

The Aviator

American Legion James Ely Miller Post 833

51 Juniper Ave
Smithtown, NY 11787
Phone: 631-724-1804
Email: commander@alpost833ny.org
Website: alpost833ny.org



MEETING:
Post 833: 1st Monday of the Month
8pm Meeting
SONS: 3rd Wednesday of the Month
7pm Meeting
51 Juniper Ave Smithtown, NY 11787

Welcome

Welcome to The Aviator. The hope is that this newsletter will keep the membership better informed as to what is happening at the Post and in the community. Please read through as I hope you will find it informative.

Take care,
Bill Coderre
Commander

General Info:

Office Hours: Saturdays 9-11am All are welcome to come down have a cup of Joe and say hello!

Upcoming Events

- MAY 04:** Honor Flight L.I.
MacArthur Airport
Ronkonkoma, NY 11779
10pm: Meet Time
(See Page 5 for details)
- MAY 06:** Monthly Meeting
James Ely Miller Post 833
Smithtown, NY 11787
7pm: Dinner
8pm: Meeting
- MAY 11:** 50th Vietnam Anniversary
American Air Power Museum
Farmingdale, NY 11735
11:30am: Start
(See Flyer Below)
- MAY 15:** SAL Squadron 833
James Ely Miller Post 833
Smithtown, NY 11787
7pm: Meeting
- MAY 17:** 2nd Division Meeting
James Ely Miller Post 833
Smithtown, NY 11787
6:30pm: Dinner
7pm: Meeting
- MAY 18:** Armed Forces Day
Armed Forces Plaza (H Lee Dennison Bldg.)
Hauppauge, NY 11788
11am: Start
(See Flyer Below)
- MAY 27:** Memorial Day Parade
Main Street
Smithtown, NY 11787
11am: Line up for parade
12pm: Parade begins
- MAR 1 - JUL 12:** Walk-A-Thon
The Annual SAL-Aux
Walk-A-Thon begins
(See Page 5 for details & 9 for flyer)

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Post Officers

- Commander:** Bill Coderre
- 1st Vice:** Kevin Eaton
- 2nd Vice:** Richie Pandolf
- 3rd Vice:** George Hohenstein
- Adjutant:** Ron Fischer
- Finance Officer:** George Church
- Chaplain:** Anthony Cannella
- Sgt. at Arms:** Lou Forrisi
- Judge Advocate:** Ed Hemp
- Service Officer:** Tom Mooney
- Historian:** James Gouras
- Membership Chair:** Al Krauth
- Compliance:** Wayne Crerend
- Homeland Security:** Don Lettieri

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.

Veterans Breakfast in Honor of Tom Mooney

On April 12, 2024, the Rho Kappa Social Studies Honor Society at Smithtown HS West hosted a Veterans Breakfast in Honor of Tom Mooney.

The event was well attended by family, friends and members from Legion Posy 833, VFW Post 10870 and Veterans from the surrounding community.

Senator Mario Mattera presented Kathie Mooney (Tom's wife) and her family with a framed Poster and Proclamation. Senator Mattera Honored Tom Mooney by nominating him for the Senate Veterans Hall of Fame for 2023.





Membership

The renewal process begins in July for the upcoming 2025 membership year. The Legion Membership year is July 1st to June 31st. Renewal notices are sent out in July, October, and January.

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.

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)

VOAGC Members:

If you have not paid your 2024 dues by January 1, 2024, Your FOB will be deactivated.

"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 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.



2024 - 2025 Elections

February Post 833 meeting: Nomination of candidates for elected positions were presented to the membership.

(Normally takes place in March but due to replacement of the Hall floor, the March Legion meeting will be cancelled)

Nominations will be posted in the office and below.

April Meeting: Nominations for Election of new Officers were finalized.

May Meeting: Slate will be voted on by membership (See finalized nomination slate on page 18)



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

“To Provide Support For Veterans, Active Duty Military, and Their Families”



Boys' State June 28—July 3, 2024

Post 833 Interviewed and will Sponsor 1 delegate for Boys' State. Payshel Sharma is presently in 11th grade (Junior), at Smithtown HS West and will be representing James Ely Miller Post 833 at Boys' State.

American Legion Boys' State is a week-long program that immerses high school youth (currently completing their junior year) in citizenship and leadership training. The Cost is \$600 per delegate which includes transportation to and from Morrisville College.

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



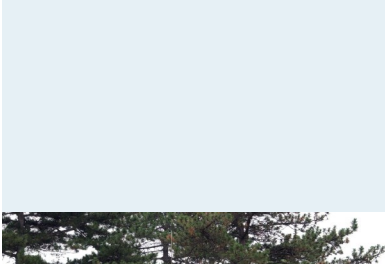
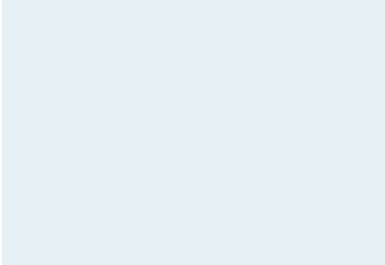
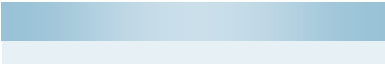
AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE AND NATION AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE

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.



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 4, 2024**

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

May 4th Flight Info: <https://www.honorflightlongisland.org/events-1/spring-flight-saturday-may-4-2024>



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 17 years by the Sons of The American Legion and The American Legion Auxiliary

Date: **Kickoff March 1st, 2024**

GOAL: **\$65,000**

PROCEEDS: Awarded equally to support the following:

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

Homeless Veterans are sometimes found living in wooded areas, in cars, under bridges. Some locations, such as abandoned buildings, can pose physical dangers for outreach staff and volunteers. Assisting homeless veterans to find suitable, permanent housing and the support services necessary to help them remain self-sufficient is a number one priority of the VA.

There are 4 NYS Veteran Homes operated by the NYS Department of Health and 1 operated by the State University of New York. They are skilled Nursing Homes that provide quality care to all eligible veterans and their eligible dependents in need of skilled nursing care and rehabilitative services.

ALA: Hope For The Warriors:

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

Stability: Financial Wellness & Career & Education

Strength: Physical Wellness & Emotional Wellness

Community: Connection & Belonging Social Support

<https://www.givesendgo.com/salvets24>

All Donations must be submitted by June 12, 2024.

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
Website: alpost833ny.org





Media



Advisory

MAY 11, 2024
AMERICAN AIR POWER
MUSEUM

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Fred Di Fabio

631 754 6383

fdifabioafa202@Hotmail.com

50TH VIETNAM ANNIVERSARY
COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL

And

D.O.D. LAPEL PINNING CEREMONY

The Long Island Air Force Association invites you to attend the 50th Anniversary Commemorative Medal Ceremony. We will be honoring 30 Vietnam Veterans with medals from the Long Island Air Force Association. Please join us in honoring these Long Island Veterans.

Who: Long Island Air Force Association

What: *"HONORING OUR VIETNAM VETERANS
"MEDAL CEREMONY"*

Where: American Air Power Museum
1230 New Highway Farmingdale, NY

When: May 11, 2024

Time: 11:30am



FROM THE OFFICE OF
SUFFOLK COUNTY EXECUTIVE
ED ROMAINE

★ ★ ★ **ARMED** ★ ★ ★ **FORCES DAY**



Please join us to salute our brave men and women currently serving in our U.S. Military



.....
KEYNOTE SPEAKER
COL. ANDREW WINEBERGER



.....
May 18, 2024 at 11 a.m.

Armed Forces Plaza, Hauppauge
in front of the H. Lee Dennison Building in the north parking lot



Event is rain or shine. In the case of extreme inclement weather, we will move the ceremony inside the H. Lee Dennison Bldg. at the plaza level.

WALK-A-THON NYS

Sponsored by
Sons of the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary



“THEY MARCHED FOR US.....
LETS WALK FOR THEM”

June 12, 2024

Help SAL Squadron 833
meet their
2024 Walk-A-Thon Goal of
\$3000

To donate go to:

<https://www.givesendgo.com/salvets24>





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, appearing to read "Ray Shields".

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

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.nyarnng.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.nyarnng.list.cold-war@army.mil with the supporting documents.



DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSE



Upon completion of the class, may be eligible to receive a discount on auto insurance and a point reduction on your driving record.

2024 Course Dates:

April 26th

June 26th

August 30th

October 30th

4pm – 10pm



Course Cost:

Legion & SAL Members: \$30

All others: \$50

Location: 51 Juniper Ave Smithtown, NY 11787

Contact Don Lettieri: 631-219-2882

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>

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS CARE PACKAGES

**Upon request, we are collecting donations of some of the following items to be shipped to our servicemen and women overseas~

~ Any and all donations are greatly appreciated. ~

~Monetary donations are also accepted and appreciated as well to cover postage



For further information, please contact Tara Montebello at (631)290-0979

Thank You.. ~~



God Bless our troops



Suffolk County American Legion Auxiliary

We are collecting items to be shipped to our soldiers overseas.



The following items have been requested:

Personal hygiene items for both women and men. Hand warmers, Deodorant, Travel size Shampoo and Conditioners. Soap. Lotion, Hand Sanitizer, Lip Balm, Nail Files and clippers, Foot powder, Hats, Ear Muffs, Scarves, Socks, Disposable Razors, Shaving cream, Q-Tips, Toothbrushes and Toothpaste, Mouthwash. Playing cards, Puzzle books, Magazines, Hand held games, Stationary, Candy, Gum, Beef Jerky, Nuts, Non-Perishable Snacks.

Monetary donations are also accepted.

Items can be dropped off as Rusy Bohm Post 411 on Tuesdays 8am to 1pm at 39 Nassau Ave, Islip, NY 11751



ASSOCIATION FOR
MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS



To Advocate. To Educate. To Empower. Together.



SAVE THE DATE!

10th ANNUAL DAY OF WELLNESS FOR VETERANS AND FAMILIES

**Camp Pa-Qua-Tuck
2 Chet Swezey Road
Center Moriches, NY**

Saturday June 15th 2024

**MORE DETAILS AND REGISTRATION
LINK COMING SOON!**

Phone: (631) 853-8345 www.dwyerproject.org
Facebook: Joseph P. Dwyer Veterans Peer Support Project

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 1st & 3rd Thursday: 4 - 5 pm

Sag Harbor - 3330 Noyac Road Building D Sag Harbor
Every 2nd & 4th Thursday 5 - 6pm

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

American Legion Monthly Community Breakfast - Post
269 215 South Ocean Ave. Patchogue
Every 3rd Saturday: 10 - 11am *Open to all

WOMEN VETERANS ZOOM GROUPS:

Women's Main Group -
MEETING ID: 932 2123 8672
Every 1st and 3rd Saturday: 11:30am-1:30pm

New Moms Group - MEETING ID: 857 3879 4618
Every 2nd and 4th 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

**James Ely Miller Post 833
Official Ballot
Post Elected Positions
2024-2025**

Slate in Entirety

_____	Commander:	Bill Coderre
_____	1st Vice Commander:	Donald Lettieri
_____	2nd Vice Commander:	Richard Pandolf
_____	3rd Vice Commander:	George Garcia
_____	Adjutant:	Ronald Fischer
_____	Treasurer:	George Church
_____	Chaplain:	Anthony Cannella
_____	Sergeant at Arms:	Louis Forrisi
_____	Historian:	George Church
_____	Judge Advocate:	Edward Hemp
_____	Membership Chairman:	Albert Krauth
_____	Service Officer:	Courtney Nagle
_____	Compliance Officer:	Wayne Crerend
_____	Homeland Security:	Kevin Eaton

Executive Committee

_____	Executive Committee Member 1:	Bill Coderre
_____	Executive Committee Member 2:	Kevin Eaton
_____	Executive Committee Member 3:	George Church

In The News

Articles sent in by members

IN MEMORY OF FALLEN VETERANS: 7 Marathons in 7 Days



TEAM EVA (Every Veteran Appreciated): Brookhaven Town Supervisor Dan Panico (center left) and Councilwoman Jane Bonner (center right) welcomed Ultra-Marathon runner Eva Casale (center) and “Team EVA” at Brookhaven Town Hall during Team Eva’s “7 Marathons in 7 Days.” Starting April 14, each day **Team EVA** ran a marathon which honored local servicemen killed in action and who were linked to the communities they called “home.” By April 20, the team had visited over **300 Points of Honor** and laid flowers, cones, wreaths, and flags in memory of our Fallen Heroes. In addition to Brookhaven Town Hall, **Team EVA’s** stops included Northport, Long Island National Cemetery, Eisenhower Park, Shelter Island, Sag Harbor, Calverton, Westhampton, Patchogue, Medford, Long Island’s South Shore, Oyster Bay and Bayville. The marathon began with an opening ceremony at Huntington Town Hall Veteran’s Plaza. The journey ended in **Casale’s** hometown of Glen Cove with a special closing ceremony at the Glen Cove City Hall as she and her team crossed the final finish line. **Eva Casale**, is an ultra-marathon runner who can run long distances consecutively for days. **Eva** has taken her gift of running and is using it to make a difference for veterans. By the end of **“7 Marathons in 7 Days” Team EVA** had run 184 miles.



NICHOLAS GRASSO PHOTO

Each day during her eighth annual Team EVA “Every Veteran Appreciated” week, Eva Casale, pictured above arriving at Warrior Ranch, ran a marathon to raise money and support veterans across Long Island.

Running for a worthy cause

Ultra-marathoner Eva Casale raised \$2,500 to support vets at Warrior Ranch in Calverton

BY NICHOLAS GRASSO | STAFF WRITER

Last week, on a gray, cold, rainy Thursday — conditions perhaps better suited for a movie-watching marathon than a traditional one — Eva Casale and a handful of runners ran 26.2 miles to honor the nation’s veterans.

“I think about who we’re honoring,” Ms. Casale said of what runs through her mind as her feet hit the pavement. “On a day like today when the weather isn’t the best, we say that our heroes, our angels up above, are showing us tears of joy that

we’re moving our mission in the right direction.”

Each day during her eighth annual Team EVA “Every Veteran Appreciated” week, Ms. Casale, 59, of Glen Cove runs a marathon to raise money and support for veterans across Long Island. Her first race kicked off at Huntington Town Hall last Sunday morning, and her final marathon ended in downtown Glen Cove Saturday. Throughout her journey, she stopped at hundreds of “points of honor,” specific locations dedicated to veterans, from Veterans of Foreign Wars posts to named streets and bridges,

CASALE | PAGE 36



'The work that the Warrior Ranch does here is incredible — how they help soothe the veterans, EMS workers, police officers'

— Tim Hubbard

NICHOLAS GRASSO PHOTO

Town Supervisor Tim Hubbard, with Eileen Shanahan of Warrior Ranch, honoring runner Eva Casale with an official proclamation.

CASALE...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

where she placed flowers and flags. Calverton's Warrior Ranch, a nonprofit that offers equine therapy to veterans, first responders and their families, was Ms. Casale's last stop after a long journey last Thursday. She presented the ranch with a check for \$2,500.

"It is an incredible honor to me," Warrior Ranch founder and president Eileen Shanahan said of Team EVA's third annual stop at the nonprofit. "I admire Eva Casale tremendously, I think what she does is amazing. I think it is needed to get the word out to the public. It needs to be at the forefront of the American people's minds that freedom isn't free... Eva is now educating people about that. The fact that she comes here to Warrior Ranch, this is like my favorite event. I think Eva is incredible and it just

means the world to me that she makes this one of her stops."

Several area government officials, including Riverhead Town Supervisor Tim Hubbard, presented Ms. Casale with proclamations throughout her trek. Mr. Hubbard applauded Ms. Casale for drawing attention to the needs of veterans and supporting Warrior Ranch.

"The work that the Warrior Ranch does here is incredible — how they help soothe the veterans, EMS workers, police officers," said Mr. Hubbard, who said he has an affinity for horses and horseback riding. "Nothing's better than a horse. [For first responders] to be around them, to help them face their everyday pressures, we're blessed to have this in our township."

The supervisor added that he is thankful that Warrior Ranch helped a Riverhead Police Department officer who "was in a bad accident."

Ms. Casale, a long-distance runner

since age 15, ran her first "Every Veteran Appreciated" chain of marathons in 2016 after meeting several gold star parents whose children died serving the nation. Through the eight events to date — 2020's was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic — she has raised more than \$200,000.

A few hours and a few miles prior to reaching the finish line last Thursday, Ms. Casale and her team also stopped at Calverton National Cemetery. In stark contrast to the celebratory barbecue at Warrior Ranch, she solemnly placed roses on the graves of more than 30 veterans. On Friday, Ms. Casale, whose father and brother served in the armed forces, placed flowers at more locations on the East End, including Lance Corporal Jordan C. Haerter Veterans' Memorial Bridge in Sag Harbor as well as Francis S. Gabreski Air National Guard Base and VFW Post 5350, both in Westhampton.

Members of Team EVA were by her side throughout the weeklong 184-mile trek, including support drivers who led and followed the runners, the organizers who planned and mapped the route and four fellow runners who joined Ms. Casale for all seven marathons. Several members of the various communities through which they passed joined the runs as well.

"We're in pain and we're cold and freezing, but this is temporary for us," Kevin Arloff, who ran all seven races alongside Ms. Casale, said at Warrior Ranch after last Thursday's bleak sky and dampness gave way to sunshine and calm. "Soldiers that have fought for our country, are still fighting for our country and the ones that have and passed, that's the ultimate sacrifice they've made. We can make this small little sacrifice and run in the rain in their honor."

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