

District Convention 2005 in Binghamton



VFW 1371 Ritual Team Osego. In rear on left Dick Hopkins, WWII, Pearl Harbor Survivor, George Carrigan, Army of Occupation, Berlin and in rear on right, Jack Howey, Korea. Not pictured but an important part of the impressive service PLG Dean Morgan, Army of Occupation, Berlin and Gary Phelps, Special Forces, Vietnam.



Governor Elect David Rothman, New York District Trustee Joel Williams, from the Alabama District and Governor Glenn Hollins welcome everyone to Binghamton.

POW/MIA Remembrance Service



Past Governor William Martin and Sheila light the candle at the empty Table at opening session in Binghamton. Sheila's brother A. Blanchard was MIA in Korea.

Editor's Note: This was the very moving service held at opening session to remember our Prisoners of War and our Missing in Action.

We call your attention to this small table which occupies a place of honor near the head of the table.

This table is set for those who cannot be with us . . . those who have given their all for the sake of our country.

Some fell in anguish and are resting on foreign soil. Some we know were captured but were not released to rejoin their loved ones. Some simply disappeared. They may be lost from our fold, but they are not forgotten.

The table is small, set for only one. It symbolizes the frailty of one lone individual against many oppressors.

The tablecloth is white for the purity of a fighting man's intentions in responding to their country's call to arms.

The single red rose represents the families who keep the faith awaiting our comrade's return.

A red ribbon tied prominently on the vase is reminiscent of the red ribbons worn by thousands bearing witness of an unyielding determination to demand a proper accounting of our missing.

A slice of lemon on the bread plate reminds us of our comrades bitter fate.

The salt beside it is symbolic of the families' tears as they wait.

The glass is inverted . . . they cannot toast with us tonight.

The chair is empty . . . they are not here.

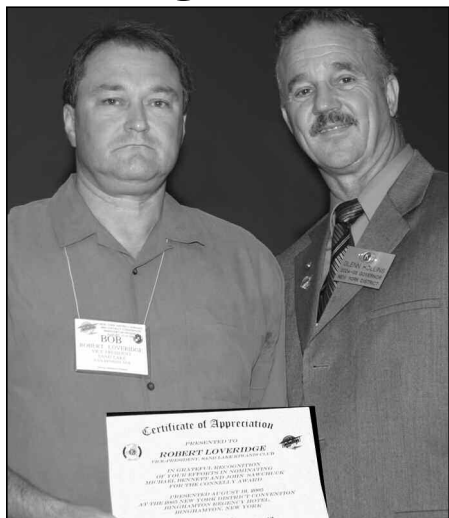
The napkin is unfolded as though used, as

the lives of our fellow soldiers were used up in the service of our country.

A solitary red candle stands straight and tall, proud like our comrades. It is red for the blood they shed and stands alone as they have stood. It is reminiscent of the light of hope (candle is lit) which lives in our hearts to illuminate their way home, away from their captors, to the open arms of a grateful nation.

In our frivolity, let us remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the freedoms we enjoy here tonight. They may be gone, but let them never be forgotten. Let us pray to the supreme commandant that all of our comrades will soon be back in our ranks. Let us remember.

Loveridge Awarded



Sand Lake VP Robert Loveridge received a Certificate of Merit for nominating the two men who received Connolly Awards for stopping a teenager with a gun at the Kingston High School.



L-R: Governor Glenn Hollins presents Metropolitan LG Mark Russo and Suffolk East LG Gina Doeler a plaque for 100% participation in the Kiwanis International Foundation Annual Club Gift Campaign from KIF Chair DPG Joseph Eppolito (right).



L-R: Convention Chairman Peter Papastrat and Governor Glenn present a Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Kit to Earl Drury, Port Crane Fire Department Med Team, DPLG Jim Whittaker is in the background. Other kits were donated to the Endicott, Chenango Forks and Greene Fire Departments.



This years District Convention was named in honor of DPLG Dominic Sciarrotta, of the Long Island Southwest Division. Pictured above: DPG Joe Eppolito will donate \$1000 to the New York District Foundation and presents the District Kaiser Award to Lorraine Sciarrotta. Governor Glenn congratulates Lorraine and her daughter Cathy on their well-deserved honor and tells everyone Dominic will be sorely missed.