

CALL BOX

Official Newsletter of

THE SHIELDS - LONG ISLAND, INC.

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LONGISLANDSHIELDS.COM

June-July 2023





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SHIELDS CHIROPRACTOR Dr. Robert Goebel 516-248-3647

HOME SECURITY ADVISOR Ken Schiotis

> PAST PRESIDENTS Stanley Perlmutter John Ferguson William Lombard John F. Mahoney Richard Hennes Joseph Klun

NEXT MEETING

NEXT MEETING Thursday June 22nd, The Coral House - 12 noon

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday June 14th Flag Day

Tuesday July 4th Independence Day

Monday September 4th Labor Day

Thursday September 14th, meeting @ The Coral House, 7pm

Saturday September 16th Rosh Hashanah

Monday September 25th Yom Kippur

Monday October 9th Columbus Day

Thursday October 26th, meeting @The Coral House, 7pm

> Thursday October 31st Halloween

Sunday November 5th Daylight Saving Time End

THE SHIELDS OF LONG ISLAND ON THE WEB: LongIslandShields.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello all. I imagine everyone is enjoying this great spring weather we have been having. It is truly enjoyable playing golf in this weather. Summer is right around the corner and the beach awaits. The last few vears felt like we went directly from frigid winters to the extreme heat of summer. It has been delightful. On a personal note I want to share with you because I know we have many members who are Knights and at least one Past Grand Knight and one Former District Deputy in our membership. I proudly announce that I have been elected Grand Knight at my Knights of Columbus, Corpus Christi Council in Mineola. I understand it's a big commitment, but I feel that I am up to it. Wish me luck.

We had a nice turnout on May 27th at LI National Cemetery for the annual Memorial Day grave dressing. Members of both this organization and FOP Lodge #69 placed flags on thousands of our veteran's graves. A big thank you to all that attended and to Mike Kuzma and the members of Lodge #69.

With good news, unfortunately I have some sad news too. Our heartfelt condolences go out to board officer and treasurer, Rick Rottkamp and his family, on the loss of Rick's mom, Ruth Rottkamp. Shortly after Rick's mom passed I received a phone call from Diane Geschwind and she informed that her husband, Joe Geschwind, has passed away from 9/11 related cancer. Joe was a long time member of the Shields and a past board officer. It's unconscionable that twenty two years after this cowardly attack

on us that we are still losing out brothers and sisters. Very sad. A few days later I was notified that Anna Venditti passed away. If you ever had the opportunity to meet and get to know Mrs. Venditti then you know she was a kind and compassionate person. She was a beautiful person inside and out. May they all rest in eternal peace.

I had a long conversation with Dan Murray who keeps in touch with Marianne Pizzitola from the NYC Organization of Public Service. The lawyers were back in court again in front of Judge Frank and filed a law suit and injunction to stop the City from forcing the privatized Medicare Advantage on those who are eligible. The City has set Sept. 1st as the day to implement this new privatized health care. The Organization is extremely positive that Judge Frank will once again rule in our favor as he has done in the past with prior law suits. I will keep you posted. Thank you for the info Dan.

Our upcoming meeting is Thursday June 22nd, 12 noon at the Coral House in Baldwin. This will also be our scholarship awards presentation.

I hope to see everyone there, Mike Villa, President



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maurorussell@gmail.com

www.mauro-law.com

Rana N. Hassan, M.D.

Internist

71 Franklin Avenue Franklin Square, NY 11010

> 516-216-1690 - Office 516-216-1689 - fax



Rana Muneeruddin, DDS

73 Franklin Avenue Franklin Square, NY 11010 516-488-8261

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CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

"Malmedy Massacre?"

The Deputy Commissioner of the Nassau County Police Department, Harry Andersen, a soft-spoken but efficient executive - rarely talked about his experiences in World War 2 and his landing the evening of June 22, 1944 in Normandy with the 99th Infantry Battalion (Separate) just days after D-Day. Especially powerful were his feelings about the orders of the leader or leaders of the Nazi Waffen-SS soldiers who were responsible for the Malmedy, Belgium murders of eightyfour U.S. Army prisoners of war who had surrendered after a brief firefight that was one of many in the Battle of the Bulge (December 16, 1944 to January 25, 1945). Contrary to the Geneva Convention agreements regarding the treatment of POW's, elimination of burdensome prisoners was seen as just one more part of the war effort by field commanders focused on schedules, supplies, and conquest.

The final months of the German warwaging days saw several outrageous examples of mass disposals of human lives (including, but not limited to Bullingen. Baugnez. and Wreath). demanding post-war investigations and trials to deal with such crimes. American retaliation, such as that which occurred in Chenogne, Province of Luxembourg likewise unacceptable shameful, a violation of law and order. Protection of the people of our towns and cities nationwide is the hallmark of freedom of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Such was the focus of the 43 years of

service Harry E. Andersen, returning to his country having completed his service to the U.S. Army, motivated to offer to the people of Nassau County a healthier vision of day to day life and work with neighbors dwelling together in peace and safety - healthier than the terrors and griefs that he and all the fighting forces of the Allies were forced to encounter and subdue

The best that our police can offer is the maintenance of law and order, the condition of life in our communities where its citizens can enjoy the blessings for which the armed forces served with honor to preserve. It has been said that, without peaceful conditions, the farmer cannot sow the seeds not reap the harvest in due season, nor can the miller change those crops to flour, nor can the baker change that flour into bread - which the householder can place upon the table for the gathered family.

Long Island Shields members along with hundreds of other volunteers will be placing American flags before the memorial stones of the National Cemetery to honor the sacrifices and service of all the military personnel who preserved the peace under which we live and share with family the bread of truth and justice in this land of the free and the home of the brave. It is a needed and healthy thing to honor all such peace-keepers, giving thanks for the blessings we are privileged to enjoy.

Yours in the fellowship, Chap. J.G.Anderson

Cop of the Month



Jack D'arcy, PO Victor ,25th PCT Delegate Pat O'Donnel & Manhattan North Trustee Kevin Murphy (PO Bokth unable to attend)

On November 24, 2023, Thanksgiving Day Officers Bokth & Victor were assigned to post-tour Transit Coverage as part of the increased deployment to NYC Subways.

At approximately 4pm, while the officers were standing on the downtown side mezzanine - they observed a male fall onto the tracks. Officer Victor was aware that the next northbound train was approaching in less than one minute and that an attempt to contact communications to disable the power to the northbound track would be futile.

The officers then ascended the stairs to the street and sprinted across

Lexington Avenue to access the uptown side of the platform. Officer Bokth and Victor then jumped onto the uptown roadbed and hoisted the semi-conscious man onto the platform with assistance from a Good Samaritan.

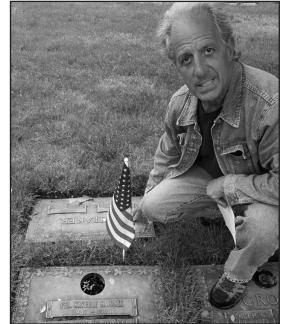
While attempting to climb back onto the platform, Officer Bokth's duty belt became stuck - Officer Victor and the civilian then assisted in pulling Officer Bokth to the platform as the train was approaching and were able to clear from the road bed six seconds before the incoming train barreled in. If it were not for the actions of Officer Bokth & Victor - the incident would have likely ended in tragedy.



Mike Villa, Sgt Carlo Maltempi , and Mike's Nephew PO Anthony Villa NCPD



Nassau County P.D. Memorial Floral Arrangement



Lou DeMarco Dresses the Grave of PTL Waverly Jones



Members Of LI Shields & FOP Lodge 69



Carmine Antinello & his Son Milo



Mike Villa & Mike Kuzma President of FOP Lodge #69



April Guest Speaker Nassau County Chief Of Detectives Chris Ferro



THE LONG ISLAND SHIELDS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

YEARLY DUES ARE \$40.00. AFTER DEC15TH LATE FEE WILL BE \$45.00. ALL MEMBERS WHO PAY BEFORE DECEMBER 15TH WILL BE ENTERED IN A \$100.00 WINDFALL DRAWING

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GOOD TO KNOW

Peter J. Caso, Esq.

As in every year, there are changes in estate planning. As of January 2023, there are significant changes to this area of law.

The Federal estate tax exemption has been from \$12,060,000 increased \$12,920,000. This exemption amount is a record high and will continue to increase each year for inflation until January 1, 2026, when it is scheduled to "sunset", assuming there are changes made beforehand by the government. accordance with the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (TCJA), the scheduled sunset three years from now will reduce the Federal estate tax exemption to pre-TCJA amounts, approximately half of what they are today. It has been recommended that individuals consider utilizing as much of their Federal estate tax exemptions as possible before the sunset provision takes effect.

Similarly, the New York estate tax exemption also increased from \$6,110,000 to \$6,580,000. However, individuals close to this amount should be cautious. because they could be at risk of falling off the "New York State Estate Tax Cliff." Where an individual's assets total more than 105% of the New York State estate tax exemption at the time of death, their estate "falls off the cliff" and receives no benefit of the exemption. During 2023, an individual's estate reaches the "cliff" at \$6,909,000, where their entire estate will be subject to New York State estate tax. Because New York does not have a gift tax, proper planning is vital.

Another change taking effect in 2023 was an increase in the Federal gift tax exclusion. The annual exclusion is an amount that an individual can gift to a recipient that is Federal estate and gift-

tax-free, each year. This is in addition to the aforementioned Federal estate tax exemptions, and if used by an individual, their estate tax exemption amount does not get reduced. In 2023, the gift tax exclusion increased by \$1,000, from \$16,000 to \$17,000.

Medicaid rates have also changed in 2023. An individual who needs care, either at home or in a nursing facility, may keep up to \$28,133 in assets. If one spouse is at home and the other is in a nursing facility, the spouse at home may keep, but not exceed, \$150,000 in assets. Up to \$1,033,000 of the value of the family home is exempt from Medicaid if a spouse is living there, while the other is in a nursing facility or receiving Medicaid for home care.

It is important to make sure that your estate plan is kept up to date to benefit from all the changes that are advantageous to your estate. With a little bit of thought on your part and some guidance from an experienced elder law estate planning attorney, you may dramatically improve the way your estate is protected and ultimately distributed.

Disclaimer:

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