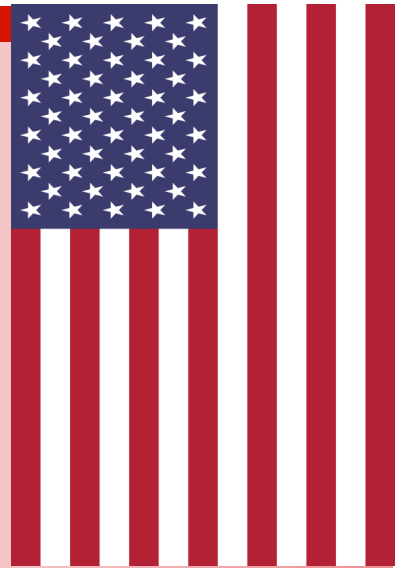


Veterans' Voice



Community Appreciation for the July 4th Parade

I would like to thank you for the wonderful 4th of July Parade. Every year all our homeowners look forward to seeing Patrick & Ramona lead all the motorcycles, cars, golf carts, bikes and walkers all decked out in red, white & blue, flying the American flag. It was the highlight of the day watching people come out on their front porches clapping and cheering. To have the support of the Cheswold Fire Department with two trucks was a bonus. I am so happy that throughout the years the Veterans Association has been a big part of the Nobles Pond Community and continues to thrive. Thank you again for organizing this yearly event that everyone looks forward to.

Colleen Ostafy
Lifestyle Director

Inside this issue

- Memorial Day 2
- Bruce Laberde 3
- Sunday Grilling 4
- Flag Placement..... 4
- President's Corner 5
- Quilts of Valor 6
- Upcoming Events 6
- Flag Day..... 7
- Honor Flight 8
- Pancake Breakfast..... 9

- President: Joyce
Jamison
- Vice President: Santo
Faronea
- Secretary: Patti
Faronea
- Treasurer: Patrick
Gaudett
- Sargent at Arms: Sal
Waters

Memorial Day Ceremony 2023: Honoring Our Heroes



This year, we celebrated the eighth anniversary of our Memorial Day ceremony, and it was an undeniable success, with the entire community turning out to pay their respects. The outdoor ceremony commenced at 11:30, with the honor guard and color guard presenting arms as the flag was raised outside the clubhouse.

Inside, the program was filled with touching and meaningful highlights that left a lasting impression on all attendees:

The ceremony began with a heartwarming performance of the National Anthem by our very own choir, "Noble Voices." Throughout the program, they continued to move the audience with a soul-stirring rendition of "American Tears," a song written by Teresa Jennings. Soloist Chris Talbot, accompanied by the talented Director Bonnie Forgacs, delivered a beautiful and emotional performance that touched everyone's hearts.

Bob Sly took the stage to recite a POW/MIA reading, an eloquent tribute to those brave souls who are prisoners of war or missing in action. While we couldn't attribute the reading to its original author at the time, rest assured, we will provide that information as soon as possible.

One of the most poignant moments of the ceremony was the "Missing Man Table" segment, a touching tribute to our beloved ones who are no longer with us. Tom Mehl led the reading as veterans and residents alike solemnly placed various items on the table, each carrying its own symbolic meaning:

- A table, often round, representing our unwavering concern for the missing.
- A white tablecloth, symbolizing the pure motives that led them to answer the call of duty.
- A single red rose, a poignant reminder of the missing individuals, and a testament to the unwavering faith and love of their friends and families, who await answers.
- A lemon, evoking the bitter fate of those captured and missing in foreign lands.
- A pinch of salt, symbolizing the tears shed by those longing for their return.
- A single candle, representing the indomitable spirit of those who are missing. We will always remember.
- The Book of Faith, a powerful symbol of the strength gained through faith, supporting those who have been lost from our country, founded as one nation under God.
- An inverted glass, a poignant reminder of their absence during this evening's toast.
- An empty chair, signifying their absence in our midst.

The ceremony continued with a touching moment when Tom Dolphin shared a deeply personal poem he had composed, titled "They Tell Me of You." This heartfelt tribute was dedicated to his son, Staff Sergeant Patrick Ryan Dolphin, a Marine Raider from the Special Operations Command (MARSoc).

As the program came to a close, attendees were able to enjoy refreshments generously provided by NPVA. President Jamison took a moment to express sincere gratitude to all the volunteers whose efforts made this year's Memorial Day ceremony an unforgettable success.

Remembering Bruce Laberde

BRUCE LABERDEE, born on February 27, 1955, in Toledo, Ohio, passed away peacefully on July 13, 2023, at St. Francis Hospital. A man of heart and spirit, Bruce was known for his vibrant, adventurous, and loving nature.

Bruce proudly served in the United States Navy for four years as an Operation Specialist. His disciplined and focused demeanor gained from his military service stayed with him throughout his life, contributing greatly to his 13 successful years as a computer tech for IBM. A lover of technology, he found joy in playing computer games, with a special fondness for his Oculus.

Beyond his career, Bruce was a devoted and loving husband. He and his beloved wife, Terry, embarked on countless adventures together, their shared wanderlust taking them to far-flung corners of the globe. They held a particular fondness for cruising — voyages that saw their favorite destination become the enchanting lands of Iceland. Through every journey, Bruce and Terry's love for each other was evident and they became each other's best travel companions.

Bruce was a passionate supporter of the New York Jets. Despite the miles between Toledo and New York, his spirit soared with every touchdown and his faith in the team never wavered. In true Bruce style, game days would often find him sporting his favorite tie-dye clothing, a reflection of his colorful and free-spirited personality.

An avid Harley rider, Bruce cherished the camaraderie he found with his NP buddies. Together, they would take to the open road, sharing the

bond of brotherhood and the thrill of the ride, their laughter echoing in the wind as they rode.

Bruce's zest for life didn't end with high-speed pursuits; he was also a man of subtle and refined tastes. He had a deep appreciation for the arts, enjoying both watching plays and listening to rock & roll music. A man of rhythm, Bruce could frequently be found dancing with Terry in their living room or at local events. Quiet evenings might see him engrossed in a good book or playing Bunco with friends and family. His

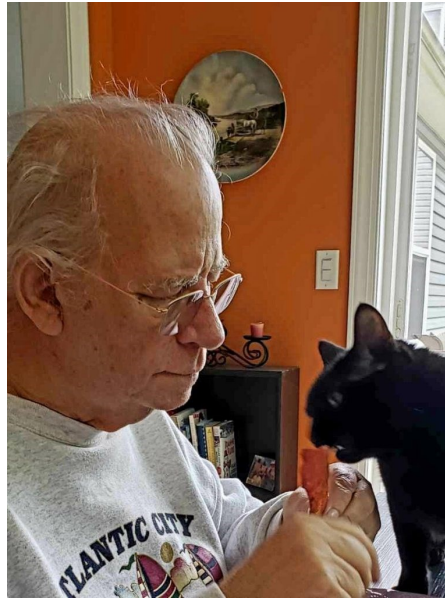
fondness for nature was evident, whether he was fishing in a quiet lake, watching awe-inspiring lightning storms, or simply spending time outdoors. Animals held a special place in his heart, and Bruce took immense joy in spoiling his pets, treating them as members of the family.

Bruce had a whimsical side, too. Halloween was his favorite holiday, closely followed by Christmas. He delighted in the magic of the season, whether he was dressing up in fun costumes or decorating the house with Terry.

Bruce Laberde lived life to the fullest, embracing every moment with passion and love. His presence was a gift to all who knew him, and his memory will be cherished forever by his loving wife, Terry, his NP friends, family, and all who were fortunate enough to have known him.

Bruce, you have embarked on your final cruise, to a destination beyond the horizon, and while you will be deeply missed, your adventurous and loving spirit will forever remain in our hearts.

Fair winds and following seas, dear friend.



From the Editor



Welcome to the premiere issue of the *Veterans'*

Voice, the official newsletter of the Noble's Pond Veterans Association. Complementing our brand-new website, <https://www.npvets.org>, this newsletter enriches the communication channels we offer within our organization.

As this is our first foray into both a newsletter and a website, please understand that our approach is exploratory.

The success of the *Veterans' Voice* hinges on the active participation of NPVA members. We encourage you to share news, experiences, and stories. Don't fret about crafting the perfect narrative; leave the polishing to me. We eagerly await your contribution.

Upcoming Membership Events Summary

From July to October, we'll focus on reviewing and potentially amending our By-Laws, with voting expected by November's end. Concurrently, board nominations will run from September to October with the election in November.

Patriotic Sunday Grilling – July 2nd

On July 2nd, our special Sunday Grilling event provided the perfect opportunity for the Association to show its gratitude to the community. Spearheaded by the talented Grille Master Moe Moy, along with Bobby Turner and David Jamison, the event was an overwhelming success, setting a new all-time record for selling out hamburgers, hot dogs, and delicious grilled chicken. Notably, the mouthwatering chicken owes its popularity to John Lawson's special marinade, which left everyone craving for more.

We are immensely thankful to Ron Sansone, Debbie Murphy, Corlyn Yusef, and Geri Moy for lending their valuable assistance in managing the funds and ticket count. Their dedication and support were truly invaluable in making this event run smoothly.

What makes this achievement even more special is the fact that all the proceeds from the event, a grand total of \$312, were generously donated to "NPVA." We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the Sunday Grilling Committee for their hard work and dedication in organizing this event.

Ultimately, the credit for this resounding success goes to each and every one of you, the beautiful residents, whose continuous support and participation made this event a memorable one. Your unwavering commitment to the community is truly inspiring and heartwarming. Thank you for being an integral part of this meaningful event. Together, we make a difference!

Flag Placement Committee: New Process, and a Call to Action

Our community's Flag Placement initiative is undergoing a transformation. Spearheading this change are Howard Goodhand, representing Phase 1, and Bobby Turner from Phase 2, who've stepped up as our inaugural Flag Placement Team Captains. Their key responsibilities revolve around leading a brigade of volunteers dedicated to ensuring flags are prominently placed—and subsequently removed—at each resident's mailbox during National Patriotic Holidays. Additionally, come Veterans Day, they ensure that every veteran's yard proudly displays the corresponding yard signs, which are also promptly removed afterward. Thanks to the many veteran volunteers rallying under their leadership, the task of flag placement has become efficient and streamlined. On average, each assignment is completed within a swift 10-15 minutes.

With our community witnessing rapid growth, there's a burgeoning need for more hands on deck. Volunteering presents a dual advantage: not only do you contribute to the community, but it also offers a golden chance to kickstart your daily exercise routine, be it in the twilight of the evening or the fresh hours of the morning. Those interested in joining this burgeoning committee can opt for a role as a permanent flag placer, which entails a minimum commitment of a year, or as a substitute flag placer. Potential volunteers are encouraged to reach out to Howard at howard@goodhand.org or Bobby at repoort83@yahoo.com.

In closing, a special salute is due to our devoted flag placement captains and volunteers. For residents who might spot these familiar faces around their mailboxes, rest assured, there's no need to ring up the Postmaster General! Representing Phase 1 are John Hanson, John Keeley, Sal Waters, Santo & Patti Faronea, Jim Ullman, Gordon Childers, Fred Ziegler, Pat Gaudett, and Captain Howard Goodhand. Meanwhile, Phase 2 boasts the dedication of Craig Austin, Tom Mehl, David & Joyce Jamison, Joe Tindall, and Captain Bobby Turner. We're grateful for their commitment and look forward to welcoming more volunteers to the fold.

Introducing "Veterans Voice" - The Official Newsletter of Nobles Pond Veterans Association (NPVA)

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my distinct pleasure to introduce to you the inaugural edition of the Nobles Pond Veterans Association (NPVA) newsletter, aptly named "Veterans Voice." Our principal aim with "Veterans Voice" is to serve as a beacon of information, engagement, and a chronicle of our yearly endeavors. This bi-annual publication, set to grace your inboxes in December and June starting from 2024, is a consolidated snapshot of our accomplishments and a testament to the camaraderie we share. So, as you flip through the pages of this debut edition, I encourage you to grab your reading glasses, settle into a comfortable chair, and dive into the narratives that shape our community.

Leading the helm of this venture are our dedicated newsletter committee members:

- **Bill Newmiller** – Taking charge as the Chief Editor.
- **Kim Callene** - Our proficient Writer, weaving the tales of our accomplishments.
- **Joyce Jamison** - Another eloquent Writer, who will share the pulse of our community.

A Glimpse Into the Future: The NPVA Digital Footprint

Have you ever pondered the convenience of having a consolidated platform where you can access a plethora of Veteran Organizational links, delve into archives of our memorable events, review our By-Laws, skim through monthly meeting minutes, or swiftly fill out a membership application? Well, your wish might soon be our command!

The NPVA Board, ever-vigilant in their pursuit of innovation, is currently mulling over the concept of creating a dedicated website for NPVA. The commendation for this pioneering idea goes to none other than our Chief Editor, Bill Newmiller. Taking his proposal a step further, Bill has also sculpted a mock website, which our selected beta testers will proudly showcase in forthcoming meetings. Stay tuned!

Flying High: The Emblem of NPVA Pride

An intriguing highlight from our June meeting was VP Santo's motion for NPVA to have its very own flag. Picture this: the pride of hoisting our unique flag at every meeting, a symbol representing each one of us. But, what if we told you there's a twist? What if we were to initiate a contest for the flag's design, granting you an opportunity to etch your creativity into the annals of NPVA history? Just fathom the idea of being the mind behind the emblematic NPVA Flag, cementing your legacy for perpetuity.

To conclude, we invite your valuable feedback and insights. Your voice, after all, is the heart of "Veterans Voice." Dive in and let the journey begin!

<p>Partnership Corner</p> <p>Bingo Committee – Tony Lupo Quilters Committee – Barbara Sansone Wreaths Across America – Joan Henry</p>	<p>Your thoughts are important!</p> <p><u>What do you think about....</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• An NPVA Flag?• An NPVA Coin?• An NPVA Website? <p>Share your thoughts with NPVA officer or board member</p>
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Quilts of Valor: A Tapestry of Healing and Honor

In the quiet town of Seaford, Delaware, Catherine Roberts dreamt a vision in 2003 that would become a beacon of hope for countless veterans. In her poignant dream, Catherine glimpsed a young soldier, weighed down by the invisible scars of war, hunched and engulfed in despair. But a transformation was on the horizon. Wrapped in a quilt, the soldier's demeanor shifted from despair to hope, illustrating the therapeutic power of a simple piece of fabric. Such was the birth of the idea behind the Quilts of Valor Foundation. Under Catherine's vision and direction, it metamorphosed over the years, becoming a national non-profit organization in 2005. Their mission? To envelop service members and veterans in comforting and healing quilts, a gesture to heal the wounds war left behind.



Inspired by this noble cause, Alice Riley and Barbara Sansone, members of the Helping Hands Quilt Guild in Dover, began crafting Quilts of Valor (QOV). However, a thought soon sprouted in our minds: why not extend this gesture of gratitude to the veterans in our community? With the green light from the local Veteran's group, we found ourselves participating in the Veteran's Day ceremony. Alice and Barbara always felt a deep-rooted desire to extend gratitude to Vietnam veterans, given their tumultuous homecoming. Joining the Quilts of Valor was a heartfelt gesture, an opportunity to not only honor them but all veterans who've selflessly served.

This endeavor would not have been possible without the dedicated hands of the Noble Quilter's team. The quilting artisans include Rosanne Christensen, Abby Eaton, Mary Ann Goodhand, Nancy Helmer, Barbara Ingino, Mary Johnson, Alice Riley, Barbara Sansone, Carol Vieira, and Corlyn Yusef. Lending an additional layer of authenticity to our quilts is Mary Kokoszka, a retired USAF veteran, who passionately sews the backings as our longarm quilter. It's worth noting the original members who embarked on this journey: Nancy Helmer, Suzanne Kreisher, JoAnn Risko, Barbara Sansone, and Mary Toole.

For those in our community wishing to nominate a deserving veteran, we've made provisions. Every March, a nomination sheet adorns our bulletin board. However, nominations are welcome year-round. All we require is the veteran's first & last name, alongside their branch of service. Additional details like phone number and rank are optional.

Should this story resonate with you, and should you wish to become a part of our team, or perhaps nominate a deserving veteran, feel free to reach out to Barbara Sansone. Together, we can weave a tapestry of gratitude and healing.



Honor Flight Network: A Tribute to Our Nation's Heroes



In the heart of the nation's capital, amidst the bustling streets and iconic monuments, there exists an opportunity for America's veterans to reconnect with their past, their comrades, and the profound history of their service. The Honor Flight Network, founded in 2005 by Jeff Miller and Earl Morse, emerged with a single, resonating mission: to honor our nation's veterans by bringing them to Washing-

ton, D.C. to visit the memorials that stand as testaments to their service and sacrifices.

Borne out of deep respect and gratitude, this national nonprofit organization comprises over 125 hubs across the country, all collaboratively working towards the vision of showing every veteran the community of support they rightfully deserve. While it began with an emphasis on World War II veterans, the network now proudly encompasses those from the Korean and Vietnam Wars, as well as critically ill veterans from all service eras.

With the devoted efforts of volunteers, approximately 22,000 veterans are transported to D.C. annually, culminating in a staggering total of nearly 275,000 veterans since the Network's conception. These hubs, in coordination with the Lone Eagle program, ensure that veterans from every corner of the country can partake in this moving experience.

On one recent trip, seven NPNA vets joined with other veterans from surrounding states on an Honor Flight sponsored by the Philadelphia Honor Flight hub. At the Air Force memorial, they watched in awe as the honor guard showcased their precision, the tower spires casting long shadows in the backdrop. They later exchanged tales with these members, cherishing the bridge of stories between generations.

At the Women's memorial, a sense of pride enveloped the group when one of their fellow participants, a former flight nurse, was honored for her dedication. They learned of the memorial staff's continuous efforts to ensure that every woman's contribution to the service is recognized and archived.

Another profound moment was etched at the Korean War Memorial. The lifelike statues of soldiers, weighed down by their gear and enveloped in ponchos, brought back visceral memories. Their expressions depicted an exhaustion that was eclipsed only by their unyielding determination.

Yet, amidst the reflection and remembrance, there were also moments of sheer joy and camaraderie. The group was welcomed back with the gleeful faces of children, expressing gratitude and curiosity. The motorcycle escorts and the wave of onlookers cheering them on made every veteran feel celebrated. Heartfelt thanks echoed everywhere they went, and they found comfort in sharing stories with fellow vets, reliving memories and forging new ones.

In essence, the Honor Flight Network is more than just a visit to the capital. It's an emblem of a nation's unwavering gratitude, a testament to the sacrifices made, and a promise of perpetual honor and remembrance. As the Network's vision aptly captures, every veteran truly deserves this experience of honor, gratitude, and the encompassing community of support.

Flag Day Celebrated with a Special Ceremony at Noble's Pond

On June 14th, coinciding with Flag Day, the Noble's Pond community gathered in the Club-house ballroom for a memorable Coffee with Colleen event. Attendees were welcomed with patriotic music, and as a keepsake of the special day, they were given flag pins and programs upon entry.



Tom Mehl, the day's Master of Ceremony, set the tone by introducing Dale Williams, who stirred patriotic sentiments by leading the National Anthem and the Pledge of Allegiance. The ceremony's highlight was an evocative Flag-Folding presentation by Dee Sullivan and Patty Wysong, choreographed to Tom's inspiring narration. Representing the Noble's Pond Veterans Association, Dee took a moment to acknowledge the over 100 attendees, thanking them for their patriotism and involvement.

The event was not just the effort of a few but a collective endeavor. Credit for its success also goes to Lucy Mehl, Peggy Seiben, and Michele Thalheimer, whose commitment ensured the ceremony was a touching tribute to the flag and what it represents. Additionally, a nod of gratitude is extended to Colleen for integrating this tribute into her Coffee event.

Feedback from the community was overwhelmingly positive, reflecting their appreciation for the effort put into the Flag Day observance. Noble's Pond looks forward to hosting many more such meaningful events in the coming times.

<p>Upcoming Events & Key Dates</p> <p>By-Laws Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Review/Amend: July-October ● Vote & Adoption: November ● Board Elections: September-November <p>Donation Distribution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Organization Nomination: September—October ● Voting: November ● Distribution Date: December 	<p>Social Gatherings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Pig Roast: October 14th <p>Upcoming Meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● October 18 ● November 14 <p>Veterans Day:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Preparation: September - November ● Ceremony Date: November 11th <p>Flag Related Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Flag Placement Wrap-Up: November ● Evaluation of Additional Flag Needs: November 	<p>Service Flag Birthdays:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Army: June 14th ● Marine Corp: November 10th ● Navy: October 13th ● Air Force: September 18th ● Coast Guard: August 4th ● Space Force: December 20th <p>Note: Purchase of Space Force flag for outside pole required.</p> <p>Make sure to mark your calendars for these key events and stay updated with the latest information!</p>
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Great Pancakes, Great Day



Saturday dawned the perfect day, perhaps the best day of summer, as the scent of pancakes wafted through the clubhouse. A prelude to October's pig and chicken barbeque, the Pancake Breakfast brought our community together once again for a chance to catch up with friends and neighbors and to meet newcomers to Noble's Pond. We lingered over coffee and soaked up the ambience of our newly refurbished conservatory.



Special thanks to Bob Sly and all the volunteers who made the event a success!

Our New Website is Online



See stories like the one above and other features online at

<https://www.npvets.org>.