

# Vets celebrated with a parade, picnic and concerts

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concert by the North Winds Symphonic Band and the Sea Cliff Rock Jam Band.

There was fun throughout the day but the theme was paying tribute to veterans. David Hamon, veterans service organizations and military director of the United States World War One Centennial Commission, told the crowd that occasions like this are a fine example of how heroes, and history, should be remembered.

State Sen. Jim Gaughran, a Democrat from Northport, was one of several elected officials and local dignitaries there. Paying tribute to veterans of the past, he said, is also a way to honor today's veterans, because it shows that they will never be forgotten.

"You look at the size of the rock we put up" for the World War I soldiers, said Ted Kopczyński, vice commander of the James F. Brangel American Legion and the 100th anniversary parade's grand marshal. "Those men are not forgotten. The Sea Cliff residents who have no idea who they were 100 years later — we're still not forgetting. That is just, I think, a real tribute to this community." Residents Ija Buffa, Joni



**BOY SCOUT TROOP** 43 members Jared White, 12, front left, and Paolo Romito, 11, front right led the parade.

Photos by Elisa Dragotto/Herald Gazette

Sturge and Mike Cain, who read the names on the rock's plaque, said it was extraordinary to see so many people celebrate the veterans' legacies. "This is Sea Cliff," Buffa said simply. Sturge compared the village to the town of Mayberry in "The Andy Griffith Show."

Eric Solomon, of Glen Head, said that events like this one are why he moved from Manhattan to Long Island to raise a family. "We never had this kind of community" in the city, he said, "so I had to come out today. This is the epitome of why I moved here."

Sea Cliff Village Administrator Bruce Kennedy said he was pleased with the huge turnout of roughly 800 people. This once-a-century event, he added, was another example of residents "stepping up" to make their village the best place it can be, which has been the case since its beginnings.

"It means that this community still is the same as it was when it was founded 135 years ago," Kennedy said. "It's still a community that cares for each other — its brothers, its sisters, its soldiers — looks past differences in political parties and religions and just comes together as a community."