William "Bill" Hughes

KENNETH P. LAVALLE   May 20, 2016

| ISSUE: **VETERANS HALL OF FAME**

Bill Hughes served in the United States Air Force as a Pararescueman from 1969 to 1974; he was a founding member of the Pararescue Team, 106th Rescue Group, New York Air National Guard, serving from 1975 until 1991, and retiring as a Senior Master Sergeant. A decorated Vietnam veteran, Bill received the Distinguished Flying Cross, several Air Medals and the Meritorious Service Medal, along with numerous other awards and decorations.

Bill had a career in the Southampton Town Police Department, retiring as a lieutenant. He is currently an active volunteer in several service and veterans organizations, including:

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 5350, Commander/Legacy Life Member; American Legion Post 924, Hampton Bays; The Pararescue Benevolent Association - Board of Directors; Boy Scouts of America; National Eagle Scout Association - Life Member; and the Knights of Columbus, Hampton Bays/East Quogue - Past Grand Knight. Mr. Hughes was the Top Fundraiser for Wounded Warrior Ride - "The Hamptons" in 2009 and 2010.

For five years, Bill has served as the Commander of VFW Post # 5350. He managed the huge undertaking of relocating the Post to its current location in Westhampton Beach. There, Bill runs an active branch with emphasis on veterans and youth, and specifi cally supporting the local military men and women of the 106th Rescue Wing. He has instituted new programs and made the Post the fastest growing in New York State. The Post runs one of the most robust Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy Programs in the district, with students consistently placing at the highest levels. In addition, Mr. Hughes has worked with both Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts to advance themselves and the VFW.

Bill and his wife Linda live in Hampton Bays and have two adult children, Elizabeth and Will. His selection into the New York State Senate Veterans' Hall of Fame is a fitting honor in recognition of his patriotism and service to our country.