

Legion post honors WW I vet

93-year-old John LoSacco

BY ADVANCE STAFF WRITER

John LoSacco's infamous poker face finally betrayed him.

When asked for the secret of his longevity, the 93-year-old World War I veteran answered, "clean living and no women." But he couldn't suppress the smile that spread over his face and the glint that shined in his eyes.

Last night, members of the American Legion Kells-Grennie Post 316 held a testimonial for the Bay Terrace resident.

"He's a great poker player. Just

don't try to bluff him," Willie Bonelli, house manager of the Legion building on Amboy Road, said, adding that he's lost plenty of change to LoSacco in the past. "He's still sharp. I hope to look that good when I'm 93."

LoSacco, who bears an uncanny resemblance to actor Robert Duvall, is actually older than that. Born in 1897, he'll celebrate his 94th birthday on Sept. 17. Members of the Legion are already gearing up for the party they plan to throw for his 100th birthday.

Born in Bari, Italy, LoSacco moved to New York in 1910. He was decorated for his work as a member of the Border Patrol in Texas and for his stateside service in the army during World War I.

He's lived on Staten Island for most of his life and now resides with his daughter Mary.

"When he returns home from playing cards at the Legion, he's happy even if his pockets aren't jingling, because he's been with a wonderful group of people," Mary said. She did admit, however, that he usually comes home with a pocket full of change.