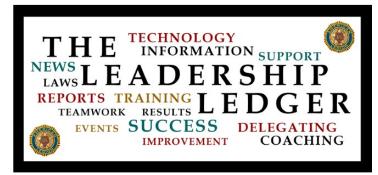
THE LEADERSHIP LEDGER Vol. 6 Issue 08 APR, 10 2025

The American Legion, Department of Maine

5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0727 www.mainelegion.org | legionme@mainelegion.org | 207-873-3229

www.facebook.com/TALDepartmentofMaine



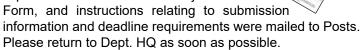
Welcome to the 136th Edition of The Leadership Ledger. It includes Post, Department and National reports, leadership training events, upcoming conferences/ conventions as well as rules and regulations pertaining to local, state and national laws. The Ledger is available by visiting the Department's website at mainelegion. org under "News & Events" or on the home page. If you have any information to be published in The Leadership Ledger, please forward to Dept. HQ via email at:

legionme@mainelegion.org

Attention Adjutants & Commanders:

If your Post has not done so already, please fill out the Annual Post Data Report form and mail it back to Dept. HQ ASAP, or scan & e-mail it to: legionme@mainelegion.org.

The Consolidated Post Report (CPR), Post Officers Form. Notification of Post/ Squadron Commanders & Adjutants



For more information, please call Department HQ at 207-873-3229. Thank you for your prompt reply!

> Click Here to View the Status of Your **Post/District Report and Form Submissions**



Please submit all awards to Dept. by May 1. Click Here to view the list of awards and deadlines.

To download Award/Nomination Forms, visit www.mainelegion.org under FORMS/APPLICATIONS.

Dues Reminder: Please pay your 2025 membership dues ASAP to ensure continuous years are reflected for new 2026 cards. Click Here or Scan the QR Code with your phone to renew online.



106th Annual State Convention

June 6-7, 2025 Jeff's Catering & Event Center

15 Littlefield Way, Brewer, Maine 04412

Electronic Form Submission & Payment Link

Note: Please remember to email the form to Department if paying online.

Member/Guest Registration Form & **Elected Post Delegate/Alternate Form**

Your name should only appear on one form. Fee/person is \$10.

Entitlement to Delegates & Alternates will be available 30 days prior to State Convention

Click Here For More Information



JOINT TESTIMONIAL

American Legion Department Commander Patricia "Tricia" Thurston American Legion Auxiliary President Stasi Brule Sons of The American Legion Commander

Steve Doyle

Saturday, May 10, 2025

5:00 p.m. Social Hour | 6:00 p.m. Dinner Program to follow - Cash Bar Available

Alden M. Gayton American Legion Post 31 426 Washington Street N, Auburn, ME 04210

Deadline for Reservations: April 25

No tickets will be sold after deadline. Tickets will not be held without payment.

\$30.00 per person

Make checks payable to: American Legion Post 31 Mail to: American Legion Post 31, 426 Washington Street N, Auburn, ME 04210

Click Here For More Info & Event Flyer on Page 9



Upcoming Holiday

American Legion State Headquarters will be closed on Monday, Apr. 21 in observance of Patriots Day. Please plan accordingly. Thank you!



COMMANDER'S PROJECT 2024-25

Department Commander Tricia Thurston asks that each Post and Legionnaire support her goal!

Mission Working Dogs

Their MISSION: To improve the lives of their community members who are living with a disability by providing them with properly trained service dogs to help them live more independently despite a physical disability and by providing therapy dogs which will bring mental well-being to the people of Maine such as those in nursing homes, hospitals, and schools.

Their VISION: At Mission Working Dogs, dogs to purpose-bred aid individuals disabilities so that the handler can live a life to the fullest and more independently.

Their GOAL: Service dogs can assist those with physical disabilities such as mobility impairments by fetching dropped items, opening doors, and turning on and off lights. They can also help individuals with PTSD by learning to recognize an increase in anxiety, carrying medications, and providing deep pressure therapy to calm or redirect the handler. Dogs working as facility dogs are often trained to recognize a patient's affected side in the case of a stroke and to approach on the side the patient is able to pet with or throw the ball. Patients are able to work on fine motor movements in petting or caring for the dog as well as gross motor skills playing fetch with a dog that's able to bring the ball exactly to where the patient needs, such as on a side table or directly into their hand, rather than on the ground or trying to play tug with it inappropriately.

Their PLAN: Service dogs are generally trained approximately two years and undergo a wide assessments on their physical temperament, and tasks or skills to make sure they can properly support their handler throughout life.

Donations can be made to The American Legion Dept. of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901-0727



Please place in the memo line of the check: Commander's Project 2024-2025

If you would like to donate with a Debit or Credit Card, please call

207-873-3229 or visit: www.mainelegion. org and click on the DONATE button.

PAST COMMANDERS CLUB

Please note that the annual dues for Past Commanders Club are \$5.00 per member.

Click Here or visit www.mainelegion. org under Forms/Application to download an application. If you haven't paid your Past Commanders Club dues yet, please do so today!

See Page 8 for PCC Form



Show Your Support to Maine Veterans by Donating Today & Make Your Name Part of American **Legion History**

Deadline for Submission May 9, 2025

П

DONATE \$25 Receive NEW Challenge Coin & 📙 Name in Yearbook

DONATE \$50 Receive NEW Challenge Coin, Lobster Lapel Pin & Name in Yearbook

DONATE \$100 Receive NEW Challenge Coin, Lobster Lapel Pin, Name in Yearbook, & 2025 Convention Yearbook







NEW! Maine American Legion BE THE ONE Challenge Coin, left, and Maine American Legion Lobster Lapel Pin, right.



Show your support to Veterans in the state of Maine! Become a sponsor today by donating to the Maine American Legion Convention Yearbook Program and make your name part of The American Legion history! Your name will be listed in our 2025 Maine American Legion Yearbook made available in print and online in digital format by visiting

www.mainelegion.org.

Donate \$25 and receive our newest Maine American Legion Challenge Coin, \$50 and receive our new challenge coin and lobster lapel pin, or donate \$100 and receive our new challenge coin, lobster lapel pin, and a 2025 Maine American Legion Convention Yearbook. To donate with Debit/Credit Card, click





the button below, or simply scan the QR code with your phone. You may also visit www.mainelegion.org and click on the Maine American

Legion Convention Yearbook Donations Welcomed button. If donating by check, please make payable to The American Legion, Department of Maine earmarked "Yearbook Program" and mail to: The American Legion, Department of Maine, 5 Verti Drive. Winslow. ME 04901-0727.

For more information, please call 207-873-3229 Ext. 2 or email rachael@mainelegion.org.

Did You Know You Can Pay Your Labels Donation Online?

Donations for 2025 Labels can be made on our website by Clicking Here, scanning the QR code with your phone,

or by visiting www.mainelegion.org and clicking on the "Donate" button. Please be sure to notate "Labels" in the notes so we can identify your donation.



Thank you!



The American Legion Department of Maine

Commander's Project "Mission Working Dogs"		
ALR Chapter 86 - Gray\$1,000		
Mechanic Falls Post 150\$200		
District 1 - York County\$130		
Misc. Donation\$105		
Phippsburg Post 216\$50		
Maine Blind Camp		
Wiscasset Post 54\$250		
Richmond Post 132\$300		
Mechanic Falls Post 150\$100		
Eliot Post 188\$50		
Brunswick Post 20\$50		
Brownville Post 92\$50		
Phippsburg Post 216\$25		
Beals House		
Phippsburg Post 216\$50		
Maine Veterans Home - Machias		
Phippsburg Post 216\$50		
Homeless Vets		
Phippsburg Post 216\$50		
VAVS		
Phippsburg Post 216\$50		
VETAID		
Phippsburg Post 216\$25		
Dirigo State		
Phippsburg Post 216\$50		
Oratorical #50		
Phippsburg Post 216\$50		
Palisades Fire (Palisades Post 283)		
Phippsburg Post 216\$100		
Special Olympics		
Bath Post 21\$2,000		
American Legion Department of Maine Foundation		
National Leadership Fund		
Gray Post 86\$250		
Ti 1./a 1		

Thank You!

District Meetings Be Connected · Be Heard · Be Informed

APRIL 2025

District 3 – Androscoggin: April 21, Turner Post 111, 6:30PM

District 5 – Oxford: April 16, Rumford Post 24, 7:00PM, Installation of District 5 Officers, Light Supper at 6:00PM

District 12 – Hancock: April 10, Blue Hill Post 85, Dinner at 6:00PM, Meeting at 7:00PM

District 14 - Piscataquis: April 19, Dexter Post 53, 12:00PM Lunch, 1:00PM Meeting



Colby College 4000 Mayflower Drive, Waterville, ME 04901 Sunday, June 15, 2025 - Friday, June 20, 2025

Registration: Sunday, June 15 at Noon Graduation: Friday, June 20 at 3:00 pm Cost per student is \$400

Packets have been mailed to posts and high schools. The forms that need completion and mailed to The American Legion, Department of Maine along with a check in the amount of \$400/student are: <u>Dirigo State Application</u>, <u>Parental Consent</u>, <u>Medical Authorization</u>, and <u>Performing Arts</u> (if <u>participating</u>.)

Checks should be made payable to The American Legion, Department of Maine and mailed to The American Legion, Department of Maine, Attn: Dirigo State, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901-0727

For more information, please contact: Dirigo State Director, Matthew Leclair 207-693-7389 | <u>dirigostateme@gmail.com</u> or Dept. Adjutant, Jason Hall 207-522-5471 | <u>jason@mainelegion.org</u>

Legionnaire Insurance Trust (LIT) No Cost LegionCare

Your valued status as a member of the Legion Family makes you eligible for LegionCare.



Current members only are entitled to the \$5,000 No-Cost-To-You Accident Insurance Protection. If your membership was expired at any point, you will have to sign up again to receive coverage.

Click Here To Learn More and Sign Up



<u>Click Here</u> to Listen to the Tango Alpha Lima Podcast: https://tangoalphalima.fireside.fm

Your Guide to Welcoming New Members

The American Legion's new member welcome toolkit features best practices and resources to actively connect with and engage new members.

Click Here to View the Toolkit

The toolkit also is available for download and print at legion.org/publications under Membership.



Is Your Post Utilizing Its' Sales Tax Exemption?

All Legion Posts in the state of Maine qualify for Sales Tax Exemption. If your Post currently does not have a Certificate for Sales Tax Exemption, please call Dept. Headquarters for assistance at 207-873-3229 so we can send you a packet containing detailed instructions on how to obtain this status.





No Veteran should go through a crisis alone. Save the new Veterans Crisis Line number—Dial 988 then Press 1—in your

phone in case you or a Veteran loved one needs support.

THE AMERICAN LEGION 2025 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL SCHEDULE

Cutoff Dates April 9, 2025 Renewal Mail Dates May 3-9, 2025

Transmittals not received by the cutoff date may not prevent a subsequent renewal notice from being delivered at or around the renewal date. Please note, renewals transmitted and received by the cutoff (which is also a National Target Date) will be updated prior to printing renewal notices, assuming they can be successfully scanned. Membership that must be hand-keyed (new members and renewals that can't be scanned) will take longer to process. Please transmit as early and as often as possible in advance of the Target Dates to help avoid delays in processing.



Squadron Forms/ Squadron Forms/ LEGION Applications

Print a SAL Membership Application
Squadron Officers Form
Consolidated Squadron Report - fillable
Annual Squadron Data Report - fillable
Click Here for the Latest Membership Report

District Awards

American Legion Jacket: Awarded to District Commanders who reach 100% by Dec. 31, 2024.

American Legion Ball Cap: Awarded to District Commanders who reach 100% by March 12, 2025.

NEW Highest District Overall Membership Percentage (1st Place - \$500 | 2nd Place - \$250): Awarded to District Commanders who reach the highest overall membership percentage 30 days prior to National Convention (July 24, 2025).

NEW Highest District Overall Membership Renewal Percentage (1st Place - \$500 | 2nd Place - \$250):

Awarded to District Commanders who reach the highest overall membership renewal rate 30 days prior to National Convention (July 24, 2025).

For more Information <u>Click Here</u> and find: 2024-25 Membership Goals & Awards Manual

Membership MPACT Reports

The American Legion's success depends entirely on active membership, participation and volunteerism. The following monthly reports located on: www.legion.org/about/reports/membership-impact provide a summary of membership, participation and volunteerism making an impact in the lives of veterans, families and communities. American Legion Posts can share the many ways Legionnaires are making a difference in their communities by submitting consolidated post reports online. To visit the impact American Legion posts made throughout the year, visit: www.legion.org/about/reports or www.legion.org/about/reports/membership-impact

★ Attention: District ★ Commanders & Adjutants

District Meeting Calendar Form Available Online!

<u>Click Here</u> or visit: <u>www.mainelegion.org</u> under Forms/Application



Warrant Templates All Post/District Officer Positions

Available **online** at: <u>mainelegion.org</u> or go to: <u>www.mainelegion.org/pages/formsapplications.php</u>

It's fast and easy!

Q. The average infantryman in the South Pacific during World War II saw about 40 days of combat in four years. On average,



how much time did the Vietnam infantryman spend in combat? ~ Submitted by Dwayne Hatfield, Mars Hill Post 118



Honor Flight Maine will be hosting three charter flights in 2025:

Flight #1 from Bangor International Airport will be April 25-27th.

Flight #2 from Portland International Jetport will be June 27-29th.

Flight #3 from Portland International Jetport will be September 5-7th.

Flight #4 from Bangor International Airport will be October 10-12th.

All Maine Veterans interested in going on a trip should go to HonorFlightMaine.org to apply. The site also contains applications for those wishing to be Guardian for a Veteran and for Volunteers. Honor Flight Maine is an all volunteer organization.

Legion Baseball Registration Open for 2025 Season

Teams may begin online registration for the 2025 season.

Registration for the 2025 American Legion Baseball season is open at <u>baseball.legion.org</u>

Teams registered after May 15 may be subject to a department late fee through the final deadline of June 1. Please note that each American Legion department may set an earlier deadline for registration.

To learn more about your specific department's state fees and deadlines, contact your department chairmen.

Scholarships Available



Applications are now available for the Department of Maine Children and Youth Scholarships, the Daniel E. Lambert Memorial Scholarship, and the James V. Day Scholarship.

Any post, individual or school who would like to receive a copy may obtain one by visiting www.mainelegion.org located under Forms/Applications or by contacting us via email at legionme@mainelegion.org or by phone at 207-873-3229.



USAA is proud to be the Preferred provider of Insurance and Financial Services to The American Legion. Please visit usaa. com/legion or call 877-699-2654.

Donate to the National Commander's Campaign (Dan K. Wiley)

Donations for the 2025-26 National Commander's Campaign are greatly appreciated! Scan the QR code with your phone or <u>Click Here</u> to make a donation. On the donation page, please choose "Other" from the "Use this donation for" dropdown



menu and notate "National Commander's Campaign" under the notes. Thank you!

See the Letter on Page 7 for More Information.

American Legion Cribbage Boards

Get your American Legion Cribbage Board in time for the holidays!

Purchase yours today at:

The American Legion Department of Maine Headquarters, 5 Verti Drive Winslow, ME 04901-0727

\$30/each - Pickup Only Proceeds Support Warren Post 218 Members





BACK

Veteran-owned Expressoul Coffee is selling Be the One coffee with a 15% discount for Legion Family members.





Wellcare Delivers the Coverage You Need and More



Wellcare is honored and excited to be the exclusive Medicare Advantage partner to The American Legion. Wellcare Medicare Advantage plans work alongside your VA coverage to give you more of the things you

both want and deserve. More access. More benefits. More support. With clear answers to every question you may ask, and a willingness to help in any way we can. It's more of everything you need with no extra costs.

If you have Medicare and Medicaid, limited income, recently lost employer coverage, are turning 65 or you've just moved, you may be eligible for one of many qualifying events that allow you to enroll now.

For straight answers and help evaluating your coverage options, call 877-880-8196 (TTY: 711) 8 a.m.-8 p.m., 7 days a week, scan the QR code or click here.





TECHNOLOGY 101



a resource for those who wish to learn basic skills with the powerful technology of today's world. Increased proficiency with computers and cell phones et al is good both personally and professionally.

6 Mobile Banking Tips To Keep Your Finances Safe in 2025

A 2023 Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) survey reported that mobile banking was the main choice for close to half of American households. This was nearly a ninetime increase over 10 years.

It's convenient to check your bank accounts and transfer cash anywhere from your phone. But it also comes with the risks that someone could mess with your money, scam you, or steal your identity if you don't know about some best practices.

Use More Secure Authentication

A username and password used to suffice, but many banks now require more secure login methods to protect your account. For example, they might text a temporary code or make you answer a security question. Banks also often let you use a fingerprint or show your face.

While it might seem like a hassle, requiring multiple steps can go a long way toward keeping other people out of your banking apps. See which options your bank allows and set them up. Plus, make sure the basics, like your password and security questions, aren't easy for others to figure out. You also should be logging off when you're done using these apps.

Set Up Alerts

You might already use banking alerts to watch your balances or learn about payments due. Most banks also offer real-time alerts for potentially fraudulent transactions or unauthorized access to your digital accounts. For example, U.S. Bank sends notifications about account information updates, suspicious login attempts and debit card and PIN changes.

Check with your bank about its real-time alert options, which you'll often find in the app's "security" or "notifications" section. Your bank should have clear instructions and offer multiple alert methods.

Update Your Banking Apps Regularly

If you've held off on updating your mobile banking apps, you might be making it easier for hackers to take advantage of weaknesses so they can get into your accounts and steal your data. You might also miss out on new features and fixes that give you a better experience.

To stay safe, either set up automatic app updates for all apps or set a time to regularly check for and install banking app updates. Only use your phone's official app store for this, as Ally Bank warned of imposter app update alerts that trick you into installing something malicious.

Be Careful Using Wireless Networks

Whether you're at home or away, using mobile banking apps on wireless networks can make it easier for someone to get your credentials or monitor you. It's especially a problem with public Wi-Fi networks that tend to lack good security features and have many people connected.

According to Sunwest Bank, using Bluetooth could also lead to someone controlling your phone, snooping on your data and even installing bad software. Plus, hackers might hear calls between you and your financial institution if you use

Bluetooth earbuds.

- The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) recommended these practices to help prevent such issues:
- Avoid settings that automatically connect you to Wi-Fi networks.
- Consider using cellular data in public places to avoid public Wi-Fi.
- Use a virtual private network (VPN) when you can't avoid public networks.
- Don't leave Bluetooth on unless you're using it and operate in "hidden" mode...

Continue Reading the Article Here: https://www.gobankingrates.com/banking/mobile/mobile-banking-tips-to-keep-your-finances-safe-in-2025/

By Ashley Donohoe March 19, 2025

Post Service Officer Training

Presented by Department Service Officer Carl Curtis

Join us for training, free of charge, to learn more about the benefits afforded to veterans and dependents and to learn how to serve as valuable resources to veterans in your community.

Training Dates:

- Tuesday, April 29
- Saturday, September 20
- Tuesday, October 28
- Saturday, November 15

Click Here For More Info & View Training Flyer on Page 10

Training Tuesdays

The last Tuesday of each month American Legion National Headquarters staff will present 60 to 90-minute sessions on topics aimed at post commanders and adjutants. Each session will be recorded and made available for later viewing.

Click Here to Watch Previously Recorded Sessions

BETHE ONE 2025 TRAINING

April 19 | August 16 | October 18 | December 20

Where: Dept. of Maine Training Room 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901

For more details on the Be The One campaign

visit: betheone.org

To reserve your spot or for questions, email:

betheonedeptme@gmail.com

MILITARY TRIVIA

A. The average infantryman in Vietnam saw about 240 days of combat in *one year*, thanks to the mobility of the helicopter.



Department of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0727 Tel: (207) 873-3229 FAX: (207) 872-0501

E-mail: <u>legionme@mainelegion.org</u>
Website: mainelegion.org

December 5, 2024

To Our Fellow Legionnaires:

As you may be aware, each year we request donations to give to the leading candidate for the position of National Commander of The American Legion. The individuals do a lot of traveling and have expenses that they may need assistance in covering.

Each department donates to this cause, and we are not the only ones to do so. The many departments also supported our own Tony Jordan when he was campaigning for National Commander and it is only right that we, the Department of Maine, do so also.

This year, I am asking those who are listed in the National book and have received appointments or reappointments to any of the National Committees or Commissions to donate at least \$75.00 to help defray the cost of seeking that position. Your support in this matter will be greatly appreciated. If you are capable of and inclined to do so you may donate a larger amount.

This year, the leading candidate is Dan Wiley of Kansas for the year 2025-2026. He is presently scheduled to attend our Department Convention in June 2025.

Your donations will be greatly appreciated. Please send them to the Department of Maine Headquarters at 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901, and earmark your check or money order to the "National Commander's Campaign"

Thank you and let us make this one a great one.

Lloyd Woods

Syd Velock

National Executive Committeeman

Anthony G. "Tony" Jordan Past National Commander

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DEPARTMENT OF MAINE THE AMERICAN LEGION

PAST COMMANDERS CLUB

It is with great pride and pleasure that we the membership of Post #_____submit the names of all our living Past Commanders for membership to the Past Commanders Club. Along with the names, we have enclosed the annual dues of \$5.00 per member with the understanding that this will continue to provide two (2) \$500.00 scholarships. The recipient must be the son/daughter, grandson/granddaughter of a member of The American Legion.

Membership in the Past Commanders Club goes from January 1 to December 31 of each year.

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE	Post Adjutant
1	13
2	14
3	15
4	16
5	17
6	18
7	19
8	20
9	21
10	22
11	23
12	24

Use back side if additional space is required.

SUBMIT TO:

The American Legion, Dept. of Maine 5 Verti Drive Winslow, Maine 04901-0727

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: PAST COMMANDERS CLUB

American Legion Family Joint Testimonial







Saturday, May 10, 2025

5:00pm Social Hour | 6:00pm Dinner
Program to follow - Cash Bar Available

MENU

APPETIZERS: Cheese & Cracker Platter, Vegetable Platter with Dip BUFFET DINNER: BBQ Chicken, BBQ Pulled Pork, Homemade Potato Salad, Homemade Coleslaw, Homemade Baked Beans and Cake

\$30.00 per person

Alden M. Gayton American Legion Post 31
426 Washington Street N | Auburn, ME







American Legion Department Commander -Patricia "Tricia" Thurston American Legion Auxiliary President - Stasi Brule Sons of American Legion Commander - Steve Doyle

Deadline for reservations: April 25, 2025

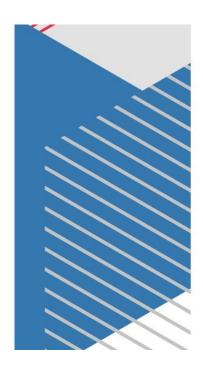
Checks payable to American	Legion Post 31	Mail to: 426 Washington	Street N, Auburn,	ME 04210
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NAME:	PHONE
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PHONE:	

GUEST NAME: _____

OF MEALS: _____





Post Service Officer Training

Presented by Department Service Officer- Carl Curtis

Department Service Officer Carl Curtis has announced four training dates for Post Service Officer training.

A Post Service Officer (PSO) is a very important volunteer position in your post. They are often the first Legionnaire your post members or dependents turn to for help with veteran benefit issues. The PSO's primary duty is to serve as a link between the veteran or dependent and an accredited Veteran Service Officers (VSO) in the Department of Maine.

Join us for training, free of charge, to learn more about the benefits afforded to veterans and dependents and to learn how to serve as valuable resources to veterans in your community.

Tuesday, 29 April

Saturday, 20 September

Tuesday, 28 October

Saturday, 15 November

All training will be at the training center at Department Headquarters (5 Verti Drive, Winslow) with a 10 am start.

Email the Department Adjutant to reserve your seat: Jason@Mainelegion.org



Calais American Legion Sherman Brothers Post #3

calleg3@yahoo.com PO Box 311 Calais, Maine 04619

207-214-4410(cell)



Project "Remembrance" Flags 2025

The Calais American Legion is mounting brackets and flags on the street lamps in Downtown Calais. We are asking for a donation of \$40.00 per flag. This Project is in Support of Project "Remembrance"

Flags 2025. These flags will be displayed starting may 2025.

Last year we mounted approximately 150 flags, from the rotary in Milltown to Downtown Calais, down Main Street to the St. Croix Country Club. Thank you for supporting our Veterans and our community!

-