

LI ABATE membership meeting 10-9-18, Centereach VFW

Tonight's meeting was our annual dinner meeting, where we disbursed the funds we've raised on our Veterans Appreciation Run to local veterans organizations. We thank everyone who generously prepared and donated food for tonight's buffet style dinner. A special thank you to **Nancy G.** for chairing the dinner committee and to **Karen** for supplying the centerpieces on each table.

7:00 Buffet dinner served.

**Honored Guest Speakers:** We were honored to have the following elected officials present at this event: **United States Congressman Lee Zeldin, New York State Senate Majority Leader John Flanagan, New York State Assemblyman Dean Murray, Suffolk County Legislator Rudy Saunderman, Suffolk County Sheriff Errol Toulon, and Director of Suffolk County Veterans Affairs Tom Ronayne.** We thank these elected officials for the kind words they spoke about Long Island ABATE.

8:00 Opening ceremony with the **Marine Corps Veterans of Long Island** presenting the Flag and leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence followed to honor all the veterans who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our Country.

**Pastor Gerry, Bikers for Christ MM** offered opening words and prayer.

Welcome members and guests.

**Introduction of Bill Quinn**, who is the Chairman of the Veterans Appreciation Run and passionate supporter of Veterans. Bill is also responsible for finding three benefactors who matched all of the funds that we've raised, bringing our total for this year to \$150,000, all of which was distributed tonight. To date, LI ABATE has raised \$611,000 for veterans on Long Island. Bill sincerely thanked all who donated to the Veterans Appreciation Fund throughout the year. A special mention was given to the following for their large donations: **Apple Dumpling Gang, Christine who gave back all of her 50/50 winnings from last year's Veterans Dinner, American Legion Riders Smith Weaver 651 Sayville, Dee Bonacasa from the Popeye's fundraiser for her family, Leathernecks MC, On The Road Again Motorcycle School, Patriot Guard Riders Pete and Warren, a donation made in memory of Bob Golden, Kruszon Family PGR Mission, Jim and Terry from their 50/50 winnings at Polish Hall steak night, Mastic Ambulance, Nassau County Fire Riders, Polish Hall Flag Day fundraiser, Proner and Proner Attnys at Law, Rolling Thunder NY6 William J Byrne, Riders of Fire MC, Sacred Steel MC, Teamster Horsemen MC in memory of Joseph "BigJoe" Hentz, US Veterans MC, Vietnam Veterans of America 11.**

Bill recognized the following families and veterans: **Gold Star Families, US Army Veterans, US Marine Corp Veterans, US Navy Veterans, US Air Force Veterans, US Coast Guard Veterans.** Bill recognized **Dee Bonacasa** as a member of a Gold Star Family and a US Air Force Veteran.

**Disbursement of funds:** The following veteran organizations are this year's recipients of the proceeds raised. Each organization assists local veterans with minimal or no overhead cost to themselves: **VA Medical Center, Northport, VFW Post 4927 Centereach, VFW Post 2913 Patchogue, VFW Post 2476 Riverhead, VFW Post 400 Farmingville, VFW Post 6249 Rocky Point, VFW Post 433 Sayville, American Legion Post 694 Northport, Long Island Blue Star Moms 6, Moms of Military Blue Star Moms 12, Angel Bikes / Project Miller, Angel Bikes Meals of Honor, BPO Elks Lodge 2044 Riverhead, Coalition of Fraternal and Veteran Organizations, Paws of War, Project 9 Line, Sea Cadets Farmingdale, FDNY 343 Ride, Nassau County Fire Fighters Operation Wounded Warrior, AMVETS Post 1174, AMVETS Post 1174 Ladies Auxiliary, Nassau County United Veterans, United Veterans Beacon House, SPC. Matthew Bayliss Memorial Scholarship Fund, In Jordan's Honor, Wounded Warriors Amputee Softball Team, US Veterans MC LI Chapter, Patriot Guard Riders NY Region 9, Leathernecks MC, Marine Corps Veterans of LI, Marine Corps League Suffolk County Detachment, American Legion Riders Post 1006 Brentwood, American Legion Riders Post 651 Sayville, American Legion Riders Post 1244 Greenlawn, American Legion Post 273 Riverhead, American Legion Post 48, Suffolk County Homefront, USVMC NYS, Long Island YES, Operation Veronica, Honor Flight Long Island, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 11, DAV Transportation Northport (The DAV van donated by LI ABATE last year in memory of **SSgt. Louis Bonacasa** was driven here tonight.)**

### **Closing of Veterans Appreciation Ceremony**

**50/50:** \$322 was awarded to the winner

### **Recess**

**Business portion** of tonight's meeting reconvened at 9:40

The minutes for our September 2018 membership meeting were published in the October 2018 newsletter and on the LI ABATE website.

**Motion 24-2018: Motion to accept September 2018 minutes as published in the October 2018 newsletter and posted on the LI ABATE website. (Seconded) All in favor.**

**Treasurer's Report:** Detailed income and expenditures were reported

**Motion 25-2018: Motion to accept treasury report. (Seconded) All in favor.**

## **Nominations**

**Motion 26-2018: Motion to nominate all existing board members for the 2019 year. (Seconded) All in favor.**

**Motion 27-2018: Motion to postpone nominations of 2019 LI ABATE Officers until the November membership meeting. (Seconded) All in favor.**

Nominations recessed until the November membership meeting.

**Motion 28-2018: Motion to adjourn. (Seconded) All in favor.**

Meeting adjourned 9:45.