

“God Bless our Servicemen and Women and America.”



# The Bugle



NEWSLETTER OF MERRICK POST NO. 1282  
AMERICAN LEGION

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## Commander's Corner



The deadline of December 22, 2020, for the submission of an article for the upcoming Newsletter that Rick Ambrosino requested has arrived, and I am still sitting in front of a blank computer screen, trying to put into words, thoughts and memories of Merrick Post 1282's activities. This is the Holiday Season. Our Jewish comrades celebrated Chanukah, and by the time you read this, others will have enjoyed Christmas, Kwanza, and of course, New Year's Eve.

On October 27, 2020, we had our first and only meeting since February 2020. It was a quick and successful business meeting in which we followed all the strict COVID-19 guidelines. On the lighter side we did recognize Past Commander Ken Braun's birthday which was that day, and also Larry Falcichio's birthday which was on 10/26/2020, by handing out individually

wrapped cupcakes for members to take home.

On November 5, 2020, Past Commander Bernard Hoffman and his wife, Florence, celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary. On the next day, Bernie passed away. With the help and leadership of the Jewish War Veterans of America Post 652 members David Zwerin and Gary Glick, our Chaplin Jim O'Neill and I met on November 7, 2020, to plan the graveside funeral service for our Past Commander Bernard H. Hoffman. As Bernie was a member of both Posts plus many other veteran organizations, it was only fitting that this ceremony be a joint effort of both the JWV Post 652 and Merrick Post No. 1282. On November 9, 2020, the hearse containing Bernie was escorted by The American Legion Riders from Whitestone to Beth Moses Cemetery where he was laid to rest with Military Honors.

Our Veteran's Day Ceremony on November 11, 2020, at the Merrick's Veterans Park was a huge success. Besides many Merrick Post No. 1282 and Auxiliary Unit 1282 members, there were members from the Freeport-Merrick VFW, the Jewish War Veterans of America, Boy Scout Troop 351, and several unaffiliated veterans in attendance. Also attending were Town of Hempstead Supervisor, Donald X. Clavin, Jr., Councilman Christopher Carini (5th District), Director of Community Outreach Kevin Devlin, and Legislator Steven D. Rhoads (District 19).

**(Commander's Corner continued on page 3)**

**MERRICK POST NO. 1282  
AMERICAN LEGION  
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516-521-6989**

**2020-2021  
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	Alfred F. Garbarino	516-297-7270
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	Eugene E. Lowenberg	
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	Eugene F. St. John	
Trustee	Joseph T. Ambrosino	
Trustee	Barbara Byrne	

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**2020-2021  
American Legion Auxiliary Merrick Unit 1282 Officers**

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

## Commander's Corner (continued)

On November 30, 2020, we lost another friend and member, Louis G. Saraceni. Louie was born in Italy in 1941, and came to the U.S. with his father in 1955, when he was 14. He was drafted into the Army in 1963 and was sent to Vietnam in 1965. Adhering to all COVID-19 guidelines, his American Legion funeral service was held at Walker's Funeral Home on December 3, 2020. The next day, The American Legion Riders escorted his funeral procession from Walker's F.H. to Cure of Ars R.C. Church for mass and then to St. John's Cemetery in Middle Village for interment with Military Honors. As a final salute to Louie, the North Merrick and North Bellmore Fire Departments draped Merrick Avenue with a Huge American Flag.

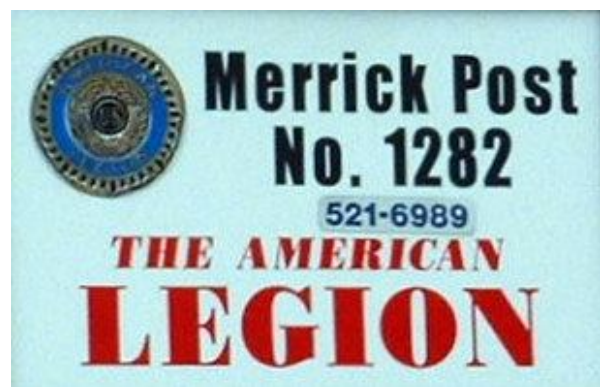
I will always have a spot in my heart for both of these friends. Bernie for providing ideas for gaining members, suggestions for parades and movie nights, and being able to get bargains on almost anything the post needed. Louie for the times, at the Post's annual fundraising event at a local area gas station for veterans in the month May, for telling me his life's story and the smile that he had handing out American flags, especially to the children. I believe that his smile was bigger than theirs. I must also thank Past Commander James O'Neill for the beautiful and meaningful eulogies that he wrote for each of these veterans. They can be found at [merrickpost1282.org](http://merrickpost1282.org).

On December 19, 2020, our Adjutant, Harry Gribbin participated in Wreaths Across America and was given 27 evergreen holiday wreaths to place against the headstones at the National Cemetery in Farmingdale.

**THE FUTURE:** I wish that I had a crystal ball to see what 2021 will bring, but I don't. I don't even have brass ones.

**As of now, there are no meetings scheduled or allowed because the risk is too great.** For the NEW YEAR 2021, *I wish you the best of times, the best of life, and the best of health* to you and all your loved ones.

Robert E Dishman, Post Commander



# Merricks Veteran Memorial Park during the Christmas 2020 season



**Note from Editor: Though we didn't have our annual Christmas party at the Post due to covid-19, know that my thoughts and prayers are with you all and I am privileged to have you in my life. God willing we will party next year.**

## Placing of the wreaths for Wreaths across America 2020

On December 19, 2020, Post Adjutant Harold K. Gribbin laid 27 wreaths on the graves of Veterans who served our country at the Long Island National Cemetery in Farmingdale, for the Wreaths across America 2020 campaign. For this year, because of covid-19, the wreath layers picked up the wreaths in their cars at Adventureland amusement park in East Farmingdale, New York, located on Route 110, and then headed out to the cemetery to lay the wreaths. Harry Gribbin said the following "I had the pleasure of placing 27 wreaths at Long Island National Cemetery in Farmingdale, New York. There was a great turnout and it was nice to see young ones and other organizations volunteering to place the wreaths. It was a beautiful day and the green wreaths against the snow were very picturesque".



In the picture on the left, Post Member Harry Gribbin, holding a wreath with a box of wreaths on his car.

In the picture on the right, Post Member Harry Gribbin holding a wreath to be placed on a deceased Veteran's grave.



In the picture on the left, is a picture of wreaths placed on the graves of deceased Veterans. Thank you to Auxiliary member Toni Uberti for heading up the Wreaths across America 2020 campaign for our Post.

# Chaplain Report

Post members Bernard H. Hoffman, Daniel T. Mazurkewicz and Louis G. Saraceni have reported to Post Everlasting.

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

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## Better Late than Never



At our Post Executive and General Membership meetings on October 27, 2020, Post member Eugene F. St. John finally received his Post Legionnaire Year award for 2020. Eugene was supposed to be presented with the award in March 2020, but do to the pandemic; it was presented to him at our recent Post meeting. In the Picture, to the left, is Eugene St. John (center) and to his right is Second vice Commander Frank Pedagno and to his left is our Post Commander Robert Dishman.

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## Veterans Day 2020 Picture



In the picture, boy scouts from Boy Scout Troop #351, holding the American Flags (left), the American Legion Merrick Post No. 1282 Post Colors (right, front) and the Boy Scout Troop #351 colors (right, back), during the Veterans Day Ceremony 2020, hosted by American Legion Merrick Post No. 1282, at the Merricks Veteran Memorial Park.

## Veterans Day 2020



**A group picture by the large monument at the Merricks Veteran Memorial Park after the Veterans Day Ceremony 2020. In the picture are American Legion Merrick Post No. 1282 members, American Legion Auxiliary Merrick Unit #1282 members, local area political officials, Freeport/Merrick VFW #1310 members and Jewish War Veterans Ensign L. Soloway Post #652 members**

On Wednesday, November 11, 2020, the Merrick Post No. 1282, American Legion, hosted the Veterans Day Ceremony at the Merricks Veteran Memorial Park. Past Post Commander and Post Chaplain James O'Neill was the master of ceremonies at this event. As Post Chaplain, he also read prayers at the Invocation and Benediction at this event. Post member Eugene St. John recited the Pledge of Allegiance at this event. Speakers at this event included Present Post Commander Robert Dishman and American Legion Auxiliary Unit 1282 President Laura Lahood. Post Judge Advocate Kenneth Braun introduced the "ringing of the bell ritual", in which a bell was rung 11 times signifying the end of major hostilities of World War I on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918. Performing the ringing of the bell at this ceremony was Post member Eugene St. John with the assistance of Sergeant at Arms Joseph Ambrosino. After the bell was rung 11 times, TAPS were played via a cd player.

Political officials who were present and spoke at this event were New York State Senator John E. Brooks (8th Senate District), Nassau County Legislator Steven D. Rhoads (19th District), Nassau County Legislator Thomas McKevitt (13th District), Town of Hempstead Supervisor Donald X. Calvin, Jr. and Town of Hempstead Councilman Christopher Carini (5th District). The sound system equipment and microphones for this event were provided by Post Service Officer John Weber and the music via a compact disc was provided by Post volunteer Richard Ambrosino. The audience consisted of members from the American Legion Merrick Post No. 1282, American Legion Auxiliary members from Merrick Unit #1282, members from the Jewish War Veterans (Ensign L. Soloway Post #652), members from the Veterans of Foreign Wars (Freeport/Merrick VFW #1310) and the general public.

## To Veterans with love, from Camp Avenue Elementary Students

The Post members received cards from the Camp Avenue Elementary School students for Veterans Day; here is what some of the students wrote to the veterans. *Dear Veteran:*

*I thank you so much for all of the support you do for the country. I bet you are a strong, brave and risk taking person. Thank you.*

*Thank you so much for what you have done for our country. This card, I hope, means a lot to you. I wrote this card because I wanted to thank you for fighting for this country and risking your own life to keep our freedom in the U.S. Thank you for your Service.*

*Thank you for everything you do. You always protect us and I need to thank you for that. I love that you are willing to protect us. It means the world to me, that you are there to help. You don't know how much it means to me that you are there to help. One more, thank you, for your service.*

*Thank you so much for serving our country. We all appreciate you. You risk your life to keep us safe. Thank you for your service.*

*Thank you Veteran for all of your service and bravery, you protect us and make sure we have freedom. You make sure our country is free and safe.*

*Thank you for your service!!! Wish you the best. Live an amazing and full life. Awesome.*

*Happy Veterans Day! We greatly appreciate your service. Sorry if I spell things wrong.*

*Thank you for your service. We will always remember your hard work. You are a hero to many including me. Thank you so much and I hope you have an incredible day!*

*Thank you for what you do and keeping watch for bad guys. Happy Holidays!!! Thank you for your service.*

*Thank you for honoring our country. Thank you for protecting our country. Stay strong, never give up. I hope you are safe from the virus. I hope you are safe.*

*Thank you for serving us and taking a risk for your life for the people. What I am saying is that you going in the Army or Navy or anything, you take a risk of your life by being in war, fighting for our rights. But us just at home with our family, but you can't be with yours. Thank you for serving us.*

*Thank you for honoring our country. Stay strong and brave. I hope you are OK. Maybe one day I will be in the military.*

*Happy Veterans Day! We thank you for your service and sacrifices. I hope you are happy if you are sad because you lost someone you know or loved. Know that I and the U.S. are there for you and are very grateful for your service. I thank you. My grandpa is a veteran but sadly he passed. Thank you for protecting my home and keeping us safe from harm. Bless you, be happy, and remember people are for you.*

**(Continued on Page 12)**



## A. L. Auxiliary Merrick Unit #1282 Poppy Promotion for Veterans

In the month of November 2020, the America Legion Auxiliary Merrick Unit #1282 distributed poppies to the public for donations to help veterans. On November 14, 2020, Auxiliary members were at different businesses in Merrick giving out poppies to raise funds for veterans. Here are few pictures from this promotion.



In the picture on the left, from left to right, auxiliary members Palma Fasano and Toni Uberti giving out poppies to the patrons of Bagel Boss Cafe, located at 2101 Merrick Road, Merrick, New York.



In the picture above, from left to right, auxiliary member Betty Tucker and current Auxiliary President Laura Lahood, distributing poppies to the patrons of BagelMan-Deliman, located at 84 Merrick Avenue, Merrick, New York.



In the picture above, from left to right, auxiliary members Pat Cancela and Mattia Saracini giving out poppies to the patrons of Dunkin Donuts, located at 1766 Merrick Avenue, North Merrick, New York.

## Final Salute to Legionnaire Louis G. Saraceni



On Friday, December 4, 2020, the North Merrick and the North Bellmore Fire Departments helped Merrick Post No. 1282 of the American Legion, give one last final salute to Legionnaire Louis G. Saraceni by erecting this temporary arch displaying this HUGE AMERICAN FLAG across Merrick Avenue, just north of Cure of Ars Roman Catholic Church.

### 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.

**Thank you Post member Robert J. Carnevale for your support to American Legion Merrick Post No. 1282.**

**Thank you Bernie Hoffman for being a great mentor and friend, you will be missed. Thanks for the memories. Rest in peace.**

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 March 16, 2021.

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Field of Flags at the Chatterton Elementary School in Merrick, New York; the picture was taken on 11/14/2020.

**To Veterans with love, from Camp Avenue Elementary Students  
(continued)**

*Thank you so so much for serving and protecting our country. Thank you for being there and getting freedom for us. You're amazing.*

*Thank you for serving our country. You risked your life to save others. You are a true Hero for doing this.*

*Happy Veterans Day, I appreciate your service. Thank you for your service and for being selflessness. Happy Veterans Day!!!*