

# CRANFORD MONTHLY NJ

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## GIRL SCOUTS OF CRANFORD HONOR VETERANS NEAR AND FAR

*Submitted by Kerry Rokicki*

Girl Scouts of Cranford honored veterans in their hometown and those serving all over the world with two different initiatives. Daisy Troop 40901 made homemade cards of gratitude and delivered them in person to members of the Cranford Police Department and Cranford Fire Department who are also veterans of the United States Armed Forces. The delivery was timed to coincide with Veterans Day.

“The girls were so proud to decorate the cards for our veterans. We also have more cards for the Cranford VFW and a poster,” explained Nikki Savino Mulcahy, co-leader of Daisy Troop 40901. “Many of our Daisy scouts also gave cards they created to family members, friends and neighbors who are veterans. They did such a great job and are truly excited to be part of the Cranford Girl Scout family as Daisies.”

Active duty troops also received homemade holiday cheer from The Girl Scouts of Cranford thanks to the efforts of Girl Scout Ambassador Troop 40071. For the sixth year in a row, the troop coordinated a “Cards for Troops” drive and collected hundreds of cards and ornaments that will be distributed to military personnel stationed here in the United States as well as overseas. Typically the “Cards for Troops” event is held at the Cranford Community Center but because COVID-19 restrictions prevented that type of gathering this year, the participation and collection was remote. Girl Scout Ambassadors from Troop 40071 created, packed and delivered 225 card making/activity kits to more than 20 participating troops, who generously created 200 ornaments and 400 holiday cards, more than any other year to date.

The Girl Scouts of Cranford boasts over 1,139 Girl Scout Members in 71 troops and Juliette’s making it one of the largest non-profit organizations in town. The Cranford Service Unit is a part of the Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey (GSHNJ) Council which is part of the Girl Scouts of the USA. If your family is interested in learning more about local Girl Scouts or to find out more information on the Girls Scouts of Cranford, please visit [cranfordgirlscouts.com](http://cranfordgirlscouts.com).



(above) Cranford Girl Scouts spread holiday cheer to veterans both locally and abroad by creating ornaments and cards.

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## SEND US YOUR NEWS

Did you or someone you know accomplish something amazing? We are interested in hearing about your latest achievement (accomplishment, honor, award, etc.). Do you have an event that you need help publicizing? Then send Cranford Monthly your news!

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# CRANFORD GIRL SCOUT DESIREE SANTOS AWARDED GOLD AWARD

*Submitted by Kerry Rokicki*

Desirée N. Santos, a resident of Cranford, N.J. and a Lifetime member of the Girl Scouts of Cranford (Service Unit 48), recently received official approval of her Girl Scout Gold Award project by the Girl Scouts of the Heart of New Jersey.

Desirée, a 2020 graduate of Cranford High School and a freshman at the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD), utilized her artistic talents to create a web comic that addresses the challenges faced by parents of LGBTQ youth, something that is not always included in mainstream LGBTQ discussions. The comic is available virtually so it may be easily shared with anyone. The link is:

[https://www.webtoons.com/en/challenge/emm-a/list?title\\_no=471819](https://www.webtoons.com/en/challenge/emm-a/list?title_no=471819)

“It was important for me to complete this project because this is an issue that no one really talks about,” said Desirée. “This project was meant to bring awareness to the untold struggles of the parents who go through as much anxiety as their children.”

The Gold Award is the highest achievement within the Girl Scouts of the USA, earned by Girl Scouts after meeting certain prerequisites. Since 1916, Girl Scout’s highest award has stood for excellence and leadership for girls everywhere and only 5.4 percent of eligible Girl Scouts successfully earn the Gold Award.

“I was excited to receive the news the project had been accepted as it meant over two years of hard work paid off,” said Desirée. “I am very appreciative of all the support provided to me by my project advisors and team, Marcy Roth-Kielczynski, Anne Weisenfels, Lockey Maisoneuve, Richard Bell and, of course, my family.”

Ms. Weisenfels, one of Desirée’s advisors, commented, “Desiree was able to create a project that combined her commitment as an ally of the LGBTQ community, with her passion and creativity as an artist. The outcome is a wonderful education for others and an expression of her unique talents.”

In addition, the Girl Scouts of the Heart of N.J.



awarded Desirée with the GSHNJ Change Maker Award. The GSHNJ Change Maker Award recognizes a Girl Scout’s combination of outstanding accomplishments as a Bronze, Silver, and Gold Award Girl Scout. Desirée’s award projects were all focused on sustainable service to others using her artistic gifts.

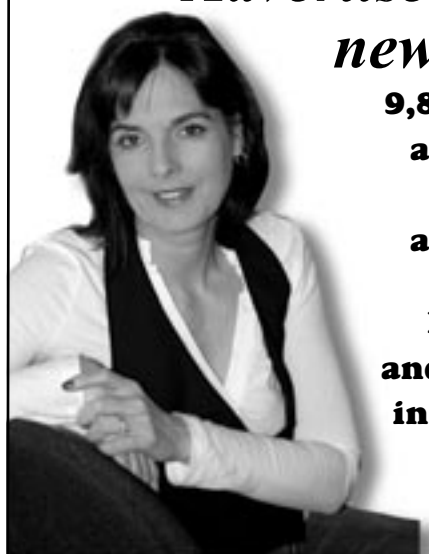
Desirée recommended that Girl Scouts interested in achieving the higher awards should be prepared to work hard. “You can’t be lazy, you have to be diligent and work for the achievement,” encouraged Desirée. “Half of Girl Scouts is fun and games, but the other half is hard work; volunteering, projects, and independent work. You can have all the fun in the world, but if you want to make a difference or earn distinctions, you need to plan to work hard and be diligent.”

The GSHNJ will present Desirée with the Gold Award pin and the Changer Maker pin at the 2021 Gold Award Ceremony tentatively scheduled in June of 2021.

The Girl Scouts of Cranford (Service Unit 48) is an organization dedicated to building G.I.R.L.’s (Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader)<sup>TM</sup> of courage, confidence, and character who will make the world a better place. The Girl Scouts of Cranford is a part of the Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey Council which is part of the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. For more information on the Girl Scouts of Cranford, go to [cranfordgirlscouts.com](http://cranfordgirlscouts.com).

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# BEAT THE WINTER DOLDRUMS AT HOME WITH THESE 10 IDEAS

- 
- ❄ **Create a gallery wall with family and vacation photos**
  - ❄ **Frame a piece of vintage jewelry and children's artwork**
  - ❄ **Hang a mirror opposite a window to add light**
  - ❄ **Update kitchen cabinet hardware**
  - ❄ **Replace lampshades**
  - ❄ **Swap out throw pillows and blankets. Go bold with new colors and patterns!**
  - ❄ **Buy yourself fresh flowers every week**
  - ❄ **Paint your front door a new color**
  - ❄ **Get a new mailbox and house numbers**
  - ❄ **Start a book or movie club (kids and adults)**

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## LITERACY NEW JERSEY UNION COUNTY WELCOMES NEW TUTORS



(above) Lawrence Russo of Cranford

Literacy New Jersey-Union County welcomed four new volunteer tutors to the program in December.

Lawrence Russo of Cranford, Carol Ann Townsend of Summit, Kacie Yip of Summit, and Roberta Tipton of Berkeley Heights all successfully completed a rigorous, 5-week online training program and received their certificates as Literacy New Jersey tutors.

Carol Ann Townsend of Summit is volunteering to tutor ESL students. She says: "I enjoy working with students and learning about new cultures. Ms. Townsend holds a graduate degree in Political science and History.

Kacie Yip of Summit tutors two different ESL classes each week. She is currently an intern at Mount Sinai Hospital and holds a Bachelor's degree in Animal Science. "I enjoy sharing my knowledge so that others can progress in life and witnessing their improvements give me great satisfaction that I helped at least a little in their life."

Roberta Tipton of Berkeley Heights works with ESL students on Saturday afternoons. She is the Business Librarian at Rutgers University. Roberta says "I enjoy meeting new people and working together with my students."

Lawrence Russo of Cranford will be assisting adult students obtain their high school diploma.

He is currently retired, but was a science teacher for 44 years.

The tutors will engage with students in online English as a Second Language, High School Equivalency or Basic Literacy classes.

After completing the training sessions, tutors are matched with a small group of adult students from the growing waiting list of students who need to improve their literacy skills. Tutors meet with their students online for 2-hours per week.

Literacy New Jersey provides ongoing supervision and support to tutors in the form of free professional development workshops on specific topics such as Health Literacy, ESL Conversation, Small Group Instruction and Job Readiness.

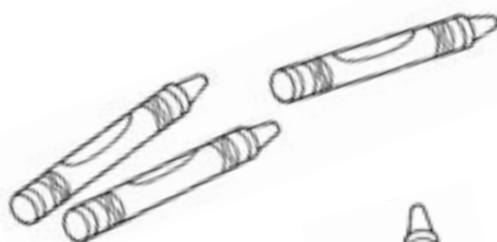
To volunteer, you must be at least 18 years old, able to speak English and willing to tutor in Union County. You do not need to have any teaching experience and you do not need to speak a foreign language. The training will provide volunteers with techniques and strategies for working with adult learners, as well as sample instructional materials and activities. Literacy New Jersey is a non-profit organization.

For more information or to register, please call Literacy New Jersey at 908-486-1777 or email Barbara Bagger, Program Director at [bbagger@literacynj.org](mailto:bbagger@literacynj.org).

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### JANUARY REGISTRATION FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY 1/23/21

Please note:

- Contact us directly to schedule your individual registration time.
- There is no day-of/walk in registration.
- Virtual classroom and facilities tours are available prior to registration.
- CNSCC is a nurturing and Christian, age-appropriate, high-quality early childhood program for children 2 ½-6 years old.
- We offer morning nursery school, full-day childcare, and an afternoon wrap-around, educational kindergarten program.

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# GIRLS VARSITY SOCCER TEAM WINS STATE SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Congratulations to the Cranford High School Girls Varsity Soccer Team and Coach Gagliardo for winning the Central East State Sectional Championship! The Cranford Cougars defeated the Brick Township Dragons, 4-0 to secure the Central East Division Final. This is the first time in 20 years since the Girls Varsity Soccer team achieved this title.

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Edward Anthony Somma, MD  
Internal Medicine

After graduating from medical school, Dr Somma served his internship in Internal Medicine at Trinitas Regional Medical Center. He then completed his residency in Internal Medicine at Seton Hall Post Graduate School of Medicine, where he was elected Chief Resident of Internal Medicine in his final year.

Dr. Somma has been in practice in Union and Middlesex counties for over 20 years, with an emphasis on excellence and compassion for his patients. He has served as the physician for the Elizabeth Fire Department, the Board of Health of Hillside and has served the Board of Education for Woodbridge NJ. He was granted the Humanitarian of the Year Award by Trinitas Health Foundation in May 2014, for his dedication to the community and his outstanding service to the goals of the Foundation.

Dr. Somma has special interests in various fields of Internal Medicine, including diabetes, obesity, cardiovascular diseases and arthritis/rheumatology. He has represented to major pharmaceutical companies, such as Schering-Plough and Pfizer, in a consulting and educational role for his peers. Dr. Somma has been a clinical educator for Seton Hall’s Physician Assistant Program as an Associate Professor of Medicine for their Internal Medicine program.



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# Our Orthopedics Team Has New Stars

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## DR. KING SERVICE PROJECT FAIR 2021 – VIRTUAL

The Interfaith Human Relations Committee of the Cranford Clergy and the Committee for the Dr. King Service Fair would like to invite the community to the Ninth Annual Dr. King Service Fair, which will be held virtually on January 18, 2021.

We want to continue our tradition of helping others as a community; however, this year you do not have to wait, you can start today! Many people have been helping others during the pandemic. Your donations continue to lift and help a lot of people in need. Even a simple gesture of checking on a neighbor, calling a friend or shopping for others is an act of service and kindness.

Last year, with your time and help during the Dr King Service Project Fair, we came together to make and donate: paper floral arrangements to the Center for Hospice Hope, 225 sandwich lunch bags to St Joseph Social Service and Food for Friends with the support of Perriotti's Quality Meats; Valentine's Day Cards to Children's Specialized Hospital; decorated picture frames to the residents of Cranford Senior Housing; personal care items bags to the YWCA Women's Shelter and Raphael's Life House along with donated diapers, gloves and socks and the Girl Scouts sponsored wrapping gifts and making birthday cards for A Birthday Wish; and the Brownies made flag pins for the veterans. The proceeds from the snack table were donated to the Cranford First Aid Squad and Cranford Family Cares.

Although, this year we cannot gather together physically due to safety restrictions, we can continue our tradition in the spirit of building community to help others. We encourage you to continue your work to help others during the pandemic. You are also invited to continue to support our local service organizations, such as: Cranford Family Cares, The Community FoodBank of New Jersey (Hillside), St. Joseph Social Service Center & Operation Warm Heart (Elizabeth), The Cranford/Elmora Soup Kitchen (Cranford) FISH Hospitality Program (Piscataway), Family Promise of Union County (Elizabeth), Raphael's Life House Inc. (Elizabeth), Food for Friends (Rahway) or an organization that is meaningful to you. You can even make a craft, card or write a note to a neighbor, family member, someone in an extended care facility or the Veterans at Lyons or the East Orange Medical Center. Thank you for working to make this world a better place. In the spirit of Dr King, any act of kindness and service is an act and sign of greatness.

Thank you for your continued support to build community and to help others. Janice Grevious and Cindy Hannen for The Interfaith Human Relations Committee of the Cranford Clergy and the Committee for the Dr. King Service Project Fair.

To learn more about Clergy Council of Cranford, contact Cindy Hannen at cindy@patwin.com.

## RELIEF FROM CHRONIC KNEE PAIN FDA Approved Treatment to Avoid Surgery

### DON'T BLAME THE ARROW FOR MISSING THE TARGET

Just like tens of millions of other Americans, you were looking for relief from your chronic knee pain. You thought Viscosupplementation injections might be the answer, but the results were disappointing and painful. Don't assume the treatment wasn't right. That could very well be like blaming the arrow for its path to the target when the problem might be the archer. If you didn't get the pain relief you were hoping for, chances are your injection treatment was off target. Unlike blind injections or even ultrasound targeted treatments found elsewhere, **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** uses diagnostic fluoroscopy to make sure the area that needs treated is the exact area where the injection goes. This is the most advanced method of delivering this pain relieving treatment with 95% accuracy to give you the results you're looking for. The use of Fluoroscopy guided injections sets **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** apart. The end result is you living pain free from your chronic knee pain. You can avoid the lengthy and painful road of knee replacement surgery. You can avoid the endless trial and error assortment of potentially addictive prescription medications. This treatment, using fluoroscopy guided injections has seen a success rate of above 85% in those suffering from knee pain related to osteoarthritis, and that includes people with bone on bone involvement. You've suffered from chronic knee pain long enough. Call **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** now for a RISK FREE consultation.



### If Knee Surgery Sounds Scary, It Should

Have you have been told you are facing knee replacement surgery? Have you been told about all the downsides you could be facing? First and foremost, there are NO guarantees that knee replacement surgery will be the answer to your pain, but let's look further:

- Surgery is costly, regardless of the percentage of services covered by insurance.
- Surgery requires lost time from work and typically requires a regimen of rehabilitation and medications.
- With surgery, there is always a risk for unwelcomed complications. And you could be back to where you started, or worse.
- Medications will be required for relief from surgery and you have been down that road before. Additions to these pain medications can cause potential side effects, something you do not want to experience.
- Rehabilitation can take years.

### Consider This Alternative To Surgery

**Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** offers you a real opportunity and a painless way to say goodbye to your knee pain without any surgery. Here are just a few of the important benefits you should consider?

- Diagnostic fluoroscopy accurately targets the pain, unlike blind injections.
- Guided fluoroscopic injections are virtually pain free, unlike blind injections.
- No lost time from work or family.
- No expensive or time consuming rehabilitation.
- No potentially addictive prescription medications.
- Recovery time is almost instant, not months or years.

### How Does This New Treatment Work?

Relief begins almost as fast as it takes to pronounce the treatment. It's called Viscosupplementation Therapy. To begin with, it starts with **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** investing in the use of diagnostic fluoroscopy. This enables them to target the exact location of your knee pain with pinpoint accuracy. What follows is a simple injection that causes little to no pain, especially when compared to what you may be living with daily. That explains what you will see on the surface of this revolutionary treatment. What's taking place below the surface is how and where the natural healing process takes place. The injection of a Hyaluronic acid called Hyalgan. This gel-like substance was approved by the FDA in 1996. Hyalgan is a natural substance that mimics the synovial fluid that is already produced by your body in your joints. Osteoarthritis sufferers in particular see a reduction in this much needed synovial fluid in their knee joints. Without that cushioning layer of protection, the cartilage in your knee can begin to wear away leading to the rubbing of bone on bone. Through Viscosupplementation Therapy, this natural substance immediately goes to work reducing the swelling and inflammation in the joint and adding a coating layer of protection. Think about Dorothy taking the oil can to The Tin Man. You'll begin to feel that same kind of relief and quite possibly feel like you're ready for a dance down the yellow brick road to recovery yourself. And with a success rate of over 85% in alleviating pain associated with osteoarthritis, it's easy to see why this treatment is so readily covered by Medicare and by most major insurance providers. Diagnostic fluoroscopy to target the pain, Viscosupplementation Therapy to relieve the pain. Simple, fast and no surgery!

### Do you Suffer from any of these Symptoms?

There are a number of reasons why you developed Osteoarthritis pain. It can develop with age or because of heredity. It could be from repetitive stress from a job or some glory days in athletics. Of course your concern is with the symptoms you face daily and how to make them end, hopefully without surgery or the use of potentially addictive medications. **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** understands the symptoms you have been living with and can help. If you have any of the symptoms below, please call us today. Relief is a phone call away.

- **Pain** - Whether it's a sharp aching or maybe a burning sensation, the pain can range from irritating to debilitating.
- **Swelling** - This can cause tenderness and soreness to the entire knee area, making walking or going up and down stairs painful, getting in and out of bed or bathtubs difficult and dangerous just name a few activities affected by swelling.
- **Stiffness** - Getting up out of bed or after sitting for a period of time gets more and more difficult. This loss of mobility can be more than a hindrance. It can be dangerous if you need to move quickly.
- **Loss of muscle strength** - This can lead to balance issues and the strong possibility of falling.
- **Joint deformity** - Not just unsightly, but painful as well.
- **Creaking Joints** - Can be painful and a sign of more discomfort to come.
- **Sleepless nights** - Losing sleep over your suffering is not just irritating, but potentially dangerous because of so many other health concerns that can be affected by loss of sound sleep.

### Let Me Show You Targeted Relief From Your Knee Pain

Every day, I see patients suffering from knee pain due to arthritis, osteoarthritis, sports injuries or other conditions. Many have been told that they are in need of knee replacement surgery. Other patients say they have been prescribed various prescription medications to deal with the pain.

Something else I see almost every day, are patients that have tried viscosupplementation knee injections elsewhere and found it to be a painful and ineffective experience because the injections were not administered using fluoroscopic guidance. Instead of using the incredibly accurate diagnostic fluoroscopy we use at **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** these patients experienced a blind injection technique, which can be as inaccurate as playing pin the tail on the donkey.

Once I am able to explain to my patients about the pin point accuracy of using diagnostic fluoroscopy and the amazing results viscosupplementation can provide, they are thrilled to get started. They are even more thrilled when they feel the relief. Please contact **Northeast Spine & Wellness Center** today to schedule your RISK FREE consultation. Call 732-827-0800

Scot Paris MD, FACS

### Here's what our patients have to say

"I'm dancing without pain. I can move with no problem whatsoever. I can go up and down steps with no pain."

- Patricia G.

"Over 85% relief for the first time in 15 years, suffering with knee pain. My life is getting back to normal."

- Perry O.

"After only four visits, I have absolutely no pain! The staff is "top-notch."

- Quenton L.

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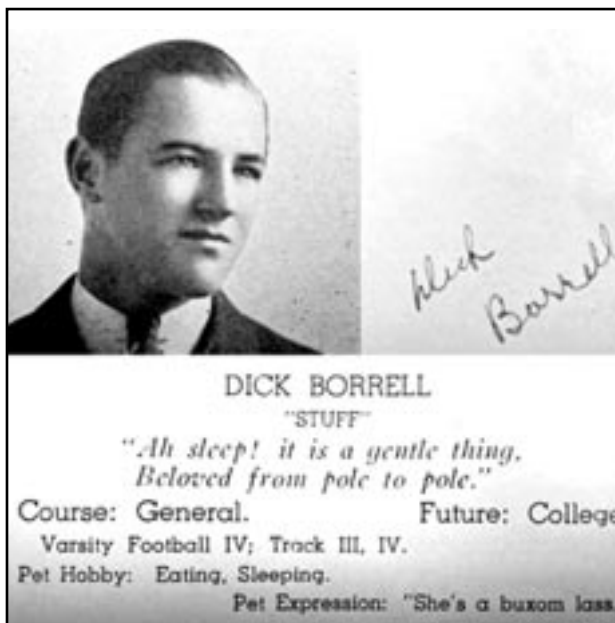
# MEET 1ST LIEUTENANT RICHARD A. BORRELL, WORLD WAR TWO B-26 BOMBARDIER, ONE OF CRANFORD'S 86

By Don Sweeney, research by Stu Rosenthal, editing by Janet Ashnault, military proofreading by Vic Bary.

As our group of researchers and writers endeavors to uncover the life stories of the 86 men that we honor each Memorial Day, we continue to be amazed with our findings. As many of our readers have pointed out to us, the development of engineering marvels and how our heroes were involved with them, often becomes the underlying plot line which makes our Cranford 86 narratives both interesting and informative. The story of 1st Lieutenant Richard Borrell and his role as a B-26 bombardier illustrates that idea, how our Cranford boys, manning high-tech positions, contributed to our military's success as America and its allies stood up for freedom against fascist aggressors.

America, after World War I, had taken a stand of isolationism, vowing to stay out of foreign wars and also halting its development of war planes. Our aeronautics industry continued to design and manufacture modern aircraft and was providing some of the most technologically advanced planes, but only for use in commercial flight. However, in 1939, in response to the rapid increase in the development of military war hardware by Germany and Japan, the U.S. Congress had approved a contest of sorts, challenging American aeronautics companies to design a badly needed, medium-range, armored bomber. This bomber would need the capabilities necessary to compete with the new fighter aircraft that had been developed by potential aggressors in the 20 years that had passed since WWI.

Almost every American aeronautics company took part in the contest, however it was the Glen L. Martin Company, today's Lockheed Martin Corporation, that won it, along with the contract



*The Cranford Historical Society's copy of Dick's Cranford High School yearbook, we found his signature. Apparently in 1937, signing someone's yearbook was taken literally.*

to manufacture 201 of the newly designed B-26 bombers. Peyton Magruder, a creative and skilled 26-year-old Naval Academy drop out, designed the B-26 and it became the most modern flying machine of its time. The B-26 was powerful with unprecedented armor and fighting ability. With the capability to carry 4000 pounds of bombs, it had two .50-caliber guns in a movable turret on top, a single .50-caliber gun in the Plexiglas nose, with another .30 or .50-caliber in the tail. During bomb runs, the bombardier would be positioned inside the Plexiglas nose which also housed yet another technological marvel, America's newest secret weapon, the Norden bombsight. With a top speed of 315 miles per hour, to that date, the B-



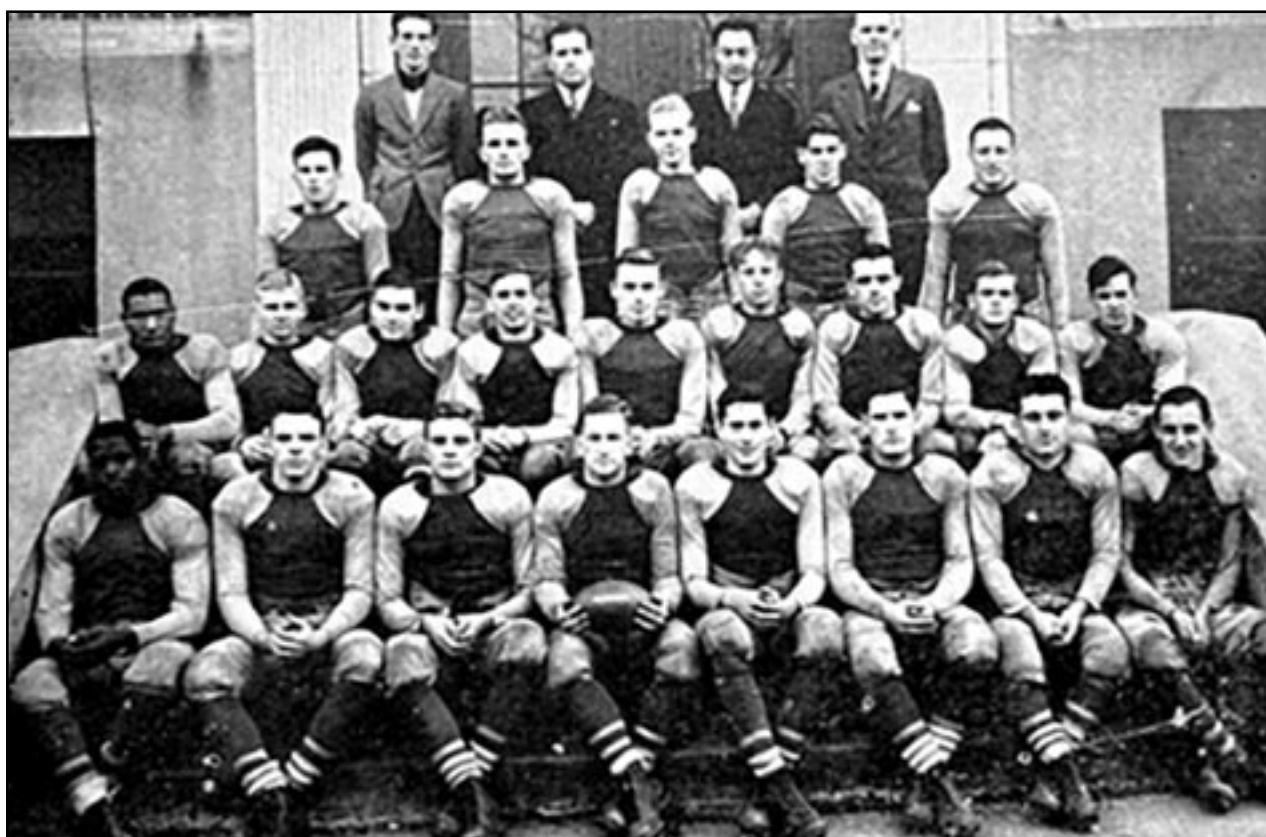
*(above) Every bombardier cadet received basic flying instruction. Here in an open-cockpit training aircraft, 22-year-old Richard "Dick" Borrell poses for an occupational portrait.*

26 was the fastest bomber ever made.

In an earlier Cranford 86 profile we featured the life and career of Alan Okell. In early 1943 Alan was one of the first instructors to train new pilots on the B-26 Marauder. His story tells the grim history of the early days of this innovative new aircraft that was quickly nicknamed the "Widowmaker". With its huge 2000 horsepower engines on unusually short stubby wings, formerly unheard-of landing speeds of 130 - 140 mph were required to prevent the B-26 from stalling and to allow it to land safely. During a 30-day period in 1942, while trying to figure out this overpowered aeronautic innovation, fifteen six-man crews were killed in training exercises. The saying "One a Day in Tampa Bay" was coined to describe this disastrous series of crashes which occurred at MacDill Airfield on Tampa Bay. For more details about the B-26's early problems, see the Alan M. Okell profile at Cranford86.org.

The B-26 Marauder and the Norden bombsight had something in common. Initially they were both thought to be too difficult to master. Their failure to perform early on, was thought to be a fault of their designers and both programs, at one point, were close to termination. Eventually, it was found that when a competent technician was in control and trained in the proper operational skills, that both the B-26 Marauder and the Norden bombsight were in fact, quite worthy of our country's investment. We were able to find U.S. military training films from the early 1940's that detail the fine skills required to operate each of these innovations (YouTube links are included in the Cranford86.org version of this story). The films highlight the importance of the role of instructors at the bombardier academy, as they patiently helped trainees to develop proficiency in these specialized skills. The security surrounding the Norden bombsight was elevated during World War II. In the event of an

*(continued on page 10)*



*(above) Glory Days, Dick Borrell played both offense and defense on the 1937 varsity football team. A Cranford Chronicle article, as well as a rewrite in the yearbook tell of a fourth quarter, game-winning reception by Dick that thrilled the Cranford fans at the Roselle game.*

*In identifying Dick Borrell our writer Janet Ashnault made note of her uncle,*

*Roy Nordstrom, in the top row.*

# 1ST LIEUTENANT RICHARD A. BORRELL (continued from page 9)

impending plane crash, crews had been ordered to eject the Norden device before ejecting themselves, in hopes that this would keep the Norden out of enemy hands. At war's end these two creations were hailed as the finest offensive military weapons of their time and if they had not been part of our arsenal, the outcome of the war would have been much different.

Richard, or Dick as he was known by everyone who knew him, was born in Chester, Pennsylvania in 1918. He moved to Albany, New York, before coming to Cranford in 1930, where he entered public school as a sixth grader. The family lived at 19 Grove Street at first, then 150 Elm Street and finally moved to 43 Orchard Street. They attended Trinity Episcopal Church on North Avenue. Dick was the youngest of his four siblings, Alfred the oldest, was 8 when Dick was born, followed by Marjorie who was 7, and Robert, 4. Their mom Florette was in charge of

the WPA Sewing Project in Cranford, a Depression era program that gave work at minimum wages to women who would sew clothing for people in need. Their dad Alfred had become blind and could be seen walking around town led by a guide dog and using a cane. He died of heart failure while Dick was serving in the Army Air Force in January of 1942.

Dick played football and ran track while at Cranford High School. A Cranford Chronicle clipping from his senior year told of a fourth quarter, game-winning pass against Roselle, in which he was the successful receiver, truly a "glory days" moment. In his CHS senior yearbook he humorously listed his hobbies as "eating and sleeping". After graduation in the class of 1937 he began working in Kearny at Western Electric, where his older brother Alfred was employed. According to records found by Stu Rosenthal, on October 16th, of 1940 at the age of 21, 5 foot 11, 165-pound, blue-eyed Richard Allen Borrell registered in the Army, about fourteen months prior to the attack at Pearl Harbor. His actual enlistment date was not until July 23rd of 1941 when he reported to Camp Davis in North Carolina. He was attached to the 96th Coastal Artillery for training in anti-aircraft gunnery. In late 1942 he enrolled into training to become a bombardier and was sent to Victorville, California in the Mojave Desert, outside of Los Angeles. In an eighteen-week training program, he was one of 105 cadets who would develop the skills needed to accurately drop bombs from high altitudes. The training involved complex mathematics using the E6B analog computer as well as the tactical skills needed to proficiently operate the Norden bombsight. Stu Rosenthal was able to locate Richard Borrell as a trainee in the Victorville Army Flying School (VAFS) Class 43-2 yearbook (43-2 denotes the year and month in which the class graduated). In it, Richard Borrell appears as a cadet. The book tells the story of the developmental journey of the bombardier's training which began in the classroom, before advancing to initial hands-on exercises in an empty hangar, dropping sandbag bombs from wheeled scaffolds, similar to those that one might use for painting. Next would be mock bomb runs, dropping bomb-shaped flour sacks over the desert, with cameras monitoring their accuracy. What seemed impossible at first to the cadets was actually mastered by week eighteen and they were dropping bombs right on the mark. It was said that with the Norden, a good bombardier could put a bomb into a pickle barrel from 12,000 feet. Upon graduation from Victorville an enlisted cadet would be commissioned as an officer or a flight engineer.

As is typical in our research for some of our Cranford 86 stories, educated speculations are made in an attempt to fill in the blanks of our heroes' timelines. With that in mind and the history now known about some other Cranford 86 heroes, some interesting possibilities have been discussed. After graduating from VAFS in February 1943 we lost track of our Hometown hero for 9 months. Some of our team members conjecture that he possibly could have been sent

to another facility for specialized training, possibly to become familiar with the B-26 Marauder. Coincidentally, B-26 training was mostly happening at MacDill Airfield in Tampa, the same airfield that our Alan Okell was serving at when he was killed while training new pilots. Alan's accident that took his life was in March of 1943. At that same time Cranford 86 Hometown Hero, Sergeant William Lee was also stationed at MacDill Airfield as well. Did our three Cranford Hometown Heroes, crossed paths during that period? No one will ever know; it is just the kind of thing that historians speculate as we put the pieces of a story together. What we do have proof of is that he returned to Victorville in November of 1943, one month prior to the birth of his baby girl Pamela. In the yearbook of the 44-3 class we found Dick now an instructor, pictured at a trajectory diagram with chalk in hand. The text near Dick's photo stressed that the success of the bombardier came from their proficiency in the classroom and it referred to the expert teachings of the "Four Horsemen", our Lieutenant Richard Borrell was hailed as one of those four. From the dates in this yearbook we have tried to create a timeline of Dick's service from this point through the rest of his deployment. We surmise that the graduation of the 44-3 class, would be in February or March of 1944. Dick's grave marker told us that he served in the 386th Bomb Group in the 555th Bomb Squadron, AKA the "Triple Nickel", which was originally with the 8th Air Force and then transitioned to the 9th. In this case, history tells us that our military strategists were secretly building the elements of our armed forces for over two years leading up to the D-Day invasion. The mass training of bomber crews including thousands of bombardiers was just one of the pieces of this complex plan. In discussion between Cranford 86 researchers and writers it was doubted that 2nd Lieutenant Richard Borrell, one of the most accomplished graduates of the VAFS academy, was "left on the bench" for one of the most pivotal days of WWII. However, as of this writing, we cannot confirm that he was with his unit, at Great Dunmow, 50 miles northeast of London on that fateful morning of June 6th, 1944.

An early morning briefing was called at 3:00 AM on D-Day, at Great Dunmow. The crews were informed that paratroopers and gliders had, hours before midnight, already dropped behind enemy lines. This news was met with cheers from the crews in attendance. The 386th along with 7 other bomber groups, would strike the westernmost beaches in Normandy, code named Utah, precisely between 6:23 AM and 6:25 AM. Thousands of allied ships, many with flames erupting from their big guns, went on for as far as the eye could see. Eyewitness accounts from B-26 crew members described the rallying cries that broke out on board as darkness yielded to daylight and revealed the scene below. The mission of the eight B-26 bomber groups was to hit the Nazi big guns and machine gun nests that were perched above the beach along the Atlantic Wall. Starting in 1942, in anticipation of an allied

(continued on page 11)



(above, top) Richard Borrell in a 1-inch portrait from the Victorville Army Flying School yearbook. Along with 104 other bombardiers of graduating class 43-2, after only 18 weeks of instruction, (bottom) Dick was presented with the bombardier wings that he wore during his many bomb runs over Nazi-occupied France and Germany in 1944.

# 1ST LIEUTENANT RICHARD A. BORRELL (continued from page 10)

forces attack, the Nazis used forced labor to construct this 1,670-mile cement wall to defend the shoreline.

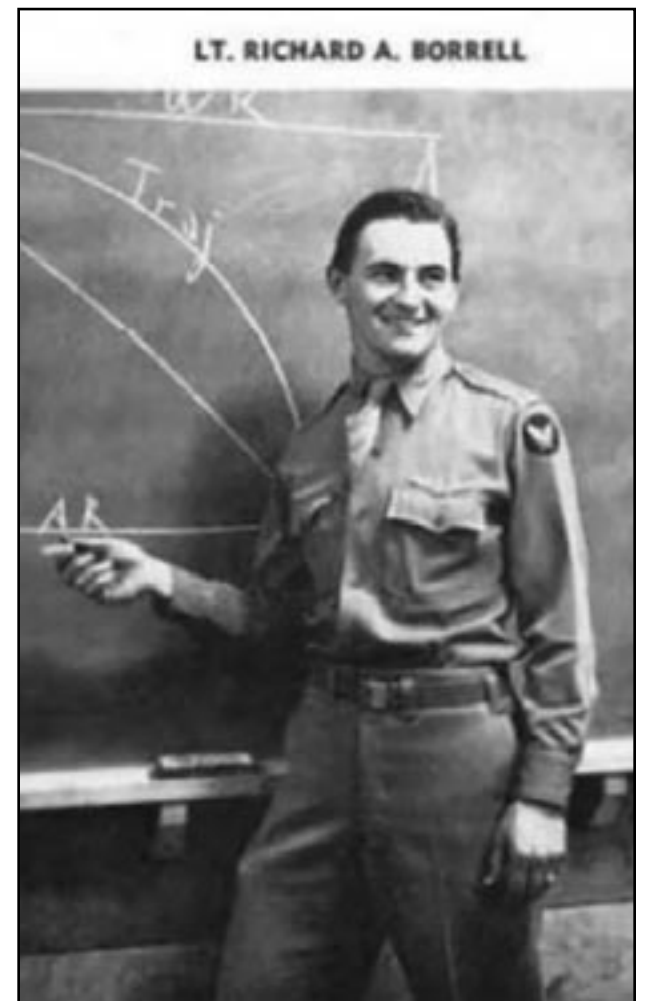
The trip across the English Channel from Great Dunmow to Normandy was about 300 miles, it would take approximately 90 minutes by air. 424 newly modified B-26s headed out, each with a bombardier and a Norden bombsight, 290 of them would attack Utah Beach. We wonder, was our skilled bombardier instructor from Cranford, with an unknown number of his students, among the bombardiers in this group? The weather was bad, with rain, fog and low hanging cloud cover. This would force the medium bombers to attack from 2,500 to 3,500 feet, some even as low as 500 feet, a big difference from the more secure altitude of 12,000 feet which had been in the original plan. Despite conditions, the bombers were amazingly successful at hitting their targets and making hundreds of beach craters with 550 tons of precisely placed bombs. These craters would serve as foxholes for the US Fourth Infantry Division, whose amphibious landing was completed almost flawlessly. The bomber groups from Great Dunmow made two or three missions each on D-Day, completing various objectives along the Atlantic Wall as well as hitting inland targets. The high-flying B-17 and B-24 big bombers were unable to hit their planned targets due to the cloud cover. But, the nimble, speedy Marauders, flying below the clouds, were able to strike defensive guns, trainyards and bridges all which were critical military objectives, crucial for advancing German troops that were attempting to defend against the landing. The American losses at Utah Beach as compared to Omaha Beach were minimal. The B-26 Bombers were credited as being a key contribution to the Utah landing's success. Only one bomber from the B-26 attacking groups was lost in the attack. The previously named "Widowmaker" was well on its way to being heralded as the safest, most successful plane of the WWII allied flying arsenal, with the lowest loss rate of any other WWII aircraft. Our research tells us that the 386th Bomber Group was also redirected to Caen on D-Day, which was the first objective of the allied forces as it was needed to start the march toward Paris. In all, an amazing 13,000 allied aircraft were part of the D-Day attack, it was the largest by three times of any aerial attack in history. It was said that the number of planes flying that morning, "blackened the sky". The Cranford 86 group will continue to try and pinpoint the exact whereabouts of our Hometown Hero on D-Day. Refer to Richard Borrell's story on Cranford86.org for updates.

In order to try and gain an understanding of the relationship between a pilot and a bombardier, we were very fortunate to be able to interview a former B-26 pilot, 92-year-old Art Snyder, a member of the Cranford VFW. 1st Lieutenant Snyder flew 38 bomber missions in Korea in a B-26 Invader which was very similar to the plane flown by our Lieutenant Richard Borrell. Stu Rosenthal and I sat with Art on the porch of Art's bayfront home in Brick, N.J., where we chatted for a few hours. Art explained that he had the

same bombardier in almost every mission that he flew. While he and his navigator flew the plane to the bomb sight, Art said that it was the bombardier that took control of the plane during the "bomb run". According to Art, the pilot would fly the plane with the bombardier behind him in the rear cockpit. The flight to the bombing destination would sometimes be hours long. Thirty minutes before reaching the target, the bombardier would crawl on his belly through a small opening under the right side of the dashboard into the iconic glass nose of the bomber. To fit through the small opening, Art told us that the bombardier would need to remove his parachute. Once in place, with the target in sight, the bombardier would call out, "I got it". At this point it was the bombardier that had control of the direction of the plane. Art said that all the pilot had to do now was keep the plane level and at a constant speed. The bombardier, in position and seemingly wrapped around the Norden bombsight, switched on the autopilot and entered the bomb type, ground speed, altitude, wind speed, and cross wind data. The computer would calculate all of the variables, exhibiting incredible accuracy from an average altitude of 10 thousand feet. Looking through the optical eyepiece, the bombardier would put the cross hairs precisely on the target and lock it in, by his control the Norden would drop the entire payload or as many bombs as desired. This whole process would take between one and five minutes. During that time of steady, level flying, the crew was at its most vulnerable to ground fire. Art shared that being surrounded by exploding "flak" during the bomb run, could make those moments feel like hours, being unable to take evasive actions to avoid danger. As soon as the bombs were dropped, the pilot took back the controls and hightailed it back to the base, grateful and relieved to be able to resume their evasive flying tactics. In numerous bombardier training films that our research found, the importance of this fleeting task was drilled into bombardier trainees. Thousands of man hours were spent to get them to that spot. At that moment, if the bombs were to go off course and miss the target, all the work and expense of designing and building these planes and bombs, the months of tedious training of the pilots and navigators, not to mention the risk of their lives, would all be for naught. So much investment had been made to put them at that moment in time, it was important for them to know that the success of the mission was all in their hands.

On the ground, the nemesis of allied air attackers was the Germans' premier weapon of the era, the 88mm Flak anti-aircraft gun, or as it was called by some, the anti-everything gun. It too had been in development since WWI and by 1943 it had become the most feared weapon of the war to that point. With a vertical range of over 30,000 feet, when attached to an analog computer and radar it had the ability to fill the air around attacking bombers with 17 pound exploding shells that it could hurl at 20 rounds per minute, creating 1500 pieces of "flak" each. The shells

(continued on page 12)



(above) Just one year after earning his bombardier wings, Lieutenant Richard Borrell was asked to return to the VAFS as an instructor. He and three other instructors were heralded as the "Four Horseman". It would seem that he touched the graduating class of March, 1944 in a special way.



(above) The grave of Lieutenant Richard A. Borrell at the Epinal American Cemetery in Donozé, France. Here he lies at rest along with his comrades, 5,254 other American war heroes.



# 1ST LIEUTENANT RICHARD A. BORRELL (continued from page 11)



(above) In the tight quarters of the B-26 cockpit the “left seat” was synonymous with the pilot’s seat. Under the right seat was the passageway to the iconic Plexiglas nose to where the bombardier would crawl on his belly to take his place for the “bomb run”. Art Snyder, like all former B-26 pilots, suffers from severe hearing loss due to the constant roar of the twin 2000 HP engines. According to Art, there was no heat or cooling in the cockpit either. Some missions in Korea were 20-40 degrees below zero and as a result, to this day, Art’s hands and feet have no feeling in them from the frostbite incurred during the 38 bomb missions he flew in the Korean War.



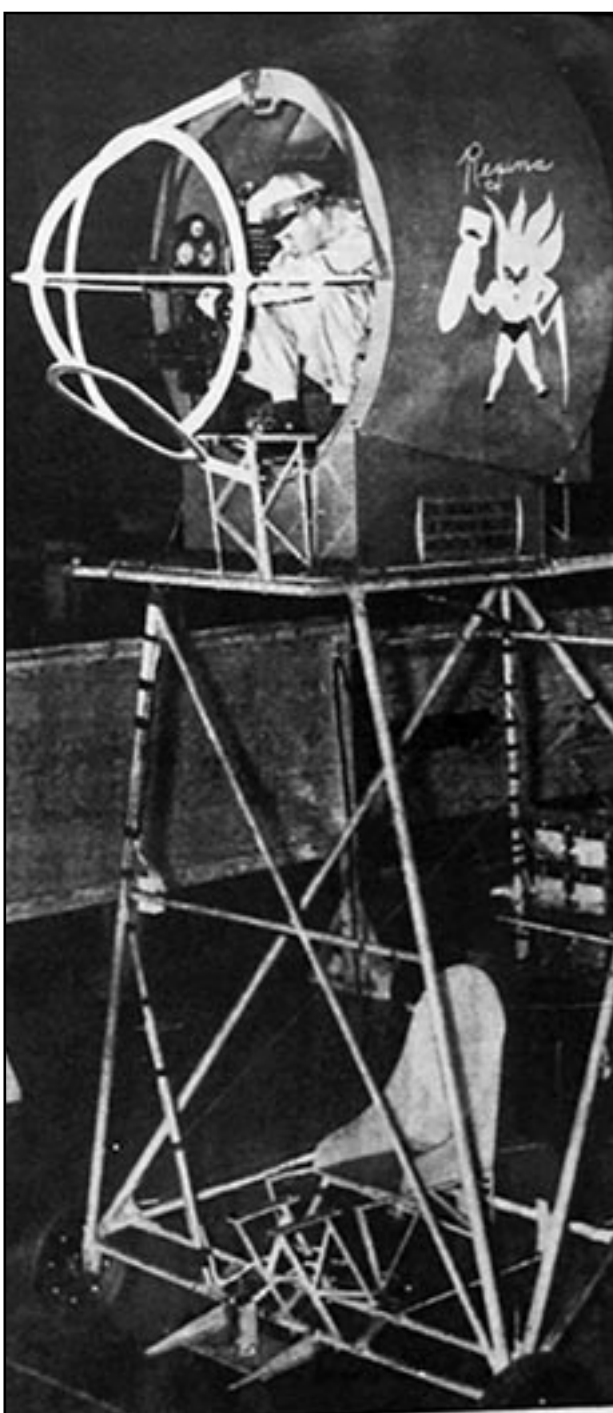
(above) A rare close-up of the B-26 bomber’s Plexiglas nose reveals the bombardier’s compartment which housed America’s secret weapon, the Norden bombsight.



(above) This cutaway model reveals the layout of the B-26 fuselage. The bombardier sat in the rear seat during the long journey to the bomb site. Here we are able to see the tunnel that the bombardier would travel through to reach his position in the glass nose.

did not need to hit the planes to be deadly, they had a barometric detonator that would explode at an altitude that the radar and computer would set automatically, and the flying, jagged metal would shred any aircraft within 200 yards. The saying “the flak was so thick; you could walk on it” was mentioned by Art Snyder as well as in several pilot interviews that we read during our research. In 1944, attacking fighters and the 88, as it was called by most, would be responsible for a loss rate of 714 killed or missing bomber crew members for every 1000, and an additional 175 wounded, an incredible casualty rate of 89%. Only 1 in 4 bomber crew members would live through the quota of 25 missions, which was raised to 35 by war’s end. Estimates said that the average life expectancy of an Air Force bomber crew member during this time was 12 missions. In 1944 alone, German defenses destroyed 6,400 allied aircraft and damaged another 27,000.

Immediately following the D-Day bombing



(above) Cadets at the bombardier academy would start their bombsight training in a primitive simulator, resembling a painter’s scaffold. The high and low seats allowed for training simulation of different altitudes. For more information on bombardier training, see the YouTube links at [Cranford86.org](http://Cranford86.org)

campaign, the 386th would continue flying missions from England. Their ability with the well-trained bombardiers to accurately hit the German big guns, bridges, railroad yards, airstrips, and V-1 rocket sites, was credited as key to the success of the allied advancing troops. They would support troops in multiple battles, the first being the battle for Caen, a German stronghold, predicted to be a relatively easy undertaking, it however, took two months of fierce fighting to control, ending in August 1944. The battle of St. Lo followed from July 7th through 19th and then the battle for the Falaise Pocket from August 12th through the 21st. These towns were all within a 30-mile radius, which gives a sense of the intense resistance of the Nazi forces. In September, the 386th would also support the battle to capture the port of Brest in Brittany, France. Even though it was hundreds of miles south of Normandy, controlling this port was deemed as essential, as multiple ports were needed to supply the tons of provisions that an invading army would need each day. Each mission was fiercely defended by the deadly 88s as most of the targets were inland and guarded by the entrenched Nazis who had occupied France since July 1940.

After the Liberation of Paris in August of 1944, the 386th relocated its home base to Beaumont-sur-Oise, on October 2nd, 1944, 20 miles northwest of the French capital. From here the B-26 squadrons would use their accurate bombing tactics to support the Allies on their march to Berlin. It is here, while supporting General Patton’s Third Army at the fierce battle of Metz (September 27 to December 13), that we believe our Lieutenant Richard Borrell at the age of 25, met his fate while on board his B-26 Marauder. A MACR (Missing Air Crew Report) found by Stu Rosenthal told us that a B-26 from the 555-bomber squadron, Dick’s unit, had crashed on October 13, 1944, while on a mission to destroy a railroad bridge in Dillingen, Germany, 554 miles away. As this coincided with the date of his death, we assume that Lieutenant Borrell was on that same mission, executing the tasks for which he was so highly skilled at performing. His family believed his plane fell victim to flak shrapnel. The fact that there was a grave, told us that he was not lost over enemy territory as was the fate of most crew members whose planes were shot down. The ability of a B-26 to keep flying while badly damaged was one of the attributes that made it the legendary fighter that it was. Severely damaged, limping Marauders regularly performed “wheels up landings” on the belly of the aircraft with a high percentage of success. We believe that his crew was able to bring Dick back to Beaumont-sur-Oise. He was buried in France at the Epinal American Cemetery alongside the Moselle River at Dinozé and remains there to this day. Dick Borrell left a wife, Christine and an infant daughter, Pamela in Needles, California, and his mom Florette and sister Marjorie Moore in Albany, NY. Also surviving him were two brothers, Robert, a Corporal and aerial

(continued on page 13)

# 1ST LIEUTENANT RICHARD A. BORRELL (continued from page 12)

photographer in the Marine Corps in the South Pacific and Alfred Jr. in Haddonfield, NJ. Our efforts to contact his daughter Pamela, who we presume to be about age 76, have been unsuccessful up to this point. We did locate Dick's nephew, Alfred III still living in New Jersey. He provided a photo of his uncle in an open cockpit training plane, although he was not able to provide any personal information about his uncle. Our search for more details will continue, hopefully to be included in Cranford 86's tribute book Volume #4. Lieutenant Richard Borrell was one of 40,000 bombardiers who served in the American Army Air Force in the four years of our involvement in WWII. His bravery and skills were multiplied exponentially



(above) Every B-26 sported some racy "nose art". According to a Missing Air Crew Report, this B-26, the Daisy Mae, was shot down on the same day that our Cranford 86 hero lost his life, presumably as part of the same bombing mission, targeting a bridge in Germany.



(above) A German soldier loading the Flak 88 gun with a 17-pound explosive shell. This is the weapon that, with its deadly shrapnel, was responsible for terrorizing allied bombers over France in WWII.

as he trained his students to play critical roles during a pivotal segment of our country's stand against fascism. His actions as well as theirs may have changed the outcome of the battles that were instrumental in our victory. If we had been defeated, America as we know it would not exist. He is a member of our Cranford 86; a true American patriot and we owe him a huge debt of gratitude.

If you have been enjoying our Cranford 86 profiles, we would love to hear from you. Email us at [info@cranford86.org](mailto:info@cranford86.org). The Cranford 86 stories are now part of the new Cranford Historical Society's website at [cranfordhistoricalsociety.org](http://cranfordhistoricalsociety.org) and our books are available there for purchase. We would like to thank the Cranford PBA Local #52 for sponsoring Lieutenant Borrell's banner. It will be dedicated after the 100th Cranford Memorial Day parade when Richard Borrell will be recognized along with the other Cranford 86 Hometown Heroes of 2021.



(above) Flying in a "combat box" formation, the B-26 bombers would protect themselves from assault by enemy fighter planes. Note the guns in the glass turret, in the tail as well as the nose. If you look closely you can see the bombardiers in place for the bomb run with the "flak" exploding all around them.



The world's most famous bombardier, Tom Ferebee, poses with his Norden bombsight in front of the Enola Gay, his B-29 bomber that dropped "Little Boy", the first atom bombs that led to the end of WWII

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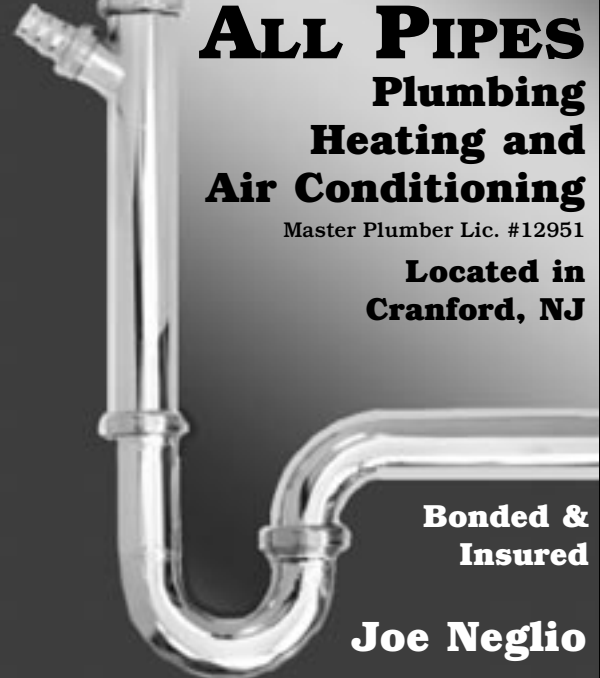
Submitted by John Doolan

After Pope Francis approved the beatification of our Founder, the Cranford Knights honored Father McGivney with a banner in front of St. Michael's Church. Father McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus in 1882 and the Order has grown to over 2 million members worldwide. With his beatification, Father McGivney is considered "Blessed" which is the step prior to sainthood.

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(above, l-r) Pictured with the banner are Chaplain Monsignor Tim Shugrue, Brother Jim Feehan Sr., Deputy Grand Knight Jerry Conheeney, Grand Knight Jim Feehan Jr. and Brother Ed Bagniewski.

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(above) Westfield Area YMCA instructor Natalie Adams leads a real-time Zoom Kickboxing class.

fitness needs and levels. Current class offerings include: Ageless Grace, Barre, Body Sculpt, Cardio Sculpt, Cycle & Strength, Dance Fitness, Delay the Disease: Exercise to Fight Parkinson's Symptoms, HIIT, Kickboxing, Pilates, Project Healthy Bones, R.I.P.P.E.D., Senior Fitness, TRX/Sculpt, Yoga, and Zumba!

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The Y monitors news from the CDC and local government officials during the COVID-19 pandemic and will continue to implement new best practices and regulations as they arise.

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## ROGER OFFERS VETERANS SUPPORT

ROGER, a search platform for New Jersey veterans, launched on November 9th, just ahead of Veterans Day 2020. The platform was created by Backpacks For Life founders Brett D'Alessandro and Alexa Modero. After serving the Veteran community for 6 years, they found many inefficiencies and convoluted systems that prevented veterans from getting the care they need in a quick and efficient way. From lengthy intake processes to outdated information on organizations' websites, the Backpacks For Life team knew there was a better way to get veterans the care they needed.

ROGER allows veterans and their family members to search for programs, resources and care by a variety of factors such as zip code, branch of service, discharge status and income. With these customizable search features, veterans will see only the programs that they qualify for. This helps mitigate time wasted for not only veterans searching for programs that fit their needs, but also the service providers to ensure the veteran is a good fit for them.

"Navigating through resources is hard...we get it. As a veteran myself, I was often running around in circles trying to find programs that I was eligible for and that fit my needs. When we're working with veterans, every minute matters and with ROGER we can work more quickly to get veterans what they need. We're excited to bring ROGER to the NJ veteran community." - Sgt. Brett D'Alessandro, Retired US Marine & President of Backpacks For Life

To explore ROGER, visit [www.roger.vet](http://www.roger.vet) or contact the ROGER team at [roger@backpacksforlife.org](mailto:roger@backpacksforlife.org)

Backpacks For Life is a 501(C)3 nonprofit organization that serves the homeless and at-risk veteran community. By regularly distributing backpacks filled with essentials to veterans on the streets and providing mentorship to at-risk veterans and their families, Backpacks For Life aims to bridge the gap between veterans and the resources available to them.

## JOURNEY TOWARD WHOLENESS BEREAVEMENT SEMINAR

Submitted by Virginia Waters, PhD and Patti Williams, RN

We are all navigating through especially challenging times due to the ravages of the pandemic, exhaustion from political conflict, depletion of our resources, the loneliness of increased isolation, and the unprecedented chaotic environment in which we currently exist. When you are also grieving a loss in the midst of all these stressors, life can become very dark and everyday may seem overwhelming.

As we enter the darkest time of the year, we offer a ray of light and welcome you to join the Journey Toward Wholeness bereavement seminar. The seminar, sponsored by the First Presbyterian Church of Cranford, grew out of a spark from Dr. Bruce Williams who co-created this program 20 years ago. Due to our respect for keeping our participants safe, the program has transitioned from in person to a ZOOM platform which allows us to include participants from a wider distance.

The co-leaders of the program Patti Williams,

RN, Certified Bereavement Counselor, and Virginia Waters, PhD have both personal and professional training and experience in the field of grief and loss and are joined by a team of trained facilitators who provide support and lead breakout groups for individuals with like losses.

Follow the light to find comfort, support, tools, and connection at our next seminar.

The seminar begins Sunday, January 10, 2021 for 6 consecutive weeks, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Meet us on ZOOM, a meeting link will be provided upon registration. Register by calling Patti Williams at 908-709-1341.

We Welcome all who have experienced loss of any kind, in the past or present. All faiths are welcome. We also welcome all who have previously attended this Seminar to return for a refresher.

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# WINTER READING AT LIBRARY

CRANFORD MONTHLY • Page 17 • January 2021

From January 1 to January 31, the Cranford Public Library will participate in Beanstack's Fourth Annual Winter Reading Challenge, "Book Like Us," sponsored by Simon and Schuster (S&S). We challenge our patrons to read at least 60,000 minutes during the month and keep track of their reading on our Beanstack site at [cranfordlibrary.beanstack.org](http://cranfordlibrary.beanstack.org).

Thousands of libraries and schools across the nation will encourage their communities to read a target number of minutes and books. Prizes will include book collections and virtual author visits.

Ten winning schools or libraries will each get a collection of fifty books from the "Books Like Us" collection. Happy reading, Cranford!

## DRIVERS NEEDED TO DELIVER MOBILE MEALS

Mobile Meals of Westfield needs volunteer drivers to deliver prepared meals to our clients in Cranford. Mobile Meals of Westfield is a non-profit organization which provides meals to people who are unable to provide meals for themselves in Clark, Cranford, Fanwood, Garwood, Mountainside, Scotch Plains and Westfield.

Requirements for volunteer drivers are:

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- Minimum commitment of one time per month

To apply for a volunteer driver position for the Cranford openings:

- Go to the Mobile Meals website at [mobilemealsofwestfield.org](http://mobilemealsofwestfield.org)
- Click on VOLUNTEER in the upper right hand corner of the home page
- Click PRINT VOLUNTEER APPLICATION at the bottom of that page
- Print completed application and submit to:  
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## GIRL SCOUTS OF CRANFORD BUILD CONNECTION WITH SENIOR CITIZENS

*Submitted by Kerry Rokicki*

Cranford Girl Scouts completed a project to help local senior citizens during the holidays. The project sprung from a desire to build a greater connection with the Cranford senior citizen community and grew into a successful collaboration that provided 135 "Thanksgiving to Go" bags, replete with food, supplies and handmade cards. Junior Troop 40194 began with a goal of creating 50 bags and thanks to the support of other Cranford Girl Scout troops and the community at large, they far exceeded that target.

"Our girls wanted to bridge that gap that sometimes exists between generations and this was their idea to build connection with our senior community," explained Inga Reibarkh, one of the co-leaders of Troop 40194. "This food drive allowed us to give thanks to our local senior citizens and let them know we are thinking about them, especially at these times when we are all spending so much time separated from friends and family, something that can be extra difficult during the holidays."

Each donated bag included foods appropriate for a Thanksgiving meal including items such as stuffing, gravy, canned vegetables, baked goods, cornbread mix and more. In addition there were small gifts and handmade cards. The troop partnered with the local non-profit Cranford Family Care to distribute the bags to local senior housing residents. The initiative is part of the troop's efforts to earn their Bronze Award, a Girl Scout distinction earned through community service.

Ms. Reibarkh explained that the Girl Scout Juniors, who are all fifth graders, were overwhelmed with the support they received from other Cranford Girl Scout troops and members of the community who read about their collection on social media. The bags were dropped off on November 18 so seniors would have them for the Thanksgiving holiday.

The Girl Scouts of Cranford boasts over 1,139

Girl Scout Members in 71 troops and Juliette's making it one of the largest non-profit organizations in town. The Cranford Service Unit is a part of the Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey (GSHNJ) Council which is part of the Girl Scouts of the USA. If your family is interested in learning more about local Girl Scouts or to find out more information on the Girls Scouts of Cranford, please visit [cranfordgirlscouts.com](http://cranfordgirlscouts.com).



(above) Cranford Girl Scout troop 40194 collected 135 bags of food for local seniors before the Thanksgiving holiday.

## FREE A CAPPELLA SINGING WORKSHOPS ON ZOOM

Looking for joy in the new year? Love to sing? Making the most of the Zoom world, The Hickory Tree Chorus chapter of Sweet Adelines International offers a free Winter Sing series. Join the chorus via Zoom on Wednesdays in January, 7:15 to 9 p.m.

The chorus sings a variety of music, including old-fashioned love songs, Broadway, Disney, Beatles, and more. Using learning tracks and breakout rooms, singers continue to pursue their passion for singing via Zoom.

Hickory Tree is an award-winning women's chorus singing four-part a cappella harmony in the barbershop style. We are passionate about music, performance, fun and friendship. We believe every voice counts and encourage women singers of all ages, colors, ethnicities, and orientations to visit us and share our joy of music.

Please contact the Chorus for the Zoom link for the free Winter Sing 2020 Workshops by email, [info@hickorytreechorus.org](mailto:info@hickorytreechorus.org) or call 908-377-1399. For more information visit [hickorytreechorus.org](http://hickorytreechorus.org).

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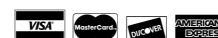
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# GIRL SCOUTS OF CRANFORD HELP SET THE STAGE FOR HOLIDAY CHEER

*Submitted by Kerry Rokicki*

The Girl Scouts of Cranford have a decades-long tradition of crafting ornaments and then gathering together the day after Thanksgiving to decorate the township tree. In a year thrown into upheaval by the COVID-19 health crisis, the troops and the township worked together to take a new approach that kept the tradition alive while adhering to safety guidelines. The troops also participated in The Festival of Trees, a new initiative from the Cranford Downtown Management Corporation (DMC).

Troops were assigned 15 minute time slots to reduce the number of people in Mayor's Park at the corner of Springfield and North Avenues across from the Cranford Municipal Building. By the end of the day more than 400 Girl Scouts had added their ornaments to the tree. The tree decorating and lighting is organized annually by the Cranford Chamber of Commerce. This year the lighting portion of the event, which usually draws a large crowd of residents, was only broadcast on Channel 35

and online due to the same safety concerns.

A new addition this year is The Festival of Trees sponsored by Downtown Cranford (DMC). Shoppers will be able to visit local merchants who decorated trees and vote for their favorite. Girl Scouts of Cranford partnered with 15 of those local businesses to help them decorate.

For instance Cadette Troop 40013 worked with Adriano Nery, owner of the newly opened Sapore di Italia restaurant, on an Autism Awareness themed tree, an initiative that is close to his family's heart.

The Girl Scouts of Cranford boasts over 1,139 Girl Scout Members in 71 troops and Juliette's making it one of the largest non-profit organizations in town. The Cranford Service Unit is a part of the Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey (GSHNJ) Council which is part of the Girl Scouts of the USA.

If your family is interested in learning more about local Girl Scouts or to find out more information on the Girls Scouts of Cranford, please visit [cranfordgirlscouts.com](http://cranfordgirlscouts.com).

Participating troops were: Junior Troop 40794, Ambassador Troop 40894, Cadette Troop 40013, Brownie Troop 40376, Troop 40624, Brownie Troop 40558, Cadette Troop 40196, Brownie Troop 40541, Cadette Troop 40744, Ambassador Troop 40480, Troop 40560, Brownie Troop 40455, Cadette Troop 40222, Senior Troop 40693



*(above) Cranford Girl Scout Troop 40894 continued their tree decorating tradition this year, with social distancing in mind.*



*(above) Troop 40836*



*(above) Daisy Troop 40423*



*(above) Troop 40023*



*(above) Troop 40541*

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# JAYCEES DONATE OKTOBERFEST PROCEEDS TO FIRST AID SQUAD

*Submitted by Kent Lucas*

As with all other large gatherings in this year of the COVID pandemic, the Jaycees Oktoberfest, which always sells out more than 1,000 tickets, was not able to be held in person this year. But this did not stop the Cranford Jaycees and their creative members. They took the event virtual, selling and delivering kits of food, drinks and mugs and were still able to have another successful Oktoberfest.

This donation of the proceeds of the annual Jaycees Oktoberfest is a significant percentage of the Cranford First Aid Squad's yearly budget, said CFAS Treasurer David Heller. The squad has spent an additional \$21,000 for personal protective equipment due to Covid-19.

"This donation has allowed the Cranford First Aid Squad to continue to operate throughout the pandemic" said Heller. "Thanks to the generosity of the Jaycees, we have been able to focus on

patient care without having to worry as much about fundraising. We could not fulfill our mission without the help of the people of Cranford and an organization like the Jaycees."

The donation was used to purchase an ultraviolet light for decontamination of the ambulances. It also allowed the squad to purchase 2 hospital-grade automatic blood pressure machines and pulse oximeters for the ambulances. Pulse oximetry is an extremely important vital sign for COVID patients.

The Cranford First Aid Squad provides 9-1-1 emergency medical services to the township from 6:30 p.m. to 5:30 a.m. weeknights and all weekend. They take 1,200 calls per year and provide this service at no charge.

The Cranford Jaycees combine networking, community activity, individual development, and training while making friends for life. The Cranford Jaycees hold many events to raise funds that go toward the Jaycees Scholarship Fund.



(above) The Cranford Jaycees (Frank Klapinski, Eric Robinson, Pete Yuscavage, Shaun Rees) recently donated \$20,000 from their Oktoberfest proceeds to the Cranford First Aid Squad (Kent Lucas, David Heller).

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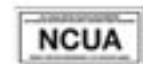
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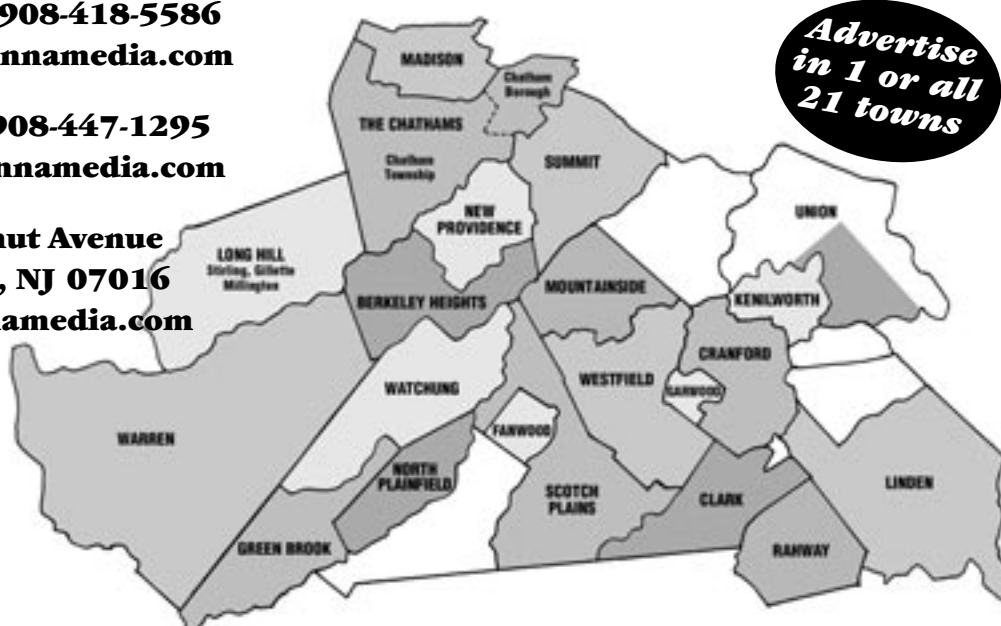
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