

THE MAINE Legionnaire



AUGUST 2020

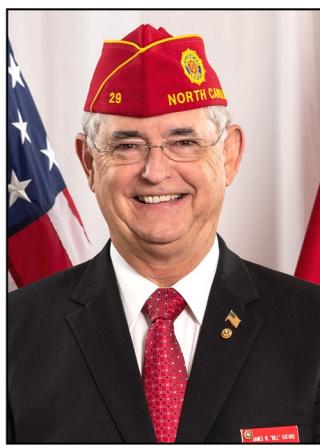
Vol. 35, Issue 3

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MAINE

28 Pages

COVID-19 Is Now Part of Our Story

After my election as national commander at the 101st national convention in Indianapolis last August, I was optimistic about the 2019-2020



NATIONAL COMMANDER JAMES W. "BILL" OXFORD

membership year. I set a goal of a 90 percent retention rate and a recruiting goal of 100,000 new members. With the passage of The LEGION Act in July 2019 and the dedication, commitment and participation of so many posts, departments and individual Legionnaires, I believed these were achievable goals. Nationally, we have surpassed the retention goal but fell short in the new member gains. This year, we will be just over 60,000 new members. But earlier this year the world changed. The American Legion changed when COVID-19 took center stage.

Like the Marines say, adapt and over-

come.

We responded to the national emergency like the patriotic servants that we are. We dedicated ourselves to helping others.

I am proud of the Buddy Checks, food and supply distributions, blood drives and fundraising efforts that our American Legion Family members have undertaken in communities across the United States and overseas. When the history of the COVID-19 pandemic is written, the American Legion Family will be able to look back with pride.

But right now, let's look ahead.

We can use our response to the COVID-19 emergency as part of our story. The story of why veterans should belong to The American Legion. The story of what The American Legion does for veterans, their communities, their departments and their nation.

The American Legion is about service. And we are about patriotism.

The most important message that we have to remember is that we need every Legionnaire to be a recruiter. Remember, I'm extremely proud of your efforts and with everyone's help and participation I believe The American Legion is, and can continue to be, a growing, dynamic, effective organization with our best days still ahead.

—www.legion.org/duspatch
August 10, 2020

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Support the American Legion Department of Maine Foundation when you shop on AmazonSmile. **It's the same as shopping on Amazon with the extra bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the price of eligible purchases.**

How to shop AmazonSmile:

1. Go to <http://smile.amazon.com> and sign in with your Amazon.com credentials. If you already have an Amazon account, there is no need to create another one.
2. In the search box, type **American Legion Department of Maine Foundation** and start shopping. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to the American Legion Department of Maine Foundation.
3. Add a bookmark for

smile.amazon.com. You must log in through the AmazonSmile portal each time you shop in order for our Foundation to receive the donation, so remember to add a bookmark to make it easier to return and start shopping on AmazonSmile.

The funds go directly to the "American Legion Department of Maine Foundation to help Maine Veterans in need and support Legion programs in Maine!"

Please help us get the word out to your friends and family!

Shop "AmazonSmile" and make a difference Today!



Legion's Call to Action: Close the Digital Divide for Veterans

Access to technology is vital in today's working and educational environment. However, many veterans nationwide lack access to computers required for advancing their economic opportunity, education and civic engagement.

Through American Legion Resolution No. 377, Support for Veterans Quality of Life, The American Legion believes that it's time to expand on the federal government's history of providing surplus computers and technology to education partners by offering training programs to veterans in high-demand fields like computer repair. A newly introduced American Legion-supported bill will do just that.

H.R. 7566, COVS Act, allows for the

transfer of surplus computers to nonprofit computer refurbishers who will offer training programs on the use of computers and technology equipment to veterans, as well as provide those refurbished computers to veterans for continued use. This will greatly increase the effectiveness of these programs and help bridge the digital divide that many veterans face.

The American Legion encourages you to **contact your representative today** by visiting <https://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/campaigns/76170/> respond to tell them to support H.R. 7566 to help close the digital divide.

—<https://www.legion.org/legislative/249732/legions-call-action-close-digital-divide-veterans>
Aug. 7, 2020



Respecting The Past: Anthony and Isaac Boyce show respect for their great-grandfather after they decorated his grave in Litchfield Plains Cemetery on May 22nd. Anthony, left, and Isaac, right, are the grandsons of Post 181 member and Dept. Finance Officer Greg Couture, and Post 181 member and Dept. 1st Vice Commander Debra Couture.

A 'First' Look

As we begin a new membership

year, I pray you are all staying safe and well. I know that it has been a difficult 5 months and many have become frustrated or depressed about the circumstances that have taken over our world. I can only say that we have to continue to do the best that we can by reaching out and helping each other and keeping in contact with our family (which includes our American Legion family) and friends. Please continue to do those buddy checks for all your family and friends. There are so many who are at risk and really appreciate that call or email message to check on them and see if they need anything.

As I begin this year as your 1st Vice Commander, my main focus will be on membership. Membership is the basis for the success of The American Legion.

With the onset of COVID-19, the way that we normally would proceed with meetings, membership recruitment, and training has changed. The American Legion National Headquarters had to cancel summer events and programs, which included the 57th annual National Membership Workshop in Indianapolis in August. Normally, Maine would send 2 people to this training. However, with the cancellation of the on-site workshop, a door opened to all to attend the virtual sessions for this year's workshop that was held the week of August 3rd. Instead of 2 attending, anyone with internet access could attend. It was not specifically geared towards one position at the Post, as the goal was to provide a broader knowledge of the organization at the Post level. This year's theme was "Growing a Post" and sessions took place over a 4 day period.



DEBRA
COUTURE

All recorded sessions of the workshop became available online on August 10, 2020. If you would like to take a look at the PowerPoints and listen to the recorded presentations, the link to the information is at: www.legion.org/training/membership

As we begin our new membership year and the renewals are coming in to your Post, I am asking all of the Post Commanders and Adjutants to please work towards submitting your renewals/payments online. The turnaround for memberships is days, not weeks when you utilize your mylegion.org account. If you have any questions or need instructions on how to proceed with this, Rachael Currie at Department of Maine Headquarters can assist the Post Adjutants with the training needed to proceed with your online renewals. Rachael can be contacted at rachael@mainelegion.org or by phone at 207-873-3229 Ext. 2. My Post has been doing this for several years and it works great.

Last, but not least, is the Legionnaire Insurance Trust (LIT) money that the Department of Maine received several months ago. It was awarded through an application submitted to the LIT last fall. Three LIT awards were presented and Maine placed 2nd. Maine received \$7500 to be utilized for membership/recruitment. I have received several emails on recommendations for spending the money from Posts that had been very successful last year in recruiting new members. Several great ideas have included more media and greater advertising of all that The American Legion does and more posters that include this information. I would like to hear from other Posts with any thoughts on how these funds could be used to recruit new Legionnaires. Please email me at navycaptpom0031@gmail.com if you have any suggestions.

Thank you all for everything you do for The American Legion and your community, state, and nation. God Bless you all.

*For God and Country,
Debra Couture*



Coin Exchange: Senator Bill Diamond, left, presents Dept. 1st Vice Commander Debra Couture with the State of Maine Bi-Centennial Coin in July in Augusta. 1st Vice Commander Couture has been working with the State's Bi-Centennial Committee and updating The American Legion – Department of Maine on events and how The American Legion can participate. 1st Vice Commander Couture also presented Senator Diamond with a State of Maine American Legion Centennial coin. All major events, including the state's bi-centennial parade, have been postponed until 2021. Information on many events can be tracked at www.maine200.org.

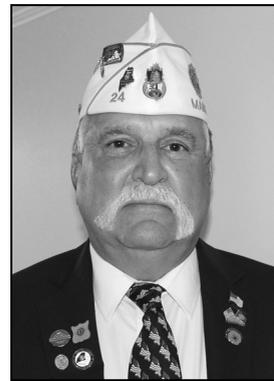
A 'Second' Look

I know it has been a struggle for Posts/Districts to conduct business as usual.

Consolidated Post Reports or more commonly known as CPR is a report of what the Post has done over the past year. Out of 177 Posts, 124 sent in CPRs which is roughly 70%. Some may think that it is a good percentage. Not true! This is one of the easiest reports to complete and yet Posts for some reason choose not to submit a CPR. Even if your Post did nothing (which is hard to believe) a report still needs to be submitted. Let's all reevaluate our thought process on CPRs and shoot for 100% reporting next year. It can be done!

This is where the District Commanders come into play. Most of you attended the Mid-Winter Conference, where CPR reporting was discussed and a very helpful handout was given out to all those in attendance. Hopefully, they are not collecting dust somewhere and were used at a District meeting on the merits of reporting. If anyone needs a copy of the handout, please contact me and I will send you one. This goes for anyone not just District Commanders. Post Commanders and Adjutants are the ones that would benefit from this handout as they are the ones doing the reporting on their Post's activities. All this information is not new; it has been in the Officer's Manual for years.

Bravo Zulu to those Posts that submitted their CPRs. Help those Posts within your District with completing theirs. To find out if your Post or others within your



KIRK
THURSTON

District needs to submit a report. Check the Leadership Ledger and click on REPORT/FORMS SUBMISSION. The following reports are due from all Posts: Annual Post Data Report (deadline = April 15), CPR (deadline for online = July 1/Mail = May 29), Notification of Post/Squadron Cmdrs. & Adj. Form (deadline = July 1), Post Officer's Form (deadline = July 1), District Officers Form (deadline = July 1). The Annual Post Data Report is the only form that is not on Maine American Legion website. This form is mailed to Department HQ from National HQ. Department then mails the form to the Posts in February/March of each year. This form depicts all Post information, including Post dues currently on file at National and Department HQ. Review this form carefully and make any necessary changes or corrections to the form and submit to Department by April 15. Please note this form is not available online. If you cannot find your Annual Post Data Report, please contact Department HQ and they can help you with this matter.

The Notification of Post/Squadron Commanders & Adjutant form still needs to be filled out and returned to Department even if you do not have a Squadron.

The Department Commander state awards will not be presented to Posts that have not submitted the above mentioned reports. For example if a Post submits their history book and is picked as the winner they will not receive the award if any of the reports were not submitted. Easy correction to this is to file the appropriate reports. Enough said!

As the First Vice Commander has stated and informed members, Posts and some Districts are starting to meet. These events are being conducted using social distancing and observing all safety precautions to ensure the safety of all involved. Remember we will get through this. This too will pass, stay safe and stay strong. Hope to see you soon.

Paid Up For Life Membership - PUFL

We've revised the Paid Up For Life program and streamlined the application process.

Current members may now enroll in the Paid Up For Life program online or can print a personalized application and mail in their payment. Pay in full or choose 12 monthly installments.

- No more renewal notices. No more paying annual dues.
- No more worrying, "Did I renew my membership or not?"
- Join the other 184,000 PUFL Legionnaires in saying, "I believe in The American Legion and what it's doing. I'm in this for the long haul."
- Avoid future dues increases. No matter what in-flation does, you never

have to pay another penny in dues.

•Lifetime subscription to The American Legion Magazine!

Each Paid Up For Life member receives a permanent plastic card, as well as an annual paper card to verify continuing membership in The American Legion. The annual card is mailed in July of each year.

To get your Paid Up For Life membership, please visit www.legion.org/join/PUFL and enter your name and member ID.

For more information about the Paid Up For Life program, contact customer service at (800) 433-3318.

—www.legion.org/join/PUFL



NEC Update

Hello Fellow Legionnaires,
Well, here we are alone together during this trying time in our history. Many of our country's citizens have succumbed to the virus that appears to not have any major preference in whom it infects. At the beginning, it was only those of us over 60 with other health problems. As of today, it appears that we are not only the ones to be concerned, but that those younger should also be very concerned, as the virus has taken those very young and has also taken those in their 20s and 30s. Please be careful and please, please wear the face covering and keep the safe distance of 6 feet from others. Wearing them can and does help greatly in fighting this virus.

At the Department Executive Committee meeting last Saturday, I reported that on July 3, the National organization published the following information pertaining to the appointment recommendations from each department. Here is what, in part, was published:

"Due to the global pandemic, all appointments will remain the same, with the exception of any resignations or deaths;

All appointments currently expiring in 2020 will now expire in 2021;

Appointments currently expiring in 2021 will now expire in 2022;

Appointments currently expiring in 2022 will now expire in 2023.

The Department of Maine is in an excellent position with the appointment recommendations that have been previously submitted.

To shift the outlook some from the aforementioned information, I have been



LLOYD WOODS

assigned again, as the Chairman of the Liaison Committee to the Veterans Employment and Education Commission at National by the National Commander. Over the past months, the Chairman of the VE&E has conducted weekly meet-

ings via computer to cover various items of interest to the Commission. I have attended many of these via my home laptop with other individuals from the Commission. I have found these very interesting and informational. The latest weekly report covers areas such as the Economy, various meetings and telephone calls with various individuals of which the veterans are of interest to a report on the educational aspect of veterans coming out of service and attending higher educational programs along with an update on the education situation for some selected universities and colleges through the Veterans Administration.

I would like to close for this time saying I wish each and every one of you, health and happiness in the future. If there is anything that I can do for you please contact me either via my cell phone at 207-557-4971 or via email at lolin@ainop.com.

Lloyd Woods, NEC

On the Agenda

SEPTEMBER MEETINGS

District 5—Oxford: Sept. 15, Oxford Post 112, 7 p.m., refreshments after mtg.
District 14—Piscataquis: Sept. 19, Guilford Post 119, lunch 12 p.m. w/ 1 p.m. mtg.

OCTOBER MEETINGS

District 2—Cumberland: Oct. 11, Windham Post 148, 2 p.m. (Bylaw review)
District 5—Oxford: Oct. 20, Buckfield Post 58, 7 p.m., Pumpkin pie after meeting.
District 12—Hancock: Oct. 13, Bar Harbor Post 25, dinner 6:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m. mtg.
District 14—Piscataquis: Oct. 17, Milo Post 41, lunch 12 p.m. w/ 1 p.m. mtg.
District 17—No. Aroostook: Oct. 4, Fort Kent Post 133, 1 p.m. dinner, 2 p.m. mtg.

NOVEMBER MEETINGS

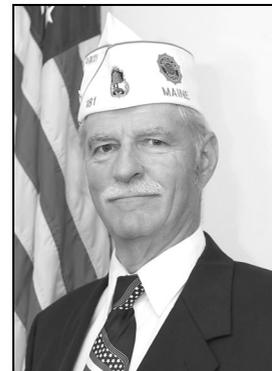
District 5—Oxford: Nov. 17, Bethel Post 81, 7 p.m., refreshments after mtg.
District 12—Hancock: Nov. 10, Bucksport Post 93, dinner 6:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m. mtg.
District 14—Piscataquis: Nov. 21, Monson Post 116, lunch 12 p.m. w/ 1 p.m. mtg.
District 17—No. Aroostook: Nov. 1, St. Francis Post 180, 1 p.m. dinner, 2 p.m. mtg.

DECEMBER MEETINGS

District 2—Cumberland: Naples Post 155, 2 p.m. (Holiday Meeting)
District 5—Oxford: Dec. 15, Locke Mills Post 68, 7 p.m., appoint nominating committee. District Christmas party.
District 12—Hancock: Dec. 8, Northeast Harbor Post 103, (at Seal Harbor Fire Station) dinner 6:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m. mtg.

Money Matters

After completing my first year as the Department of Maine Finance Officer (DFO) and having gone through my first audit, which resulted in no major findings, I now believe that I can contribute some important information to Posts. Recently, the Department of Maine Adjutant Paul L'Heureux and I visited a local Post at the invitation of the Post Commander. We were asked to talk about anything related to Finance and Adjutant areas that could be used by the membership. This Post has a Canteen so my talk centered on Posts with Canteens. If you have a Post with a Canteen, it is a business and you need to operate it as such. You should have a Canteen Committee (CC) that oversees the canteen operations, the CC verifies the revenues and expenses, signing off on all purchases to authorize the Post Finance Officer (PFO) to pay a bill. The CC sets the prices of everything that goes through the Canteen (food and drinks). A Post with a canteen should review its Constitution and By-Laws to see if an audit is required. If the Post's By-Laws require an annual audit to be done, an audit needs to be done. If you



GREGORY COUTURE

have a Canteen, it is a business and should be operated as such. Any business should have an audit to ensure that generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) are being followed. An auditor will review your financial procedures and make recommendations where needed to get the Post on the right track financially.

Another thing I have seen and heard during the past year is that Headquarters doesn't know a Post may be in trouble until a phone call is received, then it usually means that Headquarters needs to get involved to help get the Post back on track. When a problem arises, it is usually a financial problem. The Post may owe Federal or State back taxes or cannot pay their monthly bills. This doesn't happen overnight. Posts need to pay attention by reviewing their monthly finance reports from the PFO. They should be able to see financial problems before they arise and start asking the leadership questions to get any financial problems corrected. PFOs: If you need assistance in developing a monthly finance report, let me know and I can send you an example.

Currently, there is no requirement for a Post to submit their finance reports to Headquarters. However, this would be a good way to provide Headquarters with information that would enable them to see if a Post may be starting to have financial problems. If possible, please send a copy of your finance report to me at headquarters.

Thank you. Stay safe and well.

*Greg Couture
Department Finance Officer*



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Congratulations, American Legion Scholarship Winners



The 2019-2020 American Legion Department of Maine scholarships recipients for C&Y, Daniel E. Lambert and James V. Day have been announced. The following winners are as follows:

Children & Youth—\$500 scholarships awarded to Emma Ackerman, Kittery; Adam Bonenfant, Vassalboro; Samuel Hebert, Rockport; Cassandra Joyce Lacasse, Bangor; Melina Masselli, Lewiston; Santana Grace Richardson, Eagle Lake; and Madelyn Willey, Mil-bridge.

Daniel E. Lambert—\$1000 scholarships awarded to Jordyn E. Cowger, Danforth and Kierstyn Lyons, Mexico.

James V. Day—\$500 scholarship awarded to Summer Woodruff, Baileyville.



The Adjutant Speaks

Since the last issue of this paper in May, things have been challenging to say the least. We had plans in place for the Fall Conference in September but that was recently cancelled a few weeks ago due to State of Maine guidelines. We recently started our Legion College classes at Headquarters following the CDC Guidelines, but it only allowed us to have 11 students in the training building. We started with signing everyone in and then social distancing in the classroom along with a sanitizing station and all rules posted. The attitudes of all present was extremely good considering the challenges at hand. The bottom line for all present was to be safe and continue to educate our future leaders to carry out the challenges for the future of The American Legion.



PAUL L'HEUREUX

Speaking about challenges, we had to move forward in the way we conduct our meetings here in Maine. Our Department Executive Committee (DEC) has to meet during these times to review and accept the Department budget set forth by the Finance Committee and then they also had to review the auditors report as well. We also had to conduct other business because of the cancellation of our State Convention. Although we have been using conference calling methods in the past, we decided it was time to use other methods as well. It was time for Virtual Conference meetings. Thanks to the leadership of our Special Project Coordinator Amedeo Lauria and our Department Service Officer Carl Curtis they were up to the challenges and had the patience to guide 42 members of the Committee to make this happen. We had a few issues

and started the meeting a few minutes late but all went well. From the feedback I received by many of the committee members, I must pass this on "Thank you Amedeo & Carl" for your patience.

The next thing that we started was to slowly assist all our posts to open up. It has been a slow process with some, while others have opened up to what we call a normal operations for these times. If you have a post meeting and distance yourself from each other and wear mask if necessary, it can do wonders for everyone to get back to some type of order in our post and community but most of all in our life. The department officers have started to travel and visit many posts in the last few months and the reports coming back to headquarters are so encouraging. Some of the posts have completely remodeled and updated their post homes. Many have gone to Efficiency Maine and completely updated their lighting systems to LED and had a majority of the cost paid by the state program. We have one post in the southern part of Maine (Lebanon) that just acquired their first post home and are turning it into the hub of the community. We also have many posts that have finally realized that their communities have been waiting for them to open back up and provide a little normalcy during these times. How can we do this you ask? Well it's call "curbside delivery" This has been an incredible success for every post that takes on this challenge. Many people in your communities are waiting to support you as well as to have a little contact with us. The reports that have come into the office are happening on a daily basis with the majority telling me that they are usually lucky to sell 40/45 meals and now they are doing 80/100 with extra tips going into the jar. One of our posts broke all records by doing 240 meals, many pre-sold by phone, emails, Facebook or texting. This type of thing is starting to happen all over the State of Maine and by the way, they are signing up new members by doing so, not only in the Legion, but the Auxiliary,

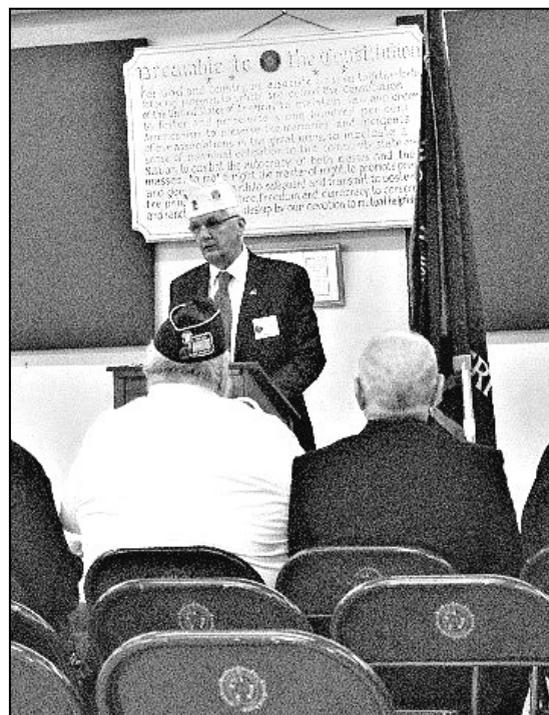
More on "ADJUTANT SPEAKS", Page 9

Addressing Members At Thomaston Post

37: Department of Maine Adjutant Paul L'Heureux addresses members of Thomaston Post 37 during their Installation of Officers March 1. Paul commended the Post for their great strides it had taken in the past year, rising from the brink of closure to be revitalized and once again become a very active Post.

Photo by Inge Robinson

More on Thomaston Post 37 Installation Page 18



President's Message

“The world as we have created it is a process of our thinking. It cannot be changed without changing our thinking.”
— Albert Einstein



**PRESIDENT
VIRGINIA CHAPUT**

Hello again Legion Family,

Here we are, beginning another year of

“Service, not Self”. We have seen so much change during the past year and while the crisis continues into our new year, I see constant change, the will to adapt, the desire to do what we do in new and creative ways, by our Legion Family, in spite of the Nation’s turmoil.

It isn’t hard to see that our membership has been hit hard by the current situation, we have all worked hard to do the best we could. The struggle is showing across the Country, State by State.

We are not discouraged, we stay motivated, and we start again, for the New

Year. We come up with new ways to promote membership of this great Organization. We adapt to the Social Distancing for now. We don’t gather as much as we might like or be used to but that will not deter us from having an ever Changing successful 2020 – 2021 year.

We welcome and congratulate the new Leadership of “Team Maine”, and are ever grateful to the continuing Leadership of “Team Maine”, thank you for staying the course.

I look forward to working with the whole family, New and seasoned, to serve our mission in new and innovative ways. We have this “Team Maine”, and if you are not convinced, hang on tight, our fellow family member, we will show you how Maine succeeds in a time of change.

Until next time,
"Inspiring and mentoring, for the next 100 years of service"

*Yours in service,
Virginia “Ginny” Chaput, President
American Legion Auxiliary, Dept. of Maine*

“Change will not come if we wait for some other person, or if we wait for some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.”

— Barack Obama

Join The American Legion Auxiliary Online

NEW FOR 2020 MEMBERSHIP YEAR: Male spouses are now eligible to join the Auxiliary! Please review the eligibility requirements below to see if you qualify!

Please note: Members who join online can only be placed into their state’s “Headquarters Unit”. Once you join online, you may transfer to a local unit of your choice. To transfer, speak to an officer of the local unit you wish to transfer to or contact your state’s American Legion Auxiliary Department for assistance by visiting <https://www.alaforveterans.org/About/Department-State-Headquarters/> for contact information in each state.

Contact information for Maine American Auxiliary Department is 5 Verti Dr., Ste. B, Winslow, ME 04901—Phone: (207) 465-4966—Website: www.maineala.org

To join The American Legion Auxiliary visit <https://members.legion-aux.org/Custom/ALA/NewMemberRegistration.aspx>

If you know the specific unit you wish to join, or prefer to connect with a local unit visit <https://www.alaforveterans.org/joining/> for instructions on how to join locally, and to download a paper membership application.

—<https://members.legion-aux.org/Custom/ALA/NewMemberRegistration.aspx>

Eligibility Requirements

Membership in The American Legion Auxiliary shall be limited to the:

(1) grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses, and direct and adopted female descendants of members of The American Legion; and

(2) grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses, and direct and adopted female descendants of all men and women who served in either of the following periods: April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918 and any time after December 7, 1941 who, being a citizen of the United States at the time of their entry therein served on active duty in the Armed Forces of any of the governments associated with the United States during either eligibility periods and died in the line of duty or after honorable discharge;

(3) grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses, and direct and adopted female descendants of all men and women who were in the Armed Forces of the United States during either of the following periods: April

6, 1917, to November 11, 1918; and any time after December 7, 1941 who served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States during either eligibility periods and died in the line of duty or after honorable discharge; and

(4) to those women who of their own right are eligible for membership in The American Legion.*

* A woman who is eligible for American Legion membership is eligible to join the American Legion Auxiliary regardless of whether or not she is a member of The American Legion. However, eligibility of her female relatives (sister, mother, direct descendants) and/or spouse depends upon her membership in The American Legion.

—<https://members.legion-aux.org/Custom/ALA/NewMemberRegistration.aspx>

Proof of Eligibility

Departments (states) may ask for proof of eligibility which can be obtained by calling your Auxiliary Department HQ or by visiting <https://members.legion-aux.org/Custom/ALA/NewMemberRegistration.aspx>

Supporters Seek Aid for Huntley in Bid for National Position

MACHIASPORT - Richard “Dickie” Huntley is seeking the office of National Vice Commander Eastern Region of the Sons of The American Legion, and supporters are seeking financial assistance.

“I am recalling my own campaign for National Vice Commander and can tell you that it requires quite a bit of funds to pursue this high office in The Sons of The American Legion,” writes Don Allisot of Woolwich, chairman of the Committee to Elect Dickie Huntley. “took \$10,000 to successfully achieve that goal. It remains the going rate and obviously he won’t be able to do this alone and will need some help from the entire Department Maine American Legion Family.”

Huntley has served as Squadron Commander, District Commander, many Detachment offices including Detachment Commander and currently as National Executive Committeeman, Allisot writes.

Allisot asked that all squadrons send a donation to Huntley or run a fundraiser

or raffle on his behalf. All funds should be sent to Finance Officer Jim Hughes, 27 Tufton St., Brunswick, ME 04011 or to Richard Huntley at 38 Whale Cove Rd., Machiasport, ME 04655.

Also, supporters are offering T-Shirts available. They are available in Forest Green and Navy Blue and cost \$20 apiece. For more information, contact Allisot, at P.O. Box 438, Woolwich, ME 04579, by calling (207) 751-2109 or at dallisot@comcast.net.

Yours in Service,
Don Allisot
Chairman, Committee to Elect Dickie Huntley



Join Sons of The American Legion

Eligibility Requirements

All male descendants, adopted sons and stepsons of members of The American Legion, and such male descendants of veterans who died in service during World War I or since December 7, 1941, during the delimiting periods set forth in Article IV, Section 1, of the National Constitution of The American Legion or who died subsequent to their honorable discharge from such service, shall be eligible for membership in the Sons of The American Legion. There shall be no form or class of membership except an active membership.

— <https://www.legion.org/sons/join>

Membership Applications

Membership Applications can be obtained by visiting <http://www.mainelegion.org/media/SAL/salapplication.pdf>

* Membership applications can be delivered to an American Legion Post near you. To find a Post, please visit www.mainelegion.org and click on the Post Locator button. There is a good chance that Post will have its own Squadron of the Sons. If not, please contact State HQ of the Sons of The American Legion by calling 207-465-4966 or email SALDetachmentofME@gmail.com for information about finding a nearby Squadron.



—<https://www.legion.org/sons/about>

Service Office Update

Hello from the Service Office. I hope you are safe and healthy. The office is hard at work behind closed doors. The Regional office at Togus remains in a state of lock down. As you can imagine, we are going a little stir crazy without veterans coming to see us. We are also wearing out our phones making calls and postage in mailing out forms. I long for a day that I can welcome veterans back to my office.



**SERVICE OFFICER
CARL CURTIS**

As some of you are aware, the VA stopped all Compensation and Pension exams, which has caused a nice little backlog of around 400,000 claims. When the VA decides to do something, they go big. They are just now starting the exams back up. If you have a claim pending, patience is the word. There is not much new to discuss. Hopefully by the next issue, I can talk about the office opening again.

The Board of Veterans appeals (BVA) is trying to hear cases anyway it can. There has been a stop on all hearing due to the regional office being closed. They had a set of virtual hearings July 22nd and July 23rd. If you know of a veteran that has been contacted about a virtual hearing, there are a few things that the veteran needs to know. The first is they do not have to have a virtual hearing. They can wait for the video hearing that we originally requested. The second is that this office is not notified of the agreed virtual hearing. The BVA is contacting our veterans and scheduling the hearings. I had to cancel two virtual hearings yesterday because the veteran and surviving spouse had no idea what was going on. They were called and told that they had a hearing a week later. That is not how this office does business. If a veteran is contacted, please have them call our office so we can fix the problem.

I hope to be able to see you in my office soon. As always be safe and on the lookout for veterans in need.

PLEASE READ AND RESPOND TO YOUR MAIL FROM THE VA!

APPEALS OF CLAIMS. The appeals process is no longer the strict structure it was. If your decision was after Feb. 19, you fall under the AMA. There are now five lanes you can choose from. The first two are at the regional level. They are called supplemental review and higher-level review. Then there are three ways to appeal directly to the Board of Veterans Appeals. They are direct, evidence only, and hearing. The time limit is now one year from each decision.

Contacting the DSO for Assistance by Telephone. Please just leave your name, phone number, and who you are working with.

Financial Assistance. Keep in mind that requests for financial needs should be directed to your town/city for general assistance (GA), and either a local Legion Post for a possible fundraiser or The American Legion Department Headquarters. In addition, we can make referrals to other service organizations, **but we do not have the funds to pay rent, mortgage, credit card bills or other ongoing bills.** **If you have children, mention TFA to the Department Adjutant when you call to see if you are eligible to apply.**

PSO Training Seminar. TBD
PSO Contact Information. Post Service Officers, as a minimum, please send us your full name, Post, telephone number (your phone number will not be released) and email address. The purpose is so that members of your Post can contact you for local assistance and also so that I can contact you, by phone or email, if we hear from a member in your Post that needs assistance.

DSO Newsletter. To sign up for the

newsletter, please email your contact information to carl.curtis2@va.gov and state in the body of your email if you would like your name listed in the newsletter as well as permission to link to your email address through the newsletter. The newsletter is emailed out monthly. The newsletter was developed as a way to stay in touch with Post Service Officers and to keep them up to date on changes and sources of information that is of value to our veterans. The newsletter contains active links to a variety of resources for veterans as well as links to you, so you can better serve the members of your post. We are not doing mailings at this time.

INTENT TO FILE. Some veterans are not ready to file a claim or are looking for additional information. In that case, you can execute an Intent to File with our office. That is NOT a claim for benefits. You have one year to file your claim; one-year period! Failure to file in one year starts the clock on your claim from the day you file. **DO NOT FORGET TO FOLLOW UP**

AND FILE YOUR CLAIM!
NEW AND MATERIAL EVIDENCE. VA claims that are denied and have not been appealed within the appropriate time frame require "New and Material Evidence" to be reopened. It is sometimes futile and frustrating to the veteran to keep resubmitting the same claim as it will most likely be denied.

NEW WAYS TO APPLY FOR VA HEALTHCARE

Sign up for VA Healthcare. Sign-up for VA Healthcare can now be done three ways! The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today it has eliminated paper signature requirements for veterans wishing to enroll in VA health care. Effective immediately, VA has amended its enrollment regulations to allow veterans to complete enrollment

applications for enrollment in VA health care by telephone without the need for a paper signature.

By adding this telephone application option to VA's regulations with this amendment, VA will now offer three ways to enroll. This option provides veterans a convenient third enrollment option.

1. Paper - VA Form 10-10 EZ.
2. Call 1-877-222-VETS (8387), Mon-Fri between 8 am and 8 pm, EST.
3. On-Line at www.vets.gov!

TOGUS VA WOMEN'S CLINIC.

If you haven't already heard, there is a Women Veterans Clinic here at Togus. It specializes in women's health issues. Please keep in mind that there are medical conditions that may be claimable for the children of women veterans who served in certain areas and/or on certain ships that are presumptive for Agent Orange. If you are a woman veteran, it is a good idea to give us a call or look for more information on www.va.gov.

PLEASE USE THE DSO TO TRANSMIT YOUR CLAIMS/EVIDENCE TO THE VA; THIS ENSURES A PAPER TRAIL AND EVIDENCE IT WAS SUBMITTED! You can either mail it or drop it off in the office!

DSO CONTACT INFORMATION.

We are located at Togus VA Medical Center, Building 205, Room 318. You can contact us by telephone at 207-623-5726, Fax at 207-621-4821, or by email at carl.curtis2@va.gov, maureen.malley@va.gov, or julie.kern@va.gov. We are here to assist you Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; on Friday the hours are from 9 a.m. to noon. We are closed on federal holidays and Patriot's Day. Just a reminder, it is always a good idea to make an appointment rather than drop in, as we may be seeing other veterans and would hate to miss you. That said, you are always welcome to stop in the DSO Office.

REQUESTING A DSO PRESENTATION AT YOUR AREA/DISTRICT OR SPECIAL EVENT.

If you are interested in having us speak at your area or district meeting or event, just contact us to set up a time and date! Requests are handled on a first-come first-serve status; subject to the availability of travel funds. Please set aside at least **30 minutes** of your agenda for the presentation.

Attention
Post Service Officers



We Want You...
at our next Post Service Officer's Training Seminar

For More Information
or to Sign up
Contact the Department Service Office
at
carl.curtis2@va.gov
or call: 207-623-5726
To make a seminar reservation!



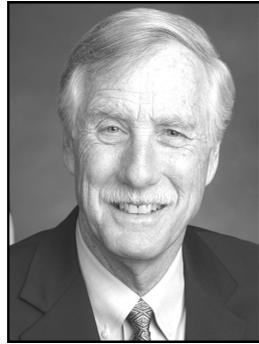
Virtual & Onsite DEC Meeting: More than 30 Department Officers, District Commanders, and Area Commanders participated in the virtual and Department Headquarters On-site Department Executive Meeting on July 11. As the American Legion adjusts to social distancing and the various options available to hold meetings, the Department of Maine recently held a very successful one. Special thanks go to Department Special Projects Coordinator Amedeo Lauria and Department Service Officer Carl Curtis for their computer expertise in setting up and connecting participants to the virtual meeting.

Photo by Maureen Malley, DSO Assistant

Comprehensive and Accessible Health Care Essential in Protecting Maine Veterans During Pandemic

A critical aspect of protecting and supporting Maine veterans during the coronavirus pandemic is through comprehensive and accessible health care. That's why in May, I joined the rest of the Maine congressional delegation writing to Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Secretary Robert Wilkie urging him to prioritize personal protective equipment (PPE) and testing kits to the Maine VA Healthcare System. We can't sit back and hope the coronavirus simply disappears -- we must act with urgency and improve our testing capabilities to get the virus under control.

With this in mind, I have also called on the VA to strengthen coronavirus testing nationwide and establish a large-scale strategy for testing. Included in the recommended strategy is a plan to make testing kits available at all VA facilities, including non-hospitals like VA Community-based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs), which could strengthen testing capabilities for rural veterans and help alleviate the strain on often smaller, rural hospitals. Further, as we navigate this uncertain time, providing distance medicine and other VA ser-



**SENATOR
ANGUS KING**

vices via Internet connection is essential; in May, the Maine delegation again joined together to urge the VA to strengthen its telehealth capabilities so at-risk groups like older veterans can connect to their providers without risking exposure to the coronavirus.

Please know that I remain committed to fighting this virus and supporting Maine veterans. Whether it is increasing testing and tracing capabilities, ensuring recipients of VA benefits automatically receive direct stimulus payments, or strengthening mental health services, I'm by your side all the way during this fight. Together, we can protect our communities and strengthen our country.

Supporting Maine's Veterans During the Pandemic

The coronavirus pandemic continues to be a major public health and economic emergency. Keeping Mainers as safe and as healthy as possible is paramount, including the more than 114,000 veterans who call our great State home.

The \$2 trillion CARES Act was passed unanimously by Congress in late March. This vital legislation strengthens our health care system and small businesses and supports workers. It includes special provisions I championed to assist the brave men and women who served our country and who now need our help.

The CARES Act included \$19.6 billion for the Department of Veterans Affairs, including \$14.4 billion in medical services such as the purchase of personal protective equipment and testing kits. Our VA hospital at Togus and the Maine Veterans' Homes are on the front lines of our fight against the coronavirus and have experienced infections among staff, patients, and residents. The dedicated and courageous medical professionals caring for our veterans are inspiring.

The bill also made various modifications to VA authorities to support very low-income veteran families and homeless veterans. Funding from the CARES Act helped to put up dozens of Maine veterans in hotel rooms during the pandemic. Preble Street in Portland received more than \$2 million to house homeless veterans, and Veterans Inc. has been able to place more than 50 veterans with CARES Act funding. Bread of Life, a shelter in Augusta which serves veterans among others, received a forgivable loan through the Paycheck Protection Program I co-authored, which has been helpful for them to carry out their mission.

As we work to assist veterans during this crisis, I am continuing my efforts to combat coronavirus-related scams. These scammers try to convince veterans and



**SENATOR
SUSAN COLLINS**

others to purchase or provide personal information in exchange for a fake coronavirus test kit, vaccine, or cure. They may threaten suspension of your veterans' benefits or try to convince you to respond to a fundraising

email. If you think you have been contacted by a scammer, please report it to the Senate Aging Committee, which I chair, through our toll-free Fraud Hotline (1-855-303-9470).

I recently hosted a Constituent Conference Call for thousands of Maine veterans to share updates on the Department of Veterans Affairs, including actions being taken to protect veterans' health during the pandemic. VA Secretary Robert Wilkie joined me in answering questions about keeping residents of veterans' homes safe, restoring elective procedures, resolving issues with VA benefits, and promoting mental health services, such as the Veterans Crisis Line (1-800-273-8255).

If you have any questions or concerns about the benefits you are entitled to as a veteran, please contact one of my six constituent service centers in Augusta (622-8414), Bangor (945-0417), Biddeford (283-1101), Caribou (493-7873), Lewiston (784-6969), and Portland (780-3575).

The men and women who have defended our freedom know how to overcome challenges. Together, we will win this battle.

— Your Letters —

Scholarship Recipient Thankful

Dear Maine American Legion,

"My name is Melina Masselli and I was selected for the Maine Children & Youth Scholarship for 2020. I wanted to reach out and express how thankful I am to be chosen as a recipient of this wonderful award. I will be sure to represent the American Legion to the best of my ability. Thank you."

Melina Masselli

This Award (Legion School Award) and scholarship is the icing on the cake. The Legion has helped me change from a timid kid to an involved citizen.

As well as all of that, this award means a lot because of my grandparents. They are both veterans and live in a condo in Oklahoma. My Grandfather has trouble communicating with us, especially over the phone. This Award sparked one of the longest conversations I've had with him in years.

Thank you for everything."

Owen Flibbert, Windham High School 2020 Valedictorian and Post 148 School Award recipient.

Sincere Gratitude & Appreciation

"Dear Mr. L'Heureux,

I received your letter last week informing me that I am a recipient of the Daniel E. Lambert Memorial Scholarship. I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the support of your organization. I truly appreciate it."

Sincerely,
Jordyn Cowger

C&Y Scholarship Recipient Honored

Dear Mr. L'Heureux,

I am sincerely honored to have been selected as the recipient of The American Legion, Department of Maine Children & Youth Scholarship for 2020. Thank you for your generosity, which will allow me to concentrate on my studies without having to worry about paying for my education.

As I work towards my Sustainable Construction Associates Degree at Kennebec Valley Community College, I am very grateful for receiving your thoughtful gift.

Thank you again for your thoughtful and generous gift.

Sincerely,
Adam Bonenfant
207-242-5435
KVCC

Legion Helps Overcome Shyness

Dear Field-Allen Post 148,

"I have so much to thank you for. Last year when you funded my time at Boys State, you gave me a life-changing experience. It (Boys State) taught me so much about what it means to be a good citizen and person; but, it was also fun. I talked my family's ear off about my experiences when I got home.

More on YOUR LETTERS, Page 8

Judge Advocate



**JASON
HALL**

Opportunity—When confronted with something new, many members are resistant to change. Such resistance at the Post level may take a few forms: reduction in output, refusal to do officer position, refusal to chip in as a member, quitting, transferring, boycotting the Legion, sudden hostility, refusal to follow bylaws, squabbling, and the ever present "that change will just not work" statement.

During these times of the "Rona", your American Legion Post will experience some of these forms of resistance. Now mix the resistance with fear, rules on masks, social distancing, financial challenges, the mentality that lounges are the most important Post feature, the inability to have meetings, and strong personalities and you

have now created the perfect storm.

News flash!!! This is not the end of the world or The American Legion.... this is a hurdle, a minor challenge, and an opportunity to return to your grassroots ways of serving veterans and your community.

We need level heads, leadership, a cooperative attitude to accomplish tasks, we need you to return to your veteran way of thinking and take a lead.

Here are some things that may assist you at the Post level:

Buddy Checks!! I cannot stress the importance of contacting your Legionnaires, Auxiliary members, and Sons. They may need assistance for food, help with bills, help with employment, or just need to hear your voice during a time of distancing and quarantine. Your voice may be the thing that saves them. Make those calls! When you finish.... start calling again.

Your community needs you. You are the community center, a standard, the anchor in your town. They need to have Post leadership showing them we will press on

More on JUDGE ADVOCATE, Page 8



THE BASEBALL BEAT COLUMN

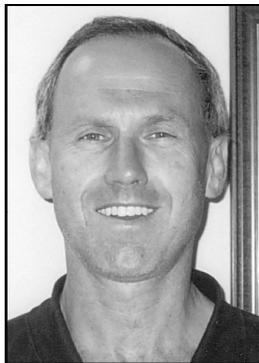
20 Questions with Joe Cronin



By DAN WARREN

Special to The Maine Legionnaire

(Editor's Note: Joe Cronin, a 2012 graduate of Scarborough High School, went on to play at Boston College, coached one summer for Libby-Mitchell Post 76 team in Scarborough while rehabbing from a surgery, and is in his fifth season with the Minnesota Twins organization. He was interviewed recently while home early from the minor league season in Fort Myers, due to the nationwide Coronavirus shutdown).



DAN WARREN

TWENTY QUESTIONS WITH JOE CRONIN

Q1: You played baseball at Scarborough High School, Class of 2012; four years at Boston College, 2016, then got drafted then by the Minnesota Twins. You just had your fifth season cut short by coronavirus. Dream come true?

A: I have always wanted to be a professional baseball player;

Q2: What is your first baseball memory?

A: Going to the Little League field behind St. Max with my parents and playing for hours;

Q3: One of the hallmarks of your professional career has been your ability to play 7 positions. Which two have you not played?

A: Catcher, and centerfield;

Q4: What is your favorite position?

A: Shortstop. It is also fun to pitch at the pro level;

QS: This versatility is rare.

A: I enjoy them all. I play where needed;

Q7: Any position you don't like?

A: Third base can be stressful, especially with a big right-handed hitter at the plate. I have also caught bullpens. Nothing fun about that..

QB: Let's talk about your career for the SHS Red Storm. Two games you're famous for--one where you pitched about ten innings in relief.

A: Junior year, 2011, at Cheverus. I came in to pitch in the 5th inning. The game went 14 innings. I finished. We won 6-3. Some great clutch defensive plays by Nick Bagley, Greg Viola, and Nick Murphy;

Q9: Other career game--against Cheverus again, Western Maine Class A finals, at St. Joe's, Standish; A: Bottom of 7th. 5-5. Two out. Sam Terry walks. I am on deck, so I am going to get a shot.

Louie Distasio big right hander, pitching for Cheverus. Count 2-2. Fastball, top of the zone. I hit a line drive, left center, over the fence, to the right of the big scoreboard there;

Q10: Emotional?

A: I think I ran around the bases faster than I ever have before!

Q11: Difficult high school moment?

A: Lost the state title game vs Messalonskee. Most devastating loss in my baseball career;

Q12: You played baseball at Boston College.

A: It was great. I got to play baseball in the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC-North Carolina, Duke, et al), and got a

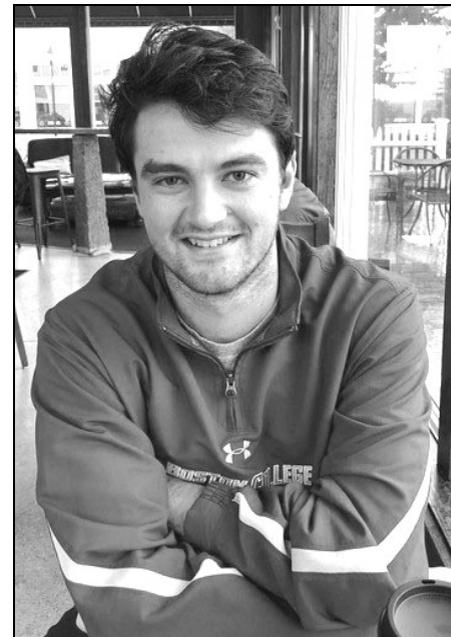
great education;

Q13: Why did you succeed in college ball?

A: A lot of reasons. I was given a great opportunity by the coaches right away. I also was constantly working trying to improve. I think I had a chip on my shoulder, coming from Maine, competing against players from all over the country;

Q14: Senior year BC made a serious run at College World Series.

A: The most fun I have ever had playing baseball. Talented team-15 players ended up playing professional baseball, 3 current big leaguers. Everything clicked. We played the NCAA regional at Ole Miss, beating the Rebels, Tulane, and Utah. We went to game 3 of the Super Regional against Miami. We made school



Joe Cronin

history;

Q15: I went to a few games in that final stretch. You played many positions. Errorless ball your last 60 or 70 chances?

A: Shortstop, third base, first base. No errors the last 20-30 games that year;

Q16: The player after whom the "ice bucket challenge" was named was a BC player?

A: Yes. Peter Frates. Played at BC 2004-07. The most courageous person I have ever known;

Q17: Senior year, Game 2 Super Regional v. Miami. MLB draft being held. Pressure?

A: Rain delay during the game. Came across Twitter I had been drafted. Found my Dad, quick hug, back to the dugout. We won the game. Quite a day!

Q18: Give us your minor league resume.

A: Five teams across four levels: Rookie Gulf Coast League Twins, 2016; Single A Cedar Rapids Kernels, 2017; High-A Ft. Myers Miracle, 2018; and Double AA Chattanooga Lookouts and Pensacola

Blue Wahoos of the Southern League, 2018-19;

Q19: Other than Mike Bordick, and Ryan Flaherty, you have lasted longer in professional baseball as a position player than any position player from Maine. Best memory?

A: Being able to play with players from so many different backgrounds and experiences. Being able to play in so many parts of the country I might never have seen otherwise;

Q20: What will you do after your playing career ends?

A: Not sure. Just began an MBA program. I want baseball to continue to be a part of my life.

— Your Letters —
(Continued from Page 7)

Candidate For National Commander Expresses Sincere Appreciation

Dear The American Legion, Dept of Maine,

I can't thank you enough for your recent contribution to my campaign to become National Commander of The American Legion. As I visit with patriotic

Americans like you and see their dedication to the principals of the American Legion, I am inspired to continue my efforts to see that our Legion maintains its leadership position as the premier organization serving veterans and their families.

A campaign for National Commander takes a lot of teamwork and support and I am happy to add your name to the Paul E. Dillard support team. Your generous donation will enable our committee to conduct a campaign in the highest traditions of The American Legion.

Your devotion to mutual helpfulness is sincerely appreciated.

For God and Country,
Paul E. Dillard
Candidate for National Commander
"No Veteran Left Behind"

“JUDGE ADVOCATE”
(Continued from Page 7)

and overcome. Continue hanging flags for patriotic holidays, keep your newsletter or social media positive and informative, keep the fundraisers going for Scouts, sports teams, scholarships, etc. People are watching and following your lead. Show them what the Post Family is made of.

Continue your Post Service Officer work. Now more than ever veterans will need your help. Don't let up.

Participation. Now more than ever, you can make a difference at your Post. Many have been cooped up for so long they are begging to do something. Is that you? There is always work to do at the Post, the same 3 members are getting tired of doing it.....go mow the Post lawn, paint that wall at the Legion you have put off because you are too busy, fix that leaky pipe in the ladies room, repair that chair in the meeting hall, wash the windows, fix a shingle, weed the flower bed, sweep the parking lot, fill that pothole, etc. It is YOUR Post, spend a little of your free time making it the best Post for all.

Do a curbside meal and raise money. I find that a curbside meal for a cause and accepting donations will get you more \$\$\$ than a fixed price. Try it, it works! Ask Post 24, Post 86, and Post 202.

Do virtual meetings. You don't have to meet in person if you have a computer or laptops.

Host a concert/watch party on your Post's social media. Offer Legion training over email or on your Facebook. Offer something that can make members stronger and more knowledgeable.

There are many other things you can do for your members and community. Every Post and their community needs are different. What are the most important things we can help with during a pandemic?

- Food pantry
- Member yard work
- Soup kitchen or Meals on Wheels
- Roadside Clean Ups
- Bottle drive for a cause
- Rides to doctor's appointments

We are in a top-notch organization, one that can make a difference for our nation through our example. Get involved, it is time to step up and see what you can do to make an impact for America.

MAINE AMERICAN LEGION

FALL CONFERENCE HAS BEEN

CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19

Continuing to Protect Maine Veterans During COVID-19

I've made it a priority in Congress to help ensure my fellow Maine veterans have good, uninterrupted access to their VA benefits. Now with the coronavirus, that mission becomes more challenging. In addition to COVID-



CONGRESSMAN
JARED GOLDEN

specific healthcare, veterans must be able to access the routine health services and medications that they need.

That's one reason I've been focusing on expanding telehealth services at the VA. In an environment where it's safer for many older vets or those of us with pre-existing conditions to stay at home, telehealth can allow us to have check-ups and routine appointments with our doctors. I know that for many, no video call will ever compare to speaking with their doctor in person; but it's far better than putting off an appointment or waiting months to speak with your doctor.

I know that in rural areas, the need for these telehealth services is particularly great. So I put forward legislation, the *Veterans Access to Online Treatment Act*, to create a pilot program to build out telehealth services at three VA facilities around the country, with an emphasis on

rural areas. The Togus VA would be eligible for this program and we hope to take what we learn from the pilot and quickly expand it nationwide.

I'm also working with the Maine delegation to determine what further action is needed. I joined Sens. Susan Collins and Angus King, as well as Rep. Chellie Pingree, to push the VA for answers about how they planned to expand telehealth services during the pandemic. We're living through one of the most significant public health events in a generation and we need to know how the VA plans to use one of its best tools to meet the challenge.

I'll continue to share my progress with you. In the meantime, my office is also available to help you with many other challenges you're facing with the pandemic.

Whatever federal program you need help with, even if it's not related to COVID-19 or the VA, we can help. Please reach out. We're here to make sure that you get the answers you need and the benefits that you've earned. Please call, as my offices are still answering phones during regular business hours:

- **Bangor Office:** Phone: (207) 249-7400
- **Caribou Office:** Phone: (207) 492-6009
- **Lewiston Office:** Phone: (207) 241-6767

I look forward to hearing from you. Thank you for your service to our great nation.

“ADJUTANT SPEAKS” (Continued from Page 3)

Sons and the Legion Riders as well. So it does not matter if you are from Eliot, Old Orchard, Rockland, Belfast, Lubec, Cherryfield, Farmington, Livermore, Van Buren, or Eagle Lake; your communities want you back and are willing to support you during these times.

I must also let you know that some of our posts have decided it is easier to give up and do nothing than to actually work at succeeding. We even have a post that the Auxiliary Unit is paying the bills of the post. We also had a post try to sell their building before contacting Department HQ and following the Constitution & By-laws of the State. Since then, that post has done a complete turnaround after sitting with the Leadership team that can help to Revitalize the Legion and bring it back to what we were chartered to do. We

even have a select team of Auxiliary, Sons, and Riders to help you during these challenging times. Remember, you CANNOT sell your post home or the contents without contacting the Department of Maine with a plan in place before you can move forward.

In closing, I want to thank those many individuals that have made a big difference during these times. Those who have come up with new ideas to make things happen or have not forgotten why we are here. To those new and younger members that have surprised many and to those older Legion members that allowed them to try new things. To those Legionnaires that took the time to call their members (“Buddy Checks”) to make sure they are doing OK. Thank you all for being a member of this great organization we call The American Legion, Veterans serving Veterans.

Forward & Focused

Helping Veterans Acquire Well-Deserved Awards Most Humbling

One of the most humbling parts of my job is when I get to work with veterans and their families to get their well-deserved awards, medals, and commendations from their time in the armed forces.

We recently had the honor to present Mr. Donald Roy, a Sergeant in the Korean War, with the Bronze Star Medal he earned 67 years ago but never received.

Mr. Roy was a medic in the war. He was mailed his medal and certificate in a tube in 1953, but the tube arrived dam-



CONGRESSWOMAN
CHELLIE PINGREE

aged and the medal had slipped out. He tried to get it replaced once to no avail, and last Friday, my office was able to present him his long-overdue Bronze Star Medal.

Mr. Roy served his country with honor and valor, tending to the wounds of his fellow soldiers. In his citation for meritorious service, Sergeant Roy was said to have displayed exceptional skill and knowledge in caring for his fellow soldiers while he supervised the immunization program and oversaw the first aid program. What strikes me most is that he was lauded for his cooperative spirit and devotion to duty—that attitude is what makes a lifelong leader. I was so honored that my office could be a part of this special day—I know Mr. Roy has looked forward to it for many years.

If you or someone you know wants to retrieve their earned medals, please contact my Portland office at (207) 774-5019. My staff is always available to help.

MBVS - FREE Service for Maine Veterans

The Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services is a State Agency with a mission of serving those who served their country in the United States Military.

Our services are FREE and available to any veteran who would like to contact one of our many offices.

Specifically, our veteran service officers can assist with obtaining access to a number of benefits, including enrollment in the VA system for healthcare services and VA benefits, filing a claim with the VA, obtaining a copy of DD 214 military discharge records, and applying for complimentary park passes and hunting and fishing licenses.

We invite veterans and military families to visit their nearest Veterans' Services Office for assistance in receiving benefits or simply to ensure they are receiving all the benefits they deserve. Our highly-trained Veteran Service Officers are available to help you – **for free** – enroll in the VA system and to help you access your earned benefits.

To find the Veterans' Services Office nearest to you, please visit maine.gov/veterans/veterans-services-offices. You can also call the Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services at 207-430-6035 or visit their website www.maine.gov/veterans to learn more about available resources.

CONTACT MAINE BUREAU OF VETERANS' SERVICES IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE OBTAINING ACCESS TO BENEFITS INCLUDING ENROLLMENT IN THE VA SYSTEM FOR HEALTHCARE SERVICES AND VA BENEFITS, FILING A CLAIM OR OBTAINING A COPY OF DD214 MILITARY DISCHARGE RECORDS!

Maine Veterans' Cemetery System

Effective July 1, 2020 the Maine Veterans' Cemetery System updated the way in which it processes all pre-eligibility applications.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) implemented the pre-need eligibility program so veterans, spouses and unmarried dependent adult children may better prepare for burial in a national, state or tribal veterans cemetery prior to the time of need. Planning in advance for a veteran's or loved-one's final resting place can eliminate unnecessary delays and reduce

stress on a family at a difficult time.

Submission of a pre-need burial eligibility application does not obligate the veteran or family member to burial in a national, state or tribal veteran's cemetery.

For information regarding the most current internment requirements, pre-eligibility application and information, please visit <https://www.maine.gov/veterans/memorial-cemetery-system/preparing-for-burial/pre-registration-eligibility.html>

NOVEMBER, 3RD

2020

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 1

Sanford Post 19; Biddeford Post 26; Limerick Post 55; York Post 56; Old Orchard Post 57; Kennebunk Post 74; Berwick Post 79; North Berwick Post 87; Saco Post 96; Kezar Falls Post 123; Bar Mills Post 120; Alfred Post 134; Wells Post 143; Kennebunkport Post 159; Dayton Post 177; Eliot Post 188; Lebanon Post 214



Kennebunk Post 74 Memorial Day Ceremonies: In accordance with the existing restrictions on public gatherings in Maine, Kennebunk Legion Post 74 conducted ceremonies at each of the five cemeteries in Kennebunk early in the morning on May 25. Since Kennebunk cancelled the afternoon parade, ceremonies were also held at the four memorials in town. Post 74 was pleased to have the Kennebunk town manager, Mike Pardue, and the chairman of the Kennebunk Selectmen, L. Blake Baldwin, attend the memorial services.

Hometown Hero Receives Long Overdue Recognition

Post 79 Hometown Hero. As defined by the Oxford English Dictionary, a hero is "a person who is admired or idealized for courage, outstanding achievements, or noble qualities". That description fits Miss Faith Mcintyre perfectly.



Berwick Post 79 recognizes volunteer Faith Mcintyre who plays taps for an appreciative audience.

Photo by Post Historian Robert Place

Faith is the daughter of George and Joelle Mcintyre who are longstanding members of Charles S. Hatch Post 79 in Berwick.

For several years now, whenever the post needed a volunteer to play taps at local events, Faith stepped up and on more than one occasion, saved the day! Post Commander Dennis Ouellette decided it was high time to recognize this selfless young teenager, so with unanimous support, he rounded up key members of this active southern Maine post and paid a surprise visit to the Mcintyre residence.

Much to Faith's surprise, Commander Ouellette presented her with a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of her talent, dedication, and patriotism. The award also included a monetary token of appreciation. In response, Faith played taps for the crowd that had gathered to thank and honor her. Attendees included her parents George & Joelle Mcintyre, grand-mother Claire Thomas, brother Thomas Mcintyre, 2nd Vice Commander Paul Amatucci, Assistant Adjutant Lynn Rendell, Chaplain Paul Lapierre, Post Historian Bob Place and Auxiliary President Diane Lapierre.

Submitted by Rosanne Martin, Berwick Post 79 Public Relations Officer

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 2

Portland Post 17; So. Portland Post 35; Gorham Post 60; Westbrook Post 62; Bridgton Post 67; Scarborough Post 76; Freeport Post 83; Gray Post 86; Yarmouth Post 91; Standish Post 128; Harrison Post 139; Peaks Island Post 142; Windham Post 148; Cape Elizabeth Post 162; Naples Post 155; Portland Post 161; Falmouth Post 164; Portland Post 168; Westbrook Post 197

Still Many Ways to Honor Veterans in Spite of Parade Cancellation

The parade was cancelled on May 25 in Portland. But members of Harold T. Andrews Post 17 still had a very busy day and found many ways to honor veterans. They started the day off at 8 a.m. going to Andrews Square in Portland and placing a wreath in front of Butler School.



Harold T. Andrews' father had been the Principal of Butler school for many years.

Next, they went to Harold T. Andrews' grave and placed a wreath there.



Wreath Carrying: Sgt. Cobb carries a wreath up to the monument at Monument Square.

Then they went to Father Kerry's grave to place a wreath there. Father Kerry, a Catholic Priest, had been a member of Post 17 and the Post Chaplain.

After this, they went to Gorham's Corner in Portland to place a wreath in front of Admiral John Feeney's statue. Admiral Feeney, a decorated Navy veteran, had been a member of Post 17. He was also known as John Ford, the Hollywood director.

But this was just the start of their day.



Wreath Placing: Sgt. Cobb places a wreath up at the monument.

Post 17 member Richard Cobb, 1st Sgt. (retired), would not hear of a complete cancellation of the Memorial Day parade. So, with an escort from 2 police cars and a pickup truck, Sgt. Cobb marched the entire parade route down Congress Street from Longfellow Square to Monument Square carrying an American flag. At Monument Square, he placed a wreath on the monument.

Then there were 2 buglers who played taps, one after the other beside the monument while a small crowd stood and saluted.

Meanwhile, Post 17 member



Admiral Feeney State & Wreath

All Photos by Thomas P. O'Connor

Tim Ahern, a resident of Cape Elizabeth, was disappointed to hear that the Cape Elizabeth parade had also been cancelled. So he put on his Army uniform and marched the entire parade route by himself.

More on "POST 17 PARADE", Page 11

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 2

Portland Post 17; So. Portland Post 35; Gorham Post 60; Westbrook Post 62; Bridgton Post 67; Scarborough Post 76; Freeport Post 83; Gray Post 86; Yarmouth Post 91; Standish Post 128; Harrison Post 139; Peaks Island Post 142; Windham Post 148; Cape Elizabeth Post 162; Naples Post 155; Portland Post 161; Falmouth Post 164; Portland Post 168; Westbrook Post 197

■ "POST 17 PARADE" (Continued from Page 10)

self. When he reached the end of the Cape Elizabeth parade route he stopped and said a prayer.

It was sad that so much had to be cancelled on Memorial Day because of the Corona virus. But members of Post 17 refused to let the veterans be forgotten. Memorial Day 2020 was a day to be remembered.

By Portland Post 17 member
Thomas P. O'Connor



A Parade Of One: 1st Sgt (retired) Richard Cobb marches down Congress Street in Portland, a parade of one.

Photo by Thomas P. O'Connor



Dressed In Uniform: The man in the green Army uniform is Cape Elizabeth resident and Portland Post 17 member Tim Ahern.

Photo by Thomas P. O'Connor

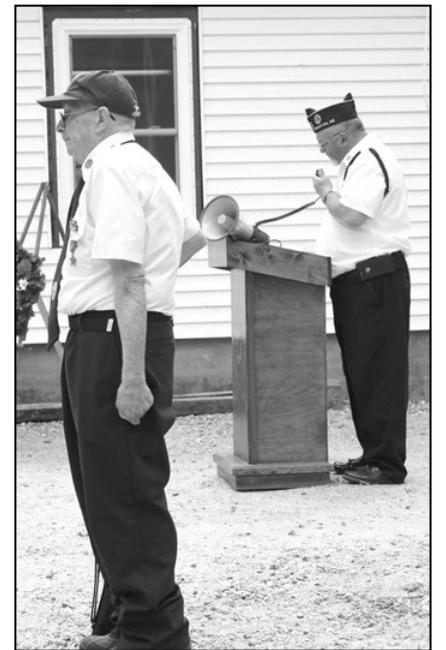


Mount Pleasant Cemetery Salute: Left to right, Ross Fehnel (Sea Cadet Ensign, Post Historian, Sergeant at Arms Candidate), Tony Batchler (2nd Vice Commander), Skip Farr (Chaplain), Wes Spletstoeser (1st Vice Commander), Tom Cook (VFW), Sam Flint (VFW), and Guy Linscott (Commander). Front and Center salute at the Mount Pleasant Cemetery on Memorial Day.

Photo by Michael Pock, So. Portland Post Adjutant
Credit to the Southern Forecaster, May 29, 2020

Bridgton Post 67 Practices Social Distancing On Memorial Day:

Bridgton Post 67 paid homage to our fallen comrades on Memorial Day. In keeping with CDC requirements, Bridgton Post 67 was able to conduct service and live feed to the Town of Bridgton via Facebook. All The distance protocols were met. Bronze star recipient Brian Manchester, left, acted as color Guard with Post Commander Mulcahy.



Bridgton Post 67 Cemetery Detail



Cemetery Detail: There are 28 cemeteries in Bridgton, where several necessitate being hiked to because of their inaccessible locations. One of our Legionnaires Michael Brady is designing a computer spreadsheet with all cemeteries listed and veterans' placement. Upon completion, it will be submitted to the town. Bridgton Post 67 cemetery detail members consist of Ed Jordan, Brian Manchester, Skip Brown, Staff Sgt Conroy, pictured bottom right, Bob Downing, bottom left, Bill O'Neil, Liam Opie and Commander Mulcahy, top left.



Mill Creek Cemetery Salute: Ross Fehnel (Sea Cadet Ensign, Post Historian, Sergeant-At-Arms Candidate) salutes at South Portland War Memorial.

Photo by Michael Pock,
So. Portland Post Adjutant



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 2 continued

New Life at an Historic Old Post



Bridgton Post 67 Under Construction



New & Improved Bridgton Post 67



Lake Region HS Students Give A Helping Hand: Hardest working ladies from Lake Region High School help bring new life to The American Legion Bridgton Post 67.

PHOTO TAKEN BEFORE COVID-19

Standish Post 128 Commander Bryan McManus, right, presents Chaplain Phillip Burnell, left, with a certificate of appreciation and a watch for his 40 years of service at the Standish American Legion in June.



A 90th Birthday Celebration: Standish Post 128 celebrates Past Commander Donald Roy's 90th Birthday.



Memorial Day 2020-Remembrance At The Veteran's Center Memorial Garden: After a prayer and brief remarks, War World II Veteran and Windham Post 148 Past Commander Carroll McDonald is escorted by Post Honor Guard OIC Craig Pride in the placement of a RED-WHITE-BLUE Floral Wreath on the Veterans Memorial in the Garden. Assisting are Honor Guard members, Larry DeHof and Richard Graves. Flanking the memorial with ceremonial rifles are Honor Guard members David Rendall and Bob Almstrum. The ceremony was repeated at the Town's Veterans Memorial in front of the Windham High School later in the morning.

Red-White-Blue Floral Wreath on the Veterans Memorial in the Veteran's Center Memorial Garden on Memorial Day.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 2 continued

Windham Post 148 Flag Day Ceremony

Following CDC guidelines of social distancing, face coverings and hand sanitizer, the Field-Allen Post 148 Flag Day Ceremony team conducted the annual Flag Day Ceremony at 3 pm on Sunday, June 14th. In previous years, the Post collaborated with Boy Scout troop 805 when conducting the annual ceremonial burn. This year, the Post Americanism Officer, David Horne, selected a small number of flags for today's ceremony from bags of hundreds of flags collected by the Post since last Fall. The ceremony was open to members of the public who observed the ceremony from their vehicles in the WVC parking lot. This was also the first official ceremony for the Post's new Commander, Eric Bickford who officiated at the event. Ceremonial Officers included: Commander (Bickford), 2nd Vice, Alola Morrison, Sgt. at Arms, Richard Graves and Americanism Officer, David Horne. Filling in for "1st Vice Commander" was Craig Pride and for "Chaplain", Dave Tanguay.



Ceremonial Burn—Flag Day 2020: Americanism Officer, David Horne, pictured, conducts the ceremonial burn on Flag Day 2020 at the WVC. Background, Eric Bickford, Alola Morrison and Craig Pride.

If anyone in the community has a flag rendered unserviceable, they may be brought to the Windham Veterans Center (WVC) on Wednesday mornings from 9 to 11 am for collection by the American Legion Field-Allen Post 148, Windham.

*David Tanguay, Adjutant
892-1306*

Windham Post 148 Food4Vets

Windham Veterans Center (WVC), North Windham, a team of local American Legion Field-Allen Post 148 members assembled to work in collaboration with VA Outreach personnel from Lewiston and Sanford and the 222cares non-profit Veterans organization to provide boxes of food for needy area veterans. Approx. 35 boxes were distributed in Windham at the WVC to those who registered for the program. Each box of food is sufficient to support two individuals for 7 to 10 days.

For a first-time offering, in Windham, Bob Jones, President and organizer of the 222cares non-profit felt the project was successful. He indicated that, based on needs, there could be a follow-on delivery of food. The key, he pointed out, is to

have local Veterans who may be food insecure to register on the website, 222cares.org. If Bob has additional registrations, he will plan accordingly for another food drop-off. The VA outreach personnel were available in their mobile office truck to sign up veterans for other programs and benefits that the Vets are entitled.

The Field-Allen Post is looking into bringing many of these VA representatives back to Windham for a Veterans benefits information seminar this fall. It has been several years since the Post has held one of these seminars. For additional information or assistance in registration, please contact Dave Tanguay 892-1306 or dtanguay46@aol.com



FOOD4Vets Distribution: Field-Allen Post 148 Americanism Officer, David Horne of Windham places a box of food into awaiting Veteran's vehicle.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 4

Farmington Post 28; Kingfield Post 61; Phillips Post 64; Strong Post 78;



Phillips Post 64 Commander Irene Tremblay, right, receives 100 percent membership certificate from Department 2nd Vice Commander Kirk Thurston, left on June 22 at Phillips Post 64 meeting.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 5

Rumford Post 24; Buckfield Post 58; Lockemills Post 68; So. Paris Post 72; Bethel Post 81; Norway Post 82; Dixfield Post 100; Oxford Post 112; Fryeburg Post 137; West Paris Post 151; Peru Post 199

Rumford Post 24 Memorial Day Ceremony

This year's Memorial Day began as all others have done in the past. Our Vice Commanders honored our Veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice by laying a wreath at all local Memorials. We then made some changes to continue our yearly tradition of our Memorial Day Ceremony.

American Legion Post 24 held an indoor Memorial Day ceremony on Monday, May 25th with 10 people present to ensure the social distance guidelines. The ceremony was shared on Facebook live so others could attend virtually. After the indoor part of the ceremony

was completed the small group marched to the Memorial Green to lay a wreath in honor of all veterans who have sacrificed their lives. From there, a very small group of four Post 24 members marched to the Mexico Green. They proudly carried our country's flag, Post 24's flag and the wreath to be laid at the Mexico Green. As they approached the green, the other ceremony participants were there to await their arrival. We concluded our ceremony there by laying the wreath that traveled our normal traditional parade route.



Memorial Day Speech: Rumford Post 24 Commander Tricia Thurston presents the Memorial Day speech for their 2020 Ceremony.

Photo by Bruce Farrin

Digital Convention Yearbook Now Available Online!

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

Check it Out Today!
Visit www.mainelegion.org



Help Promote Maine American Legion's 2021 Annual Convention Yearbook!

Ask local businesses if they would like to promote their business in support of Maine Veterans by purchasing ad space in our 2021 Annual Convention Yearbook!

Call 207-873-3229 Ext. 2 or visit www.mainelegion.org

The Maine American Legion Official 2020 Convention Yearbook went digital this year! It includes lots of new information including hyperlinked business ads from Maine businesses who purchased ad space in support of our Maine Veterans. It also includes what The American Legion, Department of Maine has to offer, various photos taken throughout the year and more! Check it out today by visiting www.mainelegion.org.

The American Legion, Department of Maine also needs your help promoting the 2021 Annual Convention Yearbook.

Please ask local businesses if they would like to promote their business in support of Maine Veterans by purchasing ad space in our yearbook. Please have them contact us by calling 207-873-3229 Ext. 2 or by visiting us on the web at www.mainelegion.org.

We appreciate all the support we can get in helping promote the Annual Convention Yearbook, so, we, The American Legion, Department of Maine, can continue to better serve our Veterans in the State of Maine, now, and for future generations.

Maine Veteran Lifetime State Park Pass?

All veterans who are residents of the State of Maine, and received an honorable discharge or general discharge under honorable conditions are eligible for a free Lifetime Veteran State Park & Museum Pass. Passes do not expire and are valid for the life-

time of the holder!

Apply for your Lifetime Veteran State Park & Museum Pass by visiting our website: <https://www.maine.gov/veterans/benefits/recreational-licenses/lifetime-park-pass.html>

| | |
|--|---|
|  Maine Veteran Lifetime Day-Use State Park & Museum Pass  |  Maine Veteran Lifetime Day-Use State Park & Museum Pass  |
| Date: | This pass is valid for veteran only and is limited to Maine State Parks and Historic Sites operated by the Bureau of Parks and Lands and the Maine State Museum. All others in vehicle are subject to regular day use entrance fees. Proper identification is required. This pass is not valid for Acadia National Park, Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, Baxter State Park, Maine Wildlife Park, Peacock Beach, Mount Pleasant Observatory, Penobscot River Corridor, Scarborough Beach, and Swan Island. |
| Name: | |
| Date of Birth: | |
| Signature: | |
| If found, please contact Bureau of Veterans' Services at (207) 430-6035 www.maine.gov/veterans | Bureau of Veterans' Services 207-430-6035 mainebs@maine.gov maine.gov/veterans |

Distribution Changes to The Maine Legionnaire Saves Money Generates Similar Results, Different Format

The American Legion, Department of Maine currently publishes 4 Legionnaire newspapers per year which are mailed out to approximately 18K members in the State of Maine and also made available online by visiting www.mainelegion.org. All 4 issues will continue to be available online, but only 3 issues will be mailed out annually via USPS (DEC approval, April 11, 2020) contributing to a cost savings of approx. \$7K—\$8K/year. Publications for the Feb.

May, and Aug. issues will continue to be mailed out to our members and made available online and the **November issue will be available online by visiting www.mainelegion.org.**

The American Legion, Department of Maine welcomes any feedback you may have regarding this change. Please email them to legionme@mainelegion.org. We would love to hear your thoughts.



Subscribe to Our Emails Stay Connected with Maine American Legion

Subscribe to Maine American Legion's Emails and receive instant email updates including our bi-weekly newsletter "The Leadership Ledger" and The Maine Legionnaire newspaper.

To join, please visit

www.mainelegion.org and click on the "SUBSCRIBE TO OUR EMAILS" image or visit <https://form.jotform.com/RachaelJ/maine-al-email-subscription-form>. You may also call our Department Headquarters at 207-873-3229.



2020 Summer Sweepstakes Drawing: The summer sweepstakes drawing took place at Department HQ June 17 this year due to COVID-19 and cancellation of our Annual State Convention. The Grand Prize winner of \$1500 went to Doreen M. Leavitt, Auxiliary member of Warren, Me.; \$500 to Trudy L. Frey, Lincoln Post 77; \$300 to Adam A. Marino, York Post 56; and \$200 to Francis P. Koslouski, Belfast Post 43. Congratulations goes out to all the lucky winners! Left to right, Department Americanism Officer Al McKay, Department 2nd Vice Commander Kirk Thurston doing the actual drawing, and Past State Commander and current Greenville Post 94 Commander Peter Johnson.



Help Support Maine American Legion!



Keep Our Maine American Legion Programs Alive!

Support our Veterans and Donate Today!

Your donation will help support veterans in the state of Maine as well as Children & Youth Programs and other various programs of The American Legion. A few of our programs are listed below. For a complete listing, please visit www.mainelegion.org.

Maine American Legion Programs: General Fund, Vet Aid, Homeless Vets, Legion Baseball, Dirigo Boys State, Oratorical, Jr. Shooting Program, Beals House, and Maine Special Olympics.

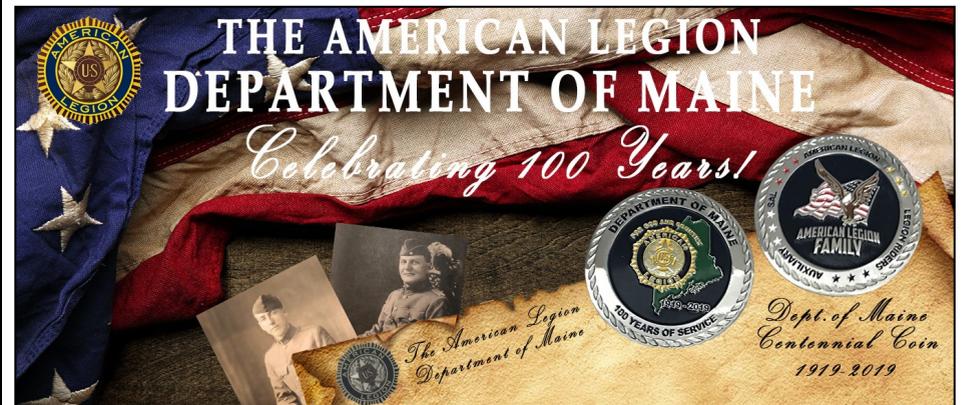
To pay by credit card, please visit www.mainelegion.org and select the

DONATE button.

You may also mail your check payable to The American Legion, Department of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901-0727. Please indicate on the check The American Legion program you are contributing to.

Thank you in advance for your donation. It is generous donors like you that help provide the assistance needed to keep our programs alive so we can continue to provide support to our fellow veterans, service members and their families.

To make a donation to The American Legion, Department of Maine Foundation, a non-profit 501 (c)(3) Charitable Organization, please see below.



Support Maine Veterans and Buy Your Centennial Coin Today While Supplies Last!

The Department of Maine previously released a Centennial Coin in celebration of 100 years of service to Veterans, families and local communities. All proceeds will go towards helping Veterans in the State of Maine, their families and various programs in The American Legion that require much needed assistance.

Coins can be purchased online by visiting www.mainelegion.org, calling Department directly at 207-873-3229 or by check or money order. The coins are \$10 each plus \$5 shipping/handling.

TO PAY BY CHECK OR MONEY ORDER, please send payment in the amount of \$10/coin, plus \$5 shipping and handling up to 5 coins to: The American Legion, Department of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901-0727. Please make sure to include a return address for shipping purposes. Please include an additional \$5 for every 5 coins purchased.

Coins are also available for free pick up at \$10 each. You may pick up your order at The American Legion, Department of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901-0727.

Show your Support to our Veterans in the State of Maine!

MAKE A DONATION TODAY!

AMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF MAINE FOUNDATION

(A 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization)

The American Legion, Department of Maine Foundation is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization exclusively for charitable purposes including the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations described under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code. All donations to the foundation are tax-deductible under the United States Tax Code and Internal Revenue Service.

The Foundation's mission is to provide financial assistance, promote Americanism, Youth Programs, National Security, and Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation that will enhance the lives of our Veterans, their families, children and communities in the State of Maine today and for future generations.

Please show your support to our veterans in the State of Maine and donate today to make a difference!

Online donations can be made by visiting us on the web at www.mainelegion.org. Click on the FOUNDATION tab located on the navigation bar and scroll down to the **DONATE TODAY** button or the AL Dept. of Maine Foundation brochure.

Checks should be made payable to American Legion Department of Maine Foundation and mailed to the American Legion Department of Maine Foundation, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901-0727.

Please make sure to provide your name and address so that we may send you a tax receipt.

Thank you in advance for your generous contribution!

Car Donation Fundraising Program

Owners of unused vehicles can donate them for possible tax credit and benefit veterans in the state of Maine.

This is a free, convenient service for converting that extra car, truck, or RV into a tax deductible donation..

Our affiliate program makes sure your vehicle is properly handled so you

get your tax deduction and Veterans in Maine get the benefit of your donation.

You can currently donate online by visiting www.v-dac.com, or call 877-999-8322 to make your donation.

For more information, contact The American Legion, Department of Maine at 207-873-3229 or via email at www.legionme@mainelegion.org.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP ONLINE TODAY!

VISIT WWW.MAINELEGION.ORG
OR VISIT WWW.LEGION.ORG/RENEW

Remember that **Membership** is the key and number one resource The American Legion, Department of Maine depends on so we may continue to provide services to our Veterans, their families, and surrounding communities in the State of Maine. Please remember to pay your dues each year, so we can continue to provide these services for another 100 years!



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 5 continued

■ “Post 24 Mem Day”

(Continued from Page 13)



Post 24 Legion Family Group Celebration: After the indoor Memorial Day concluded, the small group made up of the American Legion Family from Post 24 marched to the memorial green to lay the wreath in honor of all who have sacrificed their lives. Pictured are American Legion Dept. of Maine 2nd Vice Commander Kirk Thurston, Post 24 Adjutant Bill Hobson, 2nd Vice Commander Jack Blanchard, Post 24 Commander and Dept. Sgt. At Arms Tricia Thurston, Post 24 Service Officer Joy Bordeau, 1st Vice Commander Ed Perry, Auxiliary President Valerie Scott and Executive Committee members Nick Kelley.

Photo by Bruce Farrin

Rumford Post 24 Memorial Day Wreath Laying: American Legion Post 24 2nd Vice Commander Jack Blanchard, left, and 1st Vice Commander Ed Perry, right, lay a wreath at one of the many memorials that are honored on Memorial Day 2020.

Photo by Kirk Thurston

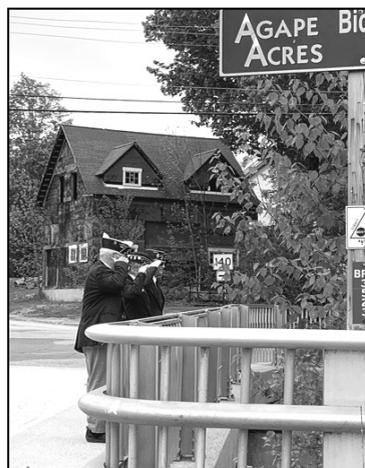


Dignified Flag Disposal Ceremony: The American Legion Post 24 held a Dignified Flag Disposal Ceremony on June 14th. Left to right, 1st Vice Commander Ed Perry, Exec Committee member Nick Kelley, Adjutant Bill Hobson, Sgt. At Arms Melissa Theriault and Post 24 Commander Tricia Thurston.

Photo by Carol Roach



Buckfield Post 58 Floral Tribute: (Left Photo) Left to right, John D. Long Post 58 Chaplain Bill Rice, Post Adjutant Gloria Hall, and Post Commander James Lowell, held a ceremony on Memorial Day, May 25 at two veteran monuments, placing a floral tribute at each. A prayer was also said and flowers were deposited into the river in remembrance of all those lost at sea. Photo on right depicts them saluting the sailors lost at sea.



Buckfield Post 58 Member Turns 100:

Despite the advent of the recent Hunan Virus scourge, Buckfield Post 58 celebrated, while sequestered in their homes, the 100th Birthday of Roy Nickerson. Roy is the last remaining member of the Greatest Generation at the Post.

Arnold Toynbee in his “A Study of History”, Vol 2, wrote of the hardiness of Maine citizens. His theory was that the harshness of eking out an existence in an environ-

ment so ruled by nature produced equally hardy humans. Rural Oxford County is home to more than its statistical share of Centenarians. Roy is the most recent member to join that prestigious association.



222CARES Delivers Food Boxes To Vets At Post 58: District 5 Commander James Lowell reports that 222CARES.Org delivered 31 boxes of food to veterans who applied to the program. Lowell noted that the operation was held on July 6, from 11:00 to 1:00 pm, and was a collaborative effort of both Buckfield Post 58 and West Paris Post 151. He noted with thanks the assistance of Legion Auxiliary District 2 VP Linda and her husband, District 5 Chaplain Randall Jack for making the day a resounding success. District 5 Chaplain Randall Jack looks on as food boxes are picked up by vets on July 6 at Buckfield Post 58.

Who Is that Masked Man?:

Sixty-one year American Legion member, and Korean War Veteran Merton Jones celebrated his 90th Birthday among compatriots on July 17th at John D. Long Post 58 in Buckfield, District 5 of the Department of Maine. It may seem contrived, yet true all the same, “...and a good time was had by all.” Happy 90th Birthday Merton Jones of Buckfield Post 58!!



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 5 continued

Irene Redman of Unit 68 Celebrates 90th Birthday

The Bethel Citizen reported the social event of Woodstock's week of June 16, by describing how the Town and environs turned out to celebrate the 90th Birthday of Unit 68 member, Irene Redman. A procession of more than 25 vehicles, led by a Woodstock Fire Department truck, drove slowly past Irene's residence, where she sat in regal splendor in her front yard. The event was secretly arranged by Jefferson Lodge 100 Order of the Eastern Star. They were assisted in the

endeavor by members of Jackson-Silver Post 68 and the Woodstock Historical Society. Some individual vehicles stopped momentarily to drop off presents.

Irene is still very much active in Unit 68, with more than 50 years of service in the Auxiliary. Last summer she faithfully appeared at every monthly Supper dance to assist Unit President Hazel Cole in dividing the deserts. She is also a member of the Unit 68 Executive Committee.



Irene Redman with Unit 68 90th Birthday sign presented by Unit 68 President Hazel Cole.

Photo by Hazel Cole



Birthday Wagon: Locke Mills Post 68 Birthday Wagon driven by Post Commander Harry G. Orcutt.

Photo by Susan M. Vacca



Cummings Family Plot Veterans Honored

On Thursday, May 28, for the first time in half a century, two veterans of the Cummings family of Greenwood, Maine were remembered before, what would have been for them, Decoration Day: Joseph Cummings Sr., a soldier of the War of 1812, who was the son of Greenwood Founding Settler, Revolutionary War Massachusetts Soldier Elisha

Cummings, along with Elisha's Grandson, Joseph Cummings Jr, of Maine's 13th Regt. Of Volunteers, Civil War, who are interred in the family plot, opposite the Greenwood Town Beach. Their resting place was disturbed some fifty years ago during a logging operation which took place in three feet of snow. The deposited trees are believed to have driven their tombstones into the ground.

It was hoped that the site would be rehabilitated in the spring of 2020, but the Hunan virus stay-at-home Proclamation issued by Maine's Governor ended Jackson-Silver Post 68's hopes in the matter for the present. Before the plot was lost to local knowledge, Post Commander Harry G. Orcutt, solicited the help of Greenwood Town Historian Blaine Mills, and together they placed stakes in what Mr. Mills remembered as being the precincts of the burial ground.

Locke Mills Post 68 Commander Harry G. Orcutt honors two Cummings' veterans in their family plot on May 28.



Happy 104th Birthday Leroy!: June 24, 2020 was the 104th Birthday of the still very young Leroy Day, Past Commander (1961) of Jackson-Silver Post 68. He has survived two of the world's most deadly pandemics, not to mention more than one close call as a member of the Greatest Generation. Like the "Energizer Bunny", Leroy keeps on going, and we are all grateful that he does. "Hand Salute! Two!" The photo was taken two years ago at the Post 68 Legion Centennial Birthday Party. If we had a more recent photo (his family is zealously tending to his welfare), he wouldn't look a DAY older. **Happy Birthday Leroy!**

Jackson-Silver Post 68

Parking Lot Memorial Day Service at Jackson-Silver Post 68

Religious services are now allowed under the Governor's Wuhan Corona Virus-19 Emergency Order. American Legion Jackson-Silver Post 68, Locke Mills, possessing a spacious parking lot, had the opportunity to honor its members. Those who have given their last full measure of devotion and those who returned to their communities with whom we had the privilege of associating before their life flame was extinguished, and a Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony was conducted, adhering to all social distancing strictures and sanitary protocols. The Memorial Ceremony commenced at 09:00 hours, on Monday, May 25th, with guests in their vehicles in the parking lot located at 595 Gore Road, Locke Mills, and Post and Unit members participating in their designated stations. Unlike years past, when the Post had its own evolved program, this being a year requiring something more like a field exercise, the American Legion National Memo-



Post 68 Commander Harry G. Orcutt officiated the ceremonies.

Photo by Susan M. Vacca

Daughters of Union

Veterans Judith Grover Tent #17 President Sally Sawyer delivers General Logan's 1868 Decoration Day Order #11.

*Photo by Else Bonney
Past Maine State President of Daughters of Union
Veterans of the Civil War & sister of Sally Sawyer.*



rial Day Ceremony was, for the most part, followed.

The Post Commander, Harry G. Orcutt, officiated in front of the Post's former Greenwood WWI - WWII - Korean War Veterans Monument, acquired when the Town replaced it with a much larger monument in Veterans Park when space for Vietnam Veterans and participants of more recent conflicts became necessary. Reverend Sondra Withey, Pastor of Locke Mills Union Church and a member of the Post's Unit 68 American Legion Auxiliary, served as Ceremonial Chaplain. Besides those prayers cited in the National Ceremony, she also offered an impassioned call to be resolute in the face of the Wuhan Corona Virus 19 Pandemic. At points where music was required, Post Adjutant Kelly Bickford, played recorded selections using her vehicle's sound system. The Post Firing Squad, Commanded by Post Finance Officer Ray Hakala, socially distanced in line along the edge at the front of the Post, fired three volleys of seven rounds. Auxiliary Unit 68



Firing Squad left to right, Post Sgt.-at-Arms Al Lake, Joe Hebert, Post Chaplain Dan Grover, Paul Hebert, Richard Wakefield, Tim Twitchell, Leroy Patten & Firing Squad Commander Post Financial Officer Raymond Hakala.

Photo by Kathy Hebert

cast flowers into North Pond in remembrance of sailors, and then returned to lay a wreath at the Post Veterans Monument for those who served on land and in the air. In that the Daughters of Union Veterans in

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 5 continued

■ "Post 68 Mem Day" (Continued from Page 17)

Woodstock, with whom Post members have a close working relationship, had to cancel their ceremonies for the first time in decades, in respectful deference to their traditional annual ceremony, a member of their Judith Grover Tent #17, recited General Logan's Order #11 of 1868, inaugurating the tradition of Decoration Day, which became Memorial Day. District 5 Finance Officer Richard Grover, of Bethel Post 81 attended the ceremony, with his wife Mona, as did Maine House Representative Fran Head.

In the days preceding the ceremony, members of Jackson-Silver Post and Unit 68, placed flags in all the Greenwood Cemeteries on veterans' graves, while the Daughters of Union Veterans in Woodstock did the same in their cemeteries. Per orders from National as proclaimed by the President of the United States, the Post flag flew at half-staff during the prescribed period.

Reverend Sondra Withey offered prayers at various points of the remembrance.

Photo by Else Bonney



Auxiliary member Rev. Sondra Withey & her Junior Member daughter Poppy Girl Annabelle, are accompanied to North Pond by Unit 68 President Hazel Cole, and Secretary Susan M. Vacca.

Photo by Else Bonney



Wild Weasels



"You've Got to be Sh...in' Me"

I mentally compare this situation to the feelings I experienced while flying over North Vietnam in a F-105 (Thunderchief) aircraft in 1967. As a program identified as the Wild Weasel our job was to escort bomb carrying F-105's to their target areas and attempt to protect the strike force from attacks by SA-2 surface-to-air missiles... We were equipped with electronic receivers which picked up SAM guidance radar signals, which displayed the radar signals on a small circular scope in the center of the console at eye level in front of our seat. When we picked up the SAM tracking radar signal, we pointed the aircraft toward the missile radar signal and prepared to launch our "anti-radiation missile" called a Shrike toward the missile site. Problem was our Shrike had a range of about 10-12 miles, while the SAM had a range of 20 miles, which seemed hardly fair! Our radar receiver had a special auxiliary receiver tuned to the frequency of the SAM missile guidance signal, so when a missile was launched our receiver had a red light, called the launch light, which emitted an audio signal akin to a police car's radar signal in an automobile. When the launch light, known as the "OS LIGHT", or "Oh Shucks" light, the pilot would turn toward the oncoming missile, placing the nose of our aircraft about 20-30 degrees to the left or right side of our aircraft nose (in order to give us a better estimate of the missile's range than to place the missile straight ahead.)

Then we went full after-burner and

began a 45 degree dive, keeping one eye on the missile as it approached on a collision course with us. At the last second the pilot turned hard into the missile pulling back on the stick with an 8 to 10 G (force being exerted on the occupants), causing the missile to undershoot our craft and zip harmlessly by, often impacting the ground behind us (or sometimes in front of us) as it pulled lead on our dive trajectory!

I mentally equate this situation as akin to being on a ventilator fighting the Corona Virus in the emergency room! Another maneuver somewhat akin to maintaining "social distancing" was our practice in combat of flying 8,000 feet above ground level (AGL), (statistically about 80 percent of our losses to ground fire occurred at altitudes below 8,000 feet AGL!) Our dive bomb attacks against our target required us to climb to about 12,000 feet AGL to initiate the dive bomb maneuver, release the bomb at around 10,000 feet and initiate the pull off so that we bottomed out at about 8,000 AGL!

Anne Sheehan

"Reprinted with permission of The Bethel Citizen" April 30, 2020

As noted in an excerpt on the Wild Weasels as described in their Wikipedia article:

The unofficial motto of the Wild Weasel crews is YGBSM: "You Gotta Be Shittin' Me". This appears prominently on the logo patch of some squadrons. As the story goes, this was the response of Jack Donovan, a former B-52 EWO (Electronic Warfare Officer):

In his April 30, 2020 column in the Sun Journal Group's Bethel Citizen newspaper,

Richard Grover, District 5 Finance Officer, Adjutant of Bethel Post 81, compared how the present Hunan Virus Pandemic reminded him of some of the challenges he faced as an Electronic Warfare Officer during the Vietnam War, while serving in the US Air Force "Wild Weasels." The whole column need not be reproduced, but what he stated about his service and those he served with should never be forgotten).

This was the natural response of an educated man, a veteran EWO on B-52s and the like, upon learning that he was to fly back seat to a self-absorbed fighter pilot while acting as flypaper for enemy SAMs.

His exact words were: "I'm gonna fly with you, and we're gonna shoot a SAM site before it shoots us? You gotta be shittin' me!"

The motto "First in, Last out" was also used.

The "WW" tailcode of the 35th Tacti-

cal Fighter Wing and the 37th Tactical Fighter Wing derives from their Wild Weasel heritage.



Wild Weasel: Lt. Col. Richard Grover, USAF "Wild Weasel" – District 5 Finance Officer/Bethel Post 81 Adjutant stands with State Rep. Fran Head observing Memorial Day Ceremonies at Jackson-Silver Post 68, Locke's Mills, on Monday, May 25.

Fridget Quilts—Ditty Bags—Face Masks

Unit 68 Auxiliary Secretary Susan Vacca has been sewing up a storm before and after the advent of the Wuhan Corona Virus-19. Before the Governor's "Stay-at-home" order, Susan created six "Fidget Quilts" for those residents of the Maine Veterans Home at South Paris, who are challenged by various forms of dementia to remain actively engaged in their daily lives. The quilts, composed of buttoned or zippered compartments are placed on the resident's lap, where they proceed to open and close the various compartment squares in whatever manner they are secured, with success bringing satisfaction of overcoming a challenge. The next order has already been placed for at least a half-dozen more.

Susan also created, at the request of Nancy Ronco, Stand Down Chairman for ALA, 40 "ditty bags", which participants employ to deposit the forms, brochures, and whatever media material is presented

as they navigate the employer representative tables. The bags are yet to be presented, once again because of the Hunan Virus.

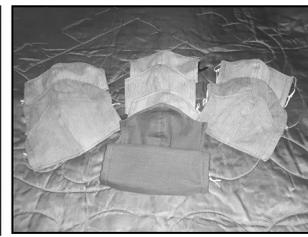
Lastly, in an effort to protect family, friends, and Legion Family members, Susan has been producing the new fashion statement of the pandemic age: face masks. The biggest problem in producing the masks has been in securing a supply of elastic material for the over-the-ear bands. Otherwise, with all the cloth she inherited from her mother, she could open a cottage industry.

Susan is one of hundreds of thousands of Legion Auxiliary members Nation-wide, celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Auxiliary, by supporting the mission of The American Legion through their devoted labor and whatever creative skills they may possess.

By Unit 68 Secretary Susan M. Vacca



Fridget Quilts



Face Masks



Stand Down Ditty Bags

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 6

Rockland Post 1; Vinalhaven Post 18; Camden Post 30; North Haven Post 33; St. George Post 34; Thomaston Post 37; Union Post 110; Warren Post 218



Post 34 Memorial Day Tribute: St. George Post 34 performed a 3 Volley Salute, Wreath Laying in the Harbor, and played Taps in celebration of Memorial Day on May 30. Front row, Randy Deutsch, 2nd row, left to right, Steve Pomakis, Thornton Batty, Jan Gaudio, Ray Emerson and back row, Bob Branco.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 6 continued**Williams-Brazier Post 37 Historian Appointed
The American Legion, Department of Maine Historian**

On August 9, at the Department of Maine Headquarters in Winslow, George Robinson, Jr., Williams-Brazier Post 37, Thomaston, was appointed as the American Legion's Department of Maine Historian.

Robinson is originally from Rockland, where he attended the Rockland District High School and graduated in 1970. After graduation he attended the University of New Haven, in Connecticut. He returned to Maine in 1972 and worked various jobs including at the Economy's Clothing Store for Keith Goldsmith.

In 1974 Robinson enlisted into the US Army. He wanted to go back to college, using the military's GI Bill. Robinson attended his Basic Training at Ft. Jackson, South Carolina. He had enlisted to become a telephone exchange repairman and after basic attended Common Basic Electronics Training (COBET), still at Ft. Jackson. After COBET he went to Ft. Monmouth, New Jersey for Advanced Individual Training (AIT) as a Dial Central Office Repairman.

While at Ft. Monmouth he lived off-post with two married couples. One of the wives was German and in June 1975 her best friend from Germany, Inge, came to visit for a month. One thing led to another and three weeks later he asked Inge to marry him. They married on December 27, at Ft. Ritchie, Maryland. They are still married today and have two sons and five grandchildren.

Over the following years Robinson was assigned to other posts and attended additional military schools. He became Installer and Circuit Conditioning qualified as well as receiving a secondary Military Occupational Specialty (CMOS) as a 36C - Telephone Installer. Robinson attended NCO advancement academies and retired in 1994 as a Sergeant First Class. He also received a degree from the University of Maryland - Europe in January 1987.

After Robinson retired he remained in Germany and worked at Army Microwave Centers in Landstuhl and Darmstadt, Germany. His wife is from Darmstadt and they lived in the home she was born in, with her mother. When the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) was rewritten Robinson lost his job at the microwave site in Darmstadt.

Fortunately, Robinson had begun to volunteer as a youth coach for the American Youth Activities (AYA) in 1983, while stationed in Garmisch, Germany. He used this to obtain a paying job with them and remained with Youth Services until 2011, working his way up to Program Manager positions. Due to the draw down and base closures in Europe he worked his way out of a job when there were no vacancies in Europe for his Managerial position. From 2005 to 2011 Robinson was involved in closing youth centers at four different posts. Robinson retired from the Civil Service in June 2011. With his sons living in the States, Robinson and his wife sold her family home and moved to Maine. His oldest son was already in Maine and his youngest was in Ohio with his wife.

Robinson has been a military historian for most of his life. He had been with an approved US Army Private Organization in Germany from 1993 to 2011, eventually obtaining building space for use as a military history museum. From 2001 to 2006 the organization established the Veterans Memorial Museum (VMM), with the help of Teri Viedt at the USAG-Darmstadt headquarters, at Babenhausen Kaserne. The VMM logo came from the letters of the belt buckles worn by the first few Maine militia regiments during the Civil War, including the 4th Maine Infantry Regiment from Rockland. This museum operated until 2006, when the base was closed. The USAG-Darmstadt Commander Colonel David Astin, then authorized the museum to move to the Griesheim Army Airfield, knowing Darmstadt was closing in 2008. The hope was that the museum could find a permanent home in the Darmstadt area. This quest was not successful.

Robinson has been an American Legion member since 2013 and a member of the Williams-Brazier Post 37 since January 2019. He was with a small group of Legionnaires that came from another post, in January 2019, to join a post that was being kept alive by three dedicated men in Thomaston. Since that January Post 37 membership has increased dramatically and is once again able to hold post and community events that are well attended.

In early 2020 the Department of Maine Historian resigned his position, leaving the Department without a historian. Robinson had been selected to be part of a committee for the Department to establish guidelines for the various Department writing contests. Talk kept turning back to the need of a historian for the Department. According to Robinson, "It seemed that Department Adjutant, Paul L'Heureux, kept looking at me when he was talking about the historian position. I do not know if it was or not, but I took it as some sort of sign. After the meeting was over I approached Adjutant L'Heureux and offered my services to be an acting Department Historian until new elections could be held."

Robinson submitted a resume and was offered the position by Department Commander, Matthew Jabaut July 30th. During a meeting of the Department Executive Committee, on the morning of August 9, Robinson was sworn in as the Department Historian.

Robinson is a dedicated military historian and avid researcher. He writes often about local military history for Post 37 and, from time to time, portrays Colonel Elijah Walker, last commander of the 4th Maine Regiment, at public speaking engagements. Robinson said of his appointment, "I do not know if I am able to accomplish the mission of being Department Historian, but time will tell. I do know that I am not afraid to try different things and will perform this new duty to the very best of my ability."

**Williams-Brazier Post 37 2020-2021 Officer Installation
Old and New Members Take Office**

On the afternoon of March 1st, the Williams-Brazier Post 37, in Thomaston, installed their new officers for the 2020-2021 American Legion year. Old and new officers were installed into their positions by Department of Maine Adjutant, Paul L'Heureux, and District 6 Commander, Raymond Lewis. After the installation, Certificates of Appreciation, Certificates of Initiation and a Certificate of Commendation were presented.

District 6 Service Officer, David Franclemont, opened the proceedings as acting Chaplain with a prayer. Department of Maine Adjutant Paul L'Heureux followed with a short talk commending the Post 37 for the great strides it had taken in the past year, rising from the brink of closure to be revitalized to become a very active post once again.

Several other Department and District 6 officers attended the installation. These included Department of Maine Americanism Officer Alfred McKay, District 6 Commander Raymond Lewis, District 6 Service Officer David Franclemont and District 6 Adjutant Jeffrey Sukeforth. Adjutant L'Heureux and Commander Lewis then proceeded to present the new officers with their Certificates of Installation. The officers are as follows:

**Commander—William Demmons
Adjutant—Kent Woodward**

**1st Vice-Commander—Jeremy Miller
2nd Vice-Commander—Adam Grunder
Finance Officer—Dawn Wright
Service Officer—Jeffrey Wright
Historian—George Robinson Jr.
Sergeant-at-Arms—Jonathan Grout
Alt Sergeant-at-Arms—Angel White**

The installation of officers was followed by Post 37 Commander William Demmons presenting Certificates of Appreciation to Kent Woodward, Jeremy Miller, Dawn Wright, Jeffrey Wright, Jonathan Grout and George Robinson, Jr.

Commander Demmons and 1st Commander Jeremy Miller next presented Certificates of Initiation to four new members to Post 37. These were Peter Sheff, Adam Grunder, Albert Brown and Angel White. Lastly, Jonathan Grout was presented a Certificate of Commendation for his long service to Post 37, having served as Post Commander and longtime service as the Post Finance Officer.

After a closing prayer by District 6 Service Officer David Franclemont, all Post 37 members, Auxiliary and guests were treated to a roast pork dinner, prepared by Dawn Wright and several members of the Post 37 Auxiliary, headed by Beth Ames. The Auxiliary, as is custom by now, provided the desserts for the dinner.

*By George Robinson, Jr.
Williams-Brazier Post 37
Historian and SAC Chairperson*



Certificates Of Appreciation: William Demmons presents Certificates of Appreciation to George Robinson, Jr., Jonathan Grout, Kent Woodward, Jeremy Miller, Dawn Wright and Jeffrey Wright.

Photo by Inge Robinson



Certificates Of Initiation: Commander William Demmons and 1st Vice-Commander Jeremy Miller present Angel White, Albert Brown, Adam Grunder and Peter Sheff with Certificates of Initiation to The American Legion. George Robinson, Jr., Kent Woodward, Jeffrey Wright and Dawn Wright are Looking on.

Photo by Leslie Demmons

Williams-Brazier Post 37 2020-2021 Officers: Standing, Jeffrey Wright, Dawn Wright, Kent Woodward, Jonathan Grout, George Robinson, Jr., Peter Sheff and Angel White. Sitting, Adam Grunder, William Demmons and Jeremy Miller.

Photo by Leslie Demmons



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 6 continued

Post 37 Holds "Best Ever" Celebration

At 11:00 am, on Nov. 11, the Williams-Brazier Post 37 hosted its annual Veterans Day celebration. Planning for this took form in late December of 2018 when four Legionnaires, wanting to transfer to Post 37, met with Post Commander William Demmons, Adjutant Kent Woodward and Finance Officer Jon Grout. They were told of how the three officers kept the post going by themselves. Two activities jumped out right away to the four Legionnaires. These were the monthly baked bean suppers and Veterans Day, which is a special event for Commander Demmons.

The four Legionnaires were accepted as members and it was voted at the January 2019 monthly post meeting to begin the baked bean suppers again in February. The

suppers are now held ten months out of the year.

In March, plans began to be made for the Veterans Day celebration. Ideas were developed, as speakers, music, honor guards and other details were set in place. All came together on Nov. 11.

Over 100 people attended the celebration. Joann Richards, a frequent attendee, commented that "she (has) attended the Post 37 Veterans Day celebration for years...this was the best one ever."

After a closing prayer from Chaplain Sheff, Post Commander Demmons closed the official activities for the day but not before inviting all to join Post 37 in snacks and punch.

Article and Photos by George Robinson, Jr.



Colors: Post Commander Demmons opened the day's activities welcoming Legionnaires, Auxiliary members, guests and other participants to Post 37. The Colors were then posted by members of the local Marine Corps League, while the Mid-Coast Community Band, who provided music throughout the day, played the National Anthem. A wreath was set in place by Les Demmons to honor veterans, while TAPS was played. This was followed by a prayer provided by Post Chaplain Peter Sheff.



Guest speaker, and District 6 Legion Commander, Ray Lewis gave the first talk of the day. This was followed by the setting of the MIA/POW table. Post member Jon Grout provided all with an explanation of what the meaning was for each item on the table.



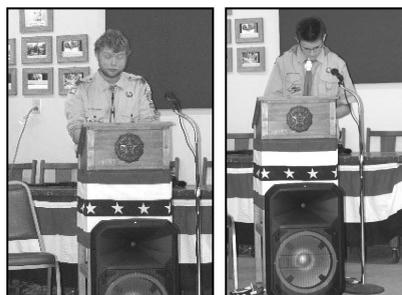
Post Historian George Robinson, Jr. gave a talk detailing how the Armistice Day celebration of 1919 became the Veterans Day celebration that it is today. This was followed by guest speaker David Sulin, (dressed as a Maine Sharpshooter), a veteran and retired ship's master. He spoke about the Maine Company of Sharpshooters that fought gallantly on July 2nd, 1863, at the Battle of Gettysburg. Two poems were then read. The first was "On Flanders Fields", read by Post 37 1st Vice Commander, Jeremy Miller. The second was a poem dedicated to Veterans and read by Auxiliary Secretary, Shannon Morse.



Teacher Speaks: The final speaker of the day was Hank Lunn, a retired teacher and former Guidance Counselor at the Rockland District High School. He spoke about growing up on a farm in Houlton and the German POW's that worked at the farm during World War Two.

Scouts: The last presentation of the day was performed by the Thomaston Boy Scout Troop 215, in a triple duty.

The first was a short speech by one of the senior scouts. The second was the folding of the Post 37 flag to represent the retiring of the colors at the end of the day. The third was another speech, by one of the scouts, to honor veterans. All three duties were performed admirably.



Mid-Coast Community Band: It must be mentioned that the Mid-Coast Community Band, led by Jo Anne Parker, performed to perfection. They played a patriotic song between each speaker and presentation. All present were very appreciative of the music.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 7

Boothbay Harbor Post 36; Damariscotta Post 42; Wiscasset Post 54; Waldoboro Post 149

A Camp Without Limits

At the 2019 Department of Maine Annual Convention in Brewer, Mary Ellison (accomplished chef), of Auxiliary Unit 36 Charles E. Sherman, Jr. Post in Boothbay Harbor, and Susan M. Vacca (vegetable dicer and food server), Secretary of Auxiliary Unit 68, Jackson-Silver Post in Locke's Mills, discussed their upcoming collaboration in preparing a meal (banquet actually), for two very deserving community based organizations, both meals scheduled to be held at Post 68. The first, *Veterans No Boundaries*, occurring at the end of January 2020, was previously described in an article published in *The Maine Legionnaire*. The second, for *Camp No Limits*, was held, but due to an unforeseen scheduling conflict, had to be moved to Telstar High School in Bethel, and was held on the last Saturday of February.

Veterans No Boundaries, a Maine Adaptive Program, brings veterans experiencing various life challenges to Maine each January, for a weekend of snow related activities. *Camp No Limits*, of an organization of the same name, presently operates 10 camps throughout the United States, helping children and teens to function with one or multiple missing limbs. What the organization does is explained on their website:

EDUCATION: Certified therapists & prosthetists, adult amputees, and various organizations available at each camp.

PEER SUPPORT: Campers & their families share thoughts, feelings, concerns, & successes about living with limb loss. Our team of trained adult amputee mentors are always available.

PHYSICAL THERAPY: Specialized professionals will educate campers on the proper way to run, bike, ascend/descend stairs & ramps and fall safety. General suggestions on how to prevent or correct abnormal posture & gait deviations are discussed.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY: Specialized professionals will educate campers in efficient ways to complete daily activities such as; dressing, bathing, grooming, meal preparation, writing, & cutting. General suggestions on proper

techniques using adaptive & prosthetic devices are discussed.

Last year they served 1,450 individuals, in 400 families, 88% of whom were funded by sponsors and donors.

So, Sue and I arrived at Telstar at 15:00 hours to help Mary prepare the evening meal. A few minutes later we were introduced to a fourth kitchen hand, Michele Mador, who cooks for the Bethel Middle School. She is also a member of Mundt-Allen Unit 81, in Bethel -- small world.

Being of some service to our young guests was an experience of a lifetime. Whatever physical problem they were experiencing, they outwardly demonstrated, was not about to keep them from living a full and proactive life. Their attitude, and that of their family members, was entirely upbeat.

Though the Legion Family has its own community involvement programs, organizations such as *Camp No Limits* are worthy of our unstinting support. At Jackson-Silver Post 68, all our members are praying that this darned Wuhan Corona Virus 19 is a thing of the past before we are next scheduled to host *Veterans No Boundaries* at the end of January, and *Camp No Limits* at the end of February (and this time there will be no scheduling conflict).

One more point: New England in area is 71,992 square miles; Maine in area is 35,385 square miles. The other New England States combined are 36,617 square miles. This means that the rest of New England almost fits within the borders of Maine. Legion Auxiliary member Mary Ellison volunteers her highly honed culinary skills at least twice each year that we are aware of. Her drive from the salt laden air of Boothbay Harbor to the crisp mountain air of mid-Oxford County is about the equivalent of driving from Providence, Rhode Island, to Egremont, Massachusetts. Mary is an exemplary member of the American Legion Auxiliary. She would be the first to tell you, it's what the Auxiliary is all about. "Hand Salute - Two!"

*Submitted by Harry G. Orcutt
District 5 Adjutant*

Camp No Limits: Left to right, Unit 68 Secretary Susan M. Vacca, Unit 81 member Michele Mador, Post 68 Commander Harry G. Orcutt, Unit 36 member Mary Ellison.

February 29, 2020 - Camp No Limits



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 8

Brunswick Post 20; Bat5h Post 21; Harpswell Post 171; Topsham Post 202; Phippsburg Post 216



Harpswell Post 171 on the bridge at Harpswell Center on Memorial Day. Amy Ferrell, Matt Maurer, Jim Swol (threw wreath), Mike Doyle, Bill O'Connell, Paul Standridge, Gary Cornwell, Cliff Malcolm (Post 171 prospect) Wreath made by Pam Douglas.

Photo by Lili Ott



Flag Bearers at Harpswell Center, Harpswell 6th grade Girl Scouts.

Photo by Lili Ott



Harpswell Post 171 Rifle Squad, Bob Webber, Bill O'Connell, John Ott on Memorial Day.

Photo by Lili Ott

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 9

Augusta Post 2; Gardiner Post 4; Waterville Post 5; Hallowell Post 6; Winthrop Post 40; Oakland Post 51; Togus Post 90; No. Vassalboro Post 126; Richmond Post 132; So. China Post 179; Litchfield Post 181; Clinton Post 186; China Post 195; Monmouth Post 204; Augusta Post 205

Commissioning Ceremony for Post 2 Member 2LT Felix Thibodeau

Fitzgerald-Cummings Post 2 is very fortunate to have as one of its newest members, a young man who just recently graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the United States Army. 2LT Felix Thibodeau graduated and was commissioned on June 13 2020. Initially he was



2LT Felix Thibodeau

supposed to graduate on May 23, but because of the pandemic, his graduation was pushed back to June 13. Felix was a member of the Army Junior ROTC program in high school at Nokomis Regional High School in Newport. He made a presentation to the Post 2 membership prior to his starting at West Point, receiving Post 2 support. Last year, he became a member of The American Legion and Post 2. As a service academy cadet, he was eligible to join The American Legion.

Post 2 Commander Fred Umphrey was privileged and honored to conduct an honorary commissioning of 2LT Thibodeau on June 20 at his family's home in Etna. As part of the ceremony, 2LT Thibodeau received a distinguished member certificate from the Commander of the Department of Maine, Matthew Jabaut.



Oath: Augusta Post 2 Commander Fred Umphrey administering the commissioning oath.



Distinction Award: Augusta Post 2 Commander Umphrey presenting American Legion Distinction Award.



Decorating Veterans' Graves: Members of American Legion Post 181 of Litchfield and other community members donned face masks and socially distanced themselves as they decorated veterans' graves at all seven Litchfield cemeteries May 22.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 12

Bar Harbor Post 25; Ellsworth Post 63; Southwest Harbor Post 69; Blue Hill Post 85; Bucksport Post 93; Stonington Post 102; Northeast Harbor Post 103; Trenton Post 207



Veterans Day Helping Hands: Cameron Nadeau, great grandson of District 12 Commander Albert Scott, helps American Legion Post 63 and VFW Post 109 members place flags on the graves of all Ellsworth Veterans to honor them on this sacred Day.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 13

Bangor Post 12; East Millinocket Post 13; Corinna Post 73; Old Town Post 85; Lincoln Post 77; Millinocket Post 80; Orono Post 84; Howland Pos 97; Brewer Post 98; Newport Post 105; Etna-Carmel Post 107; East Corinth Post 115; Lee Post 160; Hermon Post 200; Dixmont Post 201; Glenburn Post 211; Hampden Post 213



Etna-Carmel American Legion Post 107 Meeting: At Post 107 meeting held June 18, Daulton Hodgins, 1st Vice Commander of Post 200 Hermon, center, was given a Certificate of Appreciation for the manufacture of 4 sets of corn-hole bean bag toss for Post 107 to raffle off on Carmel days. Daulton works at J S Shelving in Milo, Maine, who donated the labor to make them.



Hermon Post 200 Installation Of Officers: Due to COVID-19, we cannot use our hall as it houses EMT's, and as a precaution, the hall cannot be used until things change. The weather was good, so we held our meeting across the street in Veterans Park on June 25. The installation was conducted by Don Candage, Past District Commander, with Art Dullinger as Chaplain. Officer's taking the oath of office, left to right, Ron Judkins, Commander; Tom Carle, Adjutant and Finance Officer; Dalton Hodgins, 1st Vice Commander; Lynwood Quimby, 2nd Vice Commander and Membership; Peter Mead, Service Officer; Jack Campbell, Chaplain; and Harry Rideout, Judge Advocate. Members not present, Norm Michaud, Historian and Americanism officer, and Mylon Frith, Sergeant-At-Arms.

Photo by Jack King



Post 200 Hermon Flag Retirement Ceremony: Hermon Post 200 held their flag retirement ceremony across from the post home in front of the Veteran's Memorial. The ceremony had 7 American Legion posts attending with a total of 34 members and guests. Top photo, Post 200 Commander Ron Judkins talks about the ceremony and gives thanks to everyone for attending. The bottom picture is the largest flag to be retired this year. Holding the flag is 1st Vice Commander Daulton Hodgins, right, and Commander Ron Judkins, left.

Photo by Adjutant Tom Carle

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 15

Calais Post 3; Cherryfield Post 8; Machias Post 9; Eastport Post 11; Baileyville Post 23; Danforth Post 45; Pembroke Post 59; Lubec Post 65; Jonesport Post 108; Vanceboro Post 172; Topsfield Post 191

Operation Home Front School Supplies



Combining Resources: The Calais American Legion & The Calais Dollar Tree are once again combining resources for the Project Operation Home Front for School Supplies! Pictured are Calais Dollar Tree Manager Sarah Bayliss, right, and Calais Post 3 Commander Michael McLean.



Operation Home Front for School Supplies & Calais American Legion Project Back Packs.

A Donation To Calais American Legion Project Backpacks! Calais IGA owner Bob Craft, left, presents Calais Post 3 Commander Michael McLean a donation of backpacks Aug. 22 at the Calais IGA in support of Operation Home Front for School Supplies.



Operation Home Front For School Supplies: Calais Post 3 Commander Michael McLean, left, and Recruiter 1136th Maine Army National Guard Elijah Anderson.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 15 continued

**Calais American Legion
Project Maine Bicentennial Flags**

The Calais American Legion is continuing its annual Project Flags! This year's theme is "Project Maine Bicentennial Flags"! This year 2020 is the 200th Anniversary of the State of Maine. We realize with the Coronavirus Pandemic, school closures, businesses closed, unemployment, and social distancing, our communities still must try to come together and bring Americanism and Patriotism within our communities! We cannot let this "Outbreak" deter our loyalty to our families, friends and our communities! We will move forward. Please support this project! Each donation is \$50 and all flags will be available to donors around Nov. 1, 2020.

For more information and to donate, please contact Mike McLean at 207-214-4410 and leave a message.



222Cares - Food4Vets Program: Left to right, Rob Jones President, Maj. Chaplain, VFW Commander David Sivret & Calais Post 3 Commander Mike McLean at the Calais Food Pantry parking lot Aug. 26.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 16

Caribou Post 15; Fort Fairfield Post 27; Houlton Post 47; Washburn Post 48; Oakfield Post 52; Presque Isle Post 88; Mars Hill Post 118; Limestone Post 127; Easton Post 187; Masardis Post 208

Shiretown Observes Low-Key Memorial Day Ceremony

HOULTON, Maine — It was anything but a normal Memorial Day celebration in Houlton on Monday thanks to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Under normal circumstances, more than 100 people would fill Monument Park to hear guest speakers, enjoy music from the Houlton Middle-High School band and witness a flyover by the U.S. Border Protection helicopter and gun salute by the American Legion Honor Guard.

Following the meeting, the Chester L. Briggs Post 47 of the American Legion in Houlton American Legion Post No. 47 traditionally hosted a free barbecue luncheon for all in attendance.

This year, however, because of the state's limit of 10 people at public gatherings due to the coronavirus, the American Legion Post No. 47 went with a much more subdued event. A small group assembled at Soldier Hill for a brief ceremony that featured the laying of a wreath and playing of taps.

"On this Memorial Day, it is a tragic, uncertain time," Jerry Riley of the American Legion said. "But we have a common goal of honoring those who have gone before us in the service of their country."

Edward Lake, commandant of the Marine Corps Detachment 1368 of Houlton, offered a few words to the small group in attendance.

"We are very honored to be here during this solemn time," Lake said. "It is a time that we all need to show respect to the ones who have gone on before us."

Memorial Day, or Decoration Day, is a federal holiday in the United States for remembering the people who died while serving in the country's armed forces, according to military.com. For others, Memorial Day is a time to remember deceased loved ones by planting flowers at gravesites.

Following the ceremony at Soldier Hill, the group reconvened at Riverfront Park to toss a wreath into the Meduxnekeag River. Wreaths were then placed on veteran's markers at Houlton Community Park.

Additional ceremonies were held in Hodgdon and the Houlton Band of Maliseets veterans complex later in the day.

*Joseph Cyr
Houlton Pioneer Times
May 25, 2020*



Unfurling Of The American Flag: Gene Ross, left, and Sasha Webb of the Chester L. Briggs American Legion No. 47 Honor Guard unfurl the American Flag before raising it to half-mast during Monday's Memorial Day ceremony in Houlton.

Joseph Cyr | Houlton Pioneer Times



Soldiers' Grave Markers were adorned with flags for Memorial Day in Houlton.

Joseph Cyr | Houlton Pioneer Times

Memorial Day Wreath Placing At Soldier Hill Monument In Houlton:

Christy Bartley, sergeant-at-arms of the Ladies Auxiliary for the Chester L. Briggs Post No. 47 of the American Legion, places a wreath at the base of the monument at Soldier Hill in Houlton Monday morning during a small Memorial Day ceremony.

Joseph Cyr | Houlton Pioneer Times



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 17

Van Buren Post 49; Fort Kent Post 133; Stockholm Post 136; Frenchville Post 145; Madawaska Post 147; Eagle Lake Post 176; St. Francis Post 180



Van Buren Unit 49 Bingo Night: Auxiliary are back to their Tuesday Night Bingo at Post 49 in Van Buren. Social distancing and wearing masks are a requirement.



Van Buren Post 49 At Violette Brook Monument: Van Buren 49 places 42 Flags for the 42 local soldiers who lost their lives in combat from World War 1, World War 2, Korea and Vietnam for Flag Day June 14 at the Violette Brook Monument.

American Legion Membership Eligibility of Personnel in the Newly Created United States Space Force

Per Title 36 of the US Code, Chapter 217, Section 21703,

An individual is eligible for membership in the corporation [The American Legion] only if the individual—

(1) has served in the Armed Forces of—

(A) the United States at any time during—

- (i) the period from April 6, 1917, through November 11, 1918; or
- (ii) any time after December 7, 1941; or

(B) a government associated with the United States during a period

or time referred to in subclause (A) of this clause and was a citizen of the United States when the individual entered that service; and

(2) was honorably discharged or separated from that service or continues to serve honorably during or after that period or time.

The United States Space Force was created by the National Defense Authorization Act of 2020, signed by the President on December 20, 2019. It became Public Law No: 116-92, “§9081. The United States Space

Force
“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—
There is established a United States Space Force as an armed force within the Department of the Air Force....
(c) SPACE FORCE AS AN ARMED FORCE.—Section 101 (a)(4) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting ‘Space Force,’ after ‘Marine Corps.’”

Thus, as amended, Section 101(a)(4) of title 10, United States Code reads:

(4) The term “armed forces” means

the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Space Force, and Coast Guard.

Therefore, as title 10 of the United States Code now includes Space Force as an “Armed Force” and our federally chartered membership criteria uses the same wording [“has served in the Armed Forces....any time after December 7, 1941”] there are no necessary acts required to extend membership to all who have served or continue to serve in the United States Space Force.

Letter from:
Daniel S. Wheeler, National Adjutant and Kevin J. Bartlett, National Judge Advocate
May 26, 2020

Veteran Property Tax Exemption Do You Qualify?

Property Tax Exemptions for Veterans

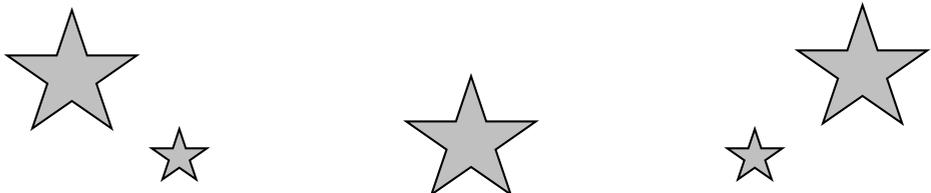
Recently, there have been many inquiries about the Veteran Property Tax Exemption offered by the State of Maine. The "Veteran Exemption" is a \$6,000 tax credit that is available to the following veterans:

1. A veteran who served during a recognized war period **and** is 62 years or older;
2. **or**, is receiving 100% disability as a Veteran;
3. **or**, became 100% disabled while

serving, is eligible for a \$6,000 exemption.

Maine Revenue Services also has a very helpful flowchart available on their website that can help determine if you are eligible for the "Veteran Exemption". The flowchart can be found by visiting <https://www.maine.gov/revenue/taxes/property-tax>.

If you are eligible, you may apply by completing the **application** online by visiting <https://www.maine.gov/revenue/tax-return-forms>



Basic Training

Learn about The American Legion in this self-paced online course

The American Legion's official training program for officers, members, Legion College applicants and those who simply want to expand their knowledge of the nation's largest veterans service organization is now available online. It is divided into six sections, with a quiz at the end of each one, followed by a final exam. To take the course, please visit www.legion.org/alei

Already taken the old course? The American Legion Extension Institute has been rewritten, updated, streamlined and enhanced with videos, digital photos, clickable links, a historical timeline and additional features. The program should take less than two hours to complete.



Fighting to the Finish Line for the Foundation

Join Team Caroline Today!



Please join Team Caroline as she fights to the finish line to benefit the American Legion Department of Maine Foundation by visiting <http://www.mainelegion.org/pages/foundation/fundraising-events.php> to place your contribution today to a cause that means so much! If you prefer to donate by check, please make payable to **American Legion Department of Maine Foundation** earmarked "Marathon Run". Mail check to American Legion Department of Maine Foundation, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0727.

MARATHON- Why I Run:
 I run to feel the Music
 I run to feel the fresh Air
 I run to forget the Rage
 I run to forget the Anxiety
 I run to embrace the Time



I run to embrace the Honor
 I run to remember the Oath
 I run to remember the Need
 I run this **MARATHON** for the future of the Maine American Legion
 ~ Caroline Yarmala

A unique opportunity and the bonds of family and friends give way to a hope for the future.

Caroline followed in her father's footsteps and joined the Navy to serve our country. In 2005 she left home and was stationed in Gulfport, MS with (Seabee Battalion) NBCB 1 for five years of active duty.

In 2010 she moved back to reunite with her family in the beautiful state of Maine. A



few years later she found a new way to continue her service by joining the American Legion at Post 202 in Topsham. The Maine American Legion Family gave her a renewed sense of comradery and taught her about the programs that could help support other veterans and their families in times of need, as well as aid youth in their time of growth.

In 2019 an American Legion friend, inspired by her own father's service, offered Caroline the opportunity for a unique life experience and way to raise money for the great American Legion programs. A daughter of the American Legion, inspired by her father's military service and continued dedication with the American Legion, has honored Caroline with an invitational bib to the 2020 Boston marathon.

With this great honor, Caroline will fight to the finish line to raise money for the American Legion Department of Maine Foundation.

She has been training for this endeavor with hard work and commitment; motivated by her father as her training coach and supported by the American Legion family. But she still needs your help with donations to meet our goal for the American Legion Department of Maine Foundation, to **fight to the finish line** and fund the future of these extraordinary



programs.

Please join Team Caroline as she fights to the finish line of the Boston Marathon for the American Legion Department of Maine Foundation.

We are raising money to benefit the American Legion Department of Maine Foundation, and your donation will help make an impact. Thanks in advance for your contribution to this cause that means so much!

More information about American Legion Department of Maine Foundation: The American Legion Department of Maine Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization exclusively for charitable purposes including the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations. The Foundation's mission is to provide resources to programs and services of The American Legion, Department of Maine that will enhance the lives of our veterans, their families, children and communities in the State of Maine today and for future generations.

Running-Serving-Caring Team Caroline

As you all read this edition of The Maine Legionnaire, Caroline has just finished running the Boston Marathon (Virtually) as all the other runners will be doing from around the country. Other Legionnaires will be running with her between water points. During that slow down, another branch of service flag will be carried by Caroline or an individual who served under that flag. All these veterans are supporting Caroline during this run that she is doing for our Foundation which will be able to support our programs in the future. The donations are still coming in, but we need everyone to step up and thank her for the dedication and training that she has done to be able

to help our organization. Caroline has been training to run this Marathon of 26 miles for a year with a goal to raise \$26K. To date, she has raised ~\$5K. Let' show Caroline our appreciation and help her reach her goal by sending any amount that you as an individual, Post or District can afford, as we still have a long way

Remember this is tax deductible because of the foundation 501C-3 status. To donate, please visit <http://www.mainelegion.org/pages/foundation/fundraising-events.php> to place your contribution today to a cause that means so much!

Paul L'Heureux
State Adjutant



Veteran's Emergency Financial Assistance Program (VEFAP)

Do you know of a veteran in your community in need of assistance? Maybe someone who during these challenging times just needs a little help to keep them going? Worst of all how about that homeless veteran? How about the homeless veteran with children? If you do, we want to remind you all that The American Legion, Department of Maine

can assist you to help these veterans during rough times.

All you need to do is call Department at 207-660-9324 or 207-873-3229, Ext. 3 and we will be in contact as soon as possible or visit <http://www.mainelegion.org/pages/resources/va-resources.php>. Remember that this program can assist you to help others.

The Maine Legionnaire Submissions

Please be reminded that only those articles and/or pictures which are sent in proper form will be considered for publication in The Maine Legionnaire. As we continue to receive an overabundance of photos for publishing, we must have guidelines to follow. In order to publish any photo(s) received, effective immediately, the submitter must include the following: **Who** are the individuals in the photo (left to right), **What** the photo is

about, **When** and **Where** the event took place and **Why**. If the above mentioned is not provided, the photo will be returned to the submitter for clarification and submission of the required information.

Anyone interested in submitting an article and/or photo, please send via email to rachael@mainelegion.org or legionme@mainelegion.org or mail to The American Legion, Department of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0727.

If You're a Member In Good Standing With Your Department of The American Legion...



Endorsed by
Your Department of
The American Legion

You are eligible for LegionCare; \$5,000.00 in Accidental Death Insurance at NO COST TO YOU if a covered accident occurs while traveling on official Legion business*, or \$1,000.00 at NO COST TO YOU for all other covered accidents. This has been arranged on

your behalf by Your Department of The American Legion.

As soon as your enrollment is received, LegionCare will take effect. Your acceptance is guaranteed, so mail your coupon today.

For immediate coverage, enroll online at www.TheLIT.com/No-Cost-LegionCare

Cut out this section and mail it in today to enroll in LegionCare.

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
 DATE OF BIRTH _____ MEMBERSHIP CARD NO. _____
 EMAIL _____
 MAKE SURE YOU INCLUDE YOUR DATE OF BIRTH SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Cut it out

Have you filled out *all* the above information?
 Please mail to: Legionnaire Insurance Trust • P.O. Box 26720 • Phoenix, AZ 85068-6720
 © 2015 AGIA 100135 A3713 38796

Complete details of the coverage are contained in accident only Master Policy MZ0933569H0000A/0001A underwritten by Transamerica Premier Life Insurance Company Cedar Rapids, IA. This plan is not available in all states.
 *For Purposes of the Legionnaire Insurance Trust, a member of The Legion Family, with current year's dues paid, could be eligible for the \$5,000 Accidental Death benefit if he/she is traveling to, attending, or returning from an official function at which the Legionnaire represents his/her Post, District, Department, or National Organization in an official capacity.

How to Become a Maine Legionnaire! It's Easy—Join Today!

Veterans who qualify can join The American Legion in Maine by using one of following options:

Option 1: Join the traditional way—fill out the form provided below and give to a recruiter or Legionnaire who will then sign it and take it to a local Post. If a candidate is signed up at a Post, he or she can receive their membership card on the spot or will be sent a new card shortly thereafter.

Option 2: Join via snail mail—fill out the form provided below. Mail the form along with a check in the amount of \$40 to The American Legion, Department of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0727. By joining The American Legion, Department of Maine, you automatically are placed in Headquarters Post 178. If you wish to transfer

to a local Post, please wait until you receive a 9-digit membership ID #, then contact the Post you wish to transfer to.

Option 3: Join online—visit www.mainelegion.org and click on the Join Button. Fill out The American Legion, Department of Maine application and proceed with the payment options provided. By joining The American Legion, Department of Maine, you automatically are placed in Headquarters Post 178. If you wish to transfer to a local Post, please wait until you receive a 9-digit membership ID #, then contact the Post you wish to transfer to.

Need Help! Call The American Legion, Department of Maine at 207-873-3229 and someone will be available to assist you.

Who are the Legion Riders?

The American Legion Riders are members of the American Legion who are also motorcycle enthusiasts. They can be found participating in parades, partaking in motorcycling events, and supporting the communities in which they live, work, and play. Members of the ALR come from the Legion, the Legion Auxiliary, and the Sons of the American Legion. The American Legion Riders were formed

- to participate in parades and other ceremonies that are in keeping with the Aims and Purposes of the American Legion;
- to promote motorcycle safety programs and to provide a social atmosphere for American Legion members who share the same interest;
- to use our Association to promote and support programs of the American Legion.

The American Legion Riders is not a motorcycle club and does not practice

motorcycle club rules or regulations. The American Legion Riders is family-oriented, just as is its parent organization: The American Legion.

Membership Requirements

The membership requirements for the American Legion Riders are very straightforward. To become a member, you must...

- be a current member in good standing of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion;
- be the owner of a motorcycle of at least 350cc engine displacement and must possess a valid driver's license in your state of residence (military equivalents acceptable as well) ~or~ must be the legal spouse of an ALR member in good standing within the Chapter of application.

Looking to start a Legion Riders chapter in your post? Visit www.facebook.org/MaineRiders



The American Legion Membership Application

(Name) _____ (Date of Birth) _____
 (Mailing Address) _____ (Phone Number) _____
 (City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip) _____ (Post #) _____
 (E-mail) _____ Male Female (Gender) _____ (Dues) _____

I certify that I served at least one day of active military duty since December 7, 1941 and was honorably discharged or am still serving honorably.
 Please check appropriate service era and branch of service below

| | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Global War on Terror | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Army |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gulf War | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Navy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Panama | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Air Force |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lebanon/Grenada | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Marines |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnam | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Coast Guard |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Korea | <input type="checkbox"/> Merchant Marines (WWII only) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WWII | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other Conflicts | |

Signature of applicant _____ Date _____ Name of recruiter _____

30-009

Receipt of Dues
(Please Print)

From _____ for 20 _____ Post # _____
 \$ _____
 Recruiter's Name _____
 Recruiter's Signature _____
 Recruiter's Phone # _____

Listed below are just a few of the many programs The American Legion sponsors. Please check the one(s) that are of interest to you. If the program you like is not listed, please indicate it in the "other" area.

Volunteer work at VA Hospital.
 Work with youth.
 Help/participate in Post's social activities ... dances, dinners, etc.
 Participate in educational activities ... (essay contests, oratorical contests, scholarships)
 Work with sports teams.
 Supervise groups (drill team, drum & bugle, scouts, etc.).
 Post improvement projects.
 Membership drives.
 Community projects.
 Other: _____
 Spouse would be interested in the Auxiliary.
 Son would be interested in the Sons of The American Legion.

Updates to TRICARE Select Group A

Starting on January 1, 2021, TRICARE Select Group A retirees? TRICARE Select Group A retirees? Individual plan: \$12.50 per month Select Group A retired beneficiaries must pay monthly enrollment fees in order to maintain their TRICARE health coverage. This is a change, and the first time this beneficiary group will pay enrollment fees. What are the 2021 enrollment fees for

Family plan: \$25 per month For more information, please visit the Tricare website at https://tricare.mil/CoveredServices/BenefitUpdates/Archives/06_22_2020_Changes_Coming_So_me_TRICARE_Select_Retired_Beneficiaries



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.

T a p s C o l u m n

| <u>POST</u> | <u>NAME</u> | <u>CONFLICT</u> | <u>POST</u> | <u>NAME</u> | <u>CONFLICT</u> |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| CN09 – St.Johns | Clause Wood | Korea | Post 76 – Scarborough | Lucien Matteau | Korea |
| Post 3 – Calais | Edward Arbo | WWII | Post 76 – Scarborough | Wendell Whitten | WWII |
| Post 3 – Calais | Arthur Furlong | Vietnam | Post 78 – Strong | Gordon A. Tripp | Korea |
| Post 3 – Calais | Gilbert Obrien | Korea | Post 80 – Millinocket | Jeremiah Lynch | Korea |
| Post 4 – Augusta | Stephen Hanley | Vietnam | Post 80 – Millinocket | Wilmot Waltz Jr. | Korea |
| Post 4 – Augusta | Donald E. Tracy | Korea | Post 83 – Freeport | Alfred Souza | Vietnam |
| Post 5 – Waterville | Stephen Hughes | Vietnam | Post 83 – Freeport | Kenneth Vosmus | WWII |
| Post 5 – Waterville | Herbert Silvio Normandeau | WWII | Post 84 – Orono | Larry Dorr | Vietnam |
| Post 5 – Waterville | Stephen W. Hughes | Vietnam | Post 84 – Orono | Robert Lounsbury | WWII |
| Post 5 – Waterville | Gilman R. Pelletier | Vietnam | Post 84 – Orono | James McCarty | Korea |
| Post 5 – Waterville | Paul S. Rogers | Korea | Post 84 – Orono | Martin Stitham | Vietnam |
| Post 8 – Cherryfield | Wallace Sheive | Korea | Post 88 – Presque Isle | Clyde E. Brown | Vietnam |
| Post 9 – Machias | John Johnson | Korea | Post 88 – Presque Isle | Charles Eckstein | Lebanon/Grenada |
| Post 9 – Machias | Orrin M. Urquhart | Vietnam | Post 88 – Presque Isle | Richard Ferland | WWII |
| Post 11 – Eastport | David Watts | Vietnam | Post 88 – Presque Isle | Ronald Knight | Vietnam |
| Post 12 – Bangor | Donald Hoxie | Vietnam | Post 88 – Presque Isle | Edward E. Lee | WWII |
| Post 14 – Fairfield | Spurgeon Stevens | Korea | Post 88 – Presque Isle | Patrick J. Powers | Vietnam |
| Post 15 – Caribou | Alvin Belanger | Lebanon/Grenada | Post 88 – Presque Isle | John Wells Jr. | Vietnam |
| Post 15 – Caribou | Galen Cote | Vietnam | Post 90 – Togus | Carroll York | WWII |
| Post 15 – Caribou | Dale Griffeth | Vietnam | Post 93 – Bucksport | Wayne Shirley | Korea |
| Post 15 – Caribou | Nathan B. Randolph | Vietnam | Post 96 – Saco | James Paras | WWII |
| Post 16 – Skowhegan | Raymon Knowles | | Post 98 – Brewer | Kerry Dalton | Vietnam |
| Post 18 – Vinalhaven | John Bickford | | Post 98 – Brewer | James Pooler | Korea |
| Post 19 – Sanford | Peter Almond | Korea | Post 99 – Bingham | Stanley Redmond | WWII |
| Post 19 – Sanford | Laurent Paquin | Korea | Post 102 – Stonington | Norma T. Ooghe | Korea |
| Post 19 – Sanford | Lucien Dumais | WWII | Post 107 – Etna-Carmel | John H.Smart | Korea |
| Post 19 – Sanford | Lewis Fink Jr. | Korea | Post 118 – Mars Hill | Louis Boyce | WWII |
| Post 19 – Sanford | Michael Meier | Vietnam | Post 119 – Guilford | Collin Bickford | Vietnam |
| Post 19 – Sanford | Robert Prevost | Vietnam | Post 120 – Rangeley | William Cummings | WWII |
| Post 19 – Sanford | Joseph Roy | Vietnam | Post 126 – Vassalboro | James Gray | WWII |
| Post 22 – Lewiston | Henry Gilbert | WWII | Post 127 – Limestone | George Saggese | Vietnam |
| Post 22 – Lewiston | Donald Platt | Korea | Post 128 – Standish | True Day | Vietnam |
| Post 23 – Baileyville | Maurice Boisvert Sr | Korea | Post 128 – Standish | Gerald Strumph Sr. | Vietnam |
| Post 23 – Baileyville | Richard Carroll | Korea | Post 128 – Standish | Frank Wargo Jr | Vietnam |
| Post 23 – Baileyville | Bernard McDowell | WWII | Post 132 – Richmond | Howard Kenney | Vietnam |
| Post 23 – Baileyville | Howard Seavey | Korea | Post 132 – Richmond | William J. McDonough Jr | Vietnam |
| Post 24 – Rumford | Benny Arsenaunt | Korea | Post 135 – Sabattus | Doandl Gosselin | Vietnam |
| Post 24 – Rumford | Albert Downs | WWII | Post 135 – Sabattus | Robert Tanguay | Korea |
| Post 24 – Rumford | Alfred Drapeau | Korea | Post 138 – Winterport | Reginald Cole | Vietnam |
| Post 24 – Rumford | Eugene Haines | Korea | Post 138 – Winterport | Gibran El-Hajj | Korea |
| Post 24 – Rumford | Patrick Pelletier | Korea | Post 145 – Peaks Island | Walter Crandall | Korea |
| Post 24 – Rumford | Gregory Ryder | Vietnam | Post 145 – Frenchville | Gary Blais | Lebanon/Grenada |
| Post 24 – Rumford | James Tyler | Korea | Post 149 – Waldoboro | Randolph H. Emerson | Vietnam |
| Post 24 – Rumford | Kenneth Waugh | WWII | Post 149 – Waldoboro | Henry Heywood | Persian Gulf |
| Post 24 – Rumford | Nathan Wing | Persian Gulf | Post 149 – Waldoboro | Robert W. Pearson | Korea |
| Post 25 – Bar Harbor | Edward Paine | Korea | Post 153 – Auburn | Donald Desrochers | Vietnam |
| Post 26 – Biddeford | John Buckley Jr | Vietnam | Post 153 – Auburn | Elliot King | Vietnam |
| Post 26 – Biddeford | Paul Potvin | WWII | Post 153 – Auburn | Philip Simond | Vietnam |
| Post 28 – Farmington | Richard W. Moore | Vietnam | Post 155 – Naples | Keith Burnell | Vietnam |
| Post 29 – Dover Foxcroft | Stephen Howard | Vietnam | Post 155 – Naples | Lawrence Coyle | Vietnam |
| Post 29 – Dover Foxcroft | Clifford Wiley | WWII | Post 155 – Naples | Earl Farmer | Vietnam |
| Post 30 – Camden F | loyd O. Pease | Korea | Post 155 – Naples | Fred E. Gilman | WWII |
| Post 32 – Pittsfield | Merlon Ouellette | Vietnam | Post 155 – Naples | Thomas Hubbard | Vietnam |
| Post 34 – St.George | Joseph Coffin | Vietnam | Post 155 – Naples | William C. Shane | Vietnam |
| Post 34 – St.George | Paul C. Dalrymple | WWII | Post 155 – Naples | Donald E. Vaughn | Korea |
| Post 34 – St.George | John McDonough | Vietnam | Post 178 – Winslow | Randall Corson | Vietnam |
| Post 36 – Boothbay | Arthur Edwards | Korea | Post 178 – Winslow | Bruce Jansen | Vietnam |
| Post 39 – Madison | Alvin McNeill | Korea | Post 178 – Winslow | Ralph Robichaud | Korea |
| Post 39 – Madison | William Power | Vietnam | Post 181 – Litchfield | Asa Bouchard | Vietnam |
| Post 39 – Madison | Raymond Soucy | WWII | Post 181 – Litchfield | Malcolm Harvey | WWII |
| Post 40 – Winthrop | Timothy Nadeau | Vietnam | Post 181 – Litchfield | Ronald Kenney | Korea |
| Post 42 – Damariscotta | William J. Plossay | Korea | Post 181 – Litchfield | Robert Mason | Vietnam |
| Post 42 – Damariscotta | Richard Poland | Korea | Post 181 – Litchfield | Roger Rogerson | Korea |
| Post 42 – Damariscotta | Robert N. Reed | Korea | Post 181 – Litchfield | Leo Small | WWII |
| Post 42 – Damariscotta | Raymond S. Waltz | Korea | Post 188 – Presque Isle | Gerald Todd Jr | Vietnam |
| Post 45 – Danforth | Larry Malone | Korea | Post 192 – Athens | Gordon Hayward | Korea |
| Post 47 – Houlton | Kris Watson | Vietnam | Post 197 – Westbrook | David Bonney | WWII |
| Post 49 – Van Buren | Reno Levesque | WWII | Post 197 – Westbrook | Richard Deering | Korea |
| Post 57 – Old Orchard Beach | Lewis Rumery | Korea | Post 197 – Westbrook | Ronald Martin | Vietnam |
| Post 63 – Ellsworth | Conrad Beaulieu | WWII | Post 197 – Westbrook | Aladino A. Orlando | Korea |
| Post 63 – Ellsworth | Selden Blethen | WWII | Post 201 – Dixmont | Elton Erskine | Korea |
| Post 63 – Ellsworth | Glenn Manning Jr | Korea | Post 201 – Dixmont | Matthew Grenham | Vietnam |
| Post 63 – Ellsworth | Wilbur Saunders | | Post 201 – Dixmont | Linwood Stone | Korea |
| Post 65 – Lubec | James Bezanson | WWII | Post 202 – Topsham | Anthony Bernier | |
| Post 65 – Lubec | William Corey | Korea | Post 205 – Augusta | Howard Annis Jr. | Korea |
| Post 65 – Lubec | Carlton Leighton | Korea | Post 207 – Trenton | Ivin Dyer | WWII |
| Post 72 – South Paris | Audrey E. Banks | Vietnam | Post 207 – Trenton | Edward Roggenbuck Jr. | WWII |
| Post 72 – South Paris | Willard F. Lapham | WWII | Post 207 – Trenton | John Rowe | Korea |
| Post 72 – South Paris | Richard Charity | Korea | | | |

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

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Attention: Next Deadline is Oct. 23

The deadline for material, stories and/or pictures to be submitted for consideration for use in the November 2020 issue of The Maine Legionnaire will be October 23, 2020.

Please be reminded that only those articles and/or pictures which are sent in proper form will be considered for publication.

Illegible stories or pictures that cannot be reproduced will be returned to you. A reminder that stories must be in story format; we are unable to compose your information for you.

As always, the editorial staff may edit all submissions at its discretion.

We are once again asking for input from all posts, auxiliary units, S.A.L.

squadrons, individuals, etc. To make this paper informative to you, it is imperative that we receive submissions from the membership.

Photo(s) should include the following: who is in the photo (left to right), what the photo is about, where the event took place, and who took the picture (optional). All photos will be returned for clarification and submission of the required information if the above mentioned is not provided.

Anyone interested in submitting a guest editorial should contact The Maine Legionnaire business office at:

(207) 873-3229 or via email at:
legionme@mainelegion.org or
rachael@mainelegion.org



Show your Support to our Veterans in the State of Maine!
MAKE A DONATION TODAY!
AMERICAN LEGION
**DEPARTMENT OF MAINE
FOUNDATION**
(A 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization)

You can Make a Difference! Show Your Support to Veterans in the State of Maine by Donating Today!

In these challenging times, we ask that you consider a donation to the American Legion Department of Maine Foundation.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions in Maine, an extremely important revenue stream has been greatly curtailed, revenue that supports the daily operations of our service office at Togus VA.

Please consider a donation, regardless of size to keep operations running. You can donate online by visiting <http://www.mainelegion.org/pages/foundation.php> or by mail. Checks should be made payable to American Legion Department of Maine Foundation and mailed to: American Legion Department of Maine Founda-

tion, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901-0727.

Please make sure to provide your name and address so that we may send you a tax receipt.

Thank you in advance for your generous contribution!



The American Legion, Department of Maine Foundation is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization exclusively for charitable purposes including the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations described under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code. All donations to the foundation are tax-deductible under the United

States Tax Code and Internal Revenue Service.

The Foundation's mission is to provide financial assistance, promote Americanism, Youth Programs, National Security, and Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation that will enhance the lives of our Veterans, their families, children and communities in the State of Maine today and for future generations.

DISCLAIMER

Neither The Maine Legionnaire editorial director, nor managing editor is responsible for misinformation, discrepancies, or embellishments, intentional or unintentional that may be contained in communications in any form that appear in The Maine Legionnaire.

Due to time constraints and staff limitations to fact check all material sent in, we depend on the honesty and integrity of those who submit material for publication and on the expertise of our members and readers to correct misstatements or misinformation whether intentional or not.



HEALTHY LIVING AT HOME

WELCOME TO HEALTHY LIVING AT HOME



Endorsed By Your American Legion Department

Who We Are: We're excited to announce our partnership with the Legionnaire Insurance Trust, joining the ranks of those dedicated to assisting the men and women who answered the call to serve our country.

As a valued member of your American Legion Department, you have access to a variety of services and discounts. The goal is simple—to help you and your fellow Legionnaire when you need it most.

Because of the current challenges we now face, it's even MORE important that you feel safe living at home. Our passion is helping you live a healthy, active, and safe life at home. That is why we've created a place where you can find home medical equipment products that make a direct, positive difference.

PLUS, we deliver your orders right to your door, so there is no need to leave your home!

What We Offer: Whether you worry about slippery bathroom floors, getting in and out of a vehicle, or managing pain that never seems to go away, we have you covered.

How You Benefit: Being a member your American Legion Department means you receive a unique discount on many of the hoe products and services we offer.

Follow these simple steps to take advantage of this offer:

**Visit <https://lit.hlathome.com/members/> to set up an account.

**Use the special access code LIT-37993 (this gives you access to your discount--DON'T SKIP THIS STEP)

**Once your account is setup, find the items you need and add them to your cart.

**Check out and wait for your items to be delivered right to your door!

The Healthy Living at Home Team



Calais American Legion Project Backpacks: Calais Post 3 Commander Mike McLean, left, donates backpacks to Pembroke Post 59 Adjutant Dale Shannon on Aug. 22 at the Calais IGA in support of Operation Home Front for School Supplies project. Mike is the coordinator with Operation Home Front for School Supplies with the Calais Dollar Tree.