

Nassau Police Veterans Association

8th Annual Military Ball



Thursday, October 22nd, 2026
Crest Hollow Country Club

Special thanks to the families and
friends of the Nassau Police
Veterans Association for your
continued support!



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Chaplain

Hans Richter
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Stephanie Schmidt
Family Support Chairperson

Program

Master of Ceremony: Matthew Schmidt

Live Band: SOUNDSIDE- (J.A.M.)

- ★ Opening Remarks: President Matthew Schmidt
- ★ Presenting the Colors- NCPD Color Guard
- ★ National Anthem- Robert F. Brent (Ret. NCPD Sgt.)
- ★ Retiring the Colors- NCPD Color Guard
- ★ Missing Man Table Reading- Lukas Gubba
(A Place Setting for One, A Table for all)
- ★ The Sounding of Taps- NCPD Bugler
- ★ Nassau County Police Emerald Society Pipe Band
- ★ Invocation: NPVA Chaplain- Deacon Jay Valdes
- ★ Presentation to Honorees (During Dinner):

NPVA Website



James Bartkowski



Thomas Joy

NPVA Facebook



Cocktail Hour Sponsor



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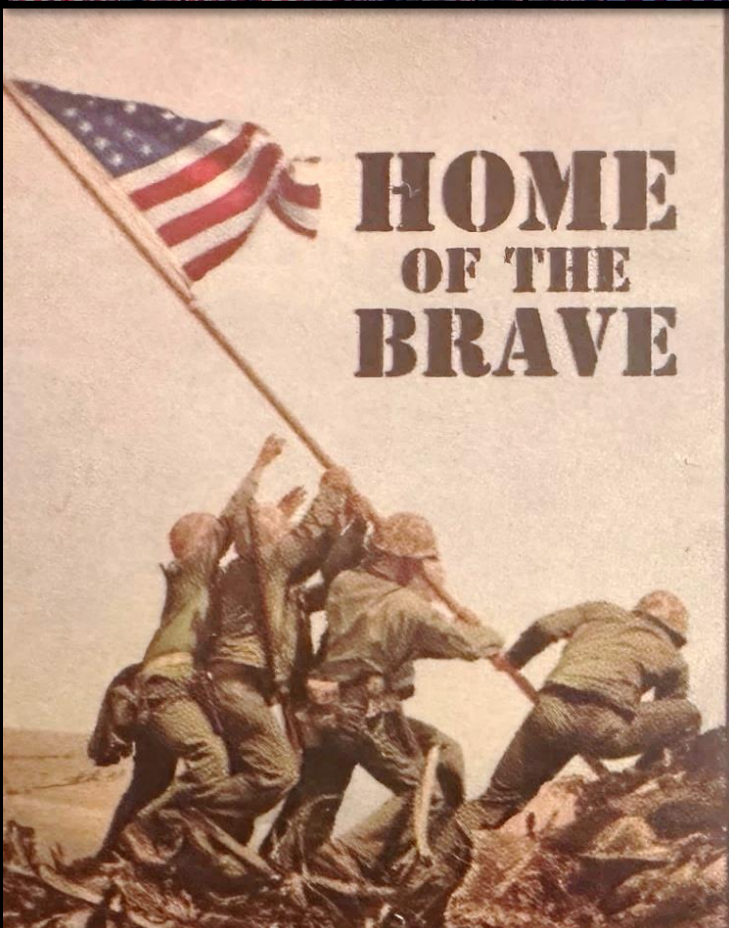
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**Best Wishes to the
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&
Congratulations to all your
honorees!**



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The Nassau Police
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Tonight's Honorees**

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HONOREES**

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Congratulations to the 2026 Honorees

James Bartkowski- NPVA Member of the Year
Thomas Joy- NPVA Community Person of the Year

&

Nassau Police Veterans Association
on your 8th Annual Military Ball

Thank you for your Service and Sacrifice for our Nation

PO Phil Brady (Ret) – President (NPVA Member)
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and tonight's Honorees



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HONOREES

NPVA MEMBER OF THE YEAR

JAMES BARTKOWSKI

U.S. ARMY VETERAN

GARDEN CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

DETECTIVE/SERGEANT (RETIRED)

**NPVA COMMUNITY
PERSON OF THE YEAR**

THOMAS JOY

U.S. ARMY VETERAN

SUFFOLK COUNTY POLICE OFFICER

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*Garden City Police Department
Retired Detective Sergeant /
U.S. Army Veteran*

James Bartkowski



Jim was born and raised in Brooklyn. His Mother, Sadie was a NYC teachers assistant. His Dad, Henry, was a WWII Veteran who served in Europe, Italy and Africa as an EOD specialist (Holy Crap). He then had a 35-year career with Kodak. Jim has two sisters, Barbara and Patricia.

Jim is married to his high school sweetheart, Annmarie, and will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary in July of 2027. Annmarie and Jim have 3 children, Laureen, an executive with CNA insurance. Mathew, a retired NYC Police officer (way to make your dad feel old) and Alicia an Attorney. They have 3 grandchildren, Haylee, Brick and Dean and 2 step grandchildren Kelsey and Patrick.

Jim graduated from Holy Name grammar school and Bishop Ford High school while growing up in Brooklyn. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Behavioral Science from NYIT and a master's degree in criminal justice from Boston University.

Jim likes to say he was born to be a Police Officer. While growing up, there was a great influence from family members who were Police Officers. His Uncle Hugh Quinn, an NYPD officer from the 1930's to the 50's, would provide him with study material and tests. While quizzing him once, he asked a question that used to be on the tests of the time period, "what's the distance between Madison Square Garden and Yankee Stadium." Jim replied, "if that's going to be my post maybe I'll become a fireman".

After years of studying, the time to take his first test arrived. But as fate would have it, NYC declared bankruptcy and a hiring freeze was put in place. Not only were they not hiring, but they were also laying off Police Officers. After graduating High School a decision needed to be made. His dad's military service also had a major influence. So off to visit an Army recruiter at Fort Hamilton. After being offered a "contract" to become an MP, and a 6-month deferral to report, Jim decided to Enlist, even though he had a very high draft number. Vietnam was still very active but deescalating. Even though he announced that he had enlisted, it didn't seem like anyone believed him. About 2 months into his 6-month deferral he received a visit from his recruiter who explained that a special assignment within the MP corps had come up. Due to his background and having a high school diploma, he qualified and, after MP school, they were offering him the assignment. However, it was going to cost another year of service. He also had to report in two weeks. Seeing no let up with the hiring freeze, he decided to accept the offer which was with the Armed Forces Police Detachment NY Metro Area. Back to Brooklyn! No wonder nobody believed him.

The AFPD was a joint service organization with the mission of policing all military personnel in the civilian environment. It was based out of the Brooklyn Navy Yard, and its area of operation was 150 miles from the center of the Empire State Building. At the time there were only 6 such units worldwide. After completing BCT and AIT MP School, He reported to AFPD in June of 1974. He was assigned to duties such as road patrol at all the major transportation facilities, AAT, DAT, court liaison and local police liaison.

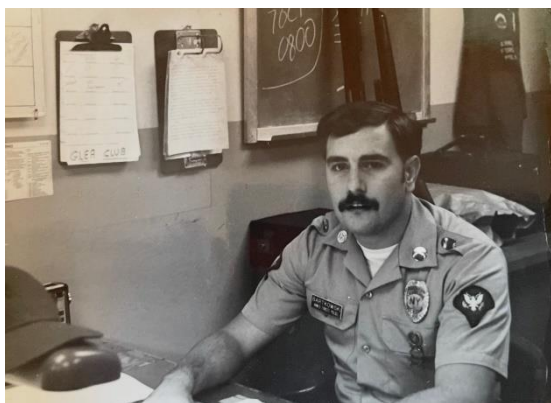
After a while, there was a change of command and a new commandant arrived. After reviewing the personnel files of all the members, Jim was called in for an interview. When the commandant discovered that he was born and raised in Brooklyn, he assigned him as his diver. Jim likes to say he was really his adjutant.

As a result, Jim performed special duties such as coordinator for the 1976 Operation Sail bicentennial celebration, diplomatic courier for then Secretary of State Henry Kissinger during the Argentine unrest, and personal security for General Omar Bradley(ret). He also served in the Joint Service Color Guard performing at many functions.

After completing his 3 years of service, and taking every civil service test, Jim returned to civilian life. After a short respite, he was appointed as a Det/Inv with the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office. During this career he served in the Criminal Courts bureau, The Grand Jury Bureau, the Supreme Court Bureau and the Major Offense Bureau. Each mission concentrated on re-investigating cases in preparation for trial. One of his best accomplishments was reinvestigating a triple homicide which was very weak at best. After completing the investigation, new evidence was discovered resulting in 2 other arrests with convictions of 25 to life.

In 1981 another test had dropped and he received a call from the Garden City Police Dept. A new career opportunity presented itself which he accepted. Jim served as a Police Officer, Detective, Sergeant and, after an almost 36-year career, retired as a Det/Sgt in 2017.

Jim said that his calling was always in the support role. He dedicated his service to the Federal, State, and Local agencies that he served with developing and providing solutions. He likens himself to the person that you always see, holding a large file folder, while whispering in the ear of some high ranking official. You may think he is providing extremely important information when in reality he is saying "stop playing with the pencil Boss"





*Suffolk County Police Officer /
U.S. Army Veteran*

Thomas Joy



Thomas Joy was born and raised in southern India in the state of Kerala. He immigrated to the United States in NY in 1996 at the age of 17. He completed High School in Orangeburg, NY and enlisted in the US Army in 1997.

Thomas has completed 28 years of service in the US Army on both Active Duty and in the Reserves. During his service he was assigned for combat duty in Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom during which he earned a Combat Action Badge.

Thomas was stationed for four years in Europe and on other varied assignments throughout the United States.

Thomas has completed the Primary Leadership Development Course, Basic Non-Commissioned Officer Course, Advanced Non-Commissioned Officer Course and First Sergeant's Course in the US Army.

In June of 2007 Thomas completed the Westchester County Police Academy and served as a Police Officer in the City of Mount Vernon Police Department, NY till 2010.

In June of 2010 Thomas attended the Suffolk County Police Academy. He initially served as a Police Officer with the Suffolk County Police Department, 1st Precinct, Babylon, NY and from 2013 with the Suffolk County Police Highway Patrol Bureau as a Highway Patrol Officer. Thomas currently serves in the Community Relations Bureau as a Recruitment Officer, since 2018.

Thomas has completed the Police Supervision Course, Police Motorcycle Operator Course, Breath Analysis Operator Course, RADAR/LIDAR Course, Advanced Roadside Impaired Driver Enforcement (ARIDE), Confidential Informant Management Course, Instructor Development Course, Crisis Intervention Team training, and other police department courses. Thomas earned a bachelor's degree from Mercy College in Dobbs Ferry, New York, in 2007. He founded the Suffolk County Police Asian Jade Society in 2014. The Society is a police fraternal nonprofit organization that serves as

a bridge between the department and Asian American community members, encourages Asian Americans to pursue careers in law enforcement and the U.S. Armed Forces, and celebrates Asian languages, culture, heritage, and cuisine.

Thomas was the founding member of the American Malayalee Law Enforcement United (AMLEU) in 2020 and became its first President. The organization is a national law enforcement charity organization with over 175 members from over 40 agencies around the country. The organization focuses on community outreach, scholarships for college students and other philanthropic efforts.

Thomas was the founding member of the law enforcement fraternal organization - Suffolk County Police LGBTQ Society - which was created in 2021 as a direct response to community needs and requests. Today the organization serves as an outreach organization to the LGBTQ community of Long Island, aids in recruitment efforts from that community, assists the community in problem solving and connecting the community to key government and law enforcement leadership.

Thomas was appointed by the Suffolk County Executive to serve as a board member in the Suffolk County Asian American Advisory Board in 2021 and he served in this capacity till 2025. The Board advises the County Executive on legislation, business development and cultural understanding as it pertains to the Asian American community. The newly elected Suffolk County Executive, Ed Romaine, appointed Thomas to be part of his Transition Team to assist and advise the County Executive in appointments to various positions within County government and other key tasks.

Thomas served on the U.S. Service Academy Selection Committee of the 3rd Congressional District, New York from 2020 to 2024. In this role, Thomas screens and mentors' candidates who express an interest in attending one of the five U.S. military service academies.

Thomas is the recipient of numerous awards to include the Combat Action Badge (U.S. Army), Meritorious Service Medal (U.S. Army), Iraq Campaign Medal (U.S. Army), Certificate of Recognition, Governor, State of New York (2017), Citation, County Executive, County of Suffolk, NY (2017), Milton Ng Award, National Asian American Peace Officers Association (2023), US Attorney General's Award for Distinguished Service in Community Policing (2024).

Thomas continues to serve the community through his career in law enforcement, serves the nation as a member of the US Army and continues his philanthropic efforts through the societies he founded.



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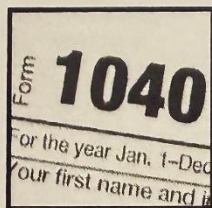
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this evening's honorees:***

James Bartkowski

NPVA Member of the Year

Thomas Joy

NPVA Community Person of the Year

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Nassau County, New York

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NPVA Member of the Year;

James Bartkowski

and

NPVA Community Person of the Year:

Thomas Joy

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in The Police Emerald Society of Nassau
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2026



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