

TOWN OF BABYLON VETERAN'S ADVISORY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

An Informational Newsletter for Babylon's Veterans - Oct. 2016



Warriors,

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer. Take note of all the Veteran activities that the Town of Babylon has to offer. This past July was the Town's ninth annual hosting of the Wounded Warrior Project's Soldier Ride. We as a community helped to again raise over \$60,000 for our wounded soldiers. In September the Town hosted Boy Scout Troop 1634 and Sgt. John Sardiello American Legion Post 1634's POW/MIA Vigil. There were many Scouts and Veterans that participated in the ceremony and walking of the monument. On October 28th the Town will once again have the Veterans Awareness Week Kickoff Ceremony and Essay Contest. On November 12th we look forward to the ninth annual Long Island Run For The Warriors. Information on all events, past and future can be found throughout this newsletter and on the Veterans page of the Town of Babylon website.

As we approach the holiday season, please remember to keep our soldiers who are in harms way and their families here at home in your thoughts and prayers.

Regards,

Jackie



9th Annual

Long Island Run for the Warriors

Saturday November 12, 2016 9AM

Babylon Town Hall

200 E. Sunrise Hwy. Lindenhurst

10K, 5K 1- Mile Walk/Run

Register at

www.hopeforthewarriors.org/LongIsland

Veterans' Awareness Week Kick off

Friday, October 28th @6:30

Town of Babylon Board Room

200 East Sunrise Hwy. Lindenhurst

Please join us as we honor our veterans and show our appreciation for the tremendous sacrifices they made for our country.

The winners of the annual student essay contest will also be announced.

Questions? Contact: Councilwoman Gordon's Office
Call 631.957.3127

New York

Property Tax Exemption for disabled Veterans

A disabled veteran in New York may receive a property tax exemption on his/her primary residence. The exemption amount varies based on type of service and disability, as determined by the New York State Division of Veterans Affairs.

<http://veterans.ny.gov/content/property-tax-exemptions-veterans>



There's More To Assisting Veterans Than Ending Homelessness By DuWayne Gregory, Presiding Officer of the Suffolk County Legislature

On July 15 of this year, I stood with officials from both Nassau and Suffolk counties at the Liberty Village veterans housing development in Amityville where our partners in federal, state and local government and not-for-profit groups praised Long Island as one of only 20 areas in the country to meet the Mayor's Challenge goal to end homelessness among our veterans population. Having met the challenge means that systems and resources are now in place to offer services and housing



to homeless veterans who are in need. Estimates are that this commitment to our veterans could mean 1,000 formerly homeless veterans on Long Island will now have a place to call home. Slightly over a month later, Peter Kaisen of Islip, a 76-year-old veteran, was found in the parking lot of the Northport Veterans Affairs Medical Center – a victim of suicide. News reports indicate that Mr. Kaisen may have been turned away from seeing a mental health professional at the VA in his time of need. Clearly, there is more to be done.

We have long known that the resources that veterans require for transition to civilian life can extend to mental health services, medical care, career counseling, community and lifestyle. The skills that a service member has engaged while in a combat zone frequently don't translate well to civilian life.

In addition, many times, services are unavailable at the time they are needed. The reports in recent years about the at-times months-long wait for veterans to get appointments for assistance are testament enough to recognize this growing inequity.

As we look to November and Veterans Day, we are reminded once again that while we can take pride in our initiative to assist homeless veterans, there is still much more to do to repay our 23 million American veterans for their sacrifices.

Government must find a way to partner with private industry and the non-profit sector on information sharing that is essential to providing the information and resources our veterans need when they are needed. We must be vigilant in our efforts.

TOWN OF BABYLON

Richard Schaffer, Supervisor

Councilman Antonio Martinez, Deputy Supervisor

Councilwoman Jacqueline A. Gordon, Chair - Veteran's Advisory Council

Tom Donnelly, Councilman

Lindsay P. Henry, Councilman

Carol Quirk, Town Clerk

Corinne DiSomma, Receiver of Taxes



VETERANS UPDATE

POW MIA Vigil



Sgt. John Sardiello Post 1634 hosted the annual POW/MIA vigil at Town Hall in observance of National POW/MIA Recognition Day. Local Scouts, Veterans and dignitaries were reminded that we must continue to send a clear message to stand fast for total accountability for those that serve our country and don't return. Charles O'Pray, the new Commander of Post 1634 held a beautiful ceremony.



Wounded Warrior Ride to Help Local Vets



Part of the proceeds of this year's Soldier Ride will benefit United Veterans Beacon House, a organization that supports local veterans here in Nassau and Suffolk Counties. Services include housing, housing assistance, job assistance and more.



Sgt. John Sardiello Post 1634 of West Babylon is this year's recipients of the Kayaking for a Cause. Over \$6500 was raised this year.

The Passing of Brigadier General George Jones

Brigadier General George Jones, who fought in WWII and the Korean War and served as a New York firefighter for 20 years died Sept. 2. He was 93. Jones was born April 28, 1923 in midtown, an area known as Hell's Kitchen.

At age 16, he joined the U.S. Army and was assigned to fight with the 369th Infantry Regiment of the New York National Guard, the famed "Harlem Hellfighters" who had terrorized German soldiers in WWI.

That began a lifetime of public service for Jones, who joined the Army in 1941, seven years before it was desegregated and rose in rank to sergeant.

By 1947, he was married and embarking on a new career as one of the few black Bravest in the FDNY.

Jones was among a wave of WWII vets who returned from active duty to apply to work with the city's fire department, and it was a job he held until he retired in 1967.

Jones was assigned to Ladder 23 on 139th St. in Hamilton Heights.

He had also rejoined the National Guard and by 1950 he was called into active duty again this time to fight in the Korean War.

When he returned to the city and the FDNY, he became active in the Vulcan Society the nation's first organization of black firefighters.

Jones was elected president of the organization twice and was an ardent supporter of the organization's efforts to recruit more African-Americans into the FDNY.

After moving to Long Island, Jones also worked for Nassau County to promote employment and opportunities for minorities and people with disabilities.

Jones was inducted into the New York State Veterans Hall of Fame not long before he died and was also featured in New York City's Historical Society WWII Exhibition.

Jones was very proud of his 70-year-marriage to Eunice Jones, who survives him along with his daughter Gwendolyn Andrews, a granddaughter and great-granddaughter as well as many other relatives and friends.

General Jones was a panel member for our first viewing of Inside Buffalo.



Visit the Town of Babylon History Museum currently featuring the **Veterans Exhibit**

47W Main Street, Babylon Village

Hours are M - F 10am to 3pm

Oct -May

1st & 3rd Saturdays 10am -2pm

Veteran Organizations

Let us know about your programs and services for Veterans.

This information maybe be published in future issues of the newsletter or sent out as an email.

E-mail your information to us at tobveterans@townofbabylon.com

If you or someone you know would benefit from this newsletter, call the Town of Babylon Veterans Message Hotline @ **631-957-3077**. Please speak clearly and leave your name, address and phone number. Or you can e-mail us at our e-mail address: tobveterans@townofbabylon.com.