen by the Units after interviewing the candidates.

If you know any young women, presently in 11th grade (Juniors), let them know about Girls' State.

For more information, please visit the Department of New York Girls State Webpage. [Click Here for the New York Girls State Webpage](#)



# The Doctors Corner

## with Hector Sepulveda MD, MA, MPH



Diabetic Neuropathy is nerve damage that occurs from high blood sugar levels for an extended period of time. Even if you have it, you can and should do more (to prevent the worsening of your condition). High sugar levels for prolonged times also cause other complications. Sugar is in everything we eat. Look at the labels and you would be amazed how much of it we get (even if we don't want it).

With diabetics the damage is most often seen in the legs and feet (in its early stages). This is called Peripheral neuropathy. These patients tend to lose feeling in the extremities. Symptoms can range from numbness, and pain to problems with infections. This is why it is highly recommended for diabetics to look at their feet with a mirror to check for sores, ulcers and other abnormalities. Wearing shoes to protect your feet like in your back yard, in the park, or at beaches is extremely important. Small cuts, by anything can go unnoticed until a full blown infection occurs.

Other symptoms with high sugar levels can be seen with the digestive system (problems eating), urinary tract (frequency issues and infections), heart disease, kidney disease and a patient's loss of sexual arousal (to have a healthy productive intimate relationship with their partner). These symptoms fall under what is termed Autonomic neuropathies.

Proximal (or radiculoplexus) neuropathy can present with damage to nerves in the thighs, hip or buttocks. Mononeuropathy present when a specific nerve of the face, body or legs is damaged. This can appear like a stroke (if in the face). See your health care provider anytime you notice any small change from your norm. It is better to be sure than take a chance and not correct what you can early.

Factors that add to the progression dangers of Diabetic neuropathies are: smoking, alcohol, poor blood sugar control (the longer the duration, the worse the condition can become), kidney problems and being overweight. Basic prevention is key and here the most important thing you can do is keep your blood sugar as tightly controlled as possible. Work with a doctor, a diabetic educator, a dietician but get it right and don't give up. This will pay dividends in your health and wellbeing.

In closing, along with blood sugar control take care of your feet! They have carried you all this time show them some love. Check your feet for blisters, cuts, bruising and peeling. Keep them clean at all times and wear clean dry socks. And always wear well-fitting shoes with cushion soles. Coordinate with your doctors and take your medicine as prescribed. This may sound simple but it will help you if done right.

Always remember you matter! and your Post 833 family is here for you! Always wishing you safety and the best in health. God bless you and thank you for your service to our great country.

American Legion Post 833: Together making a difference.



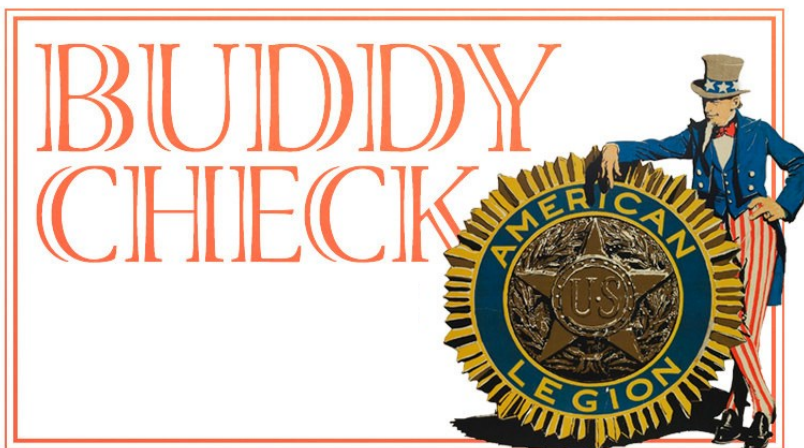
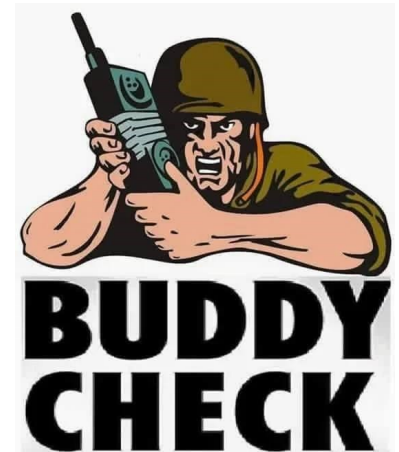


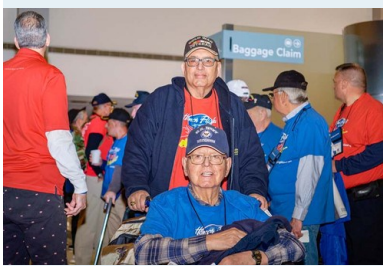
As Legionnaires we look out for each other and our fellow veterans. We can do this by conducting “Buddy Checks.” By simply reaching out, you can provide assistance and resources for a veteran in need. We are in an ideal position to fill the critical gap between separation from military service and resources or treatment from the VA. Veterans may find it difficult after transition, and coping with posttraumatic stress, traumatic brain injury and other social, economic, mental or physical stressors. It is at this time that a veteran may be vulnerable to depression, suicide or other self-harm. A “Buddy Check” is one way we may provide assistance. Sometimes just saying hello makes all the difference.

If you know of anyone in need, let the Post know so that we can lend a hand.



Laura Kuramoto saying hello to fellow Post 833 member George Hohenstein. George is at the VA Home in Stony Brook Room B317. If you're in the area, stop in and say hello. He loves Good & Plenty. :-)





## Honor Flight - Long Island

On May 29, 2004, President Bush dedicated the World War II Memorial to honor "The Greatest Generation," 59 years after the end of WWII. One year later, the Honor Flight Program was inaugurated.

Earl Morse and Jeff Miller, co-founders of Honor Flight, realized that many World War II veterans would never have the opportunity to visit the memorial that was erected in their honor.

It is the intention of Honor Flight Long Island to honor as many of our fellow Long Islanders, who helped to preserve our freedom, as we can by providing them a free trip to visit their memorial. Along with WWII, we are now taking Korean War, Vietnam War and other conflict veterans to Washington D.C.

Please see the website for Veteran and Guardian Applications under [Apply to Fly](#)

Website: <https://www.honorflightlongisland.org/>

**Next Flight: Saturday, May 3, 2025**

Join us in welcoming all of the Veterans and Guardians from this Honor Flight Home.

October 5th Flight Info: <https://www.honorflightlongisland.org/events-1/spring-flight-saturday-may-3-2025>



## WALK-A-THON NYS



Sponsored by  
Sons of the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary

"THEY MARCHED FOR US.....  
LETS WALK FOR THEM"

A program operated in partnership for 18 years by the Sons of The American Legion and The American Legion Auxiliary

**Date: 2025 Starting Soon**

**GOAL: \$65,000**

**PROCEEDS:** Awarded equally to support the following:

**SAL: NYS VA Medical Center Homeless Programs & NYS Veterans Homes**

**ALA: Hope For The Warriors:**

Hope For The Warriors has advocated restoring a foundation of Stability, Strength, and Community for military families since 2006.

# CONGRATULATIONS!!!

**SAL Squadron 833 raised  
\$4600**

**Thank You to ALL  
Who Participated**



American Legion

James Ely Miller Post 833



## Suffolk County American Legion

### NEWS YOU CAN USE

[Click](#) below for the latest news and [UPCOMING EVENTS](#) from the Suffolk County American Legion



THE AMERICAN LEGION  
VETERANS • DEFENSE • AMERICANISM • YOUTH

Suffolk County American Legion

"News You Can Use"



American Legion

James Ely Miller Post 833

51 Juniper Ave  
Smithtown, NY 11787

Phone: 631-724-1804  
E-mail: [commander@alpost833ny.org](mailto:commander@alpost833ny.org)  
Website: [alpost833ny.org](http://alpost833ny.org)





SMITHTOWN WEST RHO KAPPA  
INVITES YOU TO



THE SECOND ANNUAL  
**THOMAS MOONEY  
VETERANS**  
*Breakfast*



Featuring breakfast food and  
beverages as a thank you for your  
service.



FRIDAY  
**4 APRIL 2025**  
9:00 AM



Located at the Smithtown  
High School West Library




# The 11th New York Regiment Honor Guard

is looking for Volunteers


If interested, see below for more information

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**11th  
NEW YORK  
REGIMENT**

United States  
Volunteers-America



**Honor Guard  
Program**

www.11thnyusv.org  
Instagram: 11nyrgt\_usv

Honoring  
Those Who Served

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**Who We Are**

The 11th NY Regiment USV-A, is designated as an Authorized Provider - Level III of Military Funeral Honors by the U.S. Department of Defense, through the 99th Reserve Support Command, Fort Dix, New Jersey.

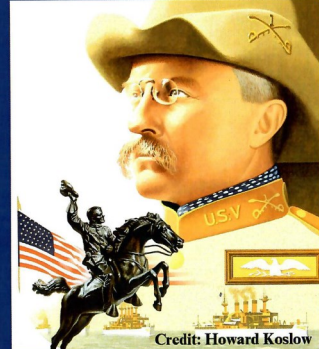


**Our Mission**

The 11th NY Regiment USV-A serves to assist all veteran's families in the rendering of Military Funeral Honors *at no cost*. Throughout the New York Metropolitan area and Long Island, we provide firing parties and a bugler for the sounding of Taps. We are ready to assist in flag folding and presentation when called upon. We assist Military Honor Guards, from all branches of service, at both private cemeteries and the area's National Cemeteries. Our Color Guard teams represent the USV-A and help support the presentations of area American Legion and Veterans of Foreign War Posts, as well as other Veterans Administration and organization's ceremonies across our region.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**Our Proud History**



Credit: Howard Koslow


The 1st United States Volunteer Cavalry was one of three voluntary regiments raised during the Spanish American War. The regiment was commanded by Colonel Leonard Wood and was called "Wood's Weary Walkers", since despite being a cavalry unit, they fought on foot as infantry.

Theodore Roosevelt was Wood's second in command. When Colonel Wood became commander of the 2nd Cavalry Brigade, "Wood's Weary Walkers" became known as "Roosevelt's Rough Riders."

United States Volunteers-America claims its heritage from Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders, the last volunteer cavalry unit to serve in the United States military. The Rough Riders were officially called the "United States Volunteers" and wore USV as their collar insignia.

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While the services provided by the 11th NY Regiment USV-A are completely without charge, some of these services can be costly. As a 501(c)(19) tax exempt organization, any contribution is tax deductible and makes a significant impact for us. For additional information on how you can show your support, please visit us at [www.11thnyusv.org](http://www.11thnyusv.org). We are eternally grateful.



11th NY Regiment USV-A Facts:

- Founded in December 2005
- Veterans Service Organization
- Authorized to render Military Funeral Honors by the Department of Defense
- Completed over 2500 Military Funeral Honors and ceremonial missions

"...on behalf of the President of the United States, the United States Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, and a grateful nation, please accept this flag as a symbol of our appreciation for your loved one's honorable and faithful service"


★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**Requesting Honors**

Requests for Military Funeral Honors must be arranged through the appropriate branch of service, either by contacting the respective Military Honor Guard office or through a Funeral Director.

Below is a list of the information needed when requesting the services of the 11th NY Regiment. *We stand ready to serve you.*

- Name & phone number of the person making the request
- Name, rank, and branch of service of the deceased
- Date, time and place of interment
- Name & phone number of the attending funeral home



Contact information for Military Honor Guard office serving the New York Metropolitan area:  
[www.11thnyusv.org](http://www.11thnyusv.org)  
(516) 531-3436

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**Join Our Mission Today**

We are looking for motivated, talented and dedicated people to help with this important mission.

All veterans honorably discharged and patriotic individuals over the age of 18 may apply for membership.



Our members are volunteers and are responsible for all of their own expenses, including the purchase of their equipment and providing their own transportation to and from services.

During our monthly scheduled drills, training is provided in the areas of ceremonial rifle drill, flag folding and presentation, Color Guard and Standard Operating Procedures for Military Funeral Honors.

Please contact us to find out how you can join our team and help us serve our nation's veterans.







"The Music You Remember & The Respect You Earned"

**VietnamVetRadio.org**

Bennie and Delight Blount, US Army Retired

# **New York State Commemorative Medals for Korean War and Vietnam War Veterans**

You can apply online at <https://dmna.ny.gov/awards> or fill out the paper application, which is attached below.

## **Eligibility requirements:**

**Korean War Veterans:** Service members who served in one of the following locations between June 27, 1950 and January 31, 1955:

- Korean Peninsula
- its contiguous waters
- Korean airspace

**Vietnam Veterans:** Service members who served in one of the following locations between November 1, 1955 and May 17, 1975:

- Vietnam
- Thailand
- Laos
- Cambodia
- its contiguous waters
- Vietnam airspace

If you have any questions regarding this application process, please contact the NYS Military Awards Office at 518-786-0468.



<https://dmna.ny.gov/awards/>

**NEW YORK STATE  
KOREAN WAR  
COMMEMORATIVE  
MEDAL**

<https://dmna.ny.gov/awards/korea.html>



**NEW YORK STATE  
VIETNAM WAR  
COMMEMORATIVE  
MEDAL**

<https://dmna.ny.gov/awards/vietnam.html>



**NEW YORK STATE  
SILVER ROSE VETERANS  
SERVICE CERTIFICATE**

<https://dmna.ny.gov/awards/>





## SECTION I PERSONAL DATA

\*Privacy Act and NY State Personal Privacy Protection Law information. See DMNA Reg 672-1 for details



# CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

JONATHAN DOE

In recognition of your service during the period of the Cold War,  
2 September 1945 – 26 December 1991, in protecting peace and  
stability for this nation, the people of the state of New York are forever grateful.

10 April 2024

Headquarters, New York Army  
National Guard  
Latham, NY 12110

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ray Shields", is positioned above a horizontal line.

RAYMOND F. SHIELDS, JR.  
MAJOR GENERAL, NY ARNG  
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

# New York State Cold War Certificate

## To whom awarded:

The Cold War Certificate may be awarded to any current New York State citizen or a person who was a New York State citizen while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States during the Cold War period, 2 September 1945 to 26 December 1991, whose entire service was honorable.

## Standards:

This certificate may be awarded only to those persons whose discharge certificate indicates service under the conditions of "honorable" (Honorable Discharge) or "under honorable conditions" (General Discharge under Honorable Conditions).

This certificate may be awarded posthumously to a designated survivor of the deceased. Not more than one certificate shall be awarded to any one person. This is a one-time issue.

## How awarded:

**Applications** for the New York State Cold War Certificate will be made using [DMNA Form 105](#).

**Posthumous applications** will be submitted using the same mechanisms, using [DMNA Form 105-1](#).

**You will need to use Adobe Reader (or Adobe Acrobat) to view the applications above.**

Adobe Reader can be downloaded for free from <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>

**Applications may be submitted By Mail to:** Division of Military and Naval Affairs,  
ATTN: MNGA-AWD,  
330 Old Niskayuna Road  
Latham, NY 12110

**or electronically by Email to:** [ng.ny.nyarnng.list.cold-war@army.mil](mailto:ng.ny.nyarnng.list.cold-war@army.mil)

**For security reasons, email attachments must be in 'PDF', 'JPG' or 'GIF' format.**  
Attachments in any other format are blocked by the email system.

All requests will be sent to the New York Division of Military and Naval Affairs with supporting documents attached/enclosed to validate service during the Cold War period.

Documentation will include a copy of the recipient's Report of Separation (i.e., WD AGO Form 53-55, DD Form 214, or NGB Form 22, etc.). Documentation must include a discharge certificate indicating the character of service as "honorable" (Honorable Discharge) or "under honorable conditions" (General Discharge under Honorable Conditions). Ensure documentation submitted clearly indicates New York State residency while on duty in the Armed Forces during the applicable dates.

**Do not send original proof of military service documents.** Please ensure only the last 4 digits of the Social Security number are visible. It is also recommended the Date of Birth be crossed off.

If you do not have, in your possession, the required documentation necessary for eligibility or require confirmation of your federal service, you may request a copy of your service record by writing to:

National Personnel Records Center,  
Veterans Special Actions Division,  
9700 Page Boulevard,  
St. Louis, MO 63132.



# Application for New York State Cold War Recognition Certificate

## Privacy Notice

Authority: Military Law, section 247.

Principal Purpose: To secure sufficient information from an applicant or a requester to determine eligibility and to process requests for the Cold War Recognition Certificate.

Routine Uses: Information is used for official purposes within the Division of Military and Naval Affairs; specifically, to process requests for Cold War Certificates. This information may be used in accordance with established uses for the Division of Military and Naval Affairs.

Disclosure: Disclosure of the last four (4) digits of the Social Security Number and other personal information is voluntary. However, failure to provide complete information may hinder proper identification of the requester, and may prevent the agency from determining eligibility of the requester for the Cold War Certificate.

**Instructions:** Fill out this application and mail with **supporting documentation** to the Division of Military and Naval Affairs, ATTN: MNGA-AWD, with your proof of military service. Acceptable supporting documents include any official government or military document that contains the recipient's name, address indicating New York State residency, last four numerals of the recipient's Social Security Number, and dates of service showing at least one day of service during the Cold War era (September 2, 1945 to December 26, 1991). Examples of acceptable supporting documentation include DD Form 214, WD AGO 53-55, and NGB Form 22. **DO NOT SEND ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS.**

You must certify your honorable service by signing and dating the application and returning it with a copy of supporting document(s) to:

### **First Class Mail:**

Division of Military and Naval Affairs  
ATTN: MNGA-AWD  
330 Old Niskayuna Road  
Latham, New York 12110-3514

### **Electronic Mail (Email):**

[ng.ny.nyarng.list.cold-war@army.mil](mailto:ng.ny.nyarng.list.cold-war@army.mil)

**Applicant's Name (First, MI, Last):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Last Four (4) Numerals of Recipient's Social Security Number:** XXX-XX-\_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Daytime Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Email Address (if applicable):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Email Address (if applicable):** \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail my Cold War certificate. ☐

Please Email my Cold War certificate. ☐

By submission of this form and supporting documentation, I confirm my faithful and honorable service to the state of New York and the nation during the Cold War Era. Please enter initials in box and enter date below if submitting electronically:

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

You may print and sign and scan this application and email it to [ng.ny.nyarng.list.cold-war@army.mil](mailto:ng.ny.nyarng.list.cold-war@army.mil) with the supporting documents.

# Lifetime Liberty Pass



Starting April 1, 2024, New York veterans and Gold Star families will be granted free access to state parks, campgrounds, historic sites and recreational day areas throughout the state, thanks to an expansion of the Lifetime Liberty Pass Program, the governor's office announced.



This program will now give the following benefits:

- Free vehicle parking at New York State Parks and DEC-operated campgrounds, day use areas, boat launch sites, historic sites, arboretums, and park preserves
- No greens fees at State Park-operated golf courses
- No swimming pool entrance fees at State Park-operated pools
- Discounted campsite and cabin rentals at State Park and DEC-operated campgrounds

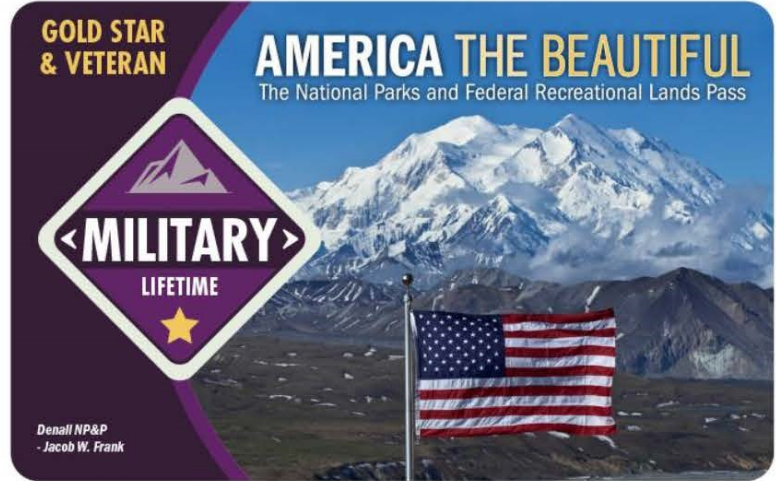
Gold Star Family Members will receive the program's benefits when they present a Lifetime Liberty Pass card to employees at staffed parks. Lifetime Liberty Pass applications will be available on the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historical Preservation's website starting on April 1. **Veterans who have a veteran status designation on their New York State DMV ID can present their ID to employees and don't need to apply for a card.**

More information about the Lifetime Liberty Pass Program can be found at <https://parks.ny.gov/admission/lifetime-liberty-pass.aspx>

# LIFETIME VETERANS PASS

The lifetime pass covers entrance fees for a driver and all passengers in a personal vehicle (or passholder and up to three adults at sites that charge per person) at national parks and national wildlife refuges, as well as standard amenity fees at national forests and grasslands, and at lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Veterans can present one of the four forms of acceptable ID (Department of Defense ID Card, Veteran Health ID (VHIC), Veteran ID Card, or veteran's designation on a state-issued US driver's license or ID card) at [participating federal recreation areas](#) that normally charge an entrance fee. Gold Star Families obtain information, self-certify they qualify and download a voucher on NPS.gov.



The new lifetime pass for Gold Star Families and Military Veterans provides free entrance to national parks and other federal recreation areas.

## To obtain a Lifetime Pass:

### 1. In Person: Visit a Federal Recreation Area

Fire Island National Seashore SHIRLEY, NY  
Phone: (631) 281-3010  
Passes Available: Access Pass, Military Pass

Long Island NWR Complex SHIRLEY, NY  
Phone: (631) 286-0485

Wertheim NWR SHIRLEY, NY  
Phone: (631) 286-0485

Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt NHS HYDE PARK, NY  
Phone: (845) 229-9115

Sagamore Hill National Historic Site OYSTER BAY, NY  
Phone: (516) 922-4788

### 2. Online <https://store.usgs.gov/MilitaryPass>

Click: Determine Military Pass Eligibility

Click: I am a Veteran (In new window)

Click: Add to cart

(There will be a \$10 service fee)



# Calverton National Cemetery Support Committee

**Gallery - Calverton Support Committee**

**<https://calvertonsupport.com/gallery/>**

**www. [calvertonsupport.com](http://calvertonsupport.com)**

*Support Committee for Calverton National Cemetery, Inc.*

*Non-Profit 501(c)3*

*P.O Box 893 Riverhead, New York 11901*

*www.calvertonsupport.com*

*NCA's online Veterans Legacy Memorial (VLM) honors millions of Veterans with lasting tributes. You may write a tribute, share a memory or post a photo of a loved one on VLM at [www. vlm.cem.va.gov](http://www.vlm.cem.va.gov).*



# **JOSEPH DWYER VETERANS PEER SUPPORT PROJECT**

## **IN PERSON GROUPS:**

**Liberty Village – 600 Albany Avenue, N. Amityville**  
Every Monday: 6–7 pm

**Liberty Landing – 58 Portion Road, Lake Ronkonkoma**  
Every Wednesday: 4–5 pm

**United Methodist Church – 158 W Montauk Hwy,  
Hampton Bays** Every 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday: 4 – 5 pm

**Sag Harbor – 3330 Noyac Road Building D Sag Harbor**  
Every 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday 5 – 6pm

**Senior Veteran Group: Rose Caracappa Senior Center  
– 739 Route 25A, Mt Sinai** \*Open to Veterans 60 & up  
Every 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday: 10–11 am

**American Legion Monthly Community Breakfast – Post  
269 215 South Ocean Ave. Patchogue**  
Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday: 10 – 11am \*Open to all

## **WOMEN VETERANS ZOOM GROUPS:**

**Women's Main Group –**  
**MEETING ID: 932 2123 8672**  
Every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday: 11:30am–1:30pm

**New Moms Group – MEETING ID: 857 3879 4618**  
Every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday: 11:30am–12:30pm

**MST Group – MEETING ID: 886 6132 0754**  
Every Tuesday: 6–7 pm

## **LIKE US ON FACEBOOK:**

**JOSEPH P. DWYER VETERANS PEER SUPPORT  
PROJECT**



**DWYER GROUPS  
ARE OPEN TO ALL  
VETERANS AND  
SERVICE  
MEMBERS.**

**GROUPS ARE  
ANONYMOUS,  
CONFIDENTIAL,  
AND FREE.**

**REGISTRATION  
AND PROOF OF  
SERVICE ARE NOT  
REQUIRED**

**For more  
information:  
(631) 853-8345**



# In The News

Articles sent in by members

## VA Expands Burial Benefits

AIR FORCE PHOTO



Gravestones are shown on Aug. 30, 2023, at the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, Ill. VA reported that the department delivered more than 84,000 burial benefits during the 2022 fiscal year.

## VA Expands Burial Benefits for Veterans

VA in October raised the burial and plot allowances for veterans who died in nonservice-related incidents.

The department also asks veterans and families to plan ahead for VA's "end-of-life benefits."

BY DAVE SPIVA

**T**he VA last year announced new burial allowance rates for veterans who have died in nonservice-related incidents since October.

VA announced several updates to burial benefits aimed at providing support to veterans and their families. These updates, according to VA, reflect the department's commitment to honoring U.S. veterans around the world.

### TRANSPORTATION EXPENSES

In the past, VA covered costs for transporting remains to eligible national cemeteries. Now, this benefit has been extended to include transportation expenses to state and tribal veteran cemeteries.

"[For service-related deaths], VA will pay up to \$2,000 toward burial expenses for deaths on or after Sept. 11, 2001, or up to \$1,500 for deaths prior to Sept. 11, 2001," according to VA. "If the veteran is buried in a VA national cemetery, some or all of the cost of transporting the deceased may be reimbursed."

For nonservice-related deaths, VA will pay a \$948 burial allowance and \$948 for a plot if the veteran died on or after Oct. 1, 2023. If the veteran died between Jan. 5, 2023, and Oct. 1, 2023, VA would pay an \$893 burial allowance and \$893 for a plot. Learn more about allowance rates at <https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/veterans-burial-allowance>.

### PLAN 'END-OF-LIFE BENEFITS' NOW

VA Under Secretary for Benefits Joshua Jacobs noted in a VA press release that in fiscal year 2022, VA delivered more than 84,000 burial benefits to families.

"Expanding burial benefits means we are able to ensure veterans are honored in their final resting place and assist their family, caregivers and survivors during the difficult time of their loved one's passing," Jacobs said.


VA's national cemeteries provide benefits for traditional casket or cremation burials. For eligible veterans and family members, VA national cemetery

burial benefits include:

- Opening and closing of the gravesite
- Inscribed headstones or markers
- Burial flag
- Award of the Presidential Memorial Certificate
- Perpetual care of the gravesite

For those being placed in private cemeteries, benefits only include:

- Headstones, markers or medallions for the gravesite
- Burial flag
- Presidential Memorial Certificate

VA also may provide burial allowances to assist with a family member's burial and funeral costs for those eligible. VA encourages veterans to consider their "end-of-life benefits" provided by the department. To learn more, visit <https://www.va.gov/plan-ahead>. More information about VA burial benefits can be found at <https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials>. 

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