The American Legion, Department of Maine 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0727 www.mainelegion.org | legionme@mainelegion.org | 207-873-3229 https://www.facebook.com/TALDepartmentofMaine

Volume 5 Issue 18 July 11, 2024

# THE LEADERSHIP LEDGER



Welcome to the 118<sup>th</sup> 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: Post Adjutants!!**

2025 Membership Cards have now been mailed to Posts who didn't pick them up a State Convention.

Adjutant's packets with informational material are available for <u>pickup only</u> at Department HQ Monday-Thursday from 8-4 pm. Please call 873-3229 if you have any questions.

# Thank you!

## **2024 Digital Convention Yearbook Now Available Online!**



Lots of New Information Including Hyperlinked Business Ads to Websites, Photos, Legion Programs & More!

> Check it Out Today!

# **105th National Convention**

New Orleans, LA



2024 National Convention Reservation/ Registration/Banquet Form

August 23-29, 2024

This year's National Convention will be held in New Orleans, LA Aug. 23 - 29, 2024. The hotel assigned for members from the Department of Maine will be Hyatt Place New Orleans Convention Center, 881 Convention Center Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70130. If you are thinking about going to National Convention, please fill out the registration form by clicking on the link above, or email jason@mainelegion.org. For more info, please visit: www.legion.org/convention/resources

Deadline for Registration: July 21, 2024



South Paris Post 72 12 Church Street South Paris, Me. 04281 September 28, 2024

# Summer Sweepstakes Winners

| Iola Ellquist, N. New Portland<br>HQ Post 178         | \$1 500 00 |
|---|------------|
| Bonnie Cyr, Fort Kent<br>Fort Kent Post 133           |            |
| Ronald Reilly, Old Orchard Bea<br>North Haven Post 33 | ich 🍦 🎙    |
| Ronald Mercer, W. Baldwin<br>Westbrook Post 62        | . * .      |
| Congratulation  | - O 🔨      |

#### **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, we train purpose-bred dogs to aid individuals with 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 for approximately two years and undergo a wide range of assessments on their physical health, 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 04091

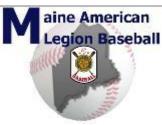
#### Please place in the memo line of the check: **Commander's Project 2024-2025**

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.



Make sure to type "Commander's Project" in the Note section.





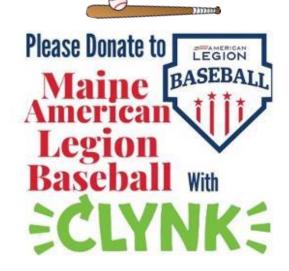
#### Volunteers Needed for 2024 **State Tournaments Mansfield Stadium Bangor, ME**

Senior League State Championships, July 27 – 30/31 Junior League State Championships, August 3–6 Junior Regional Championships, August 9-11 (CT, MA, ME, NH, NY, RI, VT)

### The 100th Anniversary of **American Legion Baseball**

The 100th Anniversary of American Legion Baseball will be recognized during the 2025 season. Every Post in the state is invited to do something special and now is the time to brainstorm any ideas!

For more information contact American Legion State Adjutant Jason Hall at: 207-873-3229 | 207- 522-5471 or via e-mail at jason@mainelegion.org



# DONATIONS

# THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MAINE

**Commander's Project "Mission Working Dogs"** Judy Richardson, Norway..... \$50.00

Veterans Aid Ronald Springer, Hampden.....\$260.00

Thank you!!!



#### 2024 Training Date: Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>

#### <u>Where</u>: Dept of Maine Training Room 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901.

For more details on the Be The One campaign visit: <u>betheone.org</u>

#### American Legion Be the One Campaign

#### To Reserve Your Spot Email: jason@mainelegion.org

Today, the #1 issue facing those who served is veteran suicide. According to the National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report. 17 veterans still die by suicide each day, or more than 6,000 each year. The rate of suicide for veterans is more than 50% higher than that of non-veteran adults.

The American Legion is activating a national platform to end veteran suicide. The Be the One campaign will: Destigmatize asking for mental health support, creating opportunities for those with mental health issues to speak freely and get the support they need; Provide peer-to-peer support and resources in local communities; Deploy FDA-approved therapeutics for veterans to identify issues and find resources for support.

# SONS OF THE

Squadron Forms/Applications
<u>Print a SAL Membership Application</u>
<u>Squadron Officers Form</u>
<u>Consolidated Squadron Report - fillable</u>
<u>Annual Squadron Data Report - fillable</u>

**<u>Click Here for the Latest Membership Report</u>** 

# MILITARY TRIVIA

**Q.** How many women served in the US military branches during the Vietnam war?

~ Submitted by Dwayne Hatfield, Mars Hill Post 118

### 2024 AMERICAN LEGION COLLEGE DEPARTMENT OF MAINE

"Life is a moving, breathing thing. We have to be willing to constantly evolve. Perfection is constant transformation."

-Nia Peeples

The Maine American Legion College originally was a student commitment to 3 weekends per year. To assist Legion members with their busy schedules and other commitments, the 2024 American Legion College will assess a condensed 3-day college. Evaluating the waters to see what is best for members.

This year's college will be Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup>.

Maine American Legion College will enhance knowledge and appreciation of The American Legion and teach the core values and contributions of the organization. The coursework prepares Legionnaires for leadership positions in posts, districts, and departments through education, development, and motivation. The curriculum challenges student leaders to think critically and creatively about issues confronting The American Legion.

The curriculum is administered by graduate facilitators of the National American Legion College. We will cover Legion history, leadership traits, putting good practice to use, and active participation in practice ceremonies and hands-on exercises. Topics include public outreach, fundraising strategies, community relations, and a bonus is the network created with fellow students.

The course work makes students more valuable to their posts and departments, increasing effectiveness and productivity.

Maine American Legion College takes place in the Training Center at Department Headquarters (5 Verti Drive, Winslow).

Limited space, reserve your spot today by email: jason@mainelegion.org

# MEMBERSHIP

The American Legion's success depends entirely on active membership, participation and volunteerism. The following monthly reports located on: <u>https://www.legion.org/membership/impact</u> 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 <u>submitting consolidated post reports online</u>. To visit the impact American Legion posts made throughout the year, visit: <u>https://www.legion.org/bythenumbers</u> or <u>https://www.legion.org/membership/impact</u>



#### <u>MyLegion.org</u> is a One-Stop-Shop for Managing Your American Legion Membership!

#### **Quick Links**

- Join The American Legion: Join Online
- Renew Membership: <u>Renew Membership Online</u>
- Update Member Information: <u>MyLegion.org</u>
- Learn more about membership: <u>Visit The American Legion Membership Web</u> <u>Platform for More Information</u>
- Contact Your Department Headquarters: <u>Departments (State) Headquarters Directory</u> Contact Your Department Service Officer: <u>Department Service Officer Directory</u>
- PUFL:
   <u>Paid Up for Life Information</u>



Multi-Year Membership is now Available. Save Today! Lock in your current dues rate simply by selecting: Multi-Year Membership.



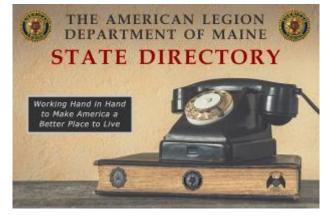
Warrant Templates All Post/District Officer Positions Available <u>on-line</u> at: <u>MaineLegion.org</u>

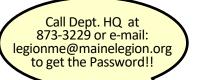
or go to: http://www.mainelegion.org/pages/ formsapplications.ph. *It's fast <u>and</u> easy!!!* 

# Stay Connected with Your Fellow Legionnaires!



## Click here to see the Latest Post Events





Click Here for the State Directory!

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE STATE DIRECTORY!

The State Directory has been posted on the Department Website in the past however it is now passwordprotected. Please call Dept. HQ at: 873-3229 or e-mail <u>legionme@mainelegion.org</u> to get the password, or if you have any questions or concerns.



To see which forms your post still needs to submit

#### AMERICAN LEGION, MEMBERS **OF CONGRESS TO HONOR** PACT ACT ANNIVERSARY



#### The American Legion, JUL 09, 2024

The American Legion will host a special panel discussion Thursday on Capitol Hill in conjunction with the second anniversary of the passage of the Sgt. First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promising to Address Comprehensive Toxins (PACT) Act.

In August 2022, President Joe Biden signed the bipartisan legislation, which was championed by The American Legion. The law has ushered in a range of VA health-care options and benefits for millions of veterans who were exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange and other toxins.

On Thursday, The American Legion will foster a discussion on how the VA has reached over 1 million veterans in screenings for toxic exposure and what efforts are underway to efficiently triage veterans who are identified as exposed to burn pits and experiencing symptoms.

This special panel discussion will feature the wife of Sgt. First Class Heath Robinson, Danielle Robinson, members of Congress, VA's executive director for the PACT Act, an Iraq War veteran and medical professionals who have studied toxic exposure. American Legion Legislative Director Julia Mathis will moderate the panel.

The event will be from noon to 1 p.m. July 11 at the House Veterans Affairs Committee Room, 364 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC.

Among those expected to participate are:

• Rep. Greg Murphy, R-N.C., House Veterans Affairs Health Subcommittee member

• Rep. Chris Pappas, D-N.H., House Veterans Affairs Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee ranking member

• Panel participants such as retired Army Col. Steve Miska, who is VA's executive director of the PACT Act; Danielle Robinson, the wife of Sgt. First Class Heath Robinson; Army veteran Cynthia Daniels, who suffered toxic exposure in Iraq; Dr. Robert Miller, who connected toxic lung injuries in veterans to exposure to burn pits; and Dr. Trishul Siddharthan, who has conducted clinical trials on toxic exposures.

## **OUICKLY & EASILY RENEW ONLINE TODAY!**

Simply Scan the QR Code with the camera on your phone or visit: www.legion.org/renew



# **PAST COMMANDERS CLUB**

Please note that the annual dues for Past Commanders Club are \$5.00 per member. See Page 7 for an application. If you haven't paid your Past Commanders Club dues yet, please do so today!

### AMERICAN LEGION STAFFER PRESENTS AT NATO SUMMIT



The American Legion, JUL 011, 2024

American Legion National Security Director Mario Marquez, a retired Marine Corps sergeant major, presented at the NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) Public Forum on July 10 in Washington, D.C.

The discussion, featuring Marquez and Canadian Lt. Col Melanie Lake, focused on their experiences while serving under NATO. Marquez, who served for 31 years, was in Kosovo under NATO forces, did four tours in Iraq and two earthquake areas in Japan. Lake, a combat engineer, served 3 tours in Afghanistan and commanded Canada's training mission in Ukraine.

Marquez expressed appreciation for NATO's support of the U.S. in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks. "That was the only time that Article 5 has ever been invoked by NATO," he said. "We are grateful for that and we will never forget it."

Lake noted a similar feeling in February 2022 when Russia invaded Ukraine, where she had been four months earlier. "I had the feeling that we had to do everything we can do to help our Ukrainian partners as they defend their democracy — and ours."

This year marks the 75th anniversary of NATO's formation when 12 countries signed the historic agreement in Washington, ensuring their collective defense in a volatile world.

Since then, NATO has expanded to 32 allies. They are meeting this week in Washington to make key decisions on steps to protect their one billion citizens as the world faces its most dangerous security environment since the Cold War.

Marquez discussed his first exposure to NATO, while he was serving in Kosovo. He recalled the support from German and Austrian troops who were already there. "We seamlessly began operations like we had been operating together for years," he said. "I will never forget that. It allowed us to serve the people of Kosovo much better."

Lake recalled when Kabul fell back into the hands of the Taliban. Like most Afghanistan veterans she questioned whether all the efforts were worth it but then found hope.

"It was the Afghanistan women who said, 'this gave us 20 years to pursue our education, get jobs and be a part of public life here.' And we've seen what our country can be and we're not willing to give up on that.' Right now, they are the fiercest resistance the Taliban is facing, both at home and at exile around the world."

## **Attention: District Commanders & Adjutants**

**District Meeting Calendar** Form now available online!

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



# **TECHNOLOGY 101**

is 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.



## SUMMER VACATION COMPUTER JOKES SURE TO MAKE YOU GROAN

- Solution My boss calls me "the computer". Nothing to do with intelligence, I go to sleep if left unattended for 15 minutes.
- How did the computer hackers get away from the scene of the crime? I think they just ransom-ware.
- If your computer isn't working properly and you don't understand why just hit it a bunch of times with a hammer. It still won't work properly, but at least you'll understand why.
- If you think that your computer, laptop and phone spying on you is scary then think again, because your vacuum cleaner has been gathering dirt on you for years.
- © A computer goes up to a guy at a restaurant... It says, "I'll be your server today."
- Solution My computer crashed a few hours into writing my paper. Looks like I'm gonna have to write my name and the date again
- The oldest computer can be traced to Adam and Eve. Yes, it was an Apple. But with an extremely limited memory. Just one byte. Then everything crashed.
- Life before the computer: Memory was something that you lost with age. An application was for employment. A program was a TV show. A cursor used profanity. A keyboard was a piano. A web was a spider's home. A virus was the flu. A CD was a bank account. A hard drive was a long trip on the road.
- © Yeah, I lost to my computer at chess. But it turned out to be no match for me at kickboxing.

# **DISTRICT MEETINGS**

Be Connected  $\cdot$  Be Heard  $\cdot$  Be Informed

JULY 2024 District 8 – Sagadahoc: July 14 Brunswick Post 20, 1PM

# FLAG=REWARDS

## **Tips & Suggestions** Get Organized & Talk It Over



- Put together a Flag Rewards Committee at your Post.
- Designate a Flag Officer to lead the committee.
- Include the <u>Auxiliary</u> & <u>Sons</u> on the committee.
- Decide on a plan to gain **sponsors**.
- Discuss how your Flag Rewards credit will be used.

#### **Open communication is key!**

**Success Stories** 

.....

**Congratulations!** The following Posts have earned big credit in 2024 to spend at Emblem Sales in 2025:

#### Over \$150 earned: Brunswick, ME Post 20 Madawaska, ME Post 147

Remember: Your Post earns 10¢ for each \$1 spent on American flags by your Post or sponsors!

### **MILITARY TRIVIA**

**A.** Approximately 11,000 women served their country during that war, almost all were volunteers, with five perishing in-country.





#### Vietnam Women's Memorial

The Vietnam Women's Memorial was established to honor the 265,000 military and civilian women who served around the world during the Vietnam War. It is the nation's first—and still its only memorial to military women on the National Mall. Annie Ruth Graham Vietnam War Nurse 1916-1968

Lieutenant Colonel Graham contributed immeasurably to the medical support mission in the Republic of Viet Nam.

< <u>Click Here to Read More</u>



## 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.

|   | Post Adjutant                                   |
|---|---|
| PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE  |   |
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| Use back side if additional space is required.                                    |   |
| SUBMIT TO:  |   |
| The American Legion, Dept. of Maine<br>5 Verti Drive<br>Winslow, Maine 04901-0727 | MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:<br>PAST COMMANDERS CLUB |

\* Please note that the annual dues for Past Commanders Club have increased to \$5.00/member)\*\*\*



### Consulate General of the Republic of Korea and the Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services Seek Korean War Veterans and Their Families

AUGUSTA, Maine (June 10, 2024) – The Consulate General of the Republic of Korea and the Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services have partnered to identify and invite Korean War Veterans (Boots on the ground 1950-1953, and in country service up to one year following the July 1953 armistice), and their families to attend a Korean War Veterans Ceremony at the State House – Hall of Flags in Augusta on July 26, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.

"From 1950 to 1953, many young men and women from the State of Maine left the comfort of home to serve on the rugged terrain of the Korean Peninsula. Their courage helped to secure the freedom and liberties and safeguard the rights of millions," stated The Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Boston Kim Jae-hui, Consul General, "To our Korean War veterans, we owe a debt that can never be fully repaid. We thank you for your heartfelt gratitude and for the ways in which you enrich our nation. We promise to carry your legacy of bravery and sacrifice with pride and honor. For commemorating you, we host a special ceremony with the Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services. The ceremony will serve not only as a reflection of our past but as a commitment to our future."

Pre-registration is required for veterans and their families (even if the veteran has passed) to receive the Korean Ambassador for Peace Medal from Kim Jae-hui, Consul General and State of Maine Veterans' Recognition (certificate and Korean War challenge coin) from David A. Richmond, Director of the Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services.

"Maine has a long-standing history of military service, and our Korean War Veterans are so deserving of this recognition," noted David Richmond, Director of the Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services, "We hope veterans and their families will join us for this very special event." Please pre-register at your earliest convenience for this event on the Bureau's website, <u>www.maine.gov/veterans</u> or by emailing the Bureau at <u>mainebvs@maine.gov</u> or calling 207-287-7020. If it is too far for the veteran to travel to Augusta, arrangements will be made to deliver the ceremonial medal and recognition to him or her.

### About Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services

The Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services was established in 1947 by the State of Maine and is part of the Maine Department of Defense, Veterans, and Emergency Management. Our mission is to help Mainers who served, and their loved ones, understand and navigate the benefits, services, and programs available to them. The Bureau does this by being a responsive, experienced, and dedicated advocate. The Bureau is headquartered at Camp Keyes and has seven field service offices located throughout the state and a claims office located at the U.S. Department of Veterans

Affairs, Togus, Maine. The Bureau also operates the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System which includes four veterans' cemeteries. For more information about the Bureau or to request assistance, please visit our website at <u>www.maine.gov/veterans</u>.

# KOREAN WAR VETERANS RECOGNITION DAY

# MAINE STATE HOUSE | HALL OF FLAGS 1:00 P.M. | JULY 26, 2024

The Consulate General of the Republic of Korea and Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services have partnered to identify and invite Korean War Veterans (Boots on the ground 1950–1953, and in country service up to one year following the July 1953 armistice), and their families to attend.

> Special recognition will be presented by the Consulate General to veterans or next of kin to honor their service and sacrifice towards the liberation of their country.

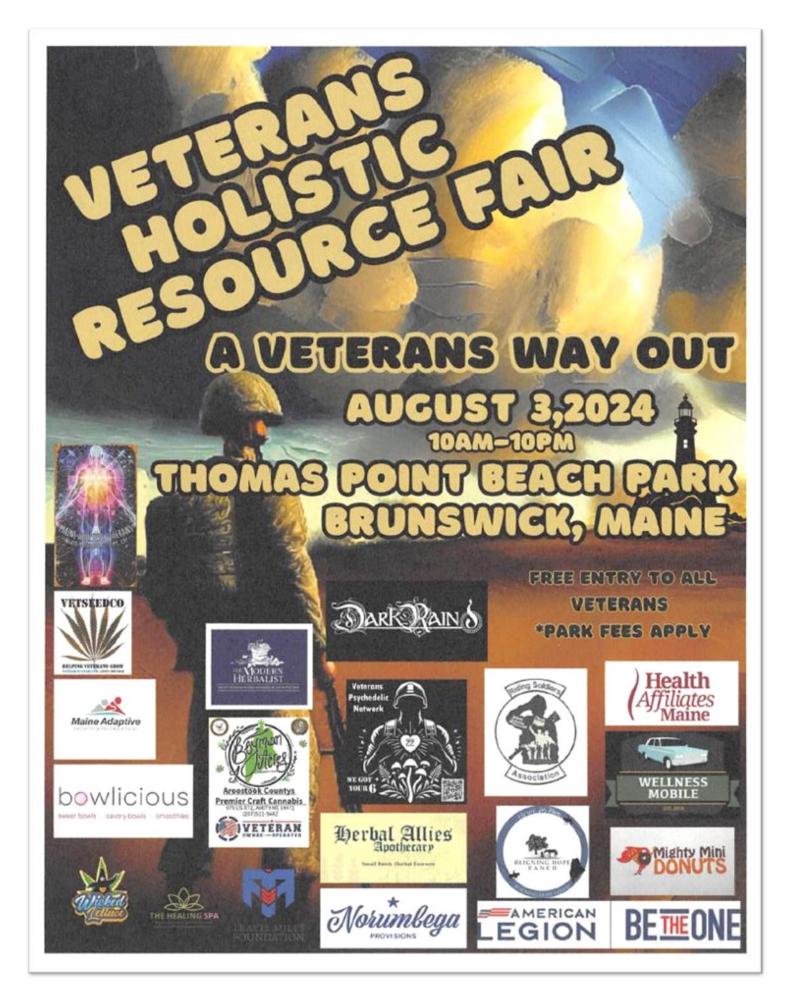


Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services

To pre-register (required) please visit our website: www.maine.gov/veterans or scan the QR code.



Scan to reserve your ticket!





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U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

# Veteran **Resource Expo & Engagement Session**

VA Maine welcomes Veterans to the Maine Military History Museum and Learning Center for a FREE Resource Fair. Do not miss this event.

#### MEET WITH:

**Veterans Benefits** Administration **Veterans Health** Administration **Maine Bureau of** Veterans' Services

File a Claim **Enroll in healthcare** Learn about State Veteran Benefits

VA

VA

ONSITE:

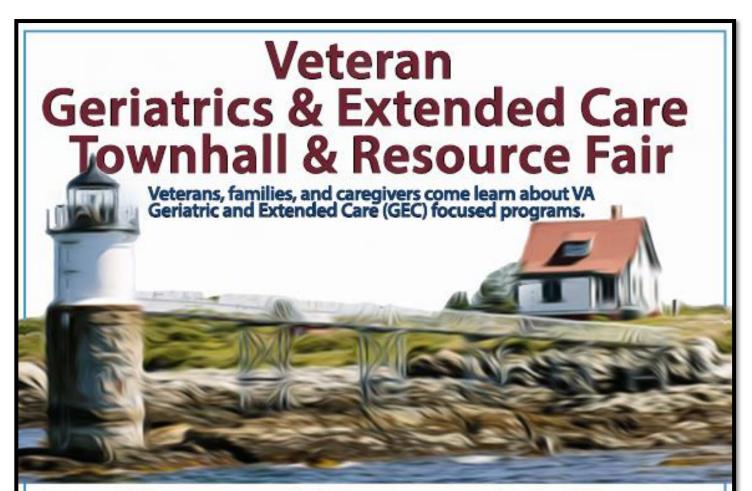
from 10<sup>AM</sup> to 2<sup>PM</sup>

Female Veteran Roundtable: 11:00am - 11:30am

# Veteran Town Hall: 11:45am - 12:15pm

SUNDAY AUG 18, 2024 50 Peary Terrace, South Portland Veterans to engage directly with

Get information about Federal, State and Community Resources that are available to service members, Veterans, and survivors. There will be two breakout sessions for VA leadership regarding the care and benefits they earned.



Are you a Veteran, spouse of a Veteran, or a caregiver to a Veteran who has questions or concerns about Geriatric and Extended Care (GEC) focused programs available to ageing Veterans who are enrolled with the VA Maine Healthcare System? Come meet with:

from 2<sup>PM</sup> to 4<sup>PM</sup> **SATURDAY JULY 27, 2024** 25 Industrial Park Rd, Boothbay

Home Based Primary Care Caregiver Support Program Geriatrics Extended Care Veteran Directed Care Homemaker Home Health Aid Community Adult Day Contract Nursing Home Coordinator State Veteran Home Coordinator Medical Foster Home Veteran Benefits Administration MyHealthyVet



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs