



CALL BOX

Official Newsletter of

THE SHIELDS - LONG ISLAND, INC.

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LONGISLANDSHIELDS.COM

February - March 2023

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NEXT MEETING

**Thursday February 23rd
Meeting @ The Coral House
Noon Luncheon**

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sunday, March 12th
Daylight savings time**

**Friday, March 17th
St. Patrick's Day**

**Monday, March 20th –
First day of Spring**

**Thursday, March 23rd
Ramadan Begins**

**Sunday, April 2nd
Palm Sunday**

**Wednesday, April 5th
Passover (First Day) begins at sundown**

**Friday, April 7th
Good Friday**

**Sunday, April 9th
Easter Sunday**

**Thursday April 27th
Meeting @ the Coral House – 7pm**

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy and healthy new year to you. As always, I hope this issue of the Call Box finds you and your families well. Physical therapy on my knee has been grueling, but I am reaping the benefits. Not a 100% yet, but well on my way.

Sadly, if you haven't heard we lost three members starting off this year. Two in January and one in February. On January 30th Helmuth Ruppe passed away. Helmuth was a long time member of the Shields as well as many other fraternal organizations. He and his wife Ingrid were always at the Children's Christmas party to spend a festive afternoon. He was a very generous and giving man. He retired before I came on the job, but from what I heard speaking with guys that worked with him, he was a force whose mere presence was enough to get your attention and cooperation. Although he was a Transit cop, he never had an issue slapping the cuffs on someone above ground if he caught them in the act. He was very active and never shied away from making a collar.

Later that same day Mark Di Nome passed away. Mark was diagnosed with cancer and fought a very tough and courageous battle against an aggressive cancer. Mark too was a long time Shields member and NYPD Columbia Association member. He would come to all the meetings and always had a huge smile on his face. Mark was an extremely giving individual. After his retirement he opened a nursery/landscaping business and would always come to both meetings and give away vouchers for propane gas and other outdoor materials. I would joke with him that he passes out more gas than anyone I know. He would laugh then give me a couple more vouchers to raffle off. He was a big supporter of the LI Shields as his ad is still in the Call Box.

As we moved into February, sadly, Richard Milla passed away. Another longtime member of the Shields. Rich was a true gentleman who always had a kind word and was pleasant to speak with. He would always make his way to me at some point of our meetings just to say hello and tell me I was doing a fine job with the organization. I didn't know Rich that well, so it meant so much to me that he always did this. May Helmuth, Mark and Rich rest in eternal peace. Godspeed.

If things weren't bad enough, off duty police officer Adeed Fayaz, lost his battle with a gunshot wound to his head in a botched robbery, by yet another career criminal who should have not been on the streets. PO Fayaz was only 26 years old and leaves behind a wife and two young children. May he too rest in peace.

On a happier note, the games for the physically challenged have returned to Mitchell Field and will be held on June 1st, 2nd and 3rd. In past years the LI Shields along with the FBI has provided security for the games. It's not really a security job, it's a presence on the field and giving some direction to people. They have asked us for volunteers. You don't have to volunteer for all three days, just let us know when you can be there and that's fine. I will have a signup sheet at the next two meetings for anyone who can volunteer. Thank you in advance.

I want to respond to a letter I received from a concerned member who lives out east. Unfortunately, I misplaced the letter before I was able to write him back. I don't remember his name but I think he lives in Port Jefferson. I apologize for losing that letter. In sum and substance his letter stated that he was retired from the job, but is still working another job, couldn't leave work for the noon meetings and felt that noon meetings were not a good meeting time to attract new, younger members. First off, thank you for your letter and your input, it is greatly appreciated.

We tried the noon meetings after one of our members suggested it. He is a retired Transit police officer and said the noon meetings that the retired Transit cops were having are very well attended. So, we gave it a shot. At our first noon meeting we had to have the Coral House roll out two additional tables. It was very well attended, as were future noon luncheons. The Board understood that as good as this was we should not run just luncheons. We decided that we will have noon luncheons in the winter months and evening meetings the other times, although this is not etched in stone. For example, the June meeting, which is our scholarship meeting, will be at noon. The reason for this is that if we have a scholarship recipient who has prom that evening, they will be able to attend their prom and our noon meeting to receive their scholarship.

This was our thinking. I hope it clears things up, and again thank for reaching out. If you or any member has any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or any of the board members.

Next meeting:
Thursday February 23rd – noon luncheon.

Hope to see you there,

Mike Villa, President



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maurorussell@gmail.com www.mauro-law.com

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Internist

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CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

“Good Feelings”

Feelings enrich (or sometimes spoil) our emotional orientation, our experience in life. No one enjoys feeling “down”. And the people with whom we “hang around” are surely the ones who help us enjoy our evening, meetings, or working environment. No one feels good about being in the company of bullies, sour-pusses, whiners or negative name callers. It's much nicer to work or play in the company of up-beat people, humorous comment-makers, or people who add trust-worthy content to our conversations. And the reverse is true, too: people like being around US if we are up-and-up types of people, people who share wisdom gained from years of experience or ask sensible or important questions.

But it goes deeper even. When people feel down not worth “the time of day”, or a real “pain in the neck”...Such persons tend to avoid the situations and the people who project attitudes of disdain or even hatred. How many persons end up quitting their jobs or even packing it in and moving far away - relocating - because of such upsetting experiences? Bad feelings bring on the worst disasters - emotional trauma, defensiveness, hateful interrelations, even Violence. It's a nightmare to have such events break up the conditions of our homes or work places.

A good example of such misfortune or even worse...is the tragedy of serious illness, people suffering the inability to make sound judgements or life choices, bringing about solutions such as hospitalizations or confinement to long-term care institutions such as nursing homes where because of the demands placed upon the support

systems, health care workers begin to treat patients as burdens, human storage items, not persons. The result is often seen in the problems of “chemical straitjackets” where drugs of many varieties are administered to sedate unruly patients, particularly those deemed to be demented.

The homelessness issue that is taxing our public service departments is the outcome of complex issues that affect children as well as adults in unhealthy and depressing social settings. Complex is the key word to describe the causes as well as results of bad feelings...listlessness, hopelessness, and harmful or absent work ethics, settings of mistaken solutions ascribed to lawlessness and abuse. Such are the symptoms of *really* bad feelings.

Obviously, with such complex issues as these, there are no easy answers to the questions they raise. But the good feelings that come from positive contributions like respect for others, lively social interactions, the desire to help others, and a sense of thanks for all the good that has come to each of us individually and comunally - can work incredible blessings, making life wholesome and enjoyable for ourselves as well others around us. Such, it seems, are the benefits of gathering with others whose backgrounds and interests relate positively to our own! Stated briefly, that's what makes Long Island Shields do good things for a lot of good people!

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

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

By now you should have received your membership dues envelope. Please read the enclosed letter, it gives explicit instructions about the renewal and raffles. If you are planning to bring your renewal to the next meeting, please remember to bring it in the return envelope. The three red raffle tickets with your name and phone number should be included. The blue tickets are \$20.00, for the super 50/50. All renewal and raffle tickets should be sent to me by December 1st. The drawing for the \$100.00 Windfall tickets and Super 50/50 tickets will be held

at the April general meeting. We are looking forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting, Thursday November 3rd. Admission is \$20.00 for members. Members will receive 3 raffle tickets, for a drawing at the meeting. Nonmembers are \$25.00. 50/50 tickets are 6 for \$10.00. If you have any questions please contact me.

Thank you,

Kathleen
(516) 799-0413



**Join us once again for the 2023 METS – YANKEES SUBWAY SERIES GAME
TUESDAY, JUNE 13TH, 2023 7:10 PM GAME**

Tickets are in Section 129, Third Base side, same as last year.

Tickets are \$163 per seat, only a \$3.00 increase from last year.

If interested, please contact Tom Greer 631-902-8911

or email to hpb2270@optonline.net

E-mail is needed so I can forward the tickets to you when released.

Please include your contact cell phone number also. It is very important!

Mail checks to: Tom Greer 508 Harbor Rd, Cold Springs Harbor NY 11724

Thank you for your interest. Only 100 tickets will be available, so hurry and reserve yours now.

Tom Greer, Executive Secretary



THE SHIELDS Long Island Inc.

Please submit applications to:

SEND ALL APPLICATIONS TO: Luke Johnson

99 MEYERS AVE, HICKSVILLE, NY 11801

2023 Scholarship Application

COMPLETE APPLICATION AND SUBMIT TO SCHOLARSHIP CHAIRMAN LUKE JOHNSON BY JUNE 1, 2023

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 during September 2023. 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: _____

Phone: _____ 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,



LI Shields proudly endorses Judge Grasso for Queens DA



Rabbi Berkowitz graces us with his Presence.



Luke Johnson reports on College Scholarships



George Grasso gives his vision on becoming Queens DA.



Jack D'arcy explains latest medicare Rulings



Police officers of the Month

- Police Officers Thomas Rilling Shield Number 2166, Serial Number 8757,
- Kenneth Kraemer Shield Number 3028, Serial Number 8772,
- Niall Bourke Shield Number 3279, Serial Number 8713,
- Dale Denehy Shield Number 376 Serial Number 8370

• On October 28, 2018 the above officers were working a 1530 to 0130 tour of duty. At approximately 2300 hours all officers in BSO were assigned to gang enforcement in the Hempstead area. Officers Rilling and Kraemer were in unmarked RMP 938 and observed a black 2015 Nissan Altima NY registration HLW9691 travelling eastbound on Van Cott St in Hempstead. This vehicle made a left hand turn onto Lafayette Ave but did not signal for the turn. A VTL stop was conducted at the corner of Lafayette Ave and Midwood St. Officer Rilling approached the passenger side of the vehicle where the defendant Duane Costa who was not wearing a seatbelt was sitting. Officer Rilling observed Costa adjust a large object in his waistband. Officer Rilling asked Costa to exit the vehicle and when Costa got out of the car he violently pushed Officer Rilling away and fled on foot eastbound on Midwood St. While this was going on Officer Kraemer was interviewing the driver April Grant. Grant was asked to exit her vehicle at the same time as Costa. When Costa fled officer Kraemer told April Grant to stay at scene. Both Officer Rilling and Kraemer began a foot pursuit with Costa. Costa was observed immediately reaching into his waistband and Officers heard a metal object hit the sidewalk. Costa continued to flee on foot and he was observed reaching back into his waistband again and pulling out a handgun. Both officers began yelling at Costa to drop the gun. Costa refused all commands and while running, looked back, pointed a loaded CZ-52 handgun at the officers and fired multiple shots at them as they continued to chase him. Officers choose not to return fire because behind Costa, at the end of the block was flashing police lights and officers Bourke and Denehy.

• As the above incident was unfolding Officers Bourke and Denehy were already involved in a separate, unrelated car stop on Clinton Ave at Midwood St in Hempstead. This stop produced an arrest for drugs (218AR0016480). This defendant was placed in the back seat of their unmarked RMP and at this time the shooting subject Costa from above ran passed these officers. Officers Denehy and Bourke ordered Costa to drop the gun as they joined Officers Rilling and Kraemer and began to pursue him on foot. Costa ignored these commands and began shooting at Bourke and Denehy. All four officers continued to pursue Costa until they lost sight of him as he ran between buildings on Clinton St. Within minutes and with the help of other BSO assets and Hempstead PD, PO Denehy located Costa on the side 6 Meriam St and he was arrested (218AR0016494). During the arrest of Costa, Yasime Hardwick attempted to intervene in the arrest and was arrested by PO Denehy for Obstructing Governmental Administration (218AR0016501).

• During a canvass of Costa's route a fully loaded .40 caliber Smith and Wesson handgun was recovered in the area where PO's Rilling and Kraemer heard a metal object hit the sidewalk. Also, in the rear of 20 Meriam St a CZ-52 7.62x25 caliber handgun was recovered. This was the gun shots were fired at the officers from. It should be noted that this caliber is often referred to as "Cop Killer Bullets" known for piercing police vests.

• April Grant the operator of the initial stop fled scene when Officers Rilling and Kraemer were in foot pursuit. She was arrested by BSO officers walking home later in the night. Her car was located and impounded.

• These officers in the line of Police duty distinguished themselves by chasing a violent felon risking their lives while being shot at, protecting other officers and innocent people in the area. Their courageous act ended with no injuries to the public or the defendant, and removing a violent felony offender from the streets of Nassau County who was in possession of two loaded firearms.

• UPDATE: After countless hours of officer and detective's testimony, Duane Costa was sentenced on January 27, 2022 to 25 years to life in prison by Hon. Judge Harrington. He was convicted of four counts of first-degree attempted murder, one count of first-degree criminal use of a firearm and three counts of second-degree criminal possession of a weapon.

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GOOD TO KNOW

Peter J. Caso, Esq.

As in the old proverb, "Better late than never." On August 10, 2022, *The Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act*, simply known as the *PACT Act*, was signed into law.

The *PACT Act* is considered the most significant expansion of veterans benefits in over three decades. This law extends benefits to service personnel who served in the *Vietnam War*, *Operation Desert Shield*, *Operation Desert Storm*, *Operation New Dawn*, *Operation Iraqi Freedom* and *Operation Enduring Freedom*.

This law seeks to provide expanded access of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care and disability benefits to veterans harmed by burn pits and other toxins during military service. The *PACT Act* will:

- Add 23 respiratory illnesses and cancers related to burn pits and airborne hazards exposure as presumptive conditions.
 - Create a way to more easily establish future presumptive conditions.
 - Add hypertension and monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance to the VA's list of presumptive conditions of Agent Orange exposure.
 - Add Thailand, Laos and Cambodia to locations where Vietnam War veterans had presumptive exposure to Agent Orange.
 - Require the VA to provide training to improve toxic exposure disability claims. The VA also must ensure that veterans enrolled in its health care system be examined regularly for concerns related to toxic exposure.
 - Require the VA to conduct outreach campaigns and provide resources to veterans exposed to toxins during military service.
- Order the VA to help veterans who served in southwest Asia during the Persian Gulf War and Post 9/11 conflicts better understand toxic exposure illnesses among veterans.
 - Extend the period of time a veteran can enroll in VA health care from 5 years to 10 years after discharge. After that period, veterans can't enroll unless they have a service-connected disability.

The *PACT Act* reforms how the VA determines who suffered exposure to the listed pollutants while in military service. Veterans can still receive benefits for conditions not listed, but the burden is upon them to prove their illness is linked to one of the indicated causes.

On January 1, 2023 the VA began processing *PACT Act* claims. Veterans with cancer, over the age of 85, those experiencing homelessness or financial hardships, Medal of Honor or Purple Heart recipients will be prioritized.

Veterans who participated in eligible operations are requested to join the VA's Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry at:

<https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposure/s/burnpits/registry.asp>

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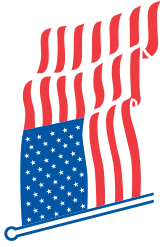


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