

“God Bless our Servicemen and Women and America.”



The Bugle



NEWSLETTER OF MERRICK POST NO. 1282
AMERICAN LEGION

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Editor: Richard M. Ambrosino

Website: merrickpost1282.org

Email: amlegionpost1282@gmail.com

Commander's Corner



Historian Eugene Lowenberg died on April 30, 2022. He was buried on May 3, 2022, with Military Honors and an American Legion Service.

The second quarter of 2022 found Merrick Post 1282 returning to a level of activity similar to pre-COVID times. Since the end of my third year as Post Commander was approaching, I was expecting to join the ranks as a PAST Commander. At our April 12, 2022, meeting the membership surprised me with the honor of being Post Legionnaire of the Year and presented me with a beautiful plaque. In reality, ALL of our ACTIVE members deserve this award because each one makes the Commander's job easier by doing their job and helping our Post be the best one possible. Nominations for our Post Officers for the 2022-2023 year were also held at our April 12, 2022, meeting but no one stepped forward to become Commander. Our entire slate of officers stayed the same. Unfortunately our Post

On Saturday, April 30, 2022, our Post participated in the Merrick Chamber Of Commerce's Spring Kid's Fest. Harry Gribbin, Joe and Rick Ambrosino, Larry Levy and I arrived at 6:00 AM to get a space and set up our canopy, tables and chairs. Ed Moore and Larry Falcicchio joined us a little later and helped to hand out American flags and "pie plate flag kits" to the children. Ed Moore (our new Post Historian) and his family spent about 10 days painting the pie plates, cutting them in half, and punching a small hole in each half. Also for each half they had to cut 5 stars out of card stock and place them in a tiny zip lock bag; cut 3 red and 2 white 10 inch crepe paper streamers and a piece of string; then place all of it in a paper lunch bag for each of the 500 kits that they assembled. These "flag kits" were a big hit when we gave them to the children during Kids Fest and also on May 14, 15, 21, 22 28 and 29 of 2022, during our fund raising for veterans in need at the MERRICK GAS & REPAIR BP gas station in North Merrick. We still have a few that we will give out during the Merrick Chamber of Commerce's Fall Festival on October 22nd and 23rd of 2022. Our "new" Nassau County First Division Commander, Dawn Samuel, put together a fantastic display board that we used at Kids Fest showing Merrick Post's activities divided into 3 categories: Ceremony, Community, and Family. Take a look at it at our next meeting.

(Commander's Corner continued on page 11)

MERRICK POST NO. 1282
AMERICAN LEGION
160 WEST MERRICK ROAD
MERRICK, NY 11566
516-521-6989

2022-2023
American Legion Merrick Post 1282 Officers

Commander	Robert E. Dishman	516-378-2939
First Vice Commander	Richard A. Mecabe Jr.	917-499-6626
Second Vice Commander	Frank D. Pedagno	516-771-4294
Third Vice Commander	Lawrence Levy	
Adjutant	Harold K. Gribbin	
Treasurer	Michael S. Elliott	
Chaplain	James W. O'Neill, PC	516-623-6735
Sergeant at Arms	Joseph T. Ambrosino	
Judge Advocate	Kenneth J. Braun, PC	
Historian	Edward Moore	
Service Officer	John R. Weber	516-426-3682
Trustee	Richard A. Mecabe Jr.	
Trustee	James W. O'Neill, PC	
Trustee	Kenneth J. Braun, PC	
Trustee	Joseph T. Ambrosino	
Trustee	Lawrence Levy	

Post Legionnaire of the Year for 2022



On Tuesday, April 12, 2022, at our Post meeting, Commander Robert E. Dishman received the Post Legionnaire of the Year award for 2022 for his outstanding work for the Merrick Post No. 1282, American Legion. In the Picture from left to right, Commander Bob Dishman and Past Post Commander and present Chaplain Jim O'Neill, congratulations Bob.

Post Members at the Kids Fest 2022



On Saturday, April 30, 2022, our Post participated in the Kids Fest sponsored by the Merrick Chamber of Commerce. Post members gave out America Flags at this event and Post member Ed Moore and his family put together packets for the construction of half-plate American Flags for the children at the Kids Fest to construct at our booth setup or to take home and construct it. Thank you to the patrons at this event for your donations to help veteran causes.

A family at the Kids Fest making Half-Plate America Flags

Installation of Post Officers 2022 -2023



On Monday, May 10, 2022, the Post conducted its installation of Officers for the 2022-2023 American Legion Fiscal Year. In the picture from left to right, post members: Second vice Commander Frank D. Padagno, Sergeant At Arms Joseph T. Ambrosino, Historian Ed Moore, Post Advocate Kenneth J. Braun (PC) (back), Third vice Commander Lawrence Levy, Post Commander Robert E. Dishman, Service Officer John R. Weber, Post Chaplain James W. O'Neill (PC), Post Adjutant Harold K. Gribbin and Post Treasurer Michael S. Elliot.

Note: First vice Commander Richard A. Mecabe Jr. was not present, due to illness

Post members serve as Color Guard at Merrick Chamber of Commerce Installation Dinner



On Thursday, May 5, 2022, four Post members served as Color Guard at the Merrick Chamber of Commerce Installation dinner. In the picture, from left to right, post members: Frank Padagno, Jim O'Neill (PC), Ken Braun (PC) and Harry Gribbin.

Post members at the North Merrick Field of Flags



Group picture at the North Merrick Field of Flags event at the Harold D. Fayette Elementary School, the picture above includes local area political officials, American Legion Merrick Post #1282 members, Superintendent of schools Dr. Cynthia Seniuik and members of the Harold D. Fayette Student Council. This event took place on, Thursday, May 12, 2022

On Thursday, May 12, 2022, at 3:30 p.m. Four post members attended the Harold D. Fayette Elementary School's North Merrick Field of Flags Ceremony. The master of Ceremonies was Superintendent of Schools Dr. Cynthia Seniuik. The music was provided by Andrew Brunson and the District Marching Band. The Harold D. Fayette Student Council spoke at this event and dedicated a 9-11 Memorial Flag during this ceremony. Many local politicians were in attendance. The post members who attended this event were Bob Dishman, Jim O'Neill (PC), Frank Pedagno and Joe Ambrosino. All proceeds from this year's Field of Flags event will be donated to the Wounded Warrior Project.

B P Service Station Promotion to help Veterans



During three weeks in May of 2022 (the 14th & 15th, 21st & 22nd and 28th & 29th), Post members gave out American Flags, Post Pens and kits to kids for the construction of Half Plate American Flags. Donations for veterans were voluntary for the patrons who got gas at the B P service station, and these patrons were very generous in their donations. We thank these patrons for their generosity. In the picture above, from left to right are Post members: Frank Pedagno, Ed Moore, Joe Ambrosino, Bob Dishman, Larry Falcicchio, Ken Braun (PC) and Jim O'Neill (PC). This picture was taken on Saturday, May 14, 2022.

Cold War Veteran Dedication



On May 27, 2022, the Museum of American Armor (1303 Round Swamp Road, Old Bethpage, NY 11804) honored Cold War Veterans for their service to our country. Veterans attending from our Post were Joseph T. Ambrosino and John F. Murphy (PC). In the picture, from left to right, Post members: Joe Ambrosino and John Murphy (PC).

Americanism Awards 2022

The Merrick Post No. 1282, American Legion, presented Americanism Awards to 11 local school children. Each student received a certificate and a medal for their accomplishments.

Those recognized were:

Sophia Bagdasarov	Birch School
Sophia Maria Maganuco	Camp Ave Elementary School
Matthew Pucella	Chatterton School
Julia D'Elia	Grace Christian Academy
Jordyn Reid	Harold D. Fayette School
Alexandra Waldman	Levy Lakeside School
Kaydence Haver	Merrick Ave. Middle School
Cole Zinman	
Alison Pierce	Old Mill Rd. School
Gabriella Garcia	St. Elizabeth Ann Seaton School
Colleen McGrath	Sanford H Calhoun School



On Tuesday, May, 25, 2022, Post Chaplain Jim O'Neill (PC), Post Judge Advocate Kenneth J. Braun (PC) and Third vice Commander Larry Levy attended the Awards Night at Calhoun High School and presented the American Legion award to Colleen McGrath. This award consists of a Medal, a Certificate, and a scholarship check for \$500 and an inscription on the permanent Americanism plaque housed at Calhoun High School.

Frank D. Pedagno, Americanism Chairman

Chaplain Report

Post Historian Eugene E. Lowenberg has reported to Post Everlasting.

James W. O'Neill (PC), Post Chaplain

Merrick's Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony 2022



On May 29, 2022, volunteers, Boy Scout Troop #351 members and other Boy Scout Troop members helped set up barricades at the beginning of the Memorial Day Parade route which was by Merrick Avenue and Broadcast Plaza and by the end of the parade, which was at the Merrick's Veteran Memorial Park. Thank you all your hard work in setting up and breaking down the barricades for this event. In this picture we have volunteers, the boy scouts and Commander Bob Dishman at the Merrick's Veteran Memorial Park.



In this picture we have members of the North Merrick Fire Department color guard marching down Broadcast Plaza in the beginning of the Merrick's Memorial Day parade on May 30, 2022, followed by the Calhoun High School Wind Ensemble Band.

Merrick's Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony 2022 (continued)



From left to right, Post members: Bob Dishman, Jim O'Neill, ((PC) podium), Ed Moore and Frank Padagno on the show-mobile at the Merrick's Memorial Day Ceremony on May 30, 2022.



Group picture of Post members at the Merrick's Memorial Day Ceremony with community activist David Denenberg



On the left, Post member John Murphy ((PC) center) with daughters Pat Cancela (left) and Dianne Cancro (right) at the Merrick's Memorial Day Ceremony.

On the right, Post member Al Garbarino (left) with wife Roseanne Garbarino (right) by the wreaths at the Merrick's Veteran Memorial Park on the Merrick's Memorial Day Ceremony.



Memorial Day Speech by Chaplain Jim O'Neill (PC)

Before we start of Memorial Day Service and Ceremony this morning, there is something everyone should know:

We, meaning The American Legion Merrick Post #1282 have hosted our Memorial Day Parade for many years. Two years ago we decided, reluctantly, to give the parade up and let other organizations take over mainly because most, of our members were physically not up to this strenuous task any longer. Unfortunately, no organizations came forward and because of this that year and a year of Covid silenced our parade, however one of our Post staff, Rick Ambrosino, who is our Post technician as well as, a member of the Sons of the American Legion informed us the parade should be reinstated because it would not be right for our deceased Veterans and the Community to be denied this valuable expression of our Patriotism.

He decided to take charge of the Parade himself, which is a monumental task. Then unexpectedly, he fell ill. He had a rare form of cancer of the back and spine. He was lucky enough to find a surgeon, who was only one of a handful of doctors in the U.S., who could do this operation. His chances were slim and every member of the Post was very worried about his chances of recovery. Somehow, somehow the operation was a success. The doctor said this recovery would be slow but he was going to make it.

Rick promised he would run the Parade and By God he did it, as you can see here today. He, while recuperating had to send out hundreds of invitations, obtain multiple permits, make plans for the coordination and organization of the Parade, and found outside volunteers such as the boy scouts to assist him. I honestly think it was a miracle that he singularly handled putting everything together. The members of the Post as well as the entire community should thank and recognize Rick Ambrosino for doing the impossible given his physical condition. Rick would you please stand up and be, given a well, deserved round of applause for all your challenging work. Thanks Rick.

2022-2023

American Legion Auxiliary Merrick Unit 1282 Officers

President	Laura LaHood
First Vice President	Kathleen Stuck
Second Vice President	Patricia Tropea
Historian	Kathleen Stuck
Recording Secretary	Palma Fasano
Corresponding Secretary	Palma Fasano
Treasurer and Membership	Sharon Williams
Chaplain	Betty Tucker
Sergeant At Arms	Roseanne Garbarino
Executive Board	Florence Hoffman, PP
	Betty Tucker
	Toni Uberti

The recipient of the 2022 Philip L. Williams Memorial Scholarship is Blake Peyser from John F. Kennedy High School

Auxiliary Poppy Promotion 2022



On Saturday, May 21, 2022, American Legion Auxiliary, Merrick Unit 1282, Susan Kirby (left) and Joan DeGasperi (right) gave out Poppies to the Patrons at the Dunkin Donuts on Merrick Avenue, New York, for donations for Veteran Causes. Other Auxiliary members were doing the same thing at various places in the town of Merrick on that day.

Upcoming Birthdays

July Birthdays

Thomas Garvey	July 2, 2022
Richard Murphy	July 2, 2022
Edward Rajecki	July 7, 2022
Lawrence Levy	July 8, 2022
Robert Ryan	July 8, 2022
James O'Neill, PC	July 13, 2022
Francis Schilt	July 23, 2022
Edward Moore	July 28, 2022

August Birthdays

William O'Brien	August 9, 2022
Richard Francis	August 14, 2022
Oreste Tropea	August 17, 2022

September Birthdays

Michael Elliot	September 6, 2022
Frank Pedagno	September 10, 2022
Barbara Byrne	September 21, 2022
Angelo Anatra	September 30, 2022

If your birthday is in one of these months and it is not listed above, please, call Commander Bob Dishman at 516 378-2939, as your records are incomplete.

Commander's Corner (continued)

On May 5, 2022, our Post provided a color guard consisting of Ken Braun (PC), Jim O'Neill (PC), Second vice Commander Frank Pedagno and Adjutant Harry Gribbin, for Merrick Chamber of Commerce's "Man and Woman of the Year" / Installation dinner. On May 12, 2022, our Post attended the North Merrick Elementary School District's "Field of Flags" where our Post Chaplain Jim O'Neill (PC) gave a speech about the importance of honoring and respecting the American Flag. The evening of May 25, 2022, presented us with a "double header". First, Frank Pedagno and Harry Gribbin attended a Nassau County American Legion Boys State meeting with the two boys who we sponsored and their parents. Second, Ken Braun (PC) attended Calhoun High School's award ceremony where he presented Merrick Post 1282's scholarship award. Third vice Commander Larry Levy and Past Commander Jim O'Neill also attended the awards ceremony with Ken.

The return of our Merricks' Memorial Day Parade was a big hit. Our local veteran posts led the parade. First was American Legion Merrick Post 1282, followed by American Legion Merrick Auxiliary Unit 1282, followed by Freeport-Merrick VFW Post 1310 which included their Commander Bill Seidenstein and his World War II jeep. The Merrick Kiwanis Club and Chamber of Commerce gave out American Flags to the spectators along Merrick Avenue. Our administrative assistant, Rick Ambrosino did an excellent job of planning the parade and ceremony, which was noted by Past Commander Jim O'Neill. Several days before the parade Island Greenery rejuvenated Merrick's Veterans Park by replacing the weeds with sod, planting flowers and rebuilding the retaining wall of the flower bed that was destroyed by a car accident.

On June 4, 2022, Merrick Post 1282 had its full representation and votes at the 2022 Nassau County American Legion Convention, where we voted for the Nassau County American Legion Officers. The County Installation was held at Leonard's of Great Neck on Sunday, June 5, 2022, where our own Service Officer, John Weber provided the live music.

I must thank ALL our members, both active and inactive for their continued membership in our Post. We have lost members through deaths and relocations and presently have 99 members who are current with their dues. First vice Commander, Richard Mecabe, went door to door this past year and successfully added 12 members which are included in the 99! Legionnaires please try your best to increase our membership! **Watch your mail for your 2023 Dues Notice which National will be mailing directly to each of us in July.**

July starts a new year, with new plans and hopefully new successes. Our next meeting is on Tuesday, July 12, 2022, and New York State Senator John Brooks is scheduled to attend. **Officers are requested to wear jackets and ties for photos.** Also please consider new activities such as a Summer Barbeque, Oktoberfest, Christmas Party, Ski Trip, Saint Patrick's Day Party, Bus Trip; Duck's Baseball Game or whatever! Bring your ideas to our next meeting!

Robert E. Dishman, Post Commander

Merrick Post No. 1282
The American Legion
160 West Merrick Road
Merrick, N.Y. 11566-4232

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Notes

Dear Reader, Merrick Post No. 1282, American Legion, is trying to form a contact e-mail list in case we have to contact you due to changes in our schedule or with important information. If you are a Post member or an organization that receives our Newsletter, please e-mail us (if you have not done so already) your e-mail address with your name or name of organization to our e-mail address listed on the front cover of this Newsletter.

In order to help pay for the costs of producing this Newsletter we will incorporate advertisements in all of our publications. Whenever possible, please patronize these local businesses that are helping to support the Legion.

Please submit or mail a copy of your DD_214 to our Post. We need these documents in case something happens to you and your loved ones need these important documents. See our mailing address on the second page of this newsletter.

The cutoff date for articles in the next Newsletter must be submitted at on September 20, 2022.

Dates to Remember 2022

JUL.	12	POST EXECUTIVE MEETING AT 7:45 PM POST GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AT 8:00 PM
AUG.	9	POST EXECUTIVE MEETING AT 7:45 PM POST GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AT 8:00 PM
SEP.	13	POST EXECUTIVE MEETING AT 7:45 PM POST GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AT 8:00 PM
OCT.	11	POST EXECUTIVE MEETING AT 7:45 PM POST GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AT 8:00 PM