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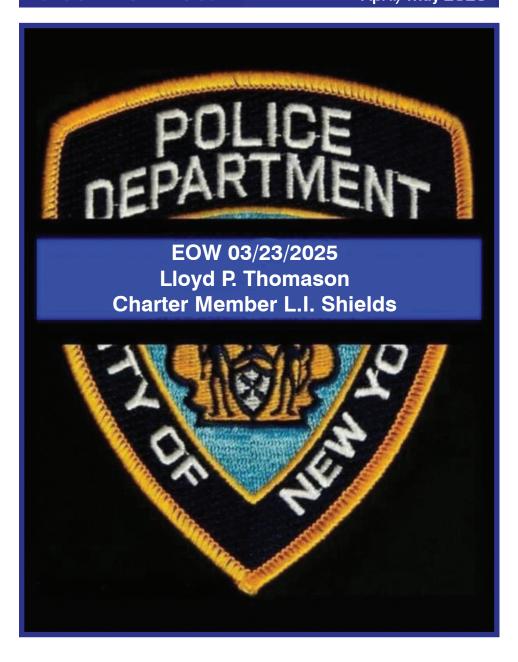
Official Newsletter of

THE SHIELDS - LONG ISLAND, INC.

P.O. BOX 1822 MINEOLA, NY 11501 PHONE: 516-884-3490

LONGISLANDSHIELDS.COM

April/May 2025





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NEXT MEETING

NEXT MEETING Thursday April 17th Noon

@ The Coral House

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday April 20th Easter Sunday

Saturday May 10th
Street co-naming in honor of
Detective Vito Vavarra
10am at Ulmer Street and 28th AVenue

Sunday May 11th Mother's Day

Saturday May 24th
Grave Dressing
@ Long Island National Cemetery section 2A

Monday May 26th Memorial Day

Friday May 30th
Saturday May 31st
Nassau County Games for the Physically
Challenged
@ Mitchel Athletic Complex & Nassau
Community College

Sunday June 15th Father's Day

Thursday June 19th
Membership Meeting / Scholarship Awards
Noon at the Coral House

Friday July 4th Independence Day

Monday September 1st Labor Day

THE SHIELDS OF LONG ISLAND ON THE WEB:

LongIslandShields.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Some very sad news to start off with. If you do not know, Lloyd Thomason has passed away. Lloyd had been with the Shields since its inception and was a board officer for most of his time with the organization. Lloyd, along with Rich Petito, had been the backbone and driving forces of this organization for several decades. As time and age creeped up, Lloyd had to step away from the Shields and his duties. A well deserved retirement. Godspeed Lloyd, you will be deeply missed. Also, I was informed last night that Tony Mossimollo passed away at the age of 92. May both these men rest in eternal peace.

I want to thank all the board members for stepping up to run the last meeting. I contracted the flu and it kicked my butt. I can't remember the last time I had the flu, but it was not good. If you had it this season then you know what I'm referring to and if you didn't then count your blessings. Stay healthy.

An update on the Medicare case. The briefs for the Bentkowski case, commonly referred to as the "Nuclear Case", are to be submitted to the Supreme Court State of New York 2nd Division on March 28th. The oral arguments will be heard on May 15th. As usual the City is relentless in appealing every decision against them. This stems from Judge Frank's initial decision followed by a unanimous appeals court decision. Marianne is confident and of course hopeful that the 2nd division will find in our favor as well. We are looking for that favorable decision before the summer break.

I hate to sound redundant, but we must keep the donations for our incredible law firm coming in. Having said that, we will be selling raffle tickets at the next two meetings for another \$100 in lottery scratch off tickets along with a basket of cheer. We added the basket of cheer to hopefully entice you to buy more raffle tickets. Please note that every dollar we collect for these raffles will go to the Organization of Public Service Retirees. Please be as generous as your means allow. Luke Johnson will be selling the raffles at the next two meetings. The drawing will be held at the end of the June meeting. Don't forget, through your generosity we were able to send \$1700 in December.

Great news everyone, save the date. On Saturday May 10th at 10am there will be a street co naming in honor of Det. Vito Navarra at Ulmer Street and 28th Avenue. Through the untiring efforts of Det. Randy Jurgensen and the assistance of City Council Member Vickie Paladino this is finally coming to fruition.

"My grandfather began his career in the 28th precinct alongside his partner, Phil Cardillo, so 28th Avenue sounds like a perfect location to honor his legacy. I truly appreciate all of your hard work on this."

Kristen Vento

Memorial Day is Monday May 26th which means that our annual grave dressing at Long Island National Cemetery will be on Saturday May 24th. We will once again be dressing our veterans graves in section 2A. We were informed that the cemetery opens at 7am, but in years past the gates were open at 6am. It's a rewarding couple of hours spent placing flags on the veteran's graves. As always we will be doing this with the members of the FOP from Lodge #69. Their president Mike Kutzma and his members always turn out for this rewarding event. Please make plans to join us this year.

The Nassau County Games for the Physically Challenged will be held this year on May 30th - May 31st at the Mitchel Athletic Complex and Nassau Community College. It's a truly rewarding couple of days spent with unbelievable athletes. As always the Shields will assist in any way needed. From a simple presence to directing people in the right direction it's not a tough day or two. Having said that, we are asking for volunteers. There will be a sign up sheet at the next meeting and we will reach out to.

Dues notices have been mailed out, so if you haven't already sent it back please get dues in as soon as possible. Thank you to everyone who made additional donations. Little things like this really make a big difference when we put our scholarship's together. Like everyone else we are all feeling the effects of inflation. I simply ask that you be as generous as your means allow.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting, April 17th - noon at the Coral House.

Stay safe,

Mike Villa, President



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CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

HEAR! HEAR!

Sorry to say, but my hearing's not very good these days. Not a complaint, mind you, just a statement or the facts... a new reality in my life

I've gone the hearing aid route - and the audiologist's bill was a surprise... as was the charge that was paid by my insurance on top or the amount I had to put out in addltion! Ihis hearinc loss thing is pretty darned expensive.

I've noticed now so many people my age have expenenced or are expenencing the same thing because I can see how they're wearing the same devices as the ones that are stuck in my ears; so I'm not whining about my circumstances. Rather, I'm here (get the pun?), finding the need to share the frustration that so often diminishes the joy of living - because I'm pretty sure I'm not alone in It.

The loss of a sharp hearing ability is so very troublesome in day to day activities. The need to ask people to repeat something they've just said is a communication nightmare: it's embarrassing. It's also taxing to the maintenance of a healthy relationship with the people who are trying to share an idea or an impression or a personal story that fits the present occasion. everyone knows that a conversation demands a speaker as well as a listener - and when the listening is defective, the relationship suffers.

People have told me - often - that they're saying "a-huh" or "yes". when they haven't really heard what was said, and sometimes that

response conflicts with what was actually appropriate..... which can lead to misunderstandings and hurt feelings..... which puts up a wall where an open field had previously always been.

It takes a lot of effort to avoid the trouble that miscommunication can create. An honest "excuse me, please, I didn't get what you were saying just then can go a long way to improve the situation; but it runs the risk or putting up a bamer it that remark's repeated too often.

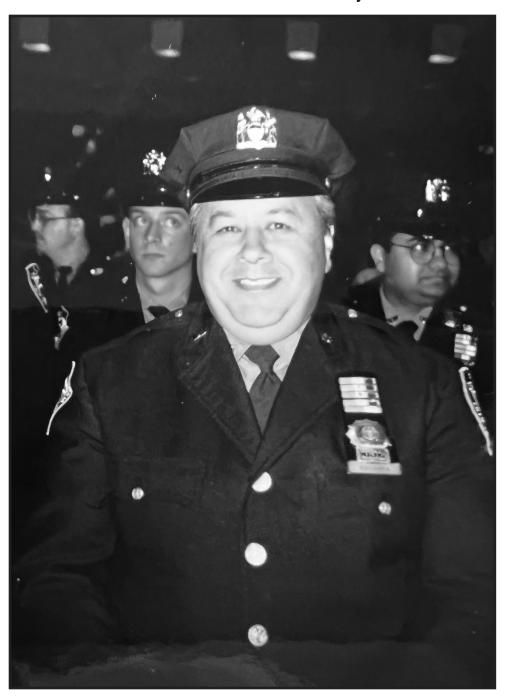
One situation seems to repeat itself over and over; the talkative friend of the hearing-deficient seems never to comprehend the depth of difficulty that comes with the condition. And such a person seems to pursue lenotny comments about one subject or another while walking away to an adjacent room... and then asks a question!.... after which follows arent you listening to me?!" Have you nothing to say about that?

Such Isolation seems to be a by-product or neanna loss. And it is troublesome it not utterls depressing!

A note to people with normal or even superb hearing ability would surely be: don't take offenseat such a friend's deficiency! Mercifully communicate within sight of the one who will at least have a fianting chance to comprehend.... and be thankful for being able to hear

Yours in the fellowship, Chaplain JG Anderson

Street Naming in Honor of DET. Vito Navarra. May 10th, 10:00am Corner of Ulmer St. & 28th Ave, Front of NYC Police Academy





THE SHIELDS of Long Island Inc.

PLEASE SEND ALL APPLICATIONS TO:

Luke Johnson 99 MEYERS AVE. HICKSVILLE, NY 11801

2025 Scholarship Application

COMPLETE APPLICATION AND SUBMIT TO SCHOLARSHIP CHAIRMAN LUKE JOHNSON Must be Received BY JUNE 1, 2025

QUALIFICATIONS: You must be a fully paid member for the PRESENT and TWO PRIOR YEARS. Your dependent child must be entering the first year of an Accredited Undergraduate College or Accredited Trade School during September 2025. Only one child per family may win (per year) however more than one child per family may apply. Submit a \$20 check made out to The Shields of Long Island for each child. Awards will be chosen by lottery. Students attending college tuition free are not eligible.

Member:	Shields#	
Address:		
	Child's Name:	
Relationship & applicants SS#:		
School Name & Address:		
Registrar's Phone #:		

Dependent child for the purpose of our scholarship award includes the actual child or grandchild of a member (as defined by law). Any child who the member is a legal guardian, adopted or otherwise, or a child who resides with a member and is totally dependent of the member's financial support.

SPECIAL NEEDS AWARD

Handled Confidentially. This award will be presented to a dependent child of a fully paid member for the present and two prior years, who is developmentally and/or physically challenged. The child must be attending a state recognized, be it at work, training or school program, for the Developmental and/or Physically Challenged. Previous award recipient are not eligible.

Submit applications and a \$20 check to The Shields of Long Island, indicate for the Special Needs Award. Must be received by June 1st, 2025



Rich Rottkamp Leads February Meeting in Mikes Absence



Rev. Anderson Leads the Invocation.



Rabbi Berkowitz Closes Meeting



Roland Grant from Safety Quest updates us on HR-218 & Gun Permit Issues



Dan Murphy once again updates us on Medicare case.



Luke Johnson updates us on 2025 Scholarship Applications.

Cop of the Month April 2017



Det. L.T John Russo Addresses Membership

On August 2nd,2016 in late afternoon a young vibrant woman left her home in Howard Beach, Queens NY to go for a run in her neighborhood as she had done many times before, only this day she never returned home. Her name was Karina Vetrano and she ran almost daily with her father, Phil Vetrano a retired NYC fireman, they talked about running in the NYC Marathon. On this day her father was nursing a sore back and was not able to run with her, so she decided to run by herself. The route they normally ran is on the edge of Gateway National Park, a secluded area abounded by tall weeds and marshland. As she left the house her parents Phil and Katherine told her to have a good run and be careful, as all parents would. This would be the last time her parents would see her alive.

As the time passed when their daughter should have returned home, her parents became concerned. After several hours their concern became panic. Phil Vetrano went out with some neighbors to search for his daughter, thinking maybe she had twisted an ankle or something and couldn't walk. After a brief cursory search her parents notified police and an extensive search was initiated. After several hours her body was found along her running path, she had been killed and sexually assaulted. This was going to be a difficult investigation due the location of the crime and the lack of viable suspects.

As days became weeks the investigators were becoming frustrated with the lack of possible clues. The only real evidence was DNA found at the scene, but they had no suspect to compare it to. Calls to a hotline were followed up to no avail and other leads also seemed to

lead nowhere.

Then a LT. John Russo assigned to the Chief of Detectives Office, a resident of Howard Beach himself remembered he had observed a male in the area several months earlier and had an RMP from the local precinct respond to investigate. The male in question had been issued several summonses and released. Lt. Russo wondered could this male be involved , he notified the detectives for investigation. The assigned detectives went to the males residence in East New York in January 2017 and identified him as Chanel Lewis . He was asked to submit to a DNA swab and voluntarily complied with the request. The sample was submitted to the lab for a comparison and it turned out to be a match. Lewis was subsequently arrested for the homicide of Karina Vetrano, he has made oral videotaped state ments admitting to the crime and is currently incarcerated awaiting trial.

Had it not been for the keen observations of Lt. John Russo and his initiative to follow up on his observations, this case may have gone unsolved forever. For his actions and keen police instincts the LI Shields are proud to recognize him as the Cop of the Month.



Donations

"The Shields would like to Thank everyone for additional donations on top of their Dues"

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GOOD TO KNOW

Peter J. Caso, Esq.

Owning a home is one part of the "American Dream." Homeownership historically has shown long-term stable growth in value. Paying into a traditional mortgage every month enables the homeowner to build equity, and for the most part, a secure financial future.

However, sometimes older homeowners may want to increase their spending power, make improvements to their home or experience financial downturns that may severely place strains on their day-to-day budgets. This is where a reverse mortgage may be of help.

To qualify, the applicant must be 62 years of age or older, must live at the property as the primary resident and certify occupancy annually. In addition, the property must be maintained in the same condition as when the reverse mortgage was obtained.

A reverse mortgage, officially known as a Home Equity Conversion Mortgage, allows the homeowner to convert a substantial part of the total equity in their homes into liquid cash. The "reverse" part of the loan is where the lending institution makes payments to its borrowers, as opposed to the homemaker making monthly payments to the lender, as is the case with the more traditional form of mortgage.

Reverse mortgages do come with additional costs, including interest, origination fees and mortgage insurance up to 2.5 percent of the home's appraised value, which is added to the loan. However, unlike a traditional mortgage, interest payments are not tax deductible.

Besides being expensive, in some cases, you may also become ineligible for

certain government benefits, put your family members at risk for eviction, and leave your heirs with more problems after you die.

If the homeowner wants to receive Medicaid, their eligibility is based on their income and assets. Income from a reverse mortgage won't count against them, but if they receive a lump sum from the reverse mortgage, that will be included among their assets. If their total assets exceed the limit for their state, they will have to spend the money to be eligible.

Also, lump sum payments can affect a person's eligibility for Supplemental Security Income (SSI), a federal program for low-income individuals. The SSI program also sets limits on assets (which it refers to as resources), currently \$2,000 for individuals and \$3,000 for couples.

Breach of the mortgage agreement can lead to foreclosure. A reverse mortgage can also deplete much of the homeowner's wealth, especially if their home is all they have, leaving little behind for their heirs.

These are just some of the advantages and disadvantages when considering a reverse mortgage. It is important to be diligent and seek professional financial assistance before applying for a reverse mortgage.

Disclaimer:

This article is for education and information purposes only, and is not intended to provide legal advice. No attorney-client relationship exists or is created by the use of this article or the information provided herein. This article should not be used as a substitute for competent legal advice from a professional attorney in your state.

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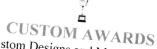
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