



## Sponsored Organizations and Programs

Tony Palangi

### OUR YOUTH IN THE MILITARY

The 9/11 2001 terrorist attack on the New York City Trade Center and the Pentagon, and the on-going violence in Iraq, has indeed, revealed how much the youth of Modern America care for their country – just as did their Fathers, Grandfathers, and Great-grandfathers years ago.

Recently, I received through the Internet, vivid photos of our troops serving in Iraq with a heart-moving story depicting the average young man in the military today. I was so deeply moved by the article that I decided to share it with you. It's a timely subject, inspirational, with a clear message: "Regardless of the many opinions concerning the war in Iraq, we are truly fortunate to have devoted men and women in the Armed Forces to defend our freedoms and way of life. They deserved our everlasting support and gratitude. And now the story-author unknown.

The average age of a young man in the military today is 19 years of age. He's a recent High School graduate, he was probably an average student, pursued some sort of sport activities, and had a steady girlfriend that either broke up with him when he left, or swears to be waiting when he returns from half a world away. He listens to rock and roll or hip-hop or swings a 155mm howitzer. He is 10 or 15 pound lighter now than when he was at home because he is working or fighting from before dawn to well after dark.

He has trouble spelling, thus letter writing is a pain for him, but he can field strip a rifle in 30 seconds and reassemble it in the dark. He can recite to you the nomenclature of a machine gun or grenade launcher and use either one effectively if he must. He digs foxholes and can apply first aid like a professional.

He obeys orders instantly and without hesitation, but he is not without spirit or individual dignity. He is self-sufficient. He has two sets of fatigues: he washes one and wears the other. He keeps his canteens full and his feet dry. He sometimes forgets to brush his teeth, but never to clean his rifle. He can cook his own meals, mend his clothes, and fix his own hurts. If you're thirsty, he'll share his water with you; if you are hungry, his food. He'll even split his ammunition with you in the midst of battle when you run low.

He has learned to use his hands like weapons and weapons like they were his hands. He can save your life – or take it, because that is his job. He will often do twice the work of a civilian, draw half the pay and still find ironic humor in it all. He has seen more suffering and death than he should have in his short lifetime.

He has stood atop of mountains of dead bodies, and helped to create them. He has wept in public and in private, for friends who have fallen in combat and is unashamed. He feels every note of the National Anthem vibrate

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## Williams Collects Pet Supplies



Sheila Williams

The Kiwanis Club of **CORTLAND**, Chemung Division – at a recent meeting recognized Sheila Williams for her untiring efforts in fulfilling the principles of Kiwanis. Since joining in January 2003, she has scheduled speakers for meetings and is constantly coming up with ideas for different projects.

The most outstanding was called "Stuff a Bus." She obtained a 66 passenger school bus from the Cortland School District over a weekend, advertised it would be in the K-MART parking lot and requested donations of pet supplies to fill the bus for the Cortland SPCA. As a result, the bus, manned by Sheila and Kiwanians, had every seat piled with pet supplies. It is estimated that over \$3,000.00 was realized in pet supplies and donations.

Sheila was presented with a plaque by Immediate Past President Rick McMullin [her sponsor], which read: "New Kiwanian of the Year presented to Sheila Williams in recognition of outstanding leadership and service. Presented by the Kiwanis Club of Cortland."

## Lindenhurst Kiwanians Moonlight Bowls for Kids



Kiwanis Club of **LINDENHURST**, Suffolk West – held a Moonlight Bowling Night to benefit the Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Center at North Shore Hospital and P.T.C. at Good Samaritan Hospital. VP Susan Groenewoud along with Meg Maggiotta chaired the event.

## Junior Kiwanian Joins Seneca Falls



April Miller, baby Savannah and John King

The Kiwanis Club of **SENECA FALLS**, Finger Lakes Division – Something special happened at the March 4 meeting, April Miller became an official member. April first attended Kiwanis meetings in 2000 when she was a Junior Kiwanian (April Saville) at Waterloo Central. After graduating, April enlisted in the United States Army. Kiwanian John King, who had arranged for her to be a Junior Kiwanian, kept in touch. She did well in her Army training, but romance changed the picture when she met Jesse Miller. They were married, and another change came about when Baby Savannah joined the family. April left the service and returned to Waterloo. When her husband is discharged this spring, she expects they will make their home here.

Not only is the club thrilled to have April as a full member, but they also enjoy having Savannah attend with her mother. Probably Savannah is the youngest prospective Kiwanis member around. And, of course, John King who first introduced April to the club was her sponsor.

## Kingston Kiwanis Donates Baby Kits



**Pictured: Kingston President William Spearman, , Chairman of the Youth Services Committee and YMCA Director of Youth Services Ray Radel, and Nan Hermus holding baby Arianna Johnson.**

The Kiwanis Club of **KINGSTON**, Hudson River Division – in conjunction with the Mid-Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union (MHVFCU), recently distributed 350 Baby Care Kits to three locations in the Kingston area.

William Spearman, President of both the Kingston Kiwanis Club and MHVFCU, along with Ray Radel, Chairman of the Youth Services Committee, distributed the kits to the Rose Women's Center, the YWCA Teen Parent Services and Ulster County Birthright. Kits included bibs, bottles, rattles and pacifiers that were funded by both the Kingston Kiwanis Club and MHVFCU. Kiwanians Donna Miller, Gabriele Raub and Ray Radel along with Colleen Radel assembled the kits for

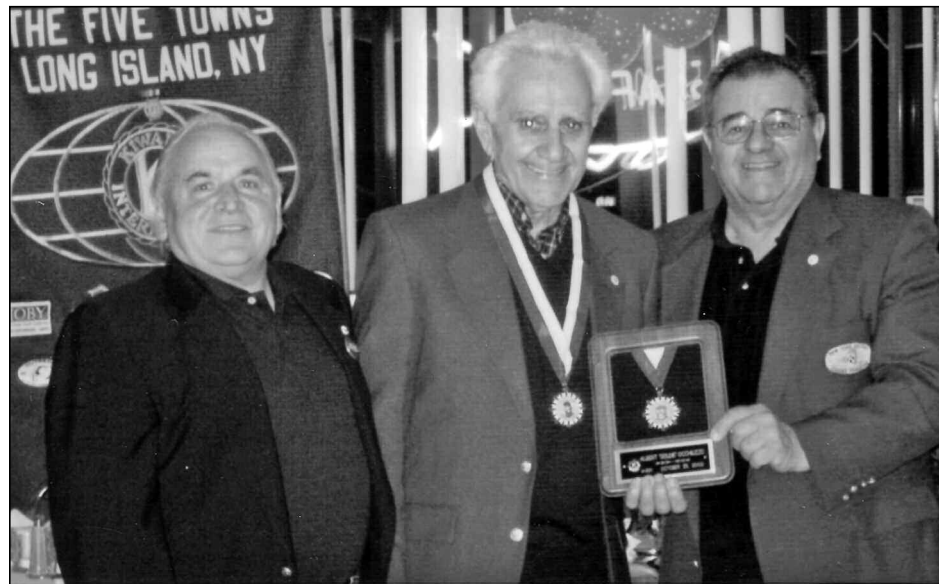
## Copiague Kiwanis Encourages Reading

The Kiwanis Club of **COPIAGUE**, Suffolk West Division – and the Copiague Public Library have joined together to encourage reading and the love of books. Library Director Alicja Feitzinger has set aside time each month for local Kiwanians to read to children during a story hour. The Kiwanis Club will also be providing each child who participates with a book to take home. Joining the Kiwanians in this effort are members of the Copiague High School Key Club.



**Above: PP Dr. Bill Bolton, Kiwanian Maria Cardino, Kiwanis Club President Dr. Maria Salonia Bellucci, Kiwanians Todd Haffner, Paul Westphal and Alicja Feitzinger.**

## Five Towns Presents KPTC Fellow Award



**Pictured from left: Five Towns President Tony Campanile, Goldie Occhiuzzo, and Past Governor Al Bevilacqua.**

The Kiwanis Club of the **FIVE TOWNS**, Long Island Southwest Division – presented Goldie Occhiuzzo a Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Center Fellowship Award.

The award and jacket are presented to a special Kiwanian whose Kiwanis Club donates \$1,000 to The Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Center Foundation at Schneider's Children's Hospital at North Shore University Hospital.

## Seyfried

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tem or similar event. Parents of these members are natural candidates for Kiwanis membership. In addition, sponsorship is not enough. A Kiwanis member (or advisor) should attend each organization's meetings.

9. **Go On-Line** and take advantage of e-mail and other computer-related opportunities. Be a member of the Chamber of Commerce and get space on their website, if one is available. Post your club's activities on the Web at volunteermatch.com. Keep up with the technology - the future is wide open for opportunities.

As your club begins preparations for the new term in October, don't forget to have a PR chairperson(s) and committee as part of the plan for the new year. One can begin with publicizing the elections of new officers.

Last but not least, give recognition to your members and their awards for a job well done. Everyone appreciates recognition. If you have questions or need any help, please contact me at 516-826-6344 or e-mail at JanSeyfried@prodigy.net. See you at the conventions.