CALL BOX

Official Newsletter of
THE SHIELDS - LONG ISLAND, INC.
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LONGISLANDSHIELDS.COM Nov/Dec 2026



EOW 9-12-2026
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John Ferguson
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Joseph Klun

NEXT MEETING

NEXT MEETING
Thursday October 29th
NOON
@ The Coral House

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday November 1st,
Daylight Savings Time End

Tuesday November 3rd,
Election Day

Wednesday November 11th,
Veterans Day

Thursday November 26th
Thanksgiving Day

Saturday December 5th,
Hanukkah (1st Day)

Thursday December 10th,
Meeting @ The Coral House - Noon

Friday December 25th,
Christmas Day

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Long Island Shields family recently suffered a profound loss with the passing of our longtime board officer, **Jack D'Arcy**. Jack was a man whose life exemplified service, sacrifice, and dedication to others. His legacy will continue to inspire all who had the privilege of knowing and serving alongside him.

Before beginning a distinguished law enforcement career, Jack answered his nation's call during the Vietnam War. Like many members of his generation, he served honorably in a difficult conflict, demonstrating courage and commitment to defending our country. Upon returning home, he continued his service by joining the New York City Transit Police Department.

Jack devoted decades to protecting the people of New York City. Through hard work, leadership, and professionalism, he rose through the ranks and ultimately retired as a Lieutenant. Throughout his career, he earned the respect of his fellow officers and the communities he served. Those who worked with Jack remember a man of integrity, fairness, and unwavering dedication to duty.

His commitment did not end at retirement. As a longtime board officer of Long Island Shields, Jack remained actively involved in supporting retired law enforcement officers and advocating for their interests. He freely gave his time, wisdom, and experience to strengthen our organization and mentor others. His passing leaves a void that cannot be filled, but his example will forever remain a part of our organization's foundation. Jack was the chairman of our Police Officer of the month award for years and did an amazing job.

To Jack's family, friends, and fellow officers, we extend our deepest condolences. We thank him for his military service, his service to New York City, and his years of dedication to Long Island Shields. May he rest in eternal peace.

As retired public servants, many of us continue to face serious challenges regarding healthcare benefits that were promised throughout our careers. One of the leading voices in this battle has been **Marianne Pizzitola**, President of the New York City Organization of Public Service Retirees.

Marianne has tirelessly advocated for retired police officers, firefighters, teachers, sanitation workers, and countless other public servants who dedicated their lives to serving New Yorkers. Through persistent advocacy, legal challenges, public education, and grassroots organizing, she and the organization have fought to protect retiree healthcare benefits from reductions and unwanted changes.

Please continue to support the organization by purchasing raffle tickets for the raffle at the December meeting. We will once again be raffling off a $100 lottery ticket scratch off board along with two baskets of cheer. See Luke Johnson for raffle tickets.

As New Yorkers prepare to make important decisions about the future of our state, many in law enforcement, public safety, and retiree communities are paying close attention to leadership that prioritizes security, economic stability, and quality of life.

Nassau County Executive **Bruce Blakeman** has consistently voiced strong support for law enforcement and first responders. He has been a vocal advocate for public safety initiatives and has emphasized the importance of giving police officers the resources and support necessary to protect our communities. For these reasons and many more the Long Island Shields proudly endorses Bruce Blakeman for NYS Governor.

Many New Yorkers have grown increasingly frustrated with policies enacted under the Hochul administration. Concerns frequently raised include New York's sanctuary state

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policies, the continuing high cost of living, rising taxes and expenses affecting families and retirees, and the implementation of congestion pricing. Illegal aliens are committing crimes at an alarming rate, and this administration has banned local police from cooperating with ICE enforcement. Disgraceful.

As we enter the holiday season, let us remember that there are children and families who need our support.

We ask all members attending our next **two meetings** to please bring an **unwrapped gift** for a child. These gifts will be donated to **SCO Family of Services**, helping brighten the holidays for children who may otherwise go without.

The generosity of our members has always been one of the hallmarks of Long Island Shields. Every gift, no matter the size, sends a message that our law enforcement family cares deeply about the communities we serve.

Together, we can make a difference in a child's life this holiday season.

Our organization was built upon fraternity, generosity, and commitment to others. Those values were embodied by Jack D'Arcy throughout his life, from the battlefields of Vietnam to the streets of New York City and finally to his leadership within Long Island Shields.

May God bless Jack D'Arcy and his family, may God bless our law enforcement officers and veterans, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

Next meeting is October 29, noon at the Coral House. I look forward to seeing you there.

Fraternally,

Mike Villa, President



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CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

Last month, we observed the 25th anniversary of the attacks of September 11, 2001. Most people reading this Call Box were there that day or helped in the aftermath in one capacity or another. We all know that September 11 was not just one day that began and ended 25 years ago, but for so many continues through 9/11-related illnesses.

We did not expect that one day later, Jack D'Arcy, our long-time board member, would suddenly be taken from his family and our association. As you know, Jack was a proud member of the New York City Transit Police Department and rose to the rank of lieutenant. Following his retirement, he stayed very active not only in the Shields but in the Retired Transit Police Association, keeping the fraternity going long after the "Hostile Takeover."

In addition to his role as Financial Secretary, Jack's primary gift to the Shields was organizing the Cop of the Month Award. Each meeting, one or two officers are honored for some act of service or heroism on the job, or even off-duty. Jack did the background work to arrange for the awards. As everyone reading this knows, most publicity police officers receive today is negative. Even if an incident was handled correctly and according to the book, the media often cover it negatively. The Cop of the Month award encourages often-young recipients, but it also reminds everyone why you "do the job." The simple act of recognizing someone for an action on the job can go a long way toward encouraging him or her to persevere in a career where only the negative is often highlighted. That will be Jack's legacy here in the Shields.

We continue to pray for him and for his family during this difficult time. This can also be a call for someone else to "step up" and continue his legacy on the board here at the Shields and in the other organizations to which he devoted so much time.

Fr. Christopher Costigan

A TRIBUTE TO JACK D'ARCY

"Do what is right and good in the LORD's sight, so that it may go well with you." (Deuteronomy 6,18).

I have been blessed to have known Jack for many years. It was the years I served with the New York City Transit Police Department, my association with the Long Island Shields, and Transit Police FOP Lodge 317.

The Long Island Shields has been a great support group for Federal, State, and local police municipalitie serving the safety of the public at large.

It takes much skill, dedication, and work-related experience to be able to offer realistic support for colleagues who are in need. It is also important to have a great personality to connect with fellow officers from different law enforcement disciplines.

I always observed how Jack introduced Long Island Shields honorees. He was meticulous in his introductions to the honorees. That was one of the primary reasons Jack made the organization respected, honored, and beloved by everyone. His organizational skills contributed very much to the comfort for all who attended the "feel at home" experience.

It is not easy to find a personality of Jack's stature.

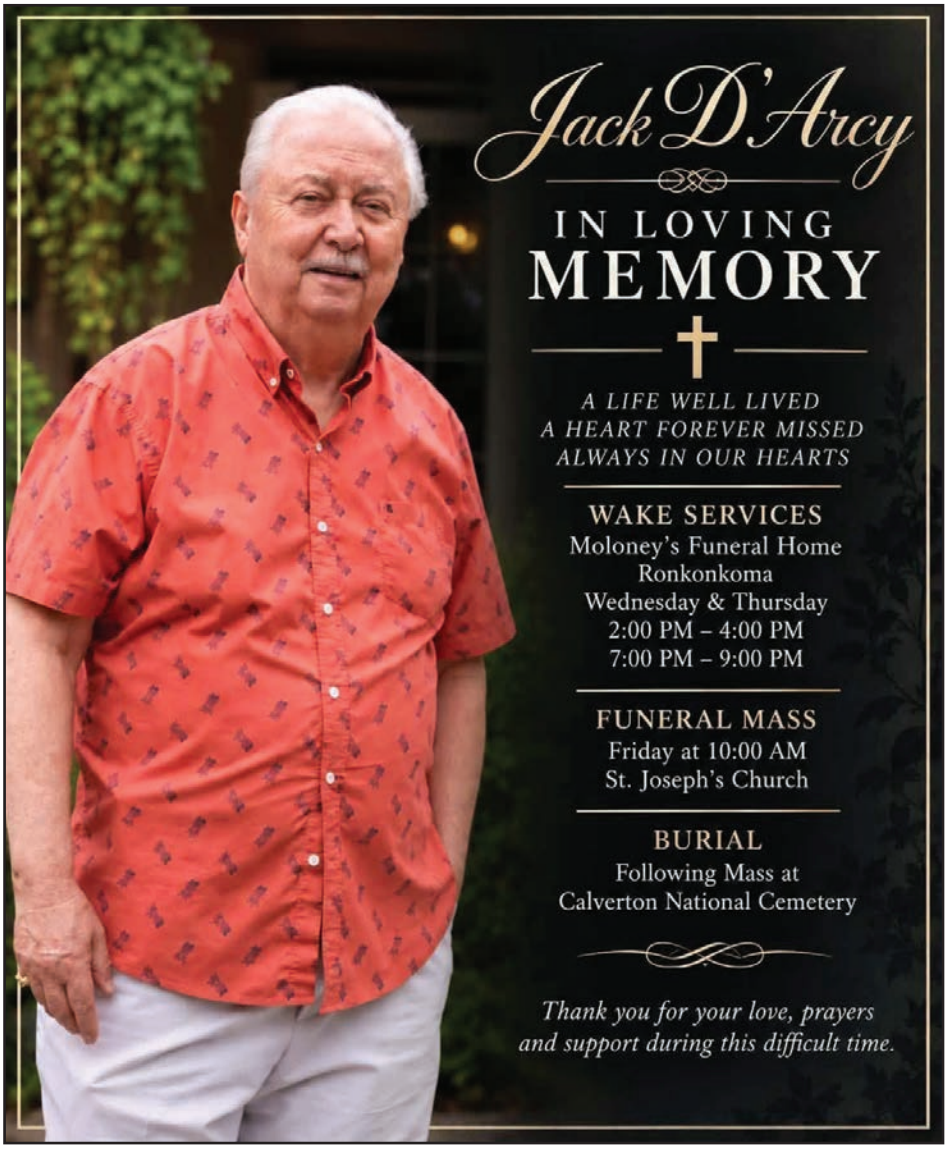
His smile and friendly demeanor will be difficult to emulate. I hope that anyone who wishes to contribute to the Long Island Shields, will emulate the lessons Jack brought to the organization.

May the soul of Jack be bound in the bond of Eternal Life. May his good works on earth be his testimony for the legacy he left among all of us.

With my deepest condolences,

Rabbi Harry Tzvi Berkowitz
Chaplain - Long Island Shields
Retired Chief Chaplain MTAPD

REMEMBERING JACK
MAY HE REST IN PEACE








MP
DARCY
U.S. ARMY


HAUNTED HOME
MERRY Whatever
Welcome to our beautifu
Yes


NEW YORK CITY
TRANSIT POLICE
CERTIFICATE
TRANSIT POLICE
TRANSIT POLICE




POLICE
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CHIEF
POLICE
DEPARTMENT




SENATE
Proclamation


The Shields – Long Island
Certificate of Appreciation

GOOD TO KNOW

Peter J. Caso, Esq.

Jack D'Arcy and I were together on Wednesday at the Transit Retirees meeting and then on Thursday at the Shields meeting. At the Shields meeting, Jack and I had engaging conversations with the Police Officer of the Month awardee and shared some of our own personal experiences when we were officers. I was stunned two days later when I learned of his passing. It's difficult to grasp how fragile and quick things happen in our lives.

Our common bond was that we both were Transit Police Officers and, similarly, we both retired as lieutenants. During our tenure with the Transit Police, we did not have the opportunity to work together. I believe my first meeting with Jack was at one of our Shields meetings. From then on, we would have additional interactions at other functions, like the Transit Retirees and Retired Lieutenants meetings. We would talk about what was new in our lives, how our respective families were doing, chat about our military service and a host of other subjects. A few years back, Jack was presented with an award for his service in Vietnam. My fellow Shields board members and I attended that ceremony to congratulate him on receiving the award and for his service to our Nation. That day, he was quite proud of the recognition that was bestowed upon him.

I always found Jack to be quiet, personable and of good spirit. He will be genuinely missed and I'm sad that we will not have the opportunity to share those social niceties again.

Rana N. Hassan, M.D.

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AN UNWRAPPED TOY
FOR A CHILD!