

# CRANFORD MONTHLY NJ

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## FIRST AID SQUAD HONORS MEMBERS

The Cranford First Aid Squad held their yearly dinner on Jan. 3, 2025. They recognized outstanding members and welcomed the new board of officers for the year 2025.

The Distinguished Service Award was presented to Augustus Torres. Gus has only been a member for two years but has responded to over 500 calls and currently rides on two nights, serving as Crew Chief. Gus was also sworn in as the Lieutenant of Operations for 2025.

The Star of Life Award for an act of personal valor in the delivery of emergency medical care resulting in the saving of a life was given to Annie Ryan. Annie and her crew saved a patient by performing CPR this year. A return of heartbeat was achieved twice in the field and the patient, who suffered several fainting episodes prior to CFAS arrival, was transported to the hospital by Annie and her crew, where care was then continued.

Shining Light Award for providing exemplary patient care and dedication during a probationary year of service went to Raquel Atwan. Raquel started with CFAS in 2023 as a cadet, quickly got her EMT certification, then turned 18 and immediately started making an even bigger impact. She was the third-highest call taker of 2024 with 180 calls responded. Raquel was also sworn in as 2025 Corresponding Secretary.

Life Member was presented to Caitlin Cook. Caitlin has been one of our most dedicated members in the past few years. She began as a cadet back in 2017, and has worked tirelessly since then to make the squad a better place. She has served in quite a few leadership roles, including crew chief, corresponding

secretary, medical lieutenant, and first lieutenant of operations. Caitlin has volunteered countless hours of service to the Cranford Community both on and off the ambulance, teaching Girl Scouts for their First Aid badges and Babysitting Safety and now as a CPR instructor.



*(above, l-r) Administrative officers: Corresponding secretary: Raquel Atwan, Treasurer: Jack Cartnick, Vice President: Kent Lucas, President: Makayla Cartnick, (not pictured) Corresponding secretary: Saniya Harlalka.*

Courtesy photos

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*(above, l-r) The new 2025 Operations Officers for CFAS are Senior cadet captain: Marcela Godoy-Pleitez, Junior Cadet captain: Chloe Martin, 2nd Lt. buildings: Jaden Medina, 2nd Lt. Medical: Kelsey Quinones, 2nd Lt. Rigs: Nestor Vasquez, 1st Lt. Operations: Augustus Torres, Captain: Allen Davies. (not pictured) 2nd Lt. Training: Alicia Felches.*

\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSSDDM\*\*\*\*\*

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# CHICAGO: TEEN EDITION - MARCH 8 & 9

Cranford High School Performing Arts Department proudly presents Chicago: Teen Edition on March 7 at 7:30 p.m., March 8 at 7:30 p.m., and March 9 at 2:00 p.m.

This iconic musical focuses on two women in the roaring 1920's who are both vying to be the top celebrity criminal as they navigate a corrupted criminal justice system.... "And All That Jazz". Originally produced in 1975, the book was written by Fred Ebb and Bob Fosse, music by John Kander, and lyrics by Fred Ebb. The musical was based on a play by Maurine

Dallas Watkins, and the script adaptation had been by David Thompson. The revival performance in 1996 was awarded a Tony for best revival musical.

For our production, you can easily find ticket information by visiting [chs.booktix.com](http://chs.booktix.com) or emailing Mrs. Elizabeth Adams ([adams@cranfordschools.org](mailto:adams@cranfordschools.org)) beginning February 9th. The cast, crew, and production team look forward to a night of "Razzle Dazzle" at CHS. We hope to see you there!



(above) Cranford High School Performing Arts Department proudly presents Chicago: Teen Edition on March 7 at 7:30 p.m., March 8 at 7:30 p.m., and March 9 at 2:00 p.m.

Courtesy photo

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## BLESSING BAGS FOR CRANFORD FAMILY CARE

### CHS Girls Ice Hockey

The Cranford High School Girls Ice Hockey team volunteered their time to make over 50+ Blessing Bags for Cranford Family Care on December 16th. Player families donated recommended items, and players came together at the Cranford Community Center to

fill each Ziploc bag with those donations. Some of the items each Blessing Bag contained were socks, deodorant, toothpaste/brush, hat, gloves, gum, hand sanitizer, chap stick, body wash, tissues, hot chocolate packet, hand warmers, bag of chips, water bottle and a candy cane. This is our

second year organizing this event. The girls had a wonderful time making the bags and CFC was very appreciative.

The CHS Girls Ice Hockey team was formed in 2022. The team started with 30 players and has since grown to 41 players with both Varsity and JV teams.

Courtesy photo



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## CRANFORD KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS THANKED FOR SUPPORT

### Cranford Fire Department

The Cranford Knights of Columbus has made a generous \$1,500 donation to the Cranford Call Fire Department. The Call Department is the volunteer division of the Fire Department.

"I would like to personally thank the Knights of Columbus for this incredible donation," said Chief Dan Czeh. "This donation will go towards new boots, gloves and hoods to keep our Volunteer Fire Fighters protected."

"It's great when local organizations can step up to help each other for the betterment of all residents," Commissioner of Public Safety Paul A. Gallo said.

"This is not the first time the Cranford Knights of Columbus thought about the Fire Department. When F/F Rob Hurewitz was forced into early retirement due to a health concern a few years back, Jerry Conheeny and the Cranford Knights immediately contacted me and put together a fundraiser to help Rob and his family. When Call Lieutenant Ron Marotta was recognized as the Firefighter of the Year at the Knights St. Patrick's Day Ceili, Ron mentioned we needed a new display flag for our ladder truck. A short time later, the Cranford Knights donated a flag to us," added Chief Czeh.

"When they found out our Call Department needed new protective gear, they again came through and made this generous donation. We are extremely grateful to the Cranford Knights of Columbus. Not only for what they do for Public Safety in Town, but for all of the charity work they do in the community," Chief Czeh said.

The Cranford Knights of Columbus Council

6226 are a key ally of St. Michael's Church. They assist at major parish functions and volunteer

their time and services for the good of the parish and community.



(above) Members of the Cranford Call Department, Knights of Columbus Member Jerry Conheeny and Cranford Fire Chief Dan Czeh.

Photo Courtesy of the Cranford Fire Department.

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# ANGELS IN AMERICA PART ONE: MILLENNIUM APPROACHES AT CDC

We are excited to announce that Tony Kushner's acclaimed play, "Angels in America Part One: Millennium Approaches," will be in performance at the CDC Theatre in Cranford from February 14 to March 1. This monumental production is a significant event in the cultural calendar and promises to be a landmark moment for theatre enthusiasts.

"Angels in America Part One: Millennium Approaches" is the first part of Tony Kushner's Pulitzer Prize-winning epic that explores the complex themes of politics, sexuality, and faith against the backdrop of the AIDS crisis in the 1980s. The play is known for its profound narrative, compelling characters, and its unflinching examination of societal issues.

The CDC Theatre in Cranford is honored to host this powerful work. As one of New Jersey's longest producing community theatres, CDC Theatre has a rich history of bringing high-quality productions to the stage. The upcoming performance of "Angels in America Part One: Millennium Approaches" is set to continue this tradition, offering audiences an unforgettable experience. Directed by Michael Kidney is the cast: Corey Chichizola as Prior Walter, Brian Petty as Louis Ironson, Sean Lynch-Littlejohn as Joe Pitt, Molly Reinhardt as Harper Pitt, Lisa Barnett as Hannah Pitt, Aaron Hancock as Belize, Richard Colonna as Roy Cohn and Even T. Charpentier as The Angel.

The staging of "Angels in America Part One: Millennium Approaches" at CDC Theatre is not just an exciting theatrical event; it is a cultural milestone. The play's themes are as relevant today as they were when it first premiered in 1991, making this production a poignant reminder of the ongoing struggles and triumphs within our society.

We invite you to join us for this extraordinary

production. Tickets are available at [cdctheatre.org](http://cdctheatre.org). Don't miss the chance to witness Tony Kushner's masterpiece come to life on the stage of CDC Theatre in 2025. This is an event you won't want to miss.

Made possible by funds from the Union County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs, a partner of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.



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# NJ CERTIFIES NEW RECORD FISH

## New Jersey Fish and F&W Record Bowfin 2024

Frank Hubert caught the new state record Bowfin in Mantua Creek on December 17, 2024. The fish weighed 12 pounds, 10 ounces, replacing Pierce Dopkin's 11-pound, 8.5-ounce record from 2017, which was caught in the same creek.

Frank was casting from a kayak and using a Sixgill spinning rod with a Shimano spinning reel loaded with 30-pound test Snakehead Outlawz braided line when the fish hit. A Snakehead Outlawz Dragon Destroyer was the lure used for catching this new record bowfin.

### ABOUT THE NJ STATE RECORD FISH PROGRAM

Despite its small size and high population density, New Jersey offers a wide range of fishing opportunities, including the chance to catch "trophy-size" fish. Such fish are recognized in the Skillful Angler Program and the State Record Fish Program.

The objective of the Record Fish Program is to increase the awareness of fishing opportunities for species that are regularly sought after and routinely found in the freshwaters or off the coast of New Jersey. Separate lists are maintained for freshwater and marine species, and in 2014 a new Spearfishing category was created for saltwater species.

Presently there are 90 species (31 freshwater

and 59 saltwater, including 17 in the Spearfishing category) eligible for entry in the Record Fish Program. In May 2007, the program was revised to include Retired Categories (Saltwater) of fish no longer accepted for entry in the program, as well as Retired Historical Records which were believed to be "unbeatable" at the time.

For More information visit:  
[dep.nj.gov/njfw/fishing/freshwater](http://dep.nj.gov/njfw/fishing/freshwater)



(above) Frank Hubert caught the new state record Bowfin in Mantua Creek on December 17, 2024. The fish weighed 12 pounds, 10 ounces, replacing Pierce Dopkin's 11-pound, 8.5-ounce record from 2017, which was caught in the same creek. Courtesy photo



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Written by Don Sweeney and Janet Cymbaluk Ashnault with research by  
Janet Cymbaluk Ashnault, Don Sweeney, Bill Duffy, Vic Bary, Steve Glazer and Stu Rosenthal

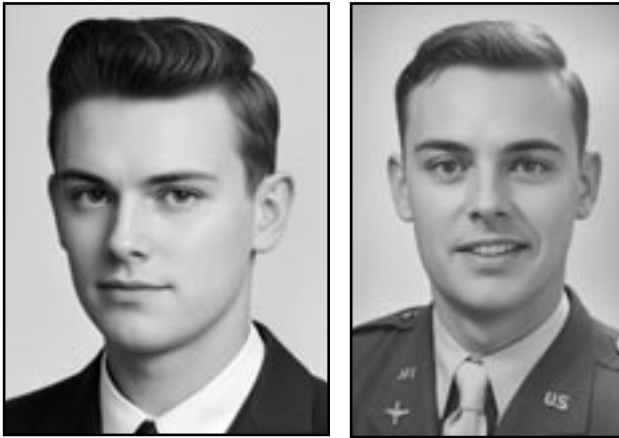
Each Memorial Day morning in Cranford, the names of our town's fallen heroes are read. It is the mission of the Cranford 86 Project to ensure that there will always be faces and stories associated with these men, so that they will never become "just names". Now in our eighth year of this mission, we were inspired by the Apple TV series *Masters of the Air*, and all of this year's honorees were flight crew members. Here we present the life, service and loss of World War II bombardier, 2nd Lieutenant Robert R. Tuttle.

Young Americans arrived into this turbulent war era as survivors of the Great Depression. Living through lean financial upbringings, their innovativeness flourished, as they learned to do more with less. From coast to coast, in towns and cities large and small, each community educated and nurtured the development of these young citizens, who were finding their place in the American landscape of the time. The events of December 7th, 1941, changed the plans of a generation, who suddenly found that the place they wanted to be was in the U.S. Armed Forces. These brave individuals who stepped forward were just kids, but they became bound together into the mightiest of military forces. They saved the world from an axis of evil whose ideology wanted to change the course of the world's freedoms. Through the circumstances of their lives and how they handled them, this era of American people has earned the title of our "Greatest Generation".

Our Cranford 86 profiles are created after collecting personal facts about each serviceman and interweaving them with the historical events and achievements in which he played a part. So many of our stories describe the inception of game-changing engineering marvels, an element which we feel is enlightening to both our team members as well as our readers. Lt. Tuttle was a bombardier on one of those marvels, the B-29 Superfortress.

## YOU'RE GONNA NEED A BIGGER PLANE

Of the military aircraft of the 1930's, there were several heavy bombers that served the needs of the Allied armies of the free world to a high degree. Carrying considerably large payloads, these planes had the ability to approach targets from long distances and high altitudes. In 1939, the U.S. realized that if Europe and Asia were lost to the Axis powers, bomber runs across the Atlantic would be required. But, none of the most advanced bombers of the day had the capability to complete such a mission. A quote credited in part to the Greek philosopher Plato, "Necessity is the mother of invention," has driven the creation of tools of war since the beginning of time. To satisfy the evolving needs of the Allied forces, engineers were summoned from the titans of the world's manufacturing industries and a contest of sorts took place. As a reward, an



(above, left) Robert's High School yearbook photo. Three years later he would return to Cranford as a 2nd Lieutenant with silver wings upon his chest as an Army Air Force bombardier. (above, right) Blue-eyed Robert Tuttle poses for his official military portrait. We sometimes struggle to find a clear picture of our fallen servicemen. From this aged newspaper photo, our AI photo enhancement processor was able to give us an incredible, accurate depiction of how young Robert looked to his friends and family. In college Robert was 6'2", 162 lbs., After months of intense training, as with most cadets, Robert's weight and fitness level would have changed considerably.

enormous, lucrative contract would be granted to the winner. A "dream list" of requirements was put forth, specifying the following: a bomb load of 20,000 pounds, a speed capability of 400 mph, a range of 5,000 miles without refueling, and high-altitude capability with pressurized cabins for the entire crew. In 1940, four aircraft manufacturers submitted plans. It was Boeing, the manufacturer of the B-17 Flying Fortress and Consolidated Aircraft, maker of the B-24 Liberator that were selected as the finalists. In May of 1941, Boeing received the first order, with Consolidated Aircraft standing ready if the Boeing submission did not successfully perform in pre-war testing. Boeing's B-17 had already been serving in Europe for several years. Given the B-17's overwhelming offensive and defensive abilities, it had been dubbed the "Flying Fortress". When Boeing's new creation was unveiled, it was aptly named the B-29 "Superfortress" and was ready to rule the skies over the Pacific.

## CRANFORD KID CHOOSES TO SERVE HIS COUNTRY

Robert Ross Tuttle was born on July 10th, 1923 in Oak Park, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago. His parents were Ross, a World War I veteran, and Corabelle. Ross' job transfer to Western Electric in Kearny, N.J. brought the family to Cranford, a few months before Robert's second birthday. Shortly after that, Robert's sister Barbara was born. The two siblings, born two years apart, surely crossed paths countless times in the hallways of the public schools in town which they attended. At Cranford High School,



(above) Robert is shown standing between his mom Corabelle and his sister Barbara. This photo was provided to us by Rachel Schnorr, Robert's great-niece by marriage. She described it as "Robert showing his silly side", a characteristic that had not yet been revealed to us.



(above) Robert's home in Cranford, 220 Central Avenue, as of 2024.

Robert was a member of the track and cross country teams as well as the band. Graduating with the class of 1941, he was classmates with four of those who would also lose their lives in WWII—Jack Prescott, Roderick Smith, Nick Vassallo and Norman Sorger. After graduation Robert was accepted to Virginia Polytech Institute, commonly known as Virginia Tech, but transferred to Rutgers for his sophomore year. In a fashion similar to his Cranford classmate Jack Prescott, Robert, possibly lured by the recent change in pilot age and education requirements, set his sights on the Army Air

(continued on page 12)

## 2ND LIEUTENANT ROBERT R. TUTTLE (continued from page 11)

Force. After passing the very demanding entrance exam, he left Rutgers in February of 1943, the middle of his sophomore year, to begin his preliminary training as an air cadet at Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania.

Our research for the Prescott Cranford 86 profile, gave us insight into the selection and training process of Army Air Force cadets. Robert received his pre-flight training in Santa Ana, California, where those who excelled and managed to make it through the rigorous testing program were sorted into pilots, co-pilots, navigators, bombardiers or flight engineers. These cadets would head toward specialized training in hopes of continued success and to graduate as officers. Those not measuring up would “wash out” and would be assigned to less demanding positions. The classification board in Santa Ana felt that Robert Tuttle would perform best in the most critical role of a bombing mission—the bombardier. Robert headed to Kingman, Arizona for gunnery school and then to Victorville Army Airfield in Victorville, California. Victorville graduated about 100 bombardiers each month. Cadets trained for eighteen weeks in the expert use of the Norden bombsight and E6B analog computer. It was at Victorville, at the July '44 graduation, that Robert Tuttle received his wings and was commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant. He and his fellow cadets, who had made it to this point, had survived all odds to finally achieve the goal for which they had all so ardently sought. The event was memorialized with a yearbook similar to those of large high schools or universities.

As customary, a leave was awarded to WWII servicemen after completion of their training, before entering battlefield service. Our research found that in August of 1944, 2nd Lt. Tuttle was able to show off his silver wings and custom

fitted uniform at home in Cranford, just three short years after his high school graduation. During this time, Robert got his orders to join the 870th Bombardment Squadron, 497th Bombardment Group (VH), XXI Bomber Command. Looking back at this complex period in WWII history, it is likely that our hero had no idea of the role his new unit would play in the strategies that would soon unfold, but with historical research and 20/20 hindsight we can see what was ahead for our son of Cranford in the coming months.

### CHANGING THE GAME IN THE PACIFIC

In the Pacific Theater, U.S. Navy battle fleets would cruise past occupied islands, only engaging Japanese forces if the islands were deemed valuable for air strips and strategic supply depots. This strategy was known as “island-hopping”. Japan had bragged that they were protected by the Pacific Ocean, and the superior strength of their Navy left them with no fear of an attack on their homeland. For many reasons, including one that may not have been completely evident at the time, the U.S. had the northern Mariana Islands of Tinian, Saipan and Guam in their sights. The Marianas were situated roughly 1,200 miles away from Japan, too far away to be reached by any aircraft currently in service. In an amphibious attack on Saipan on June 15, 1944, U.S. forces were met by the mighty Japanese Navy and a ferocious battle began. The Japanese were underestimated by American intelligence, and they had surprised our marines and army when they added a garrison of 32,000 soldiers, who would rather die, than lose or surrender. After violent fighting for over a month, Saipan was taken and 31,000 Japanese had died in the battle, many by suicide. The U.S. Navy Seabees Naval Construction Battalions rapidly transformed the airstrips on Saipan so that they were able to accommodate a much larger aircraft, one that weighed 135,000 pounds and measured 99 feet long. An ambitious plan, several years in the making, was coming to fruition. 2nd Lieutenant Robert Tuttle and his crewmates would play a vital part in its success. As Saipan was being transformed into an American airbase, Robert began his introductory training on the yet-to-be-seen technologically-advanced aircraft that he

would soon be flying. It was at Kearney Air Base in Nebraska, where he would first set eyes on the shiny, sleek, chrome-like B-29 Superfortress, just off its classified production lines. 2nd Lieutenant Robert Tuttle and his crews flew their “Superforts” from Kearney to Saipan, where they arrived on November 25th, 1944.

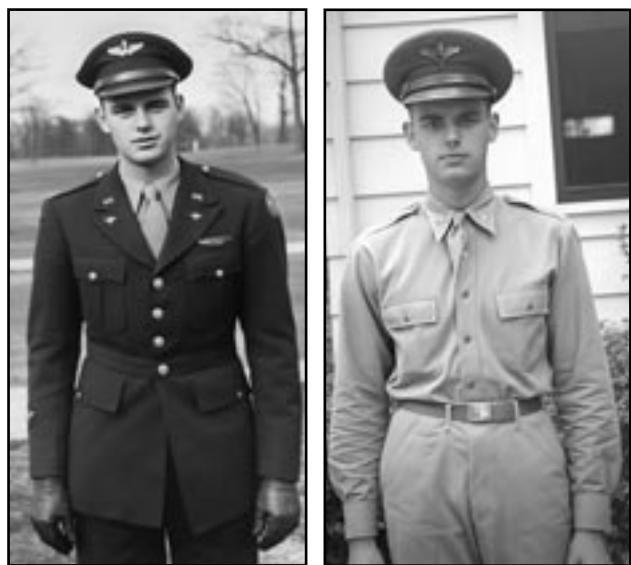
### THE BOEING B-29 SUPERFORTRESS

Never before was there a bomber of this size and technological advancement. The Superfortress had pressurized cabins, allowing the entire crew to travel within the aircraft without oxygen masks, enjoying a controlled cabin atmosphere at altitudes as high as 31,850 feet. Earlier bombers exposed crews to 30-40 degrees below zero when up so high. On a B-29, no one touched an on-board weapon. The eight .50 caliber machine guns that shot half inch incendiary cartridges, and a rear mounted cannon with exploding .20 caliber shells, were remotely operated from a General Electric-made parallax computer-based “fire station” inside the cabin. Unlike its predecessors, the B-29 rarely required protection from fighter planes, it could defend itself against attacking enemy aircraft. The accuracy percentage of its computer-assisted gunsights was 90% at 900 yards as opposed to the 450-yard range of an attacking Japanese fighter plane. With over a 400-yard engagement advantage over the Japanese plane, the Superfortress rarely lost an in-air battle. The biggest breakthrough was the round-trip range of 3,250 miles. This would allow an attack from the east coast of North America to Berlin as dictated by the B-29’s design specifications. The evolution of WWII now required this capability on a different battlefield. The ability for long-range bombing of mainland Japan from the northern Mariana Islands was now a critical part of the path to Allied victory. It was something for which Robert Tuttle had trained extensively and was about to experience.

### ARRIVAL IN SAIPAN

A letter from Robert arrived at the Tuttle home at 220 Central Avenue on December 11, 1944, telling of his arrival on Saipan. In it, he described the island and said he had not been on a mission yet, but expected to make his first one shortly. From an online oral history interview of a member of Tuttle’s unit, we learned a lot about life on Saipan and the Army Air Force structure of B-29 crews. There were 20 Superfortresses based at Saipan in November of 1944 and 30 crews of 11 airmen, equally split between officers and enlisted men. Additional arriving crew members would become part of the “pool”. They would fill in for crew members who were ill, wounded or killed in battle. Our assumption was that Robert had arrived after the crews were established and hence was assigned to the “pool”. The enlisted men lived in Quonset huts with 24 airmen per building, which replaced the tents that initially housed the airmen. We heard no mention of officers’ quarters, but from past research we would expect them to be vastly different.

(continued on page 13)



(above, left) A sharp-dressed man, 2nd Lt. Robert Tuttle shows off his custom-fitted Army Airman uniform, complete with brand new, shiny silver wings. We believe this picture was taken at Kearney Army Air Base in Nebraska, in November of 1944. It was here that Tuttle and his crewmates would first see the B-29 Superfortress.

(above, right) Air Cadet Robert Tuttle dressed in his khaki uniform, when on duty at a Pacific air base this would be the uniform of the day, when not in a flight suit.



(above) Don't let their youthful appearance fool you. Robert Tuttle (right) and his fellow Air Cadet are capable, well-trained airmen, and wise well beyond their years. The average age of a B-29 crew member was 22 years old.

## 2ND LIEUTENANT ROBERT R. TUTTLE (continued from page 12)

### OUR HERO GETS HIS CHANCE

In December, 1944, Robert accepted an offer for a volunteer position filling in for an ill bombardier on the Superfortress named "Special Delivery". The mission was to be a "weather strike". For a typical daytime B-29 bomb run, which involved multiple bombers, obtaining weather information was a necessary precursor to the success of the mission. In 1944, there was no radar-based weather prediction and sending out a group of eight or 12 Superfortresses, without weather information, would risk the lives of nearly 100 crew members. Instead, a single "Superfort" would be sent out at night, with a weather observer on board, to collect weather data from the target areas for the next day's full-scale bombing mission. Weather strikes usually included a small-scale bombing mission. This was the case in Robert's first mission.

On this 2,500-mile 14 to 15-hour round trip mission, the objective was to neutralize a Mitsubishi aircraft factory in Nagoya, Japan, with Robert of course as a key player. When it is time to write this part of one of our stories, we have become quite familiar with the life of our Cranford hero and feel a personal connection. We almost always take a minute to reflect upon what was being asked of this young man. Robert was a 21-year-old Cranford kid. As a bombardier, he would be perched within the iconic glass nose of his B-29, a state-of-the-art aircraft worth one million dollars in 1944 and approximately \$17 million today. After correctly configuring the parameters for altitude, air speed, air temperature and wind direction into his Norden bombsight, 2nd Lt. Robert Tuttle would take control of the aircraft from the pilot and co-pilot. During this crucial time as they approached their drop zone, for those several

moments, he would be the pilot. With a crew of ten other airmen watching, Robert would guide the B-29 to the correct location over the target.

That day, strong headwinds were blowing over Honshu, Japan's largest island. This caused the B-29, which usually cruised at 220 miles per hour, to drop down to a ground speed of 50 miles per hour, using massive amounts of fuel. When "Special Delivery" reached the drop zone, our hometown hero successfully delivered the massive payload of explosive and incendiary bombs with pinpoint accuracy, destroying the Mitsubishi aircraft production facility. This was probably one of the finest moments of his life.

### DITCHING OF "SPECIAL DELIVERY"

A description of what happened next was obtained from the accident report, obituaries, letters and other newspaper articles. After the success of the mission, the crew began their run home in high spirits. It was reported that at some point they began to smell an electrical fire on the Superfortress. The pilot stated that control of their guns and the interphone went out and the compass and other equipment failed. When the bombs had been dropped, unusually large fireballs were observed, as if an electrical plant or an arsenal had been ignited. This raid may have been conducted at a low altitude, as was sometimes customary during this timeframe in the Pacific, and the unexpected explosions may have caused damage to the plane. With the navigational abilities of the craft damaged, fuel running dangerously low and reports of one or more engine failures, all of our sources were unified in stating that the plane needed to make an intentional "ditch". They were able to contact the Saipan base, reporting their location and the details of the emergency. With thick fog, "like milk" the water could not be seen as the pilot attempted to set the Superfortress down into

turbulent seas amidst 25-35 foot waves. At 5:45 a.m. on December 19, 1944, "Special Delivery" hit the water, breaking off its nose and tail. The rough landing caused everyone but the pilot and the radio man to go unconscious. The two helped the other crew members out of the plane. They all had survived the ditching. Lt. Tuttle, at the time of the crash, was still in his bombardier's position in the nose of the plane. When he regained consciousness, despite a back injury, Robert still took an active role in the rescue work. One life raft had floated away and one was punctured and only able to accommodate two men. All of the crew, except Robert, were crowded in or around one fully-inflated raft. After the loaded raft was almost swamped by waves, the tail gunner, Frank Romero, made a brave attempt to swim 40 yards to the empty raft, but disappeared under the waves. Lt. Tuttle clung to the partially submerged wing in the semi-inflated life raft, perhaps feeling that attempting to join the only other available raft would further overcrowd it. A huge wave crashed over the group, causing Robert to lose his grip and be swept under the plane's wing. Tragically, he did not resurface. The ten remaining men tried to regain their composure and held desperately to the raft. Banged-up, seasick, with no rations and only a little water, they hoped that their radio notification would bring help soon.

### THE RESCUE

Back on Saipan, word of the circumstances of Superfortress "Special Delivery" had reached the unit commander, Lt. Col. Robert "Pappy" Haynes. He sprang into action, supplementing the Navy's air-sea rescue service, and began his own search and rescue mission for the downed crew. Haynes requisitioned three B-29 bombers

(continued on page 14)



(left) "Every B-29 bomber was given a nickname by its crew, an illustration of which was created and painted on each side of the nose of the Superfortress. In many cases the names of the crew were also listed next to the illustration. It was on "Special Delivery" that Robert Tuttle would make his first and last mission as a bombardier."

(above) As pictured in the Victorville Army Air Field Graduation yearbook, cadets are learning to use the Norden bombsight on a 12' tall rolling scaffold, dropping bags of flour and using the E6B manual calculator. So much and so many were invested in this intense training program to ensure that at the crucial moment of bomb release, the anticipated result was delivered, an eliminated target.

(above) The middle seat in the cockpit of the B-29 Superfortress was where bombardier Robert Tuttle would sit, within arms reach of the pilot and co-pilot. In the movie Star Wars, the interior cockpit design of the Millennium Falcon closely resembled that of the B-29. Director George Lucas was inspired by WWII newsreels and movies of his youth which he used in many aspects of Star Wars.



(left) We often create a map to help our readers understand the journey on which our hero had embarked for his final mission. To put this flight into perspective, it was very close to the distance of a round trip from Boston to Key West and back, without landing, a 14-16 hour mission.

## 2ND LIEUTENANT ROBERT R. TUTTLE (continued from page 13)

and, based on three conflicting eyewitness reports, he plotted his search grid. The mission began and Pappy Haynes chose the middle course for his own Superfortress. They methodically searched the area, and based on years of experience, a hunch and incredible luck, Haynes' "Superfort" spotted the floating yellow life rafts, just 30 minutes after taking off. A news article described the jubilation of the remaining crew as they waved wildly from the raft and Pappy Haynes dipped his wing as confirmation that they had been spotted. This was at 11:00 a.m., approximately 130 miles northeast of Saipan, just five hours and 20 minutes after the ditching. Haynes' B-29 then circled for three hours until a PBX Catalina flying boat arrived on the scene and performed first aid on the crew. At 7:00 p.m. a Navy destroyer pulled them from the raft and provided them with medical care.

### TRAGIC NEWS HITS HOME

At the end of 1944, on the day after Christmas, a telegram arrived at the home of the Tuttle family. It contained the devastating news that 2nd Lt. Robert Tuttle had been listed as missing in action after his B-29 Superfortress was forced to ditch on December 19th, 1944. The family received letters from Lt. Ewing, the Pilot /Commander of the B-29 crew and they also received some comforting words from Lt.

Ewing's mother. An agonizing six months went by before Robert was declared killed in action, and then the family had to endure a different kind of pain. Robert's sister Barbara, age 19, had lost her only sibling. During this sad and scary time, Barbara was engaged to William Schnorr, a paratrooper in the 11th Airborne, who participated in the daring Raid on Los Baños in the Philippines in 1945. The couple were married shortly after the end of WWII. Since Robert was lost at sea, there was no burial, and we weren't able to find any information regarding a memorial service. His name can be found on a panel within the Courts of the Missing at the Honolulu Memorial in Hawaii. Robert was the 45th son of Cranford to be lost in WWII, followed only by one more, his high school classmate Nick Vassallo, who died after the war's end.

### THE END OF THE WAR

By war's end, 3,970 B-29 Superfortresses were built in U.S. factories, at a cost of 3 billion dollars in 1945 (approximately \$51 billion in 2022). This was a billion dollars, 1945 money, more than the cost of development and delivery of the atomic bomb. At that time, it was the most expensive war project in U.S. history. Two modified B-29s, known as Silverplate Superfortresses contributed to the accelerated

end of WWII. A bomber that could handle the incredible weight of an atomic bomb, 9,700 pounds, and one fast enough to deliver its lethal load and exit the area quickly were all crucial capabilities of these B-29's. On August 6, 1945, a B-29 Silverplate Superfortress named the "Enola Gay" dropped the first uranium atomic bomb named "Little Boy" squarely on its target. This was accomplished by bombardier Tom Ferebee, using a Norden bombsight. The attack originated from Tinian, in the Marianas, with the Japanese city of Hiroshima as its target, a 2,900-mile mission.

### REMEMBERING

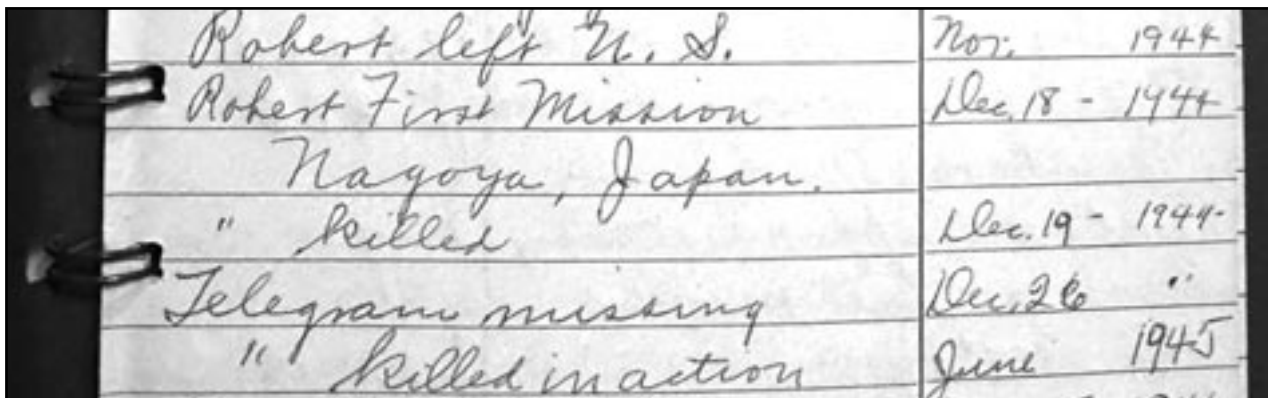
#### 2ND LIEUTENANT ROBERT R. TUTTLE

After he volunteered to serve our country, circumstances of war only gave Robert Tuttle one real-time chance to exhibit his capabilities and the type of airman that he had become in his young life. He channeled his two years of intense training into that moment and the expertise which he displayed as a B-29 bombardier was flawless. We like to imagine that he was able to experience a feeling of pride at the time and we join with him in that. Eyewitness accounts say that in the minutes before his life was lost he was without fear, brave and selfless in regards to the safety of his fellow crew members. Lt. Robert Tuttle's contribution to our lives and our freedom was significant and it deserves to be remembered, not only by family and friends, but by our town, our country and the world.

Cranford 86 was very pleased to be able to connect with members of the Tuttle family, which include Robert's nephews Doug and Curt Schnorr, Doug's son Will and daughter-in-law Rachel. The Schnorrs provided us with some beautiful photos, notes and letters, as well as some family anecdotes, which helped us greatly with our research. They gladly accepted sponsorship of Robert's banner and have plans to attend Cranford's 2025 Memorial Day parade and ceremony.

For more information on the B-29's place in the WWII history of the Pacific, please view the Tuttle story, on the Cranford 86 website, at [cranford86.org](http://cranford86.org). Here we have provided links to some of the many videos which helped us to document this serviceman's life.

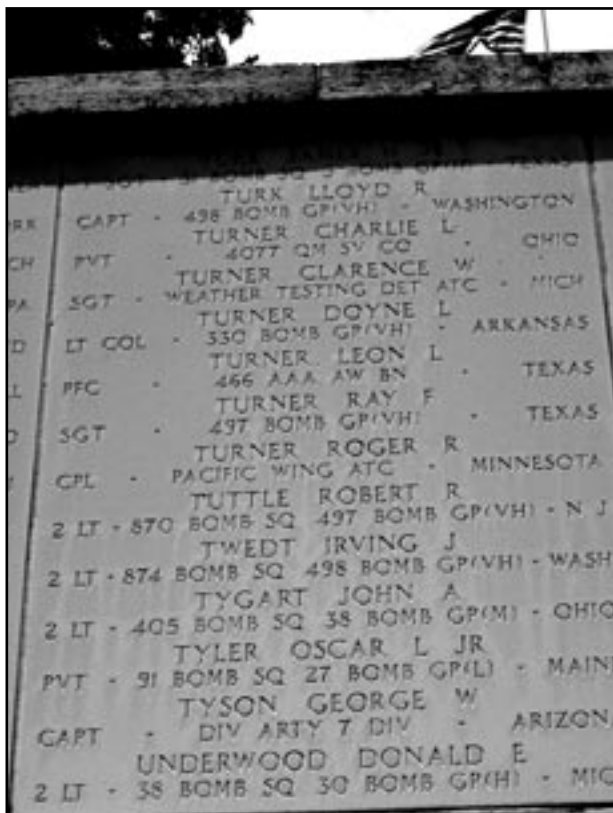
This story is dedicated to the memory of our friend Lieutenant Arthur Snyder, 1929-2025, Korean War B-26 pilot and Cranford 86 advisor.



(above) Robert's mother, Corabelle, kept a journal that contained the dates of the important events of her family. This journal page, provided to us by the Schnorr family, was a great help to us as we chronicled the life of Lt. Robert Tuttle. As a result of a "suggestion" by Corabelle, as a way to preserve the family name, her grandson Curt was given the middle name "Tuttle".




(above) This beautiful memorial is metaphorically located in the crater of an extinct volcano, now a tranquil place that once was a display of the earth in one of its most



(right) Robert R. Tuttle's name is engraved on a stone tablet in the Courts of the Missing at the Honolulu Memorial in Hawaii

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Have questions about your smartphone, tablet, or other device? Register for a 15-minute tech help appointment with a librarian. Register online or contact the library. Appointments are weekly on Tuesdays from 1-2:30pm at the Cranford Community Center. This program is co-sponsored by the Cranford Public Library and the Cranford Community Center.

## Movie Night

Wednesday, February 5, at 7pm

Join us the first Wednesday of the month for a screening of a recently released DVD! Please visit our website or contact the library for film titles.

## Jazz and the Civil Rights Movement Concert/Lecture

Thursday, February 6, at 7pm

Join Galen, an extraordinary flutist with an extensive performance career, for this program that is part concert part lecture. Galen is a musician and a riveting speaker with encyclopedic knowledge on the history of jazz and the Civil Rights Movement. Sponsored by the Friends of the Cranford Public Library and in partnership with the Cranford Community Center.

## Lit Cafe

Saturday, February 8, at 10:15am

Literary Café is a book chat program. The format is simple: Bring a few of your recent favorite books and tell the other members of the group what you like about them. If you don't have a copy of the book you want to talk about, that's okay, too. The books can be new or old, fiction or non-fiction, classic or contemporary. There is no required reading, and you will have the opportunity to learn about books recommended by other group members. Admission is free and all are welcome. Light refreshments provided by the Friends of the Cranford Public Library. Attend in person or on Zoom (contact library for link).

## International Film

Monday, February 10, at 12:30pm and 7pm  
 Join us for an International film screening. The same film will be shown at 12:30pm and 7pm. Please contact the library for the film title.

Please note the new start time for the afternoon showing.

## Adults Create

Tuesday, February 11, at 7pm

Join us the second Tuesday of the month for crafts! This month we are making string art. Space is limited; please visit our website to register. Sponsored by the Friends of the Cranford Public Library.

## Theater Project

Saturday, February 15, at 2pm

The Friends of the Cranford Public Library invite everyone to attend a live theatrical performance! New Jersey's own Theater Project will present a reading of an original short play. The reading will be followed by a question and answer session with the audience, director, playwright and cast. Funds from the UC Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs, a partner of the NJ State Council on the Art and by the Friends of the Cranford Public Library.

No registration needed.

## Trivia Night

Wednesday, February 19, at 7pm

Join us for another fun evening of trivia! This free event is hosted by the Friends of the Cranford Public Library! Join us in the Community Room on the first floor of the Community Center! Feel free to bring your own snacks and (non-alcoholic) drinks. Prizes awarded to the winning team. Please visit our website or contact the library to register.

## Pedal Steel Guitar Concert

Tuesday, February 25, at 7pm

Join us for tunes from the British Invasion played on the Pedal Steel Guitar! Sponsored by the Friends of the Cranford Public Library and in partnership with the Cranford Community Center.

## Darkroom Drop in

Wednesdays from 5:30pm-8:30pm

Photographers of all levels are invited to connect, share their work, talk shop, and work in the darkroom. The Darkroom is located in the Arts & Crafts Room on the second floor of the Community Center, the space is wheelchair-accessible.

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## CLOTHING BIN & BOOK BIN

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We have permanent Clothing Bin & Book Bin in our parking lot located at 401- 2nd & Walnut Street. (The clothing will not be turned rags. We can only accept books: hardcover, paperback, or textbooks with ISBN numbers.)

## FIRST AID SQUAD VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Volunteers Are Needed! If you have the desire to help others join us, we are in need for adult and junior members to join! We are staffed 100% by volunteers who live and work in the town, and surrounding communities. Squad crews respond to emergency calls 24 hours per day, every day of the week. Flex-time shifts are available. Volunteers are provided with free first aid/CPR training and uniforms.

For more information call 908-789-0300,

## MEDICAL EQUIPMENT PROGRAM

We offer a free Medical Equipment Program to residents (e.g. wheelchairs, crutches, walkers, and shower seats) at no charge. We also accept donations of new, or well persevered and clean, equipment.

Please call 908-789-0300

or e-mail [informationgfas@gmail.com](mailto:informationgfas@gmail.com) for more information.

## FIRST AID AND CPR CLASSES

We offer First Aid and CPR classes to the community as several of our members are certified American Heart Association Instructors. We conduct monthly CPR classes at our squad building on the 3rd Sunday of the month from 2 to 6 p.m. (6 people minimum to run the class). We can also provide group classes on other days at our building or at another location upon request.

To learn about a First Aid/CPR program, please call 973-610-7675 or e-mail

## CAR SEAT INSPECTION STATION

We also host the Union County Central New Jersey Safe Kids Car Seat Inspection Station Program on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 7:30 - 11:00 a.m. Just stop by our station at 401 - 2nd Ave & Walnut and certified technicians will ensure your child's safety seat is the correct type and properly installed.

For info please call 908-789-6830.



Please join Troop 83 in thanking our Veterans & First Responders at our 8th Annual Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser

Sunday, February 23, 2025  
anytime between 8:00am - 12 noon

Kenilworth VFW Hall  
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Tickets are \$ 8.00 per person  
Veterans, First Responders  
& children under 5 eat FREE



Buy tickets at:  
<http://njtroop83.square.site>  
or from any Troop 83 Scout



(above) Squad members with Garwood Mayor Jen Blumenstock in the middle along with Glen Costello, President of Garwood First Aid Squad who is holding the proclamation.

## UGLY HOMES WANTED FOR TELEVISION PROGRAM IN THIS AREA

We need 30 Ugly Homes with Ugly Kitchens, Bathrooms, Siding, Window, etc., Inside or Outside that need fixing or Remodeling. We will Repair and Remodel them and shoot video for training film and future TV show on Home Remodeling Work.

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Ask for TV Project Department, for job evaluation and estimate of cost and compensations!

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# 2025 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE CRANFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The 2025 membership drive for the Cranford Historical Society is underway. The Cranford Historical Society is a non-profit educational organization whose mission since 1927 has been to preserve and perpetuate the history of Cranford. We maintain the Crane-Phillips House Museum, open to the public every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month, and its beautiful gardens. We host free programs and events, including speakers, antique appraisals, family, craft and holiday events and more. To encourage a love of history in our young people, we host students and Scouts at our museum to learn about Cranford history and what life was like in the 1870s. We maintain the Hanson House, where our office is located, and we assist a steady stream of people researching their homes or looking for information about local history. We also publish

five newsletters each year for our members. "The Mill Wheel" contains society news and interesting articles on local history. Membership supports the continuation of our archives, costume department, building maintenance, our programming, and our History Scholarship which is awarded to a Cranford High School graduate every year. Please join us!

A Membership Form can be found on the Society's website at [cranfordhistoricalsociety.org](http://cranfordhistoricalsociety.org). Or complete the following form and return with your check to: Cranford Historical Society, 38 Springfield Ave. Cranford, NJ 07016

For more info about joining the Cranford Historical Society, please call our office at 908-276-0082 or e-mail us at [cranfordhistoricalsociety@verizon.net](mailto:cranfordhistoricalsociety@verizon.net).

## CRANFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

\_\_\_\$25    \_\_\_\$50    \_\_\_\$75    \_\_\_\$100  
 \_\_\_another amount

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please contact me about volunteer opportunities with the historical society

## WINTER CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

The Cranford Historical Society has rescheduled their Winter Children's Program to Saturday, February 8th at the Hanson House, 38 Springfield Ave. in Cranford. Free and open to the public, this program begins at 2:00 p.m. when children will hear a story and complete a craft. We hope you will join us!

Space is limited, so please RSVP by 2/4 to (908) 276-0082 or [cranfordhistoricalsociety@verizon.net](mailto:cranfordhistoricalsociety@verizon.net) with the number of children attending.

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# POLICE DEPT RECOGNIZED FOR TRAFFIC SAFETY PROGRAM

## Township of Cranford

AAA Northeast has awarded the Township of Cranford Police Department with a Silver Award, recognizing traffic safety efforts during 2023.

AAA Northeast has long recognized communities that make outstanding efforts to improve the safety of local roads for all users. The Community Traffic Safety Awards focus on the national Safe System Approach, which takes into account five key areas: Safer People, Safer Roads, Safer Vehicles, Safer Speeds and Post-Crash Care. This approach makes roadway safety a shared responsibility, recognizing that all stakeholders are vital to preventing fatalities and serious injuries on our roadways.

The Township of Cranford Police Department was recognized for their efforts to improve traffic safety for all who use Cranford's roads, particularly pedestrian safety. Throughout the town, roadways, sidewalks and crosswalks have been replaced, repaired and installed with new handicap ramps, providing safe access for both wheelchair-bound and sight-limited residents. Heavily-used crosswalks have been upgraded with Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacon (RRFB) signs to alert vehicular traffic to pedestrians nearby.

In addition to the department's Silver Award,

Detective Sergeant Russell Luedecker received the AAA Traffic Safety Hero award. Det. Sgt. Luedecker led the department's Traffic Bureau in an ongoing project to alleviate traffic congestion at a main intersection in town, requiring not just

collaboration within the department, but also with the County of Union and State of New Jersey.

AAA Northeast congratulates the Township of Cranford and Det. Sgt. Russell Luedecker on their recognition.



(above, l-r) Shari Jarvis, AAA Northeast; D/Sgt. Russell Luedecker, Chief Matthew R. Nazzaro

Courtesy photo

# CRANFORD HONORARY P.B.A. SEEKING MEMBERS

During the 1980's and early 1990's the Cranford Honorary P.B.A. Local #52 served and supported the members of the Cranford Police Department. This organization consisted of business owners and citizens who fully supported the Cranford Police Department, the Cranford Policemen's Benevolent Association Local #52 and their respective members. The Honorary P.B.A. actively aided in the good and welfare of the Cranford Police Officers and their families. The Honorary also physically and monetarily supported the Cranford Police Department with many programs that helped cement relationships, both professional and personal, between the Police and the Community.

The spirit that brought about this organization has been again alive and well since it's rebirth in 2016. Spearheaded by both retired Cranford P.B.A. members and dedicated community members, the Cranford Honorary P.B.A. mission is simple:

"To promote the moral, professionalism and

the good and welfare of the Cranford Police Department and to promote and grow the relationship between the citizens, business owners and the members of the Cranford Policemen's Benevolent Association and the Honorary P.B.A."

The Cranford Honorary P.B.A. is seeking motivated individuals who are interested in becoming members, board members and volunteers. There will be monthly commitments, but the rewards will be worth it. We are looking for those of you who have the desire to actively support the members of the Cranford Police Department and their families

in good times and in bad. In a world of ever increasing public disdain and constant scrutiny of our law enforcement officials, we need women and men community leaders, who are willing to stand up and actively support those who keep us safe. We are fortunate to live and work in a wonderful community and believe that the rebirth of the Cranford Honorary P.B.A. has been a fantastic asset to Cranford.

If you are interested in joining this noble organization, or desire more information, please call 908-272-2227, or drop us a line at:

Cranford Honorary PBA Local 52  
P.O. Box 1663

## ATTN: FORMER EMPLOYEES OF HYATT ROLLER BEARING FOUNDRY!!!

If you know of or worked with Jack Muzik at Hyatt Roller Bearing foundry in Clark Township, New Jersey - in the 1960's, 70's or 80's - or know someone who did, please contact: Investigator Dave Ruebhausen at Simmons Hanly Conroy at 618-910-8218.



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# CRANFORD JAYCEES KICKSTARTS LIBRARY CAMPAIGN WITH \$10,000

The newly formed Cranford Public Library Foundation is proud to announce the launch of its inaugural fundraising campaign, “Room to Read,” which will support the growth and improvement of the Cranford Public Library children’s department. The Foundation is excited to kick off this new initiative with its first-ever Platinum Cornerstone Sponsor, the Cranford Jaycees, a prominent local organization known for its dedication to community service and civic engagement.

The Cranford Public Library Foundation has been established with the mission of supporting, enhancing, and expanding the programs, spaces, and services of the Cranford Public Library. With a focus on raising funds for new initiatives, technology upgrades, educational programs, and capital improvements, the Foundation aims to ensure that the library remains a vital resource for generations to come.

As the first Cornerstone Sponsor, the Cranford

Jaycees have donated \$10,000 allowing the library to embark on its “Room to Read” campaign with a strong financial foundation. The “Room to Read” campaign will support the renovation of the Cranford Public Library’s children’s room by engaging with local businesses, residents, and other organizations and inviting them to contribute to the enrichment and enhancement of the space.

“The Cranford Public Library has always been at the heart of our community, and we are thrilled to support its continued growth and development through this new Foundation,” said Cranford Jaycees President, Shaun Rees. “As a Cornerstone Sponsor, we are proud to lead the way in helping provide essential resources for our library and its youngest patrons. The Jaycees have always believed in the importance of serving our community, and this partnership is a natural extension of that mission.”

The children’s room renovation will begin in

2025, after more than a decade of planning, wishing, and community input. When complete, the project will double the children’s department space to nearly 5,000 square feet. The renderings are on display in the library lobby, and regular updates on progress will be shared widely.

“We are extremely grateful to the Cranford Jaycees for their support,” said Cranford Public Library Director, Kathy Cannarozzi. “Their commitment to community involvement aligns perfectly with our goals, and their generous sponsorship will allow us to kickstart this important initiative. With the Foundation’s work, we will be able to offer more programs, expand our services, and enhance the overall library experience for everyone in Cranford.”

The Foundation will launch a community-wide fundraising campaign in 2025, with opportunities to give and be recognized on a permanent donor wall in the new space. For more information on the Cranford Public Library Foundation, including how to contribute or get involved, please visit [cranfordlibrary.org](http://cranfordlibrary.org) or contact the Cranford Public Library Foundation at [CPLFoundationBoard@gmail.com](mailto:CPLFoundationBoard@gmail.com).

About the Cranford Public Library Foundation

The Cranford Public Library Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the Cranford Public Library through fundraising, advocacy, and community engagement. Its mission is to support, enhance, and expand the programs, spaces, and services of the Cranford Public Library.

About the Cranford Jaycees

The Cranford Jaycees has been an integral part of the community for 70 years, organizing charitable events such as the annual Firecracker Four-Miler Road Race and Oktoberfest, and community traditions such as the Santa Deliveries Toy Drive and the Father’s Day Fishing Derby. The Jaycees are committed to making a positive impact in Cranford through service and supporting causes important to the community.



(above, l-r) Dave Farrell, Kevin Trocciola, Matt Wisser, and Shaun Rees of the Cranford Jaycees; Kathy Cannarozzi, Director of the Cranford Public Library; Lauren Antolino, Head of Children’s Services; and Susan Burke, President of the Cranford Library Board of Trustees.

Courtesy photo

“Family care for newborns through 100”



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## CRANFORD FIREFIGHTERS TO COMPETE IN COOK OFF

On Monday, February 24, 2025, firefighters from around New Jersey will compete at the Cooked and Uncorked Food and Wine Festival, at the Pines Manor in Edison. Proceeds from the event will be donated to the Mark A. Virag Memorial Cancer Fund, Family Promise of Bergen County, and The Burn Center at Saint Barnabas Medical Center.

The Ultimate Fire Department Cook-off is an integral part of the evening as firefighters will compete in three different categories: Gourmet, Firehouse and Dessert.

The competition is part of the culinary extravaganza where participants will be able to experience the tastes and flavors of some of New Jersey's finest restaurants, caterers, and dessert shops all in one location.




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## VICKIE BOLL: A VOLUNTEER WHO MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE

### New Jersey Veterans Network

Every day, the New Jersey Veterans Network (NJVN) supports disabled veterans and their families, providing crucial resources that can truly change lives. A big part of that success is due to our amazing team of volunteers who give their time, energy, and heart to help our heroes.

One volunteer who stands out is Vickie Boll. Vickie is a regular face in the veteran community, and her dedication to the cause is nothing short of inspiring. Despite facing her own challenges as someone with autism, Vickie works tirelessly to ensure that veterans have access to the resources they need and that they feel appreciated and supported. Whether it's helping load trucks with supplies or bringing cheer to veterans at recreational therapy events, Vickie is always there, offering a helping hand and a smile.

For Vickie, helping veterans is more than just a task – it's a personal passion. She finds a sense of safety and belonging with veterans, who, she says, are nonjudgmental and deeply appreciative of her efforts. Their gratitude motivates her to continue her work, and her positive attitude has made a real impact on the lives of many veterans.

But Vickie's good deeds don't stop there. Her heart of service extends beyond veterans. Most recently, she spearheaded a successful collection for St. Hubert's Animal Rescue, further showing her commitment to making the world a better place for both people and animals.

It's an honor to have Vickie on the NJVN team. Her kindness, compassion, and tireless work ethic are a reminder that small actions can make a huge difference. The world is truly a better place because of people like her.

**HELP US SAVE VETS – AND MAKE A LASTING IMPACT ON THOSE WHO SERVED.**

NJVN are always looking for volunteers that



*(above) Vickie Boll is a regular face in the veteran community, and her dedication to the cause is nothing short of inspiring.*

Courtesy photo

can both assist with upcoming events and help mentor veterans so they can live better productive lives. Volunteers are the most important NJVN resource, and we would love to have more people help us save lives. If you need assistance or are interested in joining the team, please send us your name, email, and phone number to [NJVN1775@gmail.com](mailto:NJVN1775@gmail.com) or call 973-332-1556. Check out our website [NJVN.org](http://NJVN.org) for our services and accomplishments.



# CRANFORD FAMILY CARE ASSOCIATION

*Julie Carroll*

As we bid farewell to another remarkable year, Cranford Family Care (CFC) celebrates the immense generosity and support of our community. This year brought an increase in the number of Cranford residents coming for food and financial assistance. Thanks to the unwavering kindness and generosity of our supporters, we were able to meet this growing need with open arms.

The Cranford community and beyond truly rallied around us, ensuring that no family went without during the holidays. The outpouring of support was inspiring, with countless individual and organizations stepping forward to contribute their time, donations, and resources.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the following organizations for their support.

Anthem Style & Gifts, Arc of Union School, Augusta Mae Boutique, Bar Method of Westfield, Barron Drug Store, Big Sexy Soup, Booster Club, Brighton Air Corp, Cake Artist, Calvary Lutheran Church and Preschool, Come Play & Learn Preschool, Cougar Headquarters, Cranford Cub Scouts, Cranford Elks Club, Cranford Fire & Police Department, Cranford Golden Touch Jewelers, Cranford Homegrown Open, Cranford Jaycees, Cranford Knights of Columbus, Cranford Park Rehab, Cranford Public Schools (CHS, OAS, WAS, Hillside, Brookside), Cranford Theater, Cranford Women's Club, Detect Initiative, Downtown Cranford, Dreyer Farms, ECLC of Chatham, Elks Club, Fire Me Up Studio, Garden Club of Cranford, Garlic Rose, Gourmet Deli, Hailey's Day of Kindness, Jardine Academy, Jessica

Creations, Khalsa Aid, King Strength and Performance, Kings Supermarket of Garwood, Lerner David Law Firm, Light Ministry, Lindsay Martinelli Realtor, Mane Event Salon, Martin Jewelers, Med Learning Group, Ministry of FUMC of Westfield, PFK O'Connor Davies, Project Home, Rosary Society of St. Michael's Church, Rutgers Garden Club of Union County, Savor Snack Shop, Shannon Wagner Della Fortuna, Sheet Metal Workers, South Ave Dental, St. Helen's Church, St. Michael's Church, School, and Salt & Light Feed My Lambs Program, Sunny Acres Community, Tarraservices in Cranford, Renna Media, The Curious Heart Shop, The Highland Group, The Sprinkle Experiment, Thrivent Financial Team, Timber Ridge Construction, Track 5, Trinity Episcopal Church and Day School, Turner Construction Bridgewater Group, UPS Store on South Ave, VFW Post #35, Weeks Marine Drive, Westfield YMCA, Yarnstormers, Vinny's Pizza & Pasta.

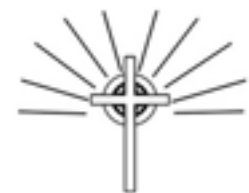
We apologize if we missed anyone in this list - your contributions are deeply valued and appreciated.

CFC operates weekly with the help of many, many, incredible volunteers. These dedicated individuals work tirelessly, picking up groceries from Kings, Acme in Kenilworth, and various other businesses and residents. They lift, pack, unpack, organize, and sort donations to ensure smooth operations in our food pantry. To all our volunteers, we extend our sincerest gratitude for your hard work and commitment.

As the year concludes, we are filled with gratitude and hope for the future. The continued

support from the Cranford community and surrounding areas strengthens our mission and enables us to assist more families in need. Thank you to everyone who made this year so impactful for Cranford Family Care. Together, we make a difference.

Please reach out to Cranford Family Care, 61 Myrtle Street Cranford, NJ 07016, Cfamilycare@gmail.com, and or follow us on instagram and Facebook. If you need assistance, or would like more information visit cranfordfamilycare.com.



## Celebrating 100 Years of God's Grace 1925-2025

We are thrilled to announce that Redeemer Lutheran Church will be celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2025!

This is an incredible milestone that marks a century of Redeemer's faithfulness, fellowship, and service to our community.

Throughout the year, we'll be hosting a series of exciting events to honor this momentous occasion. These events will culminate in a

### Grand Anniversary Celebration: Sunday, September 28, 2025

2:00 PM Worship Service in the sanctuary Fellowship Reception to follow in Luther Hall, featuring food and beverages.

Whether you've been with us for years or are new to our church family, we invite you to join us in giving thanks for all that God has done, and will continue to do, through Redeemer Lutheran Church.

Stay tuned for more details about upcoming anniversary events!

Let's honor the past, rejoice in the present, and look forward to a bright future together.

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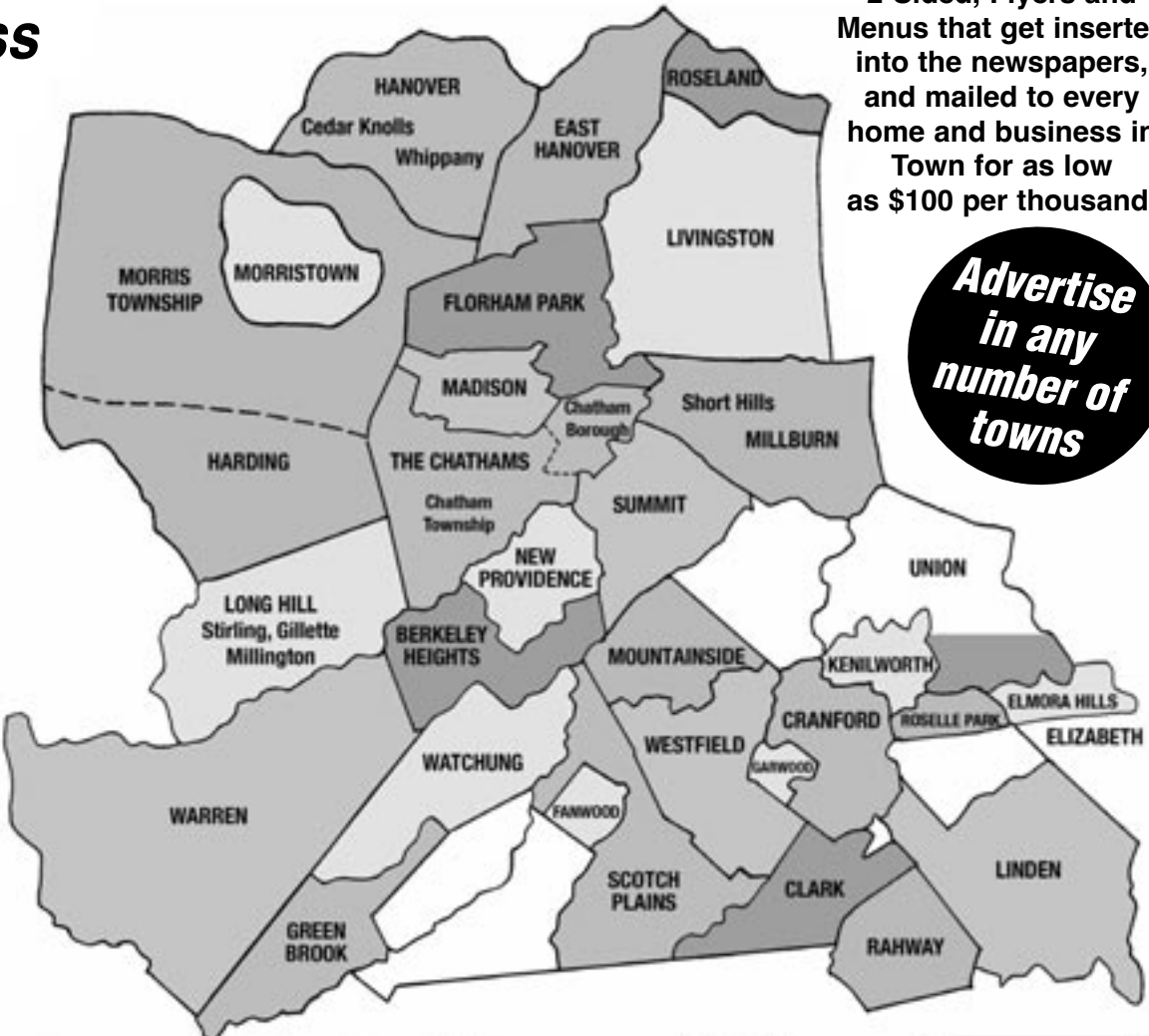
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<b>Fanwood Post NJ</b> Qty: 3,000 Zip: 07023	<b>Florham Park Press NJ</b> Qty: 6,000 Zip: 07932	<b>Garwood NJ Times</b> Qty: 2,500 Zip: 07027	<b>Green Brook NJ Gazette</b> Qty: 3,300 Zip: 08812	<b>HANOVER TOWNSHIP PRESS NJ</b> CEDAR KNOLLS WHIPPANY Qty: 6,100 Zips: 07927, 07981	<b>BUSINESS • LIFE KENILWORTH NJ</b> Qty: 3,500 Zip: 07033	<b>NJ LIFE in LINDEN</b> Qty: 18,000 Zip: 07036	<b>Livingston Monthly NJ</b> Qty: 12,100 Zip: 07039
<b>Long Hill LEADER NJ</b> Qty: 3,500 Zips: 07933, 07946, 07980	<b>MADISON MONTHLY NJ</b> Qty: 6,300 Zip: 07940	<b>Short Hills MILLBURN MONTHLY NJ</b> Qty: 8,200 Zips: 07041, 07078	<b>MORRIS TOWNSHIP TIMES NJ</b> Qty: 13,500 Zip: 07960, Harding 07976	<b>MORRISTOWN MONTHLY NJ</b> Qty: 7,000 Zip: 07960	<b>MOUNTAINSIDE NJ VIEW</b> Qty: 3,000 Zip: 07092	<b>New Providence NEWS NJ</b> Qty: 5,100 Zip: 07974	<b>OUR TOWN Rahway, NJ</b> Qty: 13,100 Zip: 07065
<b>Life in Roseland NJ</b> Qty: 3,000 Zip: 07068	<b>ROSELLE PARK MONTHLY</b> Qty: 5,600 Zip: 07204	<b>Scotch Plains NJ WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY</b> Qty: 9,600 Zip: 07076	<b>Summit NJ Times</b> Qty: 9,600 Zip: 07901	<b>Spirit of UNION NJ</b> Qty: 7,800 Zip: 07083 (partial)	<b>WARREN MONTHLY NJ</b> Qty: 6,500 Zip: 07059	<b>Watchung Post NJ</b> Qty: 2,700 Zip: 07069	<b>Westfield NJ MONTHLY</b> Qty: 12,000 Zip: 07090

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# UNION COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESERVING HISTORY

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The Hannah and James Caldwell Memorial Obelisk recently underwent a complete restoration and cleaning at the Siloam-Hope First Presbyterian Church (formerly known as the First Presbyterian Church of Elizabethtown) in Elizabeth thanks to the Union County Historical Society (UCHS).

UCHS President Joanne Rajoppi said, "The 179-year-old obelisk honoring Revolutionary War pastor and patriot James Caldwell and his wife Hannah, was in terrible condition: encrusted dirt from years of neglect with loose mortar and unreadable engravings. As we approach the 250th anniversary of our country, what better time to reflect, remember and honor the contributions of our patriots, especially the Caldwells, who sacrificed their lives for independence."

The Siloam-Hope First Presbyterian Church cemetery is one of the oldest in the state, dating to the late 1680s. More than 40 officers of the

Continental Army are buried there, many of whom attended the church while Reverend Caldwell served as its pastor. Caldwell also served as General George Washington's Deputy Commissary of supplies during the war. The British placed a bounty on his head and he was murdered in 1781. His wife Hannah and mother of their nine children had been murdered the previous year by a British soldier in the aftermath of the Battle of Connecticut Farms.

There are also more than 313 enslaved and free African Americans buried in the historic cemetery, often in unmarked graves: some are children, and some are likely war veterans. The 313+ Ancestors Speak Project acknowledges and commemorates their lives and burials. A monument with their names was recently erected in the cemetery.

The restoration of the Caldwell memorial was partially funded by a Union County Heart Grant,

donations by the Union Township Historical Society, the NJ Society of the Sons of the American Revolution, (NJSAR), the West Fields Chapter of SAR, American Legion Post 248, the First Presbyterian Church of Springfield and many individual contributors.

Ms. Rajoppi said that the restoration included a workshop on how to clean gravestones.

Volunteers, including local area Boy Scouts, the Crane's Ford Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and UCHS members attended the four-hour event.

The restoration work was completed by Richard Grubb & Associates, a full-service cultural resource management firm and one of the largest, independent archaeological and historic preservation consulting companies in the eastern United States. Their corporate headquarters are in Cranbury, New Jersey.

## ABOUT THE UNION COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NEW JERSEY

The UCHS was incorporated by an Act of the 93rd Legislature of the State of New Jersey on April 1, 1869. The objective of this Society is the collection and preservation of all matter of historical relics, books, records, documents, and manuscripts, to stimulate and encourage historical research and the study of history pertaining to the territory originally embraced by Elizabethtown and the present Union County.

The Society exists through the help and generosity of its members. Membership is comprised of citizens who have a common interest in preserving the past. There is no paid staff. The Executive Board and Members perform all Society functions.



(above) The recent restoration and cleaning of the James and Hannah Caldwell Memorial Obelisk at Siloam-Hope First Presbyterian Church in Elizabeth was commissioned by the Union County Historical Society.

Courtesy photos

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