

# THE MAINE Legionnaire



FEBRUARY 2020 Vol. 35, Issue 1

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MAINE

36 Pages

## Mentorship Creates Effective Leaders

In early November, I had the privilege to address the American Legion National Legion College Class of 2019. I asked them to deliver a message to their communi-



NATIONAL COMMANDER JAMES W. "BILL" OXFORD

ty upon returning home from National Headquarters in Indianapolis. And it's the same message I want all of you to deliver: The American Legion is just as important and just as visible as we were 100 years ago. We are still the most valuable veterans organization to America's veterans.

And we, as Legionnaires, are cementing the foundation for America through The American Legion's Americanism programs such as Boys State, Legion Baseball, Oratorical Contest and more. The teaching, training, education and mentoring that we do for America's youth are developing the future leaders of this

country. We are deciding where the future of this organization is going. We are part of the future. We will be shaping the programs and policies of this organization for decades to come.

I hope you're up to the task.

The shaping of The American Legion's future is achieved through mentorship and leadership. American Legion College Chancellor and Past National Commander David Rehbein shared with the class what a leader is – "As a leader you have to be honest. You have to be confident. You have to be inspirational. You have to be visionary ... you have to see the future and have a vision of what that future is."

The success to becoming an effective leader is through mentorship. Rehbein shared what to look for in a mentor within The American Legion.

A mentor has to be someone who:

Is familiar with the challenges you face;

Is confident that you can overcome those challenges and have the initiative to take on those challenges;

Gives advice and not commands (this goes for yourself as a mentor);

You can confide in;

You can trust; and

Is working for your good and not using you to further their own career.

—www.legion.org/dispatch  
Dec 09, 2019

## Maine American Legion Announces its 73rd Annual Boys State Program

The American Legion, Department of Maine is proud to announce the 73rd Annual American Legion Dirigo Boys State program. This year's program will once again be held at Thomas College in Waterville during the week of June 21-25. Every American Legion Post and all subordinate bodies should alert their membership to one of the finest youth programs in the nation.

The American Legion sponsors the Boys State program and we encourage all other groups and organizations to join in promoting the program through sponsorship of candidates to American Legion Dirigo Boys State.

We ask that the officers of your Post contact school principals or guidance counselors for assistance in this program. Make sure that your school officials are knowledgeable of The American Legion Dirigo Boys State program.

The tuition fee for the 2020 program will be \$300 per student. Contact The



American Legion Boys State, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0727, Tel: (207) 873-3229, or online at www.mainelegion.org or www.dirigoboystate.com for application materials.

Thank you for your assistance in making the 73rd Annual American Legion Dirigo Boys State Program a success.

## 2020 State Oratorical Contest A Great Success!

The 2020 American Legion State Oratorical Competition "A Constitutional Speech Contest" was held Sat., Feb. 8 at Thomas College in Waterville. The first place winner, representing District 2 and So. Portland Post 35 was awarded to Lucas Wright of Scarborough, Me. Mr. Wright is a Senior at Scarborough HS and will represent Maine in the National Ora-

torical Contest in Indianapolis on April 17-19 for a chance to win up to \$20,000 in scholarships. Congratulations to all contestants who competed at the state level and a special thanks to all volunteers who took the time out of their busy schedule to help make this year's Oratorical Program a great success!



**2020 American Legion State Oratorical Results:** This years State contestants for the HS Oratorical Contest were front row, left to right, rep. District 14 and Greenville Post 94 Christian Trijillo—7th pl., rep. District 3 and Livermore Falls Post 10 Scott Jackson—3rd pl., Rep. District 10 and Pittsfield Post 32 Randal Starbird—2nd pl., Rep. District 9 and Litchfield Post 181 Shawn Jiminez—4th pl., Rep. District 1 and Sanford Post 19 Rory McPherson—5th pl., Rep. District 2 and So. Portland Post 35 Oratorical Winner Lucas Wright, and rep. District 7 and Boothbay Harbor Post 36 Ciara Pitcher—6th pl. Back row, left to right, Oratorical judges Jennifer Rinko, Kurt Schaub, Mark Marsolais Ph.D., Sean Currie, and Kirk Thurston.

Photo by Amedeo Lauria



**State Oratorical Winner:** Department Commander Matthew Jabaut, center, presents this year's American Legion, Department of Maine HS Oratorical winner Lucas Wright of Scarborough, Maine, with a 1st place Patrick Henry Oratory medal, certificate, and a check in the amount of \$1500. At left is Department Oratorical Chairman Dale Midgley.



Photos by Amedeo Lauria

## A 'First' Look

My Fellow Legionnaires, I am honored to continue to serve as your 1st Vice Commander.

We are now beginning a new decade – 2020. Time flies!

Despite the bad weather again this year at the Department of Maine Mid-Winter Conference, all

went well. The speakers were great, and dinner was wonderful. Flexibility was the key, and all made it home safely. Thank you to all who made it to Brewer to attend.

We continue to focus on membership and the goals that we have. I congratulate the posts that achieved 100% before Dec. 31, 2019. There are many great ideas out there for recruiting new members that our Maine posts are using. I am including a summary of those at the end of this message. If your post has more ideas, please send them to me, and I can email them to all the posts or you can send them out to all. It is in working together that we can accomplish our goals.

I continue to email post commanders and adjutants, district commanders, and area commanders what I receive for membership reports from National. As far as Maine's total percentage on these national reports, Rachael (Maine Headquarters) has advised us to use Maine's total percentage as listed on the National membership reports that I send and not the total percentage that you see at the end of the membership reports posted on the Maine Legion website.

As we discussed at the Mid-Winter Conference, there are some discrepancies between what National sends and what we see on those detailed membership reports on the Maine Legion website. The information contained in the Maine Legion website membership reports is taken from National's numbers. However, there may be a time lag on National's processing of both your online renewals and the ones submitted to State Headquarters, as well as the DMS transfers. The end result will be accurate. It just may take some time for all the data to catch up.

We are now at the most difficult point in our membership renewals. That last 15% is always the toughest. The next four target dates for Maine are included below. Maine needs that one extra day to get all the information to National. That is why Maine's dates are set one day earlier than National's.

Target VI:	Feb. 11, 2020	85%
Target VII:	March 10, 2020	90%
Target VIII:	April 7, 2020	95%
Target IX:	May 12, 2020	100%

As of today, Maine needs an additional 300 members to reach 85%. To reach 100%, we need 2,822 more paid members. I know it sounds overwhelming, but our current numbers total almost 14,000 paid members. As our state adjutant mentioned at the Mid-Winter Confer-



**DEBRA  
COUTURE**

ence, we have over 170 posts in Maine. If each post can bring in their share of the total, the number per post can be achieved. We can get there. I have faith in all of you, and I thank you for what you have accomplished this year.

If you would like the spreadsheet that was presented at the Fall Conference that contains monthly goals and suggestions for increasing membership, please call me at 207-582-3897 or email me. If you do not have email, I can mail you a copy.

Here is the list of great suggestions that I received from eight posts in November 2019 and also some ideas that Maine was already utilizing. The posts contacted had recruited at least eight new members by Nov. 1, 2019.

\*How did you go about identifying the prospective members that were eligible to join the Legion?

1. Student Veterans Associations: There are now two Student Veteran's Associations on University of Maine campuses – Ft. Kent and USM (Portland and Gorham campus). All campuses have Veteran Coordinators, and the move is to engage all campuses with volunteer representatives to work with and ultimately recruit these veteran students into the Legion. It also may be a way of starting new Legion Posts on university campuses.

2. Setting up tables at polling sites. This is a great draw. Our veterans are very diligent about voting, and the majority stay by the table to check out what is going on. The best idea is to also add some free desserts at the table.

3. Maine Veteran license plates and door hangers. Before the passage of the Legion Act, it was difficult to utilize this method because you could not distinguish between a veteran who was eligible for Legion membership and one who was not eligible. It is now a great way to contact veterans. If you see a Maine Veteran license plate, you can hang a door hanger on the car or house door. The door hangers can include whatever info that you want – post contact info, meeting times, post hours of operation, etc. A great idea is to staple an envelope to it that includes your latest newsletter and schedule of events and an application form.

4. Review of each community's veteran's property tax exemption lists.

5. Interacting and meeting with Active Duty, National Guard and Reserve members.

6. Volunteer work with the food pantry, Honor Flight, school events, and other local events and ALWAYS wear your Legion hat.

7. Work closely with your town/city government to let them know that you and your Post are available to assist veterans and their families with benefits and also to assist the town with helping to find assistance for the general public, too. This opens the door to helping many vets and the towns/cities are very appreciative of the Legionnaire's efforts to help all the townspeople. These efforts may make them more receptive to helping the Post.

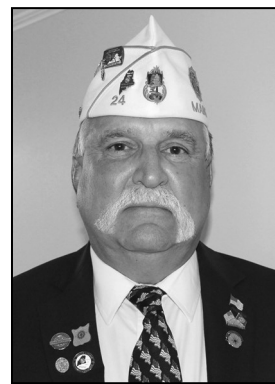
8. Setting up booths at major stores – Sam's, Wal-Mart, Lowe's, Home Depot, etc.

9. Free dinners on a quarterly basis.

**More on A 'FIRST' LOOK, Page 9**

## A 'Second' Look

Greetings, I hope everyone had a wonderful Holiday Season and that we're now ready to assume the important work that American Legion members do year round. I'm very grateful to all of the topic experts that made the Mid-



**KIRK  
THURSTON**

Winter Conference a success. If you were unable to attend, find someone that was there and have them attend your next monthly Post/District meeting. Amedeo "Deo" Lauria gave a great presentation on how Maine's Legislative Committee works locally and in Washington D.C. with the upcoming meeting in March of this year. He also talked about the making a difference in Maine with the American Legion Department of Maine Foundation, helping veterans today and for future generations. For more information on this, which is also Commander Jabaut's project, visit the Maine Legion's webpage. David Patch, committee chair for the National Security, explained the role that the American Legion plays with our National Security and how it works hand-in-hand with the Legislative Committee. It was very interesting, to say the least.

We received updates from ALR Director Mike Lallemand, Auxiliary President Ginny Chaput, Finance report from Greg Couture, Americanism programs and Sea Dog Baseball (August 9, 2020) from Alfred McKay, Oratorical Chair Dale Midgley, Women Veteran's Chair Nancy Laffin and two new topics; one from Jim Corliss about Trees for Troops, which is a charitable organization that work to get 17,000 real Christmas trees to military bases across the United States and additional overseas bases. We heard from Ed Harmon from Boothbay about the Homeless Trailer that he and fellow Post 36 member Arthur Richardson, who

has an electrical license and a background in carpentry, teamed up to build a prototype that the pair hopes, will become the first of many such trailers throughout the state. The prototype was on hand for members to tour. Prior to lunch we heard from Joe Donahue from Brunswick Post 20 about Youth Shooting program being held at his Post, our DSO Carl Curtis updated us with a great presentation, we were then greeted by SAL Detachment Commander Ron Marr with NEC Don Allisot Jr. and Dickie Huntley candidate for National Vice Commander East.

After a fantastic lunch we had a membership presentation from 1st Vice Commander Deb Couture. She also updated us on the Task Force for the Future committee. She was followed by Leroy McKenzie with a very informative presentation on Student Veterans of America. There was a handout and presentation on Consolidated Post Reports and the importance of this report. This handout is from National and can be found on the Maine Legion website for further review. Our guest speaker was National Judge Advocate Kevin J. Bartlett. He talked on the use of the emblem and the trademark name, The American Legion. His catch phrase "No Touchy". What does it mean? It means that nothing can be touching any part of the emblem. Many American Legion Family members don't think they need to concern themselves with the dos and don'ts of using the name or emblem of the American Legion. Knowing the basic fundamentals should be part of our American Legion knowledge. The emblem is the organization's brand. It seems this particular topic has been neglected for some time now and hasn't been enforced resulting in widespread misuses, and in a way, abuse of the brand. To submit an American Legion emblem usage request, go to [legion.org/emblem/request](http://legion.org/emblem/request).

Remember, Membership is the lifeblood of our organization. Retention is just as important as signing new members. As we get older we seem to forget things more than before, so do those Buddy Checks. Enjoy the rest of winter, and I'll see you in our travels.



**CPR  
Presentation:  
National Executive  
Committeeman  
Lloyd Woods,  
right, listens to the  
presentation given  
by Department  
2nd Vice Com-  
mander Kirk  
Thurston, left,  
regarding the Con-  
solidated Post Re-  
port to those at-  
tending the Mid-  
Winter Confer-  
ence in Brewer on  
Jan. 18.**

Photo by Dept. Historian  
Jeffrey Stevenson

## NEC Update

Greetings Legionnaires.

Another year has begun, and I hope you and your families enjoyed the New Year beginnings and wish you all a healthy and happy and prosperous New Year ahead.

We have had another Mid-Winter Conference by the time this has been published, and I hope that as many as possible attended. I know the agenda was well planned and there was much information passed on to all of those who attended. I believe Department Commander Matthew Jabaut and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Kirk Thurston planned a great conference and are to be commended for the great job.

I am your representative on the National Executive Committee and represent you and our department on that committee. I have also been assigned, by the National Commander to two other assignments, one being the Chairman of the Liaison Committee for the Veterans Employment & Education Commission and as a member of the Subcommittee on Resolutions of the National Executive Committee. I mentioned the resolutions committee assignment and the purpose of that committee in my last article. I also reported on the resolutions that were taken up at the Fall Meeting of the NEC in Indianapolis.

The VE&E Commission supervises and coordinates all activities of committees assigned to the Commission. When necessary, it initiates action concerning all matters affecting the economic well-being



**LLOYD WOODS**

of veterans and/or the re-establishment of all war veterans returning to civilian life after a period of active service in the Armed Forces of the United States. The commission is also charged with keeping the National Commander and the

NEC informed concerning all developments affecting the economic welfare of veterans in all areas under their jurisdiction. The commission is also charged with other purposes as may be assigned to it by the National Executive Committee. The Commission meets at the Washington Conference along with the VA&R Commission. Assigned to the Veterans Employment & Education Commission for supervision and coordination are the Employment & Veterans Preference Committee, the Veterans Education, Other Benefits & Homelessness Committee and the Veterans Employment & Education Council.

Again, I wish each and every one a Happy New Year and hope to see you somewhere in the future.

## National Commanders Campaign

This is the time of the year when we consider giving a donation to the leading candidate for National Commander of The American Legion.

This year's leading candidate is Mr. Paul E. Dillard from the Department of Texas. He, like all of his predecessors, is faced with a large financial challenge to get to this most prestigious office and will do a lot of travelling and have expenses which he may need assistance in covering.

Paul is a 40+ year Paid Up For Life Member of C.R. Simmons - C.G. Harwicke Post 29 in Sherman Texas and has served his Post, District and Department with distinction having served as Commander at all three levels as well as National Vice Commander in 2013 - 2014. Paul is a true believer in the programs of The American Legion including those that provide for our veterans, our active duty service member, our National Guard and reserve members and their families.

Please consider donating to the candidacy of Paul Dillard so that the Department of Maine can support his quest for election to the high position of National Commander.

Maine's Past National Commander, Tony Jordan received numerous donations from many Departments during his campaign for National Commander in 1997, and it would be appropriate for legionnaires and posts within the Department of Maine to show our support for Paul in return.

For those posts or individuals wishing to make a donation to the National Commander's Campaign, please send your checks, made payable to The American Legion, Department of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0727 and earmark it for National Commander's Campaign. All donations will be presented to Paul prior to his visiting our department at the soonest possible time.

Lloyd Woods  
National Executive Committeeman

**RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP  
ONLINE TODAY!**

**VISIT [WWW.MAINELEGION.ORG](http://WWW.MAINELEGION.ORG)  
OR VISIT [WWW.LEGION.ORG/RENEW](http://WWW.LEGION.ORG/RENEW)**

## On the Agenda

### MARCH MEETINGS

- District 3 - Androscoggin: Mar. 15, Sabattus Post 135, 2 p.m.
- District 5 - Oxford: Mar. 18, Norway Post 82, 7 p.m. Election of officers, refreshments after.
- District 6 - Knox: Mar. 14, Location TBD, 10 a.m.
- District 7 - Lincoln: Mar. 5, Waldoboro Post 149, 6:30 p.m.
- District 8 - Sagadahoc: Mar. 22, Topsham Post 202, 1 p.m.
- District 9 - Kennebec: Mar. 11, Waterville Post 5, 7 p.m.
- District 11 - Waldo: Mar. 15, Stockton Springs Post 157, 2 p.m.
- District 12 - Hancock: Mar. 10, Blue Hill Post 85, dinner 6:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m. mtg.
- District 13 - Penobscot: Mar. 1, Hermon Post 200, meet at Hermon Rescue Squad Bldg., 262 Billings Rd., 2 p.m. Refreshments served.
- District 14 - Piscataquis: Mar. 21, Brownville Jct. Post 92, lunch noon, 1 p.m. mtg.
- District 16 - S. Aroostook: Mar. 7, Presque Isle Post 88, 1 p.m. Meal is at discretion of the Post.

### APRIL MEETINGS

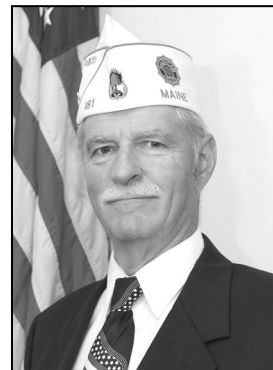
- District 2 - Cumberland: Apr. 7, Gray Post 86, 5 p.m. PC and PP dinner, nomination of officers.
- District 3 - Androscoggin: Apr. 19, Lewiston Post 22, 2 p.m.
- District 5 - Oxford: Apr. 15, Rumford Post 24, 7 p.m. Installation of officers, light supper 6 p.m.
- District 6 - Knox: Apr. 11, Location TBD, 10 a.m.
- District 8 - Sagadahoc: Apr. 26, Phippsburg Post 216, 1 p.m.
- District 9 - Kennebec: Apr. 8, Richmond Post 132, Nomination of officers, 7 p.m.
- District 11 - Waldo: Apr. 19, Unity Post 50, 2 p.m.
- District 12 - Hancock: Apr. 14, Ellsworth Post 63, dinner 6:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m. mtg.
- District 13 - Penobscot: Apr. 5, Bangor Post 12, 2 p.m. Refreshments served.
- District 14 - Piscataquis: Apr. 18, Dover-Foxcroft Post 29, lunch noon, 1 p.m. mtg.
- District 17 - N. Aroostook: Apr. 5, Eagle Lake Post 176, dinner 1 p.m., 2 p.m. mtg. Nominations.

### MAY MEETINGS

- District 2 - Cumberland: May 17, Scarborough Post 76, 2 p.m. Election of officers and memorial ceremony.
- District 3 - Androscoggin: Discretion of Incoming Commander
- District 5 - Oxford: May 19, West Paris Post 151, supper 6 p.m., 7 p.m. mtg.
- District 7 - Lincoln: May 6, Damariscotta Post 42, 5:30 p.m.
- District 8 - Sagadahoc: May 31, Brunswick Post 20, 1 p.m.
- District 9 - Kennebec: May 13, Maine Veterans Home, election and installation of officers, 7 p.m.
- District 11 - Waldo: May 17, Unity Post 50, 2 p.m.
- District 12 - Hancock: May 12, Stonington Post 102, dinner 6:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m., mtg., elections
- District 13 - Penobscot: May 4, Howland Post 97, 2 p.m. Refreshments served
- District 14 - Piscataquis: May 16, Greenville Post 94, lunch noon, 1 p.m. mtg.
- District 16 - S. Aroostook: May 2, Mars Hill Post 118, 1 p.m. Meal is at discretion of the Post. Elections.
- District 17 - N. Aroostook: May 3, Madawaska Post 147, dinner 1 p.m., 2 p.m. mtg. Elections.

## Money Matters

We are now past the end of the calendar year, and posts are into their new fiscal (financial) year. It is time to remember to finalize the 2019 finances and submit the 990-N (e-Postcard) or 990 EZ form to the IRS on-time. The state income tax report also needs to be submitted in a timely manner.



**GREGORY COUTURE**

Another important thing to get done soon is to re-register your post with the Secretary of State, Bureau of Corporations, Elections and Commissions to maintain your non-profit status.

If you have a post with a canteen, pull tabs and any other significant source of revenue, you should always consider having an outside entity perform an audit to ensure that you are following proper accounting practices (GAAP) in tracking income and expenses. An audit is not required in most post constitutions or by-laws, but in a post with significant revenues it is recommended.

If you have any financial concerns/question please contact me at [couturetc@roadrunner.com](mailto:couturetc@roadrunner.com).

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## Americanism Report

Comrades: As winter is slowly starting to fade away, and daylight is increasing, now is the time to be planning spring and summer programs. The Oratorical Scholarship Contest is over, and Dirigo Boys State is coming up soon.



ALFRED MCKAY

Ceremony? Invite local scouts to attend a Flag Retirement Ceremony, also they can help in placing flags on headstones if asked. Baseball season will also be starting in the next few months, are you sponsoring a team? What about scholarships other than the Oratorical Contest?

Let us get out there promoting the American Legion in local schools, both public and private, have a meet-a-veteran lunch or go in and read to them. Let's not forget to check in on our brothers and sisters that may need or like a visit. So, my fellow Legionnaires, as you soon will be busy raking the rocks off your lawn, remember our comrades that may need help with that task, also. See you in Brewer for the annual convention in June.

Has your post planned a Flag Day



**Americanism Update:** Department Americanism Officer Al McKay gives a brief update on Americanism and Sea Dog Baseball information to those attending Mid-Winter Conference in Brewer on Jan. 18. Left to right, Past National Commander Anthony "Tony Jordan, Department Americanism Officer Al McKay, and National Executive Committeeman Lloyd Woods.

## The Adjutant Speaks

I hope you all are surviving our great Maine weather going into the new 2020 year. After the holiday break, we held our Winter Conference in Brewer at Jeff's Banquet facility with a winter storm looming for that same weekend. The actual sign up was not as great as in the past, but Saturday morning we had



PAUL L'HEUREUX

over 40 people to add to those who had already registered. Not knowing of the actual count for attendance made it very difficult to plan for the noon meal, but the staff at Jeff's facility made some great adjustments and the positive remarks of the quality of the meal was awesome. Thank you Jeff for adding to the success of Saturday's conference. The attendance was overwhelming for not only the Legion, but the Auxiliary and the Sons as well. The program was well received especially our guest speaker, the National Judge Advocate Kevin Bartlett from our National Headquarters. He gave a great presentation on a number of topics related to National Constitution and Bylaws and also gave everyone a chance to ask questions related to membership, post operations, financial responsibilities and IRS issues. The entire day went well and we ended the conference with our scheduled banquet and left enough time for many attendees to head home before the storm. I do not want to forget any names so I will just say "thank you" to all those who had a great attitude and helped make this a very successful conference.

Our next project will be to get our team ready to head to Washington D.C. to meet with our National Legislative staff and gather information needed on issues

concerning Veterans past, present and future. They will then head to the "Hill" to meet with Maine's Congressional Delegation, Senator Susan Collins, Senator Angus King, Representative Chellie Pingree, and Representative Jared Golden to discuss The American Legion points of concern at the National & State level. The Department of Maine has never been so well represented with the talent and knowledge that this current team brings to Washington.

Our next project is the State Commanders challenge to raise money for the American Legion Department of Maine Foundation. Caroline Yarmala a member of Post-202 in Topsham has agreed to help the commander raise funds for the Foundation by running the Boston Marathon (26.2 miles) representing The American Legion of Maine.

So what do we need from our membership? We really need to show our support for Caroline for taken on this "fight to the finish line" by making a donation. You may visit <http://www.mainelegion.org/pages/foundation/fundraising-events.php> and follow the instructions to donate online, or if you prefer to donate by check please make it payable to: American Legion Department of Maine Foundation, earmarked "Marathon Run" and mail it to: American Legion Department of Maine Foundation, 5 Verti Drive Winslow, Maine 04901. As we receive these donation, we will have them listed in a special Edition of this paper whether by individual, Post, District or any donation received from any one source.

Well, we are off to another busy year and please keep in mind that we are always looking for new members, new ideas and most of all the camaraderie that keeps this organization on track. Please remember that this country KEEPS MAKING VETERANS and we have a job to do every day.

FORWARD & FOCUSED

### Donation Presented To Headquarters:

Peter Ogden, left, donates a photograph of WWI American Legion members taken at the state house in Augusta on Nov. 11, 1919, 1st Anniversary Armistice Day to Department of Maine Adjutant Paul L'Heureux to display at The American Legion, Department of Maine Headquarters in Winslow. Peter Ogden is the chairman of the Maine Military Historical Society and member of The American Legion.



## President's Message

**G**reetings Legion Family, I hope that this communication finds all well and getting through another Maine winter. While we get cold here, and we've had to shovel out a bit this year, I am grateful to live in this wonderful state free of horrific wild fires, volcanoes, tornadoes, floods, poisonous critters and bugs.

January was a month of huge loss for our Legion family, may we keep those we have lost through the month alive in our memories and our actions as we carry on their works moving forward in our Organ-



**PRESIDENT  
VIRGINIA CHAPUT**

ization.

We had a wonderful Mid-Winter Conference that was both fun and informative. We had several new members join us for the first conference and making it fun and informative keeps those members coming back as well as spreading the word and recruiting new members to our Family.

I look forward to seeing many of you through the next couple of months for Department and Post specific events. Be sure to let the Department know of events you are holding so we may come to support your continued works. We do enjoy road trips so feel free to invite us to attend.

Until next time, thank you for all you have done and continue to do for our Veterans, their Families and Communities. It is what we do and they are why we matter.

God Bless,  
Virginia (Ginny) Chaput, President  
American Legion Auxiliary, Dept. of Maine



**NVC Candidate for SAL:** Son's of the American Legion National Executive Committeeman/National Vice Commander Candidate Richard "Dickie" Huntley speaks to those in attendance at Mid-Winter Conference on his quest for seeking office of National Vice Commander of the Eastern Region. SAL Chairman of the committee to elect Richard is Don Allisot, pictured back.

Photo by Department Historian Jeffrey Stevenson

## Supporters Seek Aid for Huntley in Bid for National Position

**M**ACHIASPORT - 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.



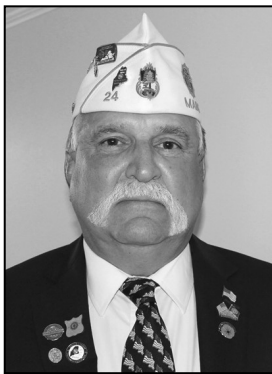
### Maine American Legion Auxiliary

**Update: Auxiliary President Virginia "Ginny" Chaput gives a brief overview of important information and Auxiliary happenings to those in attendance at Mid-Winter Conference in Brewer on Jan. 18.**

Photo by Department Historian Jeffrey Stevenson

## Law & Order Update

**M**y name is Kirk Thurston, Chairman of the Department Law and Order Committee. This years' committee members are, Randall Kluj from Orneville, Curtis Merrill from Naples, Phil Dow from Burlington and Joe Donahue from Brunswick.



**KIRK  
THURSTON**

prepare. Add a few newspaper articles on an individual and a supervisor's letter of recommendation and you have a package for submittal. I am willing to assist any Post in the preparation of their applications.

Remember, May 1 is the deadline for packages to be at Department Headquarters. The forms can be found on the Department of Maine, American Legion's website by visiting [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org) under Forms/Applications. If you have any questions on form or content of the applications, packages or other ideas, please do not hesitate to contact me at 369-0831, e-mail [fuzzzyt3@roadrunner.com](mailto:fuzzzyt3@roadrunner.com) or call upon any of the committee members in your area. Refer to this years' Department First State Directory for their phone numbers or check with Department for the information.

The time has come for all Legionnaires to press our local area First Responder organizations, i.e. Police Officers, Firefighters, EMTs and Game Warden, for information regarding the outstanding heroes in our communities. Contact the leadership of these groups and ask how you can help them honor their people. The forms are simple and easy to

Last year's number of entries can be greatly improved, so let's get out there and get some deserving people recognized. Thank you in advance for your assistance in this important endeavor.

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# Service Office Update

Hello, from the service office. We have been working hard lately on behalf of all of you. A few issues that I would like to remind you of. The first is that Blue Water Navy claims are being worked. If you served in the Navy during the Vietnam war and get a call to go to an exam, GO. The companies that the VA used in this area are: LHI, VES, and QTC. If you don't go to the exam, you will not get rated. If you have trouble getting to the exam, call me. I may be able to reschedule it with VA Maine.



**SERVICE OFFICER  
CARL CURTIS**

Keep in mind that if you were granted Individual Unemployment, you cannot have been gainfully employed. That is to say that if you are working, you can not make more than the nation poverty level for a single person. The VA runs a check with Social Security to verify income. If you make too much the VA will reduce you out of the IU status.

I mentioned at Mid-Winter Conference that we need to do a better job at outreach. That is where you all come into play. Only 27 thousand veterans are service connected for injuries caused by service. That may sound like a good number until you look at the fact that there are over 100 thousand veterans in the State of Maine. We all know that the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander is pushing for us all to do buddy checks. As you are talking to these veterans ask if they get help from the VA. You may be surprised by the answer. Their is a large number of our own legionnaires that are not service connected.

**PLEASE READ AND RESPOND TO YOUR MAIL FROM THE VA!**

**APPEALS OF CLAIMS.**

**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.** There will not be another PSO course this year. They will start up in April of 2020. If you are interested in attending, then let me know. You do not have to be a post service officer to attend training. You just have to care and want to make a difference.

**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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](mailto:carl.curtis2@va.gov), [maureen.malley@va.gov](mailto:maureen.malley@va.gov), or [julie.kern@va.gov](mailto: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](mailto:carl.curtis2@va.gov)  
or call: 207-623-5726  
To make a seminar reservation!



**A Break Before Results:** Department Sgt.-At-Arms Patricia Thurston, left, District 1 Commander John Bshara, center, and Department Assistant Service Officer Maureen Malley take a small break while the results for the Oratorical contest are tabulated at Thomas College in Waterville, Feb. 8.

Photo by Amedeo Lauria



**Department Service Office Update:** Department Service Officer Carl Curtis gives an overview of current benefits to Legionnaires present at Mid-Winter Conference in Brewer on Jan. 18.

Photo by Department Historian Jeffrey Stevenson

## Historical Bulletin

I would like to point out something which Legionnaire's across the Nation see every day, but few take notice of: our Home-town Hero's. Not hero's in the strictest sense of the word, but outstanding representatives of the American Legion. Post 24, Rumford is an excellent example of a post with families dedicated to service. These are only a few examples.



**JEFFREY STEVENSON**

**Joy Bordeau:** Department of Maine Service Officer of the Year. 5th District Sergeant at Arms, Post Service Officer & Post Chaplain. She also served on the Woman's Advisory Committee and has started a Medical Equipment Loan Closet through the post in conjunction with the local hospital which is taking off like wildfire. (Legion & Auxiliary member)



### Auxiliary

**Rorrie Blodgett:** Past Unit President, current Department VA&AR and Post 1st Vice. She also serves as alternate for the Medical Equipment Loan Closet.

### Jr. Auxiliary

**16-year-old, Jessica Bordeau:** Department of Maine Junior Sergeant at Arms.

**12-year-old, Alyvia Blodgett:** Due to her prowess in football, was honored by National Woman's Football League, Maine Mayhem in recognition for being a girl of FALL, which is any girl who plays in a male dominant sport.

### Notable events include:

Vietnam Veteran's Luncheon, Installation, Memorial Day Parade, Post 100-year Anniversary & Flag Disposal observance, Tricia Thurston Citizen of the Year Award from the town of Rumford, Taco Night & PSO Training.

This year's Memorial Day Parade in Rumford that was put together by Post 24 was first rate in all aspects, from Parade participants to the local community who lined the streets in support, it was a truly impressive event.

For those who don't know them well: Kirk & Patricia are Husband & Wife. Joy Bordeau is the Mother of Rorrie Blodgett and Jessica Bordeau. Rorrie Blodgett is the Mother of Alyvia Blodgett. Only one person mentioned does not hold a District or higher position in the Legion.

There are many posts throughout our great Nation with people equally deserving of recognition, again, I cannot over stress: these are only but a few. Posts do great things every day, but word seldom gets out because of lack of promotion of events / advertising. Local news stations, newspaper, radio, internet or posting flyers are but a few resources available. Be proud of your post, it's members and supporters, get the word out on what you do!

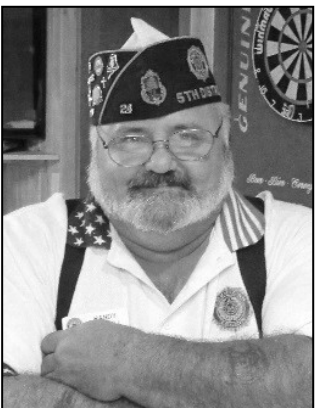
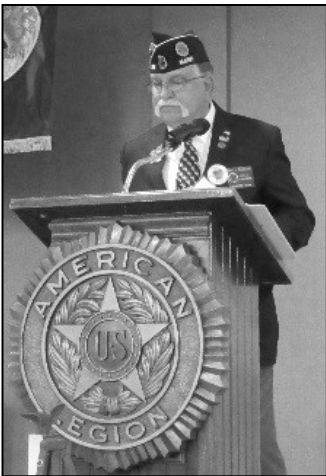
Also worth mentioning is my friend & neighbor Harry Higgins, a WWII Army veteran. He was out to dinner and someone took notice of his WWII Veteran hat came up to him and thanked him for his service. Then he payed for Harry's dinner. Harry was so thrilled about this, he called to tell me all about it! To that good Samaritan, if you can read this, Thank You for your support! People like you deserve recognition as well, even if your efforts are meant to be anonymous and just out of respect.

### Patricia Thurston:

Department of Maine Legionnaire of the Year, Department Sergeant at Arms, Post 24 Commander & Chairwoman for Woman's Advisory / Women Veterans Action Committee. She was also honored by the town of Rumford as Citizen of the year. (Legion & Auxiliary member)



**Kirk Thurston:** Department of Maine 2nd Vice, Past Post Commander, SAL Commander, Law & Order Committee Chairman, Boy's State Committee, Constitution & By Laws Committee, Membership Committee, Post Revitalization Committee and the Task Force for the Future. (Legion & Auxiliary member)



**Randy Canwell:** Area 2 Commander (which is comprised of 27 Posts), 5th District Commander & Post Adjutant.

## Law Expands Access to Department of Defense and Coast Guard Commissaries

A new law provides eligible veterans and primary family caregivers with access to Department of Defense and Coast Guard commissaries, exchanges, and morale, welfare, and recreation retail services, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs reports.

Effective Jan. 1, 2020, all service-connected veterans, Purple Heart recipients, former prisoners of war (POW), and individuals approved and designated as the primary family caregivers of eligible veterans under the Department of Veterans Affairs Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) can use commissaries, exchanges, and morale, welfare and recreation (MWR) retail facilities, in-person and online.

The Department of Defense announced the law, called the Purple Heart and Disabled Veterans Equal Access Act of 2018.

The law applies to veterans with up to 90 percent service-connected disability ratings. For former service members who have not yet sought disability compensation from VA, the requirements are available at <https://www.va.gov/disability/eligibility/>.

Medal of Honor recipients and veterans with 100 percent service-connected disability ratings are already eligible under

existing DOD policy.

Veterans must use their Veteran Health Identification Card for in-person installation and privilege access. The card must display the veteran's eligibility status. Those who do not possess a Veteran Health Identification Card will not have access to DoD and Coast Guard installations for in-person commissary, exchange, and MWR retail privileges, but they will have full access to online exchanges and American Forces Travel.

Primary family caregivers must present an eligibility letter to facilitate Department of Defense and Coast Guard installation and privilege access. Eligibility letters will be mailed to enrolled primary family caregivers from the VA.

If you are a primary family caregiver under the PCAFC and lose your eligibility letter, please call 1-877-733-7927 to request a replacement. Please allow two weeks for processing. For more information regarding these privileges and access to military installations, visit <http://www.militaryonesource.mil/expanding-access>.

For a fact sheet on the law, visit <http://download.militaryonesource.mil/12038/MOS/Factsheets/expanding-access-factsheet.pdf>.

## Legion Commander: 'Learn from the Minneapolis death'

INDIANAPOLIS — The leader of the nation's largest veterans organization has called on health care administrators to study the findings of a recent VA inspector general's report to ensure that circumstances that contributed to a veteran's 2018 suicide do not re-occur.

"One veteran suicide is one too many," said American Legion National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford. "But what happened in Minneapolis should have been prevented. A patient committed suicide in a VA parking lot just hours after a nurse overheard the veteran giving away property and mentioning impending death in a telephone conversation. We do not know the name and the gender of the patient profiled in the report, but that isn't what's important. What is important is for people to learn from it. The IG found deficiencies in care coordination, internal review effectiveness and sufficiency and Patient Safety Committee and Quality Management Council."

Oxford pointed out that the Minneapolis patient had a history of substance abuse and tried to decrease their use of opioids. "Medications alone will not solve this crisis among veterans. In many cases, they contribute to the problem," Oxford

said. "The American Legion has been on the record for many years supporting the use of alternative and nontraditional therapies to help veterans recover from depression, PTSD and other issues with which they may be struggling. An estimated 20 veterans a day take their own lives. Every one of these instances are tragic. More veterans die from their own hands than are killed by our nation's enemies. We must do a better job of embracing and listening to these men and women."

Veterans who are in crisis or have had thoughts of suicide should call the Veterans Crisis Line at 1-8000-273-8255. They can also chat online at [veteranscrisisline.net/chat](http://veteranscrisisline.net/chat) or text 838255.

With a current membership of nearly two million veterans, The American Legion, [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org), was founded in 1919 on the four pillars of strong national security, veterans affairs, patriotic youth programs and Americanism. Legionnaires work for the betterment of their communities through more than 12,000 posts worldwide. From the drafting of the original GI Bill to the creation of the Department of Veterans Affairs, The American Legion is the most influential voice for America's veterans.

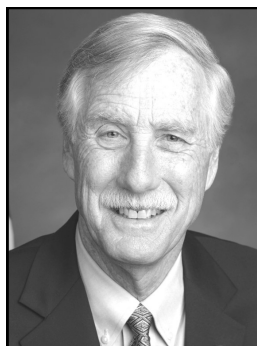


## We Need to Make It Easier to Ask for Help

Our nation's veterans have made immense sacrifices throughout the course of their service, and many of these men and women carry the weight of their service with them in daily life. Some of these challenges are physical and evident; others are mental, which are harder to observe but no less important to address.

Mental health challenges are real, they are deadly, and they are disproportionately impacting our nation's veterans. VA statistics show that nearly 17 veterans die by suicide each day, a rate that is 50% higher than the non-veteran population. This is nothing short of heartbreaking — because behind these statistics are thousands of losses that leave grieving families and loved ones.

There is help available for those who are facing these struggles personally. By dialing 1-800-273-8255 (and pressing 1), you reach the toll-free Veterans Crisis Line, which is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week by trained professionals ready to help those who need it. In a



SENATOR ANGUS KING

time of crisis, this number is a lifeline for someone experiencing a mental health emergency.

But in a time of crisis, that can be a tough number to remember. And that can cost lives.

That's why I've backed a bipartisan proposal to simplify how you can access the help that already exists. Rather than being forced to remember or look up that long number, under this bill you'd be able to just dial 9-8-8. This 3-digit code would replace both the Veterans Crisis Line and National Suicide Hotline, so anyone can react to a mental health crisis just as quickly as they'd react to any crisis that requires 9-1-1. The legislation has 16 co-sponsors in the Senate and more than 100 bipartisan backers in the House of Representatives — folks from across the aisle and across the country are ready to enact this idea into law.

There's still a long road through Congress to make this a reality — but we're making real progress. In the meantime, if you or someone you know is facing mental health challenges and needs help, there are resources available — please, dial 1-800-273-8255 (and press 1). But it's my hope that soon, we can make it even easier for our veterans to access this help that's already available, but sometimes too hard to find.

U.S. Sen. Angus King

## Legion Seeks Eagle Scouts

The American Legion, Department of Maine is seeking nominations for the 2020 Eagle Scout of the Year. The state winner will receive a \$500 scholarship and is automatically entered in the national competition.

Scouts applying must be an Eagle Scout, who will be at least 15 years of age and enrolled in high school. Applicants must also be a registered, active member of a Boy Scout Troop, Varsity Scout Team, or Venturing Crew, chartered to an American Legion Post, Auxiliary Unit or SAL Squadron; or be the son or grandson of a



Legionnaire or Auxiliary member.

Applications are available by visiting [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org) under Forms/Applications, or by calling The American Legion, Department of Maine at (207) 873-3229. Applications must be received at Department Headquarters by March 1, 2020. For further information, contact Headquarters. The national winner receives a \$10,000 scholarship. Three-second place scholarship awards of \$2,500 are also awarded at the national level. For more information please visit <https://www.legion.org/>

### \*\*Attention District Commanders and Post Adjutants\*\*

MyLegion.org training lessons are available at State Headquarters. If you are interesting in learning how to use the site, please call The American Legion, Department of Maine Headquarters at 207-873-3229 Ext. 2 or email [rachael@mainelegion.org](mailto:rachael@mainelegion.org) to set up an appointment.

Training lessons last between 1-2 hours.

## Ending the Unfair 'Widow's Tax' to Help Fulfill our Obligation to Military Families

Military commanders often say that you "recruit the soldier," but you "retain the family." We have an obligation to make sure that we take care of our military families who have sacrificed so much for our country.

The National Defense Authorization Act that was signed into law in December 2019 includes a provision I co-authored with Senator Doug Jones of Alabama that helps fulfill our profound obligation to the surviving spouses of those who die of service-connected causes and surviving spouses of service members killed on active duty. Our bipartisan amendment repeals what is often called the "Military Widow's Tax," which prevented as many as 67,000 surviving spouses — including more than 260 from Maine — from receiving the full benefits they deserve.

For far too long, the Military Widow's Tax created financial hardships for surviving military spouses whose loved ones fought to keep our nation safe. This unfair offset applied to widows or widowers who qualified for two programs: the Survivors Benefits Plan (SBP) — an insurance benefit that provides cash benefits to a surviving spouse — and the Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) program — a monthly tax-free payment from the VA to survivors and dependents of service members who pass away from service-related conditions.

Many military retirees elect to pay into the voluntary SBP insurance program to provide for their families when they pass away. If they died of a service-connected illness, however, and qualified for the DIC program, their SBP benefit was offset dollar-for-dollar, even though retirees paid into that program out of their own pockets.

The average offset to SBP amounted to more than \$11,000 per year, which is a significant amount of money that widows or widowers need to help support their families and themselves in the absence of



SENATOR SUSAN COLLINS

their spouses. In some cases, this led to the total elimination of the SBP benefit. In other cases, the offset greatly reduced the benefit. In either case, it harmed the survivors of our service members and military retirees.

Clearly, if a military retiree voluntarily pays premiums into the SBP insurance program, then his or her spouse ought to be able to receive those benefits when the retiree passes away.

The bipartisan Military Widow's Tax Elimination Act Senator Jones and I introduced will fix this inequity that created severe financial hardships. The new law abolished the unfair offset and authorizes payment of both SBP and DIC in the case of a service-connected death.

I am grateful for the overwhelming support we received from our colleagues as well as veterans advocates. Under our leadership, our bill earned a record-high of 78 co-sponsors in the Senate. Our legislation was endorsed by numerous military and veterans advocacy groups, including the Gold Star Wives of America, the Military Officers Association of America, the National Military Family Association, the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, and the VFW, among others.

The brave men and women of our military — and their families — do their duty to defend our freedom. The repeal of the Military Widow's Tax was a long-overdue recognition of our national obligation to honor their service.

U.S. Sen. Susan Collins

## 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 this 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](mailto:rachael@mainelegion.org) or [legionme@mainelegion.org](mailto:legionme@mainelegion.org) or mail to The American Legion, Department of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0727.

## Scholarships Available

Applications are now available for the Department of Maine Children and Youth Scholarships, the Daniel E. Lambert Memorial Scholarship, and the James V. Day Scholarship. Any Post, individual or school who would like to receive a

copy may obtain one by going online to [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org) located under Forms/Applications, or by contacting us via email at [legionme@mainelegion.org](mailto:legionme@mainelegion.org) or Tel. at 207-873-3229.





## ■ “A ‘First’ Look” (Continued from Page 2)

The post has a service officer available at these dinners. In addition to recruiting new members, this post has succeeded in assisting over 30 members with VA benefits through this point of contact.

10. Operate concession stands at local sporting events – wear your Legion hat. Other veterans approach you to ask questions.

11. Utilize expired DMS listings.

12. Post review of their individual expired members through legion.org.

13. Post members research Department of Motor Vehicle records, when available.

14. Have monthly or weekly breakfasts or coffees. These really bring out the townspeople. It is a great way to identify and bring in new members.

15. Send correspondence to new residents of your town.

\*Once you identified the prospective members, how did you go about recruiting them?

Ask them when you meet them. Face to face conversations – This works best. Also - meetings and trainings at post; mail solicitation; telephone calls; email and text messaging; Home visits.

Buddy checks to include all of the above.

\*What channels of communication did you use to recruit?

1. Agricultural Fairs – Having booths set up at all the fairs with service officers to assist veterans.

2. Military Armories/Reserve Centers – Meetings with Maine Army National Guard and Reserve Units. These meetings are conducted as part of the unit’s drill weekend training agenda. The Legion presentation is included as part of the weekend training. Also, booths can be set up at military exchanges on active bases – i.e.: Bangor and Kittery PXs.

3. Veteran’s coffees held on a weekly basis at posts.

4. Facebook and websites.

5. Offering sporting events for families at posts – e.g.: Archery competitions,

Air rifle events. This brings the families out and family members may be eligible to join the Legion.

6. Communications in local newspapers announcing the activities that are happening at your post.

7. Radio announcements of activities.

8. Face to face at malls and large stores – Lowe’s, Home Depot, Sam’s, Wal-Mart.

9. Phone calls/mailings/emails.

\*Once you found the prospective members, how did you make sure they joined the Legion?

1. Make sure that we have addressed any needs that the veteran may have before we try to recruit them. Make sure they understand their benefits and help them to complete the forms needed to get those benefits. This approach works best.

2. Always have applications available and have the veteran complete and fill them out while discussing the needs and concerns that they may have. Accept payment at that time, if possible. If they don’t fill them out at that time, ask for names and contact info so you can follow up with them. Don’t just say that you are following up to get them to join, make sure it is a sincere approach and that they understand you have their best interests at heart.

3. Follow up/buddy check with all those who complete the applications and those who took applications – both those who pay and those who do not. (This needs to be done on a continuing basis.)

4. Invite the prospective and new members to the post for dinners/celebrations. Include them in what is going on and ask them to help in any way that they are able without pressuring them and ask if they have any other needs or concerns that need to be addressed.

5. Make them feel welcome.

6. Ask them for recommendations for how the post can bring others in, any suggestions they have for events, and what made them decide to join.

\*\*\*\*\*

Stay warm and safe through the winter. I am sure there is more snow to come.

Thank you and may God bless all of you.

Debra Couture



**Finalizing The Details: District 8 Commander Joe Donahue, left, and Department 1st Vice Commander Debra Couture finalize the last few details before the State Oratorical Contest begins at Thomas College in Waterville on Feb. 8. Deb was the moderator for this years Oratorical program and Joe was a holding room monitor. Thank you both for volunteering! Your Excellence Drives our SUCCESS!**

## Scarborough Resident Selected as Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Army appointed a Scarborough, Maine resident as a new Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army during an investiture ceremony on Jan. 14 in the Pentagon.

The Honorable Ryan D. McCarthy, Secretary of the Army, selected Brenda Pennels to represent Maine.

“I am extremely grateful and humbled to have been selected by the Secretary for this position,” Pennels said. “The U.S. Army is a tremendous institution providing opportunities for all who have served, those serving and those that will serve. This position provides a platform to tell the Army story from my personal and professional perspective. I look forward to engaging with the leadership and people of Maine to do just that, tell the Army story.”

Pennels served in the U.S. Army, Army National Guard and Army Reserves for 20 years as a military police officer in a variety of command and staff positions including serving as Provost Marshall for U.S. troops stationed in Honduras for Operation Ahauus Tara II in 1983. Pennels is a 1982 graduate of University of Massachusetts Amherst where she was a member of the Early Commissioning Program and Simultaneous Membership Program, earning her commission as a 2LT in 1981. Following her release from Active Duty in 1986, Pennels con-

tinued her career in Army Reserve, serving many years with the 98th Division (Training) in upstate New York. Pennels’ civilian career is in health care where she has held leadership positions with several major pharmaceutical and medical device companies. She currently works for Martin’s Point Healthcare based in Portland, Maine as the strategic relations manager for the Uniformed Services Family Health Plan. Pennels is the surviving spouse of Col. (Ret) Toby Pennels and serves as the Surviving Spouse representative for the Fort Drum Retiree Council and is also an active member of many military service organizations in Maine.

CASAs are a vital part of the Army, promoting good relations between the Army and the public and advising the Secretary about regional issues. Each state, the District of Columbia and the five U.S. territories have one or more CASAs appointed to provide a vital link between the Army and the communities for which they serve. CASAs are usually business or civic leaders who possess a keen interest in the welfare of the Army and their communities.

CASAs serve a two-year term without compensation. Terms may be extended to a total of 10 years of service. The secretary may recognize a civilian aide as a CASA Emeritus after 10 years of service with distinguished service.



**The U.S. Army appointed Scarborough, Maine resident Brenda Pennels, right, as a new Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army during an investiture ceremony on Jan. 14 in the Pentagon. The Honorable Ryan D. McCarthy, Secretary of the Army, left, selected Pennels to represent Maine. Pennels is a member of The American Legion Field-Allen Post 148 in Windham.**

**D**o you know of a Veteran interested in joining The American Legion but not sure which Maine Post to join?

**P**lease have them contact Maine State Headquarters at 207-873-3229 or have them visit our website at [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org) for Post location, contact information, benefits, and more.





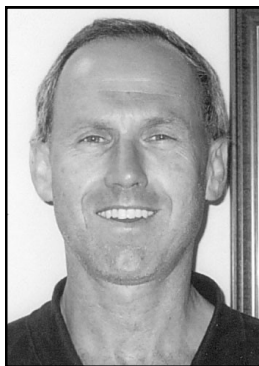
## 20 QUESTIONS WITH DAN WARREN TERRY SNOW (POSTHUMOUSLY)

By DAN WARREN

Special to The Maine Legionnaire

*(Columnist's Note: Terry Snow, beloved Cumberland lawyer, passed away April 9, 2019 of pancreatic cancer. I tried in 2018 to persuade him to let me interview for this Q and A series.*

*He would have none of it. His self-deprecating reason why: "As things stand, people assume I am an idiot; publishing an interview would just confirm it." Terry was anything but an idiot. His wife, Diane, has consented to this cobbling*



DAN WARREN

*together by me of dozens of conversations I had over 35 years with Terry—at lunch, or car rides, or on ski chairlift rides, or golf courses. I am hoping people, especially new to the profession, will read his responses below and perhaps say to themselves: "Oh, so THIS is how I am supposed to act as a lawyer..."*

**Q1:** You have practiced for more than 45 years. How do you like it so far?

A: It has given me a place to go every day. My family is grateful for that!

**Q2:** You married one of my teachers from Scarborough High—"Miss Roy." Many lawyers have often said you married over your head. Did you?

A: Probably ("Is Diane going to read this?...Then yes!");

**Q3:** You have, on one hand, what seems to be a typical small-town practice, but, on the other, I hear your name from time to time affiliated with some complex deals;

A: Being a small-town lawyer allows me to fly under the radar sometimes at those big closings in downtown Portland. They aren't as eager to pick me apart;

**Q4:** How do you like being a lawyer?

A: I love it. I really do. I like helping people, especially people I have known for years;

**Q5:** Do you like lawyers?

A: Yes. Most of them are smart, and have a good sense of humor. A few...this is a family publication, right?

**Q6:** You are known universally as a funny, self-deprecating guy who is also kind. Yet you often make fun of my golf game, or my ski equipment, or when I mismatch colors of suits, ties, etc. Have you ever thought of changing your ways?

A: That's a hard one because many people think I am funny BECAUSE I make fun of guys like you;

**Q7:** Who is the best lawyer you ever faced?

A: I am going to say my friend Rod Rovzar. He is smart, and has certainly handled some sizeable matters, but is a regular person. Will never "big time" any of my clients I send in to him;

**Q8:** Who is the best judge you ever dealt with?

A: I try to stay out of the courtroom. I just get into trouble there! I have always had a soft spot for the old-timers from years ago---Justices Glassman, McKinley, McCarthy, Silsby;

**Q9:** What is your career highlight as a lawyer?

A: Probably helping a client start a business that might be a dream of theirs, and seeing it actually open up. I have done this many times with restaurants and bars.

I would hate to narrow it to one because, as things stand, usually, when I walk into these places, they all give me drinks for free;

**Q10:** Any embarrassing moments in the profession?

A: Too many to count! My favorite, though, probably early in my practice, I did a title search with a little old lady I knew, and a family friend she was selling to. She had gone thru an ugly divorce from a bad dude she was married to; he was actually an old friend of mine! My title abstracter missed an IRS lien the guy had. Luckily, I had given her a copy of the title letter. She pointed it out. She was very kind about it. We straightened it out, and closed. I still got a plate of chocolate chip cookies. They were very good;

**Q11:** If you hadn't been a lawyer, what would you have done?

A: I'd like to say professional baseball player, but there are too many people who know I could not hit a Major League curveball.....Probably a pro golfer, or a bartender. Being a golfer is probably easier, and safer;

**Q12:** You have two adult daughters. Did you advise them to go to law school?

A: What makes you think my daughters have listened to me about anything, ever?

**Q13:** A lot of people didn't like law school. You, however, talk about it all the time;

A: I was in the Class of 1973 at the old University of Maine Law School, on High Street. Some of my best friends, still then, are from that class. I hit gold;

**Q14:** You served in the Navy in Vietnam. You don't talk about it;

A: I did what my country needed me to do. That should be enough of an answer;

**Q15:** A fellow soldier, John Kerry, served on "swift boats" with you in the

Mekong Delta, but was accused in a Presidential campaign of not being patriotic.

A: I contacted him and told him I would do whatever he needed me to do;

**Q16:** Did you help him?

A: That is between him and me. I will just say this—it galls me when someone who never served has the (body parts) to criticize someone who has. I would lay down my life for John, and him for me;

**Q17:** You were elected to the Maine Baseball Hall of Fame a few years ago for your pitching and hitting, both at Greely High School, and also in a minor league in Sherbrooke, Canada. A common story about you is that you once hit a baseball at Bennett Field in Yarmouth, beside 295, onto the top of the town library. Want to tell us the pitcher who threw it to you?

A: God, no! The poor guy would be humiliated—"You gave up a home run to Snow?!"

**Q18:** What would you call your best strength as a lawyer, and your biggest weakness?

A: Biggest weakness—I have a hard time saying no to people, and I don't bill them enough. Strength—same two;

**Q19:** If you were asked to design a course to be taught at the law school, what would it be entitled, and what might you bring to students that few others would?

A: First, the people in my law school class aren't going to see this, are they?! "Snow should focus first on ATTENDING some law school classes!"

Seriously—"How To Get Things Done in Law." I would tell them—you do not need to be a jerk to be a good lawyer;

**Q20:** What would you like it to say on your tombstone concerning what you have tried to accomplish for clients over 45 years?

A: "Hey, \_\_\_\_\_, could you call Diane and the girls, and tell them I am running about 20 minutes late here?"

## Register Now for 2020 Legion Baseball Season

Team registration is open at [www.baseball.legion.org](http://www.baseball.legion.org) for the 2020 season.

You have until April 1 to register your team. Please do it sooner than later. It cost nothing to register your team until May 1st when Insurance and fees are due. It should be less than \$500.00 to register and ensure your team. Failure to get your application by April 1 will result in NOT having a team this season. We need to know what we have for teams by April 1 for determining Zones and scheduling.

The spring meeting date will be March 29, 10 am @ Winslow Legion Headquarters. This meeting is mandatory

so that each team has representation by someone affiliated with the team.

The regular season will start Tuesday, June 16th and last 5 weekends. Schools participating in the State tournament will have to make up missed games ASAP after June 20. 18 game schedule. Games will be Tues., Thurs. and Sat (2). We are looking into having a showcase tournament on the weekend of July 11, possibly 2 venues. Let me know of any interest. NO games on July 4.

Any questions, concerns or suggestions, please contact Rod Stevens at 207-634-2006 (w) or 207-731-0731 (c)



## The American Legion Baseball Scholarship



In 2019, The American Legion awarded \$22,000 in scholarships to deserving players. Each Department Baseball Committee may select a player from their Department to receive this scholarship. The American Legion will award several scholarships this year depending on the number of applicants and interest earned from the trust fund.

### Award Amounts

Department Baseball Scholarship Winners receive \$500.

Each certified Department Baseball Scholarship winner shall be considered for The American Legion All-Academic Team sponsored by Diamond Sports, annually.

Eight players selected by a scholarship selection committee at The American Legion World Series will receive an addi-

tional \$2,500 scholarship.

A ninth player, selected as the most outstanding member of the All-Academic Team, will be awarded an additional \$5,000 scholarship.

All-Academic Team winners will retain their \$500 scholarship from their department.

Scholarship recipients will be eligible to receive their scholarships immediately upon graduation from an accredited high school. Scholarship winners must utilize the total award within eight (8) years of their graduation date, excluding active military time.

For a copy of the application, please visit <https://www.legion.org/scholarships/baseball> or <http://www.mainelegion.org/pages/programs/baseball.php>

—<https://www.legion.org/scholarships/baseball>



## Making Good on Promises to Maine Veterans

Maine veterans know what they need from their Members of Congress, and I trust Maine veterans to let me know how I can be most helpful. So when I want to know how to make a difference for them, I just ask them directly.

That's why I held a veterans' town hall in Dixfield in December, to hear from Maine veterans what's on their minds, what they're looking for support with, and how they think Congress can help.

We talked a lot about bringing long-term care to Maine, especially for veterans with mental health challenges. That's been a focus of mine since I got to Congress, including pushing for long-term mental health and substance abuse treatment options at Togus so Maine veterans can get the care they deserve in Maine. Maine veterans should not have to seek such treatment away from their families. It just makes sense.

I also worked hard to make sure veterans and their families were prioritized in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). The NDAA funds the U.S. Department of Defense every year. In this year's bill, I successfully pushed for a repeal of the Widow's Tax, which reduces the Survivors' Benefits that the spouses of veterans who have passed away receive by approximately \$11,000 a year.

I also heard from veterans who are frustrated with the VA, and for veterans who are and who need support, there's individual help with federal programs and agencies available. VA claims can move too slowly, and folks can feel overwhelmed by the paperwork and requirements they



CONGRESSMAN  
JARED GOLDEN

need to do to get the ball rolling. That's why we're here -- we can talk with folks about how to get their problems resolved. Working individually with veterans struggling to get the benefits they've earned is some of the most important work

my office does.

If you need help with a VA claim, or help with any other federal agency, please don't hesitate to reach out. We're here to help you and get you the benefits that you earned through your service. You can either write to me, or give one of my offices a call.

**Bangor Office:** 6 State Street, Bangor ME 04401. Phone: (207) 249-7400

**Caribou Office:** 7 Hatch Drive, Suite 230, Caribou ME 04736. Phone: (207) 492-6009

**Lewiston Office:** 179 Lisbon Street, Lewiston ME 04240. Phone: (207) 241-6767

**Washington Office:** 1223 Longworth HOB, Washington DC 20515. Phone: (202) 225-2943

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

U.S. Congressman Jared Golden

## Widow's Tax Repealed, LEGION Act Embraced

Since I haven't had the opportunity to write you during the 116th Congress, I wanted to give you an update on my work in 2019 and my hopes for the new year.

I was lucky to join the Military, Construction, and Veteran Affairs subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee, where I get to represent Maine's strong veteran community. I am so honored to advocate for the issues and funding that Maine veterans bring to me. In this year's Military, Construction, and Veteran Affairs Subcommittee appropriations package, we secured funding to prevent veteran suicide prevention and mental health, end veteran homelessness, bolster community care, and focus on the specific needs of female veterans.

In the FY2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), we repealed the widow's tax on military death benefits. After the death of a veteran or military retiree, their family members can receive payments from Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP), and if the veteran or military retiree died from a service-related injury or illness, the family would also qualify for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation program (DIC) payments. The widow's tax offset SBP and forced families to forfeit up to \$12,000 a year of their SBP payments. This tax was an unnecessary and unjust burden on grieving

families. This change was signed into law by the President.

I was proud that our government was fully funded in a bipartisan budget deal that prevented another senseless shutdown. In the FY2020 budget agreement, we included \$9.4 billion in mental healthcare services, \$1.5 billion of which was allocated for suicide prevention and treatment.

In June, I cosponsored H.R. 1641, the Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service (LEGION) Act. The bill allows the American Legion to offer its membership to veterans of any era that it chooses. The current statute that includes the charter of the Legion restricted membership to veterans who served during specified wartime periods. The Legion offers so much to its members, and I think everyone would be well-served if membership could be expanded.

I am also a cosponsor of H.R. 303, the bipartisan Retired Pay Restoration Act. Under existing law, veterans receiving 40 percent or lower rates of service-connected disability compensation are not eligible for full retirement and disability benefits. The Retired Pay Restoration Act would correct this error and allow these veterans to receive both military retired pay and veterans' disability compensation or combat-related special pay. I hope to see action on this bill soon. (This bill, according to the congressional website, was referred to the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs in February 2019.)

I am so proud to represent Maine's veterans in the United States House of Representatives. If you ever need assistance or would like to speak with a member of my staff, my Portland office can be reached at 207-774-5019.

U.S. Congresswoman Chellie Pingree



CONGRESSWOMAN  
CHELLIE PINGREE

### 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](http://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

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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.



Special group pricing for Posts and members

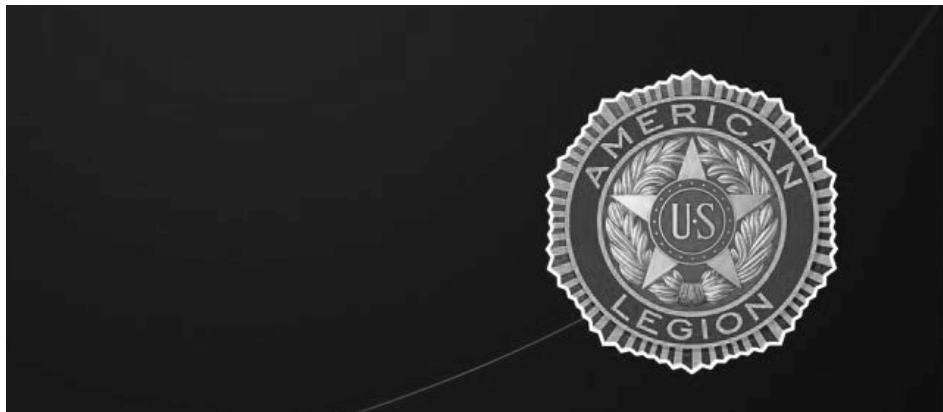


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## No Touchy

No, I'm not referring to priceless paintings thousands of years old displayed in museums, the electric fence with its warning signs, or the tall holiday displays at department stores. I am talking about what you are not supposed to do with The American Legion emblem when you are using it in a design.

No "touchy" is National Judge Advocate Kevin Bartlett's catch phrase when he gave a presentation to the 2019 National American Legion College class last November on the use of the emblem and the trademark name, The American Legion. What does it mean? It means that nothing can be touching any part of the emblem. There is no set distance away.

Take the new Department of California image as an example. The California silhouette is not touching the top or bottom of The American Legion emblem. It's close enough and yet far enough to not violate the trademark and patent law. I was informed that California's new image did get approved by American Legion National Headquarters for department use. Yes, the department must also request permission to use the emblem since the design was altered.

Many American Legion Family members don't think they need to concern themselves with the dos and don'ts of using the name or emblem of The American Legion. For the vast majority, that may be the case, however, knowing the basic fundamentals should be part of your American Legion knowledge. The emblem is the organization's brand. It should be recognizable in the way most of us recognize the red wavy font of Coca Cola, lowercase font of amazon, and the child-like font of Disney. Their color, font and design are all elements that make their symbols iconic and recognized.

A few months ago, I saw a group of men wearing shirts with the wrong Sons of The American Legion emblem on it. The Sons logo was in red, rather than light blue and somewhat round, rather than oval. It was obvious that they wanted to promote the organization by being noticed with their large, bright red logo. However, it clearly was not the correct Sons logo. Instead of promoting brand awareness of the Sons of The American Legion with the correct emblem, it was damaged by the change.

According to the Name and Emblem Guide, the Sons of The American Legion emblem is an oval made up of four colors – gold, dark gold, light French blue and light brown – with the letters all capitalized.

Another important lesson that was shared by a National Legion College student for all to learn from was when she gave her new Legion business card to Bartlett and was told in return that she couldn't pass them out anymore – and that she didn't get approval to have them printed. Flabbergasted, she asked "Why?" For starters, she didn't use the correct American Legion emblem. Oops! She downloaded a cool looking blue metallic version that's been floating on the Internet for some time now.

Secondly, they were professionally printed. She didn't print them off her printer, but through a retailer. Unbeknownst to a majority of us, how business cards are produced determines whether or not you need to request permission from National Headquarters. Basically, if you go to Office Depot, Staples, Vista-Print or any of those types of vendors where you pay for it, you need permission to reproduce The American Legion emblem.

However, if you print them off your printer on business card stock, you don't need permission. There was no exchange of money. But you still have to use a proper American Legion emblem.

To submit an American Legion emblem usage request, go to [legion.org/emblem/request](http://legion.org/emblem/request).

It seems that this particular topic has been neglected for some time now and hasn't been enforced resulting in widespread misuses, and in a way, abuse of the brand. If you recall during the 2018 Spring Meetings, the National Executive Committee passed Resolution No. 1: Rules and Regulations Governing Use of the Name and Emblem of The American Legion to clarify the rules and regulations of its use. National continues to ensure that its brand, its most valuable asset, is properly used, marketed and promoted.

If this still doesn't make sense on how it applies to you, then think of it this way. Let's say your name is Santa Claus and you wear a red suit and have a thick white beard. You are known for bringing presents to children all over the world for Christmas. On Christmas Day, someone decides to change your name to Santa Clown, dresses up in purple and green dotted suit with a painted face sporting a goatee and delivers used presents to children all over the world. Is that the brand image that Santa Claus is associated with? No. So, let's use the emblem correctly and with proper permission.

—[www.legion.org/dispatch](http://www.legion.org/dispatch)  
By Clara Pon, Department of France,  
China Post 1 Auxiliary  
Jan. 14, 2020

## — Your Letters —

### Great Experience with The American Legion Oratorical Contest

Dear Maine American Legion and Oratorical Chairman Dale Midgley,

Thank you for allowing me to convey my experiences with the American Legion Oratorical Contest. This competition has been an amazing opportunity for me to do so many things that I'm grateful for and it's an honor to be able to share my experiences with you.

This has allowed me to build my speaking skills that I didn't have prior to my freshman year of high school, but then again, I doubt anyone before their freshman year had amazing speaking skills either, unless they were Elon Musk.

This contest has also given me a way of meeting people my age from all across the country. I had never met anyone with the passion for our nation's future outside of my state before, but once I did it opened my eyes as to how many young people care and are willing to do something to preserve America's constitutional

foundation. Even now, I'm still friends with a lot of them and they're still working to improve our country.

Finally, this contest has taught me about patience, hard-work, and confidence. Without it, I would not be the person I am today. I recently had to give a senior speech for the last home game of my high school volleyball career, and using the skills I have acquired, I was able to impact dozens of people with my story.

To anyone who wants to participate in this contest, do it. You will never regret it, because I haven't.

Thank you American Legion, for starting this program to inform students and citizens about the need for awareness and action concerning our country's future and thank you all for listening to these students educate you.

Have a great day.

Sincerely,  
Marina Long

*Note: Marina was a three-time competitor in the State Finals and winner in 2017 and 2019. She is a senior at Sanford Christian Academy and chose not to compete this year as she is pursuing her college career.*

## Car Donation Fundraising Program



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](http://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@maine.legion.org](mailto:www.legionme@maine.legion.org).

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



**Legion Emblem Usage:** National Judge Advocate Kevin J. Bartlett speaks on rules and regulations governing the use of the Legion name and emblem to those attending Mid-Winter Conference in Brewer on Jan. 18. Seated left is Department Commander Matthew Jabaut, and right is Department Adjutant Paul L'Heureux.

# MID-WINTER CONFERENCE 2020



**Opening Ceremony:** Department Commander Matthew Jabaut performs the opening ceremony for The American Legion, Department of Maine's Annual Mid-Winter Conference held at Jeff's Catering & Event Center in Brewer on Jan. 18.

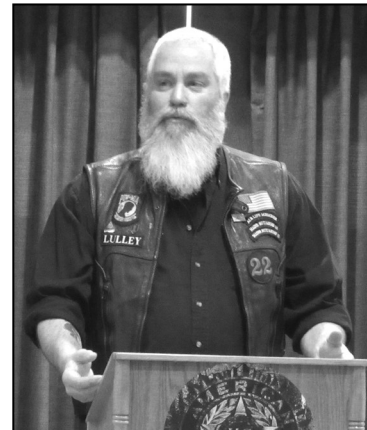
18. Left to right, Dept. Chaplain Ethan McKenney, Dept. 2nd Vice Commander Kirk Thurston, Past National Commander Anthony "Tony" Jordan, Dept. Commander Matthew Jabaut, Dept. Adjutant Paul L'Heureux, National Executive Committeeman Lloyd Woods, National Judge Advocate Kevin J. Bartlett, and Dept. 1st Vice Commander Debra Couture.



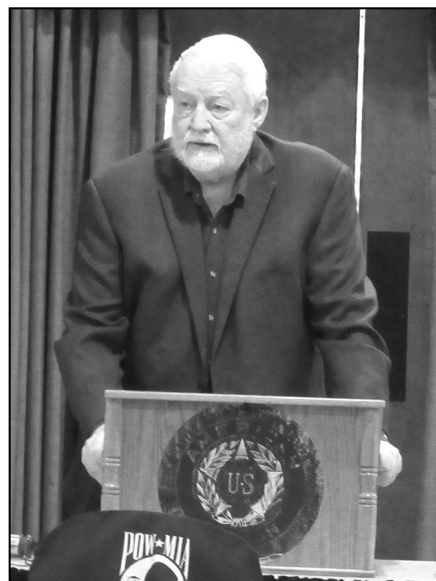
**Welcome:** Past National Commander Anthony "Tony" Jordan welcomes all those in attendance at the Annual Mid-Winter Conference in Brewer on Jan. 18. Left to right, Department Commander Matthew Jabaut, PNC Jordan, and Department Adjutant Paul L'Heureux.

## Presentation On Legislation & Maine American Legion

**Foundation:** Department Special Projects Coordinator and AL Department of Maine Foundation Board Member Amedeo Lauria gives a presentation of the Department of Maine Legislative Committee and the American Legion Department of Maine Foundation.



**Legion Riders Update:** Maine American Legion Riders Director Mike Lallemand informs those in attendance about various happenings and future events taking place with Maine American Legion Riders



**Trees For Troops:** Jim Corliss talks about the Trees For Troops Foundation and how donations can be made in support of our troops and military families to advance the spirit of Christmas throughout the year. Their goal each year is to get 17,000 real Christmas trees to military bases across the U.S.



**Women Veterans Committee Update:** Women's Advisory/Women Veterans Action Committee Chairwoman Nancy Laffin gives an update on the WA/WVAC committee.



**Student Veterans of America:** Fort Kent Post 133 Service Officer Leroy McKenzie gives a brief overview of Student Veterans of America.

*All Photos by Dept. Historian Jeffrey Stevenson*

## TREESFORTROOPS

**Real Christmas Trees**  
 In 2005, the Christmas SPIRIT Foundation was created by the National Christmas Tree Association as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization to advance the spirit of Christmas year-round. Trees for Troops has become the main program of the Foundation. Each year we work to get 17,000 Real Christmas trees to military bases across the United States. In 2017, we delivered our 200,000th Real Christmas tree.

**Transportation and Delivery**  
 FedEx Freight provides tractor trailers, shipping and the logistics for all of these trees to be picked up and delivered to military bases across the country. FedEx Express provides air delivery of trees that go overseas. FedEx has logged over 800,000 miles for Trees for Troops since 2005.

**208,720 Military Families**  
 Since 2005, 208,720 military members and their families have received the donated trees. Over 70 U.S. bases and additional overseas bases have been the recipient of these trees.

DONATIONS CAN BE MADE ONLINE AT:  
[www.TreesforTroops.org](http://www.TreesforTroops.org)

## Sweepstakes Winners

\*\*\* Announced \*\*\*

**T**he Annual Mid-Winter Conference concluded on Saturday afternoon, Jan. 18, with our Sweepstakes drawing, which saw four of our Legionnaires win the following amounts:

- Clifton Foster, Gray Post 86— \$1,500 (grand prize winner)
- Stephen Spielvogel, Farmington Post 28—\$500
- Donald Bishop, Winslow H.Q. Post 178— \$300
- Donald Cantin, Sanford Post 19— \$200

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

# THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MAINE OFFICIAL CALL FOR THE ONE HUNDRED AND SECOND ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION

In accordance with Article IV of the Constitution and By-laws of the Department of Maine, The American Legion, the one hundred and second Annual Convention is hereby called to convene at Brewer, Maine, June 12-14, 2020.

The first business session will be called to order at 12:00 p.m. Daylight Savings Time, on the afternoon of Friday, June 12, 2020, with the final business session scheduled for Saturday morning, June 13, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. All general business sessions of the convention will be held at Jeff's Catering & Event Center, Brewer, Maine.

#### PURPOSE

The convention is called for the purpose of electing Department Officers for the ensuing year; to elect delegates and alternates to the 2020 National Convention to be held in Indianapolis, Indiana; to receive reports of all Department Officers and standing committees; to consider the resolutions and actions of subordinate bodies and to transact any other business properly brought before the convention.

#### REPRESENTATION

Each post is entitled to one delegate and one alternate, and one additional delegate and alternate for each one hundred members or fractional part thereof paid up to May 13, 2020. A post with less than 15 members is not entitled to any delegates. All department officers, district commanders, area commanders and Past Department Commanders, in good standing, shall be entitled to vote and have all the rights of delegates in the convention. **These officers and Past Department Commanders are delegates-at-large and must not be named as post delegates.**

Alternate delegates are entitled to a seat in the convention but will have the right to vote only in the absence of the duly elected delegates. The decision of the selection of alternate delegates to represent absent delegates is a matter of decision within the respective delegations. All Legionnaires, Auxiliary members, Sons of the American Legion and guests are invited to attend convention as guests, but have no voice or vote unless delegates.

#### RULES OF ORDER

The rules of procedure at the Department Convention shall be those set forth in Robert's Rules of Order, newly revised.

#### MEETINGS

The Resolutions Committee shall hold a public hearing on all resolutions submitted in accordance with the Constitution and By-laws at Jeff's Catering & Event Center on Friday, June 12, 2020, at 9 a.m. All delegates and alternates and members of The American Legion are invited to attend the session. Following this public hearing, the Committee on Resolutions will go into executive session to vote on resolutions to be brought before the body.

The Department Executive Commit-

**THE AMERICAN LEGION  
102ND ANNUAL  
STATE CONVENTION  
June 12—14, 2020  
Jeff's Catering & Event Center, Brewer  
PLAN NOW TO ATTEND!**

tee will hold the first meeting at Jeff's Catering & Event Center on Sunday, June 14, 2020. All department officers, district commanders, area commanders and Past Department Commanders are requested to attend.

#### CREDENTIALS

Each post will fill out the credential blank submitted by the Department Adjutant and return same to the Department Headquarters listing the delegates and alternates elected to represent the Post. All delegates' registration must be pre-paid.

All credentials must be verified by the Credentials Committee, which will be in session at Jeff's Catering & Event Center, Brewer, Maine, from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 13, 2020.

The Department Adjutant shall issue to each Post, 30 days prior to convention, a statement of the number of 2020 membership cards, accompanied by state and national dues, received at Department Headquarters on May 13, 2020. Listed with the membership report will appear the number of delegates allowed each post.

Credential reports should be filed with the Department Adjutant as soon as possible to allow for inspection and checking, thus correcting any errors.

If there should be any changes in personnel on the list of delegates or alternates, corrections should be made with the Credentials Committee. Delegates must be registered with the convention in order to vote (1975 Convention Mandate). Registration fee of \$10 for each delegate and alternate may be paid by sending a check made payable to The American Legion, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0727.

#### NOMINATION AND ELECTIONS

At the first session of Department Convention on Friday, June 12, 2020,

nominations shall be made for the offices of Department Commander; Department First Vice Commander; Department Second Vice Commander; Department Historian; Department Americanism Officer; Department Sergeant-at-Arms; Department National Executive Committeeman and Department National Executive Committeeman Alternate.

Nomination of officers shall be made by registered delegates elected to represent the posts of the Department or by delegates-at-large attending the convention. Nominating speeches are limited to three minutes. There will be no seconds to nominations authorized (DEC Mandate Jan. 20, 1991)

All candidates for elective department office must file with the Department Adjutant, prior to May 13, 2020, a letter of intent to seek office and furnish a copy of discharge papers, which makes them eligible for membership in The American Legion. The ballots for the Department Convention will be pre-printed indicating those candidates who have filed for office. Any candidate declaring after May 13, 2020 or nominated from the floor of the convention, will be a write-in candidate. Blank spaces will be left for write-in candidates. (DEC Mandate Jan. 27, 1985).

#### VOTING

Delegates may get ballots from the Credentials Committee at Jeff's Catering & Event Center on Saturday, June 13, 2020. The Credentials Committee will be in session for two hours on Saturday morning, June 13, 2020, from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Each delegate will go to the convention hall during the hours specified and secure ballots. No ballots will be issued after 10 a.m. Delegates will cast ballots immediately. Delegate's card, badge, convention registration and your 2020 membership card must be displayed during voting.

**Ballot Boxes will close promptly at 10:15 a.m.**

#### UNIFORM OF THE DAY

Uniform of the day during the convention sessions will be The American Legion cap. Only the official representative of another veterans group may wear the cap of that organization in the convention hall.

#### MEMORIAL SERVICE

The Department Chaplain of The American Legion will conduct a Memorial Service to be held just prior to conclusion to the Saturday session, June 13, 2020. Posts wishing to have deceased members included in the Post Everlasting Ceremony are requested to submit a list of the honored dead to Department Headquarters. Lists must include name of deceased comrades and conflict served. If your post files a Post Everlasting list for The Maine Legionnaire and said list is up to date, a second list is not necessary.

#### LAW AND ORDER

Order will be maintained at all times in the convention hall under the direction of the Department Sergeant-at-Arms and his assistants. Delegates, alternates and members attending the convention are requested to be courteous to all speakers and visitors to the convention.

#### PRESS

The Department Adjutant's staff will maintain press facilities during Convention sessions. The Department Adjutant must approve all communications from the Department Convention.

#### INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

A formal installation ceremony will be held Saturday, June 13, 2020, at 5:30 p.m. All department officers and district commanders will be sworn into office at that time and will automatically become members of the Department Executive Committee.

#### RAFFLES OR SALES ITEMS

There will be NO sales items or raffles at the Department Convention without specific permission of the Department Adjutant.

This call will be read in all posts and district organizations and posted upon the bulletin boards of all posts. This call is being sent to the officers on record. If new officers have been elected, please transmit this information to them.

*Official:*  
Paul L'Heureux  
Department Adjutant

Matthew Jabaut  
Department Commander



## Resolutions to be Presented by May 1

All resolutions to be presented for action at any Convention shall be presented to the office of the Department Adjutant on or before May 1 of the subject year. Said resolutions shall be published and printed in the official organ of the Department of Maine, The American Legion in the next issue following said date of May 1. Resolutions must be pre-

resented to the Department Adjutant's office in writing, dated and signed by the Commander and Adjutant of the sponsoring groups or Chairman and Secretary of sponsoring committee. Resolutions may be presented by two-thirds majority of the Resolutions Committee meeting at the convention.

## Candidates Deadline: May 13

Anyone wishing to run for a Department Office must submit a letter of intent and a copy of his or her discharge papers making them eligible for The American Legion to the Department Adjutant's office on or before May 13, 2020 to be included on the official ballot at convention in June. If you wish to be included in The Maine Legionnaire, the above information, plus a photo of you must be at Department Headquarters by April 24, 2020. Also be advised that the Department Constitution and By-Laws

state: All current and future Department Officers elected at the Annual State Convention will within forty-five (45) days following the conclusion of the annual Department Convention, take the "Basic Training Course" previously named the "American Legion Extension Institute Course" and successfully complete said course. Please visit <https://www.legion.org/alei> to complete the course. Previous graduates of the course upon providing confirmation would be exempted.

## Basic Training

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 available online at <https://www.legion.org/alei>

## Humanitarian Sought

The Humanitarian Award Committee is again seeking nominations for the annual Humanitarian Award. The Humanitarian Award, considered one of the most prestigious awards bestowed by The American Legion, is presented annually at our State Convention.

An American Legion Post must endorse applicants for the annual Humanitarian Award. Accomplishments of the individual must be over and above his or her usual vocation; in most cases his/her deeds would not be in their chosen field of endeavor; but consideration would be given to someone whose activities in their field of work was far in excess of what

one would expect in that field. Applicants may be male or female, veteran or non-veteran, legionnaire or non-legionnaire. A majority vote of the Humanitarian Award Committee will be final.

If an individual was previously submitted and not selected, please submit it again. We will consider anyone who has not received the award previously. Nominations should be received by May 1, 2020. Nomination forms can be obtained by contacting The American Legion, Department of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0727; Tel: (207) 873-3229; e-mail: [legionme@mainelegion.org](mailto:legionme@mainelegion.org) or on the web at [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org).

## Eligibility Information

If you have served federal active duty in the United States Armed Forces since December 7, 1941, and have been honorably discharged or are still serving - you are eligible for membership in The American Legion!

\*Because eligibility dates remain open, all active duty members of the U.S.

Armed Forces are eligible to join The American Legion at this time, until the date of the end of hostilities as determined by the government of the United States.

\*\*U.S. Merchant Marine eligible only from December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946 (WWII).

## Time To Do It! Pay Your Legion Dues Today!!!

Legion membership is annual, the Legion year running from Jan 1 to Dec. 31. If dues are not paid by Jan. 1 of each calendar year, the member becomes delinquent. If dues have not been paid by Feb. 1, the member is suspended, is not in good standing, and is not eligible for transfer.

The only method of transferring from one post to another so the continuity of the membership in the Legion is not broken is by formal transfer, which is available only to members in good standing.

If you do not have a membership card that reads "2020" then you are now a delinquent member. Your Post tries so hard to get your dues collected prior to Jan. 1, so that you do not lose any benefits of your membership, including insurance coverage.

If you don't have a "2020" card, please contact your local post today and pay them so your membership in The American Legion remains continuous.

## Legionnaire of the Year Sought

Is that exceptional Legionnaire, the one with unquestionable leadership ability, a member of your Post? Do you have that member within your post that seems to stand above the rest in all phases of your post activities? Does he or she aspire to higher positions within the American Legion?

If your post has that member who would qualify for the honor and prestige for the Past Department Commanders Award, why not submit their name and resume? Being chosen for this award is indeed a great honor. When in doubt, ask those who were previously chosen. It is a title you will be known for during your entire Legion career.

Maybe your Post has previously sent a candidate for this award who was not chosen. Why not submit the name again? There are no rules stating how many times you can apply. Your candidate could be this year's winner. Remember, everything in life is a gamble. The deadline for applications is May 1, 2020. Applications can be obtained through Department Headquarters or on-line at [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org)

Send completed applications to The American Legion, State Headquarters, Attention: Past Department Commanders Award Chairman, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0727.

## The American Legion, Department of Maine Historical Contest 2019-2020

*By: Jeff Stevenson, Department Historian*

### Awards and Rules

#### POST NEWS LETTER

These newsletters will be judged in three categories: Posts with a membership of less than 100, Posts with a membership of 100-250, and Posts with a membership greater than 250. The newsletters will be judged on informative layout and should be mailed to the Department of Maine ATTN: Department Adjutant. **Contest ends April 30<sup>th</sup> and entry must be in NLT May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.** The first place winner in each category will receive a plaque at the Department Convention.

#### DISTRICT NEWS LETTER

The district newsletter will be judged on informative layout and should be mailed to the Department of Maine ATTN: Department Adjutant. **Contest ends April 30<sup>th</sup> and entry must be in NLT May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.** The first place winner will receive a plaque at the Department Convention.

#### POST HISTORY BOOK

These will be judged according to the 2020 Officers Guide score sheets. **The books must be received at the Department of Maine ATTN: Department Adjutant no later than May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. First place winners in each category will receive a plaque at the Department Convention and qualify for the National Contest in October, 2020.**

**RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP  
ONLINE TODAY!  
VISIT [WWW.MAINELEGION.ORG](http://WWW.MAINELEGION.ORG) OR  
VISIT [WWW.LEGION.ORG/RENEW](http://WWW.LEGION.ORG/RENEW)**

**REMEMBER:  
PATRIOT'S DAY  
APRIL 20TH**



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



**Webber-Lefebvre Post 74 Centennial Celebration:** The Brick Store Museum, Kennebunk, hosted a gathering and media event on Sunday, Nov. 10, 2019, to honor all veterans and to celebrate the centennial of the American Legion and Webber-Lefebvre Post 74. The event, which was free and open to the public, showcased an exhibit of historic documents, artifacts and vintage photographs on loan from the Post and various members of the Legion in celebration of this historic anniversary. The picture shows the members of the exhibit team representing Post 74 (not shown, Dennis Lamontagne, Post Commander). From left to right Bob De Clercq, Brian McBride, Cynthia Walker (Museum Director), Paul Moessner and John Gouveia.

Photo by Jo Ann De Clercq



**Carousel Horse Raffle:** Mrs. Joanne Gouveia of Wells, spouse of Webber-Lefebvre Post 74 Vice Commander John Gouveia, used her artistic and creative talents to produce a beautifully decorated carousel style horse. Her goal was to raffle off the horse and donate the proceeds to Post 74's Kennebunk High School

Scholarship Fund. Mrs. Gouveia used a discarded spring-mounted plastic hobby horse. She removed the springs, patched the holes, sanded the plastic body and mounted it on a carousel pole and then hand painted the entire horse. The finishing touch was the addition of colorful ribbons to simulate the reins. The raffle was conducted at the Holiday Craft Fair at Consolidated School in Kennebunkport on Dec. 7 and raised \$651 for the post. The winner of the raffle (pictured) was Mr. Edward "Butch" Black of Thomaston, Conn., a Navy veteran and member of American Legion Post 22 in his community.

Photo by Joanne Gouveia

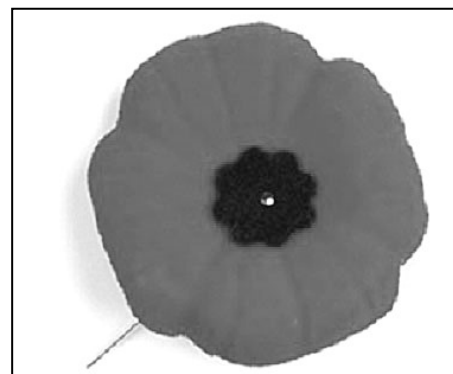


**American Legion Post 79** member Jollette McIntyre (left) and Post Service Officer Barry Stevens (right) get ready to greet a passing driver.

Photo by Robert K. Place, Post Historian

## Berwick Post's First Poppy Drive a Sterling Success

The men and women of Berwick's Charles S. Hatch Post 79 and their auxiliary have sponsored many fundraisers over the years, but none more successful in such a short period of time as their first-ever "Toll Booth" Poppy fund drive. Conceived and organized by long-time Legionnaire and past commander Anthony J. Cincotta Jr., this unique event brought some 20 post members together on the streets of Berwick with poppies in hand, asking pedestrians, motorists and other passersby to accept a poppy and make a donation to support the post's veteran and community assistance programs.



Mother Nature assisted their efforts by providing a beautiful sunny Saturday to warm participants throughout the event, which ran from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Coupled with exceptionally strong support and involvement from the Berwick police and fire departments, the drive was safely conducted and resulted in more than \$3,600 in donations after expenses (which included vests, decals and 1,000 crepe paper poppies sourced from the American Legion Flag and Emblem catalog). The post also received invaluable assistance from Dover, New Hampshire Post Auxiliary 8, who provided extra poppies when post members ran out before the drive ended. Last but not least, the Berwick Cumberland Farms team opened their doors to our members, providing much-needed coffee and bathroom facilities, and a spot for Post Mem-

ber Phil Jenks to hand out poppies, thereby increasing our outreach.

At the Post's January meeting, Certificates of Appreciation were presented to Chief Dennis Plante of the Berwick Fire Department, and to Captain Jerry Locke and Detective Bill Vachon of the Berwick Police Department. Additionally, post members chose to give a monetary donation to the Dover Post Auxiliary with thanks and appreciation for saving the day with their donation of extra poppies.

While Post 79 has conducted other extremely successful fundraisers such as Berwick's Spring Car Show and Fall Raffle (and the semiannual Scrapbooking/"Crop for A Cause" events sponsored by Chapter 79 Legion Riders), the success of this "Toll Booth" poppy fund drive, coupled with the strong support of the community, makes it highly likely that this, too will become an annual post event.

M

EMBERSHIP IS





WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 1 continued



American Legion Post Commander Don Beaupre (center left) and Janet Hooke, Auxiliary President (center right) present a Certificate of Commendation to Jim Vitello of Hancock Lumber, Kennebunk, accompanied by post and auxiliary members in front of the new stairs built by Erik Dutch (second from right).

Photo by Robert K. Place

## Post 87 Presents Commendation Award to Hancock Lumber

When the North Berwick American Legion Post 87 needed to replace deteriorating stairs on the back side of their building, Hancock Lumber of Kennebunk donated the building materials to build a brand-new set of stairs.

To properly thank and recognize this well-known Maine business for their donation, Don Beaupre, American Legion Post Commander, and Janet Hooke, American Legion Auxiliary President, presented a Commendation Award to Jim Vitello of Hancock Lumber, Kennebunk. Post Commander Don Beaupre stated that

because of the generous donation by Hancock Lumber, the post will have the extra funds to help other veterans and their families in times of need.

Also present during the presentation were some of the members of the American Legion Post and American Legion Auxiliary, along with the builder of the stairs, Erik Dutch from Erik Dutch Carpentry who did a great job, all while being challenged by the weather. The Legion also presented Erik with an appreciation award.

By Don Beaupre

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



**Christmas Celebrated at Post 17:** Harold T. Andrews, Post 17, in Portland held a Christmas party for the members on Dec. 21, 2019, with a fabulous menu. Slightly more than 40 members dined on lobster rolls, roast beef, turkey, pork roast, rotisserie chicken, chicken wings, meatballs, baked macaroni and cheese, homemade baked beans, potato salad, cake, cookies, candy, pretzels, chips and dip. Presents were passed out by Post 17 Commander Paul Avery. One Service Dog, Dooley, was present, much to members' delight. Food is always top notch when the members of Post 17 throw a party. From left, Jennifer Kuntz, Post 17 Commander Paul Avery (passing out presents), and Post 17 Chaplain Bill Chittick enjoy the festivities. Finance Officer Joe Rich carves the roast beef prior to the start of the Christmas party while member John Kimball and Service Dog Dooley look on.



**Veterans Day Parade:** Members of the USS MAINE Base submarine veterans join a Veterans Day parade in Portland. They are always welcome in Portland Post 17 parades as they are one of the high points of the parade. Joe Rich is pictured behind the submarine directing traffic.

## Post 17 Members Place Wreaths to Mark Veterans Day

Despite the cold and rainy weather, Nov. 11, 2019 was a very busy day for members of Harold T. Andrews Post 17 in Portland. A group of members left the post at 8 a.m. and went to Gorham's Corner in Portland to place a wreath at a charter member and a naval veteran, Admiral John Ford's statue. Admiral Ford was a charter member of Portland Post 17 and spent time in the post along with his friend John Wayne

Then it was off to Andrew's Square, which was named after Harold T. Andrews, to place another wreath. The group also placed a wreath at Harold T. Andrews' grave in Evergreen Cemetery in Portland. In South Portland, the group placed a wreath at World War I veteran and Post 17 member, Father Carey's grave in Forest City Cemetery. Father Carey had been Post 17's Chaplain. The current Post 17 Executive Committee meeting room is named after Father Carey.

The group also placed a wreath at the South Portland end of the Veterans' Memorial Bridge.

They still managed to make it back to Longfellow Square before 10:30 a.m. so they could join the parade and march to



An ammo carrier at the start of the parade.

Photo by Post 17 member Thomas P. O'Connor

Portland Post 17 Commander Paul Avery was unable to march for the first time in his life. So he was disappointed that he had to accept a ride in a pickup truck during the parade.

Photo by Post 17 member Thomas P. O'Connor



City Hall. At City Hall, they placed four wreaths to honor veterans.

Submitted by Post 17 member Thomas P. O'Connor

# Fighting to the Finish Line, for the Foundation



**P**lease join Team Caroline as she fights to the finish line of the Boston Marathon 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 Le-



gion 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, 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.

## Centennial history, on multiple levels



**Detail** of the painting by Rachael Currie that adorns the cover of the Maine Legionnaire directory.

**T**his fall, a package arrived at the library at American Legion National Headquarters in Indianapolis from the Department of Maine, for storage among the Legion's archives. The primary materials were a history of all of Maine's department commanders from 1919 on, and a 100th anniversary directory of Maine Le-

gionnaires with service histories in their own words.

Donald Hands, department centennial chairman in 2018-2019, did the history. Hands, a member of Ramsdell-Rogers Post 56 in York, says his term "was a good time to add this work to the department's legacy."

"As a Legionnaire," he continues, "I was very impressed with the Department of Maine leadership. I decided to learn more about the state American Legion by learning about its leaders." The work took Hands nearly eight months to complete; he had to uncover information on many of the commanders himself. But he considers the end result worth it: "I hope readers will understand the high caliber of leadership the Department of Maine has benefited from. I hope they can see that the commanders were real people just like themselves with personal stories, along with stories of military and American Legion service. I also hope it serves as an inspiration for readers to become leaders."

The commander history has been purchased by some Maine posts. In addition to Hands, Department Adjutant Paul L'Heureux and office manager Rachael

Currie also helped. But Currie had an assignment of her own: designing the cover and introductory/Legion history pages of the Maine Legionnaire directory. Publisher PCI: not the big company introduced a recommended graphics program Currie had to learn, on top of all of her other responsibilities. Completing her portion of the directory took a year, but "giving up was not an option," she says. "Knowing the book would be published and made available for veterans in the state of Maine made the challenge worth taking on."

The cover was taken from a portion of an oil painting Currie did in 1991, of an eagle atop a rock. She began painting in 1986, inspired by her Legionnaire grandfather; he died in late 1987, but she kept going. Currie herself is a member of Daniel E. Lambert Memorial Unit 178 in Winslow.

The directory was generated by sales to those profiled within it, but the department has a limited number of additional copies for sale. The department website is at [mainelegion.org](http://mainelegion.org).

By Laura Edwards  
 —legion.org  
 Dec 4, 2019



# 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](http://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](http://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.

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) non-profit 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](http://www.mainelegion.org). Click on the FOUNDATION tab located on the navigation bar and scroll down to the **DO-NATE 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: 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!



### Foundation Board Meeting:

A quarterly meeting of the American Legion Department of Maine Foundation, a 501 (c) (3) organization formed to support the Four Pillars in Maine. The Board met to discuss fundraising and sponsorship efforts on Sun., Jan. 4 at Maine State

Headquarters in Winslow. Members of the Board consist of Randall Kluj, Chairman; Paul L'Heureux, Secretary; Gregory Couture, Finance; Anthony "Tony" Jordan, Amedeo Lauria, Tommy Adkins, Rachael Currie, Lloyd Woods, and Board of Advisors Chairman Matthew Jabaut. Pictured, left to right, Anthony "Tony" Jordan, Paul L'Heureux, Rachael Currie, and Gregory Couture.

## Shop "Amazon Smile" & Give While You Shop!

Dear Friends of the American Legion Department of Maine:

**American Legion Department of Maine Foundation** now accepts contributions from Amazon through the "Amazon Smile" program as an IRS 501 (c)(3) Charitable Organization.

"Amazon Smile" is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The only difference is that when you shop on "Amazon Smile", Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice and it does not cost anything to sign up or donate!

### Here is how to sign up!

If you already have an Amazon Account, there is no need to create

another one.

You just log in at this link: <http://smile.amazon.com>; When you are asked to designate to your charity, type in **American Legion Department of Maine Foundation** and start shopping.

**Please note: (You must log in through the Amazon Smile portal each time you shop for our Foundation to receive the donation. Do not go in through the regular Amazon portal when you shop.)**

The funds come directly to "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 and email to your friends and family!**



## 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](http://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.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 2 continued

A Report from Your Commander

Good Morning to All,  
This year is quickly coming to an end and the holidays are right on our backs. As I look back 2019 has seen lots of good things happen at the post. We also lost a few of our dear members. Attendance at our meeting are not what I would like to see, as well as our events we hold do not seem to entice many of you so I am wondering what we have to do to get more of you to participate in our activities here at Post 35? Any ideas will be greatly appreciated and reviewed.

We are in the Christmas Basket mode at the post and will be delivering 20 Baskets to 20 deserving Veterans Families in the area on Friday 20 December. Any donations are greatly accepted. On Thanksgiving, we sent out 20 Baskets with one going all the way up to Jonesport to a grateful Coast Guard Family! Thanks to all that have contributed to this successful program this year!

2020 is looking to be a very busy year, this winter with some programs. We are hoping to complete include the ladies room upstairs adjacent to the main meeting room, the ceiling, and on the back burner is the beautiful deck. This spring we are hoping to get the ramp replaced with the assistance of our Sea Cadets, this one is way overdue! As you can see, there is a lot to do to keep this building up. To those of you that have not been to the post the past three years, please stop by and see all the things that have happened to our dining area and our beautiful galley along with a new deck in the dining room and galley. I would also like to thank all of the folks that put and are still putting time in to keep us going. What's the old saying, "It takes a village to raise a

child". In this case, it takes a post and its members to keep this post running! If you are looking for a New Year's resolution this year, how about making 2020 the year you return to your home post and do whatever you can do to keep your Post 35 alive and well.

We are doing very well at this time. For the first time in many years, your post is running in the black thanks to all of your officers and members, we have come a long way with lots of work still to come. We are looking at a new way to heat and cool our home, looking at what grants that may be available in the future to help us along. The furnace itself to replace is close to \$40,000!! We are also looking at other alternatives as well.

On behalf of myself and my officers, I would like to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Healthy New Year! I would also like to thank you all for a successful year as your Commander. My wife and I (along with Mr. Murphy) will be heading south shortly after Christmas and will return by the April 2020 meeting. In my absence our 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander (past Commander) Wes SPLETTSTOESSER will be filling in for me. He is more than capable for this assignment.

I will close leaving this thought on your mind for the upcoming New Year, elections will be held this April for your post. All chairs are open for new Officers, if any of you would like to run please see your Post Adjutant. Our December meeting is Fri. the 20<sup>th</sup> @ 7 pm, we will be doing a new member installation, along with other very important items, hope to see all there!

Submitted by District 2 South Portland Post 35  
Commander Guy Linscott



**Santa Visits South Paris Veterans Home:** American Legion Post 67 Legionnaires, Auxiliary, Legion Riders, friends, Eugene Long and a few of his chorus group – and let us not forget Santa – brought some Christmas cheer to the South Paris Veterans Home on Dec. 1, 2019.



**Mulcahy Inducted into Order of Leadership:** American Legion Post 67 Commander Donald Mulcahy was inducted into the "George St. John and Anthony Hazelton Order of Leadership". The honor and presentation were made on Monday, Nov. 18, 2019, by Commander Stephen Wentworth of The William I. Pembroke Post 139. Elected as the Commander of Lopeman-Potts Post 67 in Bridgton, Commander Mulcahy has demonstrated the spirit of the American Legion by revitalizing the post. His leadership and dedication to veterans and the community has seen the post more than triple in membership in the last year as well as returning to an active community organization. For all these things he has demonstrated leadership worthy of the order.



**Honor Flight Maine Telethon:** American Legion Post 67 Commander Donald Mulcahy assisted the Honor Flight Maine Telethon on WCSH 6. Post 67 had the honor this year of having five members attend the Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. in October. As a means of supporting Honor Flight both the Legion and Auxiliary of Post 67 helped raise over \$170,000 to continue the work of Honor Flight. Top, from left are Honor Flight volunteers Melissa Weston, Chrystal Guerrette and Jenn Enoch. Unit 67 Historian Line' Mulcahy works as an Honor Flight volunteer.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

**District 2 continued**

**Right:** The members of the 100-year-old Legion Post 67 felt it was only fitting to celebrate our founders with a birthday ball on Nov. 9, 2019. Many legionnaires attended in WWI uniforms as our founders did 100 years ago. From left to right are WWI Doughboy re-enactor Robert

Downing; Army Sgt Brian Conway, representing current Army; Donald Mulcahy, representing WWI sailor; American Legion Past National Commander Anthony Jordan; Marine Corp Sgt. Barry Bisco, representing Vietnam era; Army Private Liam Opie, representing current Army; Scott Burnham in WWI Dress Uniform; and Scott Avery, representing Post 911 first responders.

**American Legion Post 67 Hosts 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ball, Marks Revitalization**

**B**ack in the day in November 1919, American Legion Post 67, then the Roosevelt Post, held a Grand Ball at the Bridgton Opera House. They were celebrating coming home from France and peace. They had valiantly fought the War to end all Wars. They showed their love for their country, their family and the community. They dedicated themselves to the following: “In Peace and in War we Serve.”

Fast forward 100 years. How many more wars have been fought by the citizens of America? The Bridgton Community has paid a price over the years for the freedom both we and the rest of the world enjoy. Once again Post 67 wanted to honor our veterans and citizens for the sacrifices they have made in preserving our freedom. The tiny little post on Depot St. now bears the names of two Bridgton sons who paid the ultimate price. Lopeman and Potts.

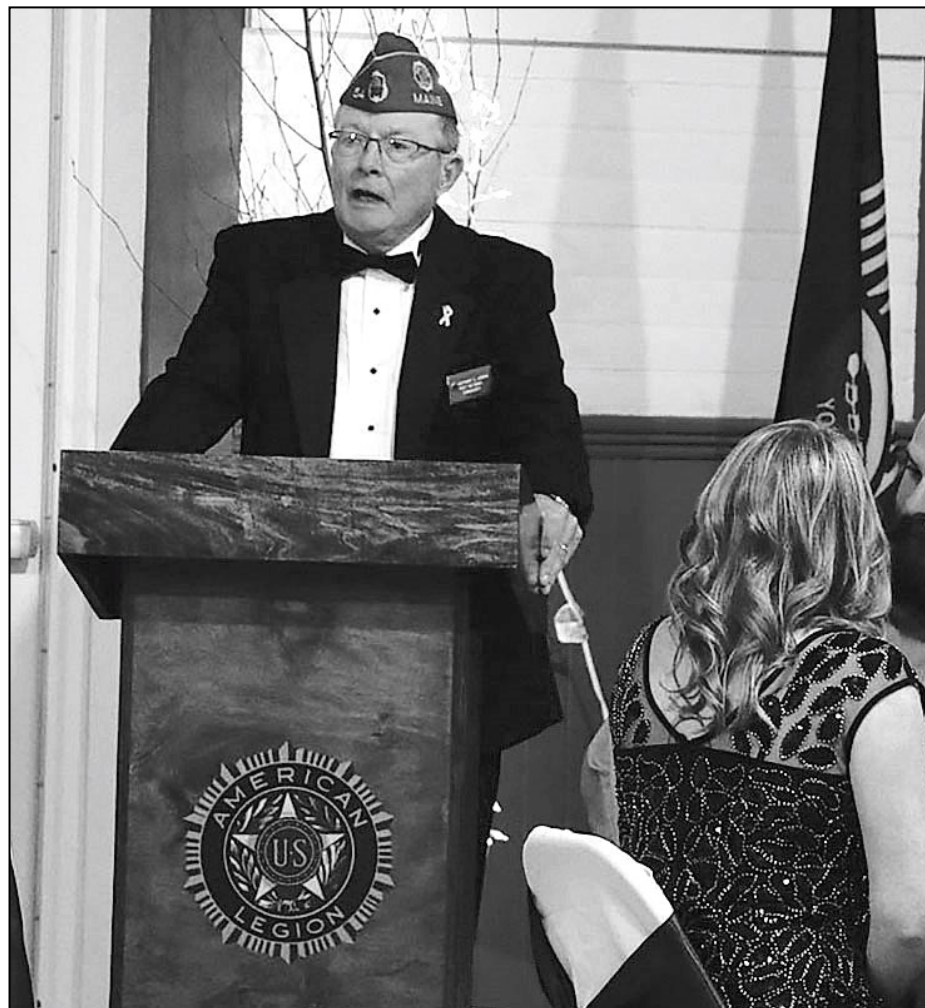
As the families of veterans celebrated peace and the homecoming of their loved ones 100 years ago, the post celebrated the return of our loved ones by recreating the Grand Ball of 1919.

On Nov. 9, 2019, at Old Town Hall in Bridgton, dignitaries and community members gathered for a gala event of the century.

All proceeds were earmarked “Save Historic Post 67” and “Post 67 Veterans Outreach Program.”

The Revitalization of American Legion Post 67, Depot Street was its own story. As described by Commander Donald Mulcahy, the effort began when a group of likeminded legionnaires gathered together to revitalize and rehabilitate Bridgton’s historic Post 67.

“This post is one of the original posts in the state of Maine going back to 1920,” Mulcahy wrote in the Bridgton News. “The American Legion itself is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday and it only seemed fit-



**Past National Commander Honored:** Post 67 Bridgton was honored to host American Legion Past National Commander Anthony Jordan, who attended and addressed the guests. His comments were both inspiring and humbling as he thanked the legionnaires for the revitalization of this historic post. Bridgton Post held a 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Ball in honor of Lopeman-Potts Post 67. The Ball Committee recreated the Military Ball that was held in Bridgton in November 1919. Hundreds of china patterns were reviewed to find the right 1919 style. Special colors for the banners and bunting were selected to be period correct. Many comrades came dressed in 1919 Doughboy uniforms to pay homage to our founders.

ting that this post be brought back to life in Bridgton to serve our veterans and our community. We will once again turn this post into a vital asset to Bridgton’s veterans and community.”

The revitalization and the operation of this post was based once again on the “Four Pillars of the American Legion”: Veterans affairs and rehabilitation (VA claims back log, access to VA health care,

service officer, Veterans with special needs, homelessness, GI Bill benefits); national security (support of the troops, quality of life, POW/MIA’s, Operation comfort warriors); Americanism (flag protection, Pledge of Allegiance, illegal immigration, voter registration and participation, Scouts of America); and children and youth (catastrophic illness, intellectual disabilities, family integrity, family support network).

The first priority was to open a “Service Officer’s Office” in the community. District 2 Service Officer Kelly Ela was to be based in Bridgton at Post 67.

“As spokesman for the team we are excited and anxious to serve our veterans and community,” Mulcahy wrote.



**Post 67 Lead Service Officer** Kelly Ela has placed 83 veterans into the VA system in 10 months at this post. She was Service Officer of the Year 2017; Legion College Graduate, and also won national recognition on her article titled, “Boots.” She is a guest writer for the Bridgton News newspaper regarding veterans programs.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 2 continued



**Saber Presentation by Post 139:** William I. Pembroke Post 139 1st Vice Commander 1SG (ret) Jeremy Wentworth (right) and Past Commander Stephen Wentworth (center) present a Saber in memory of SFC Randy Shughart, Medal of Honor recipient, for his actions on Oct. 3, 1993, to the Corps of Cadets at Norwich University on Sept. 21. They presented a second Saber in memory of CPT Carl T. Swanson, Norwich Class of 1966. The two received special thanks from Norwich President Richard W. Schneider and LTC (Ret) Tom DiTomasso, who was a member of Task Force Ranger in the Battle of Mogadishu. This is the fourth Saber that the Wentworths have donated to the Corps of Cadets.

**Ceremonial Dedication of Memorial Stone and Flagpole at Sebago Lake:**

On Saturday, Nov. 2, 2019, at 3 p.m., a Dedication Ceremony was held to honor the memory of Standish USMC Cpl. Tyler P. Wallingford. Diane Wallingford, Tyler's grandmother, presided over the ceremony honoring her grandson, who was killed last April at USMC Air Station, Beaufort, S.C. In support role, with a request from Standish Post 128, was The American Legion Field Allen Post 148 color guard to render honors during the flag-raising ceremony. Windham Post 148 Color guard included: OIC, Greg Pride, Bob Almstrom, Richard Graves and David Rendall.



**Americanism Month Observed by Windham Post 148**

February is American Legion Americanism Month. Americanism, one of the Legion's four pillars, is the love of America, loyalty to its ideals and institutions, allegiance to its flag, willingness to defend it against all enemies, foreign and domestic, and a desire to advance the blessings of liberty to future generations. The passage of Resolution No. 163 at the 1960 National Convention in Miami, Fla., established February as Americanism Month. During this annual observance, we should all reflect upon what it means to be an American and rededicate ourselves and our posts to taking action that will uphold the principle of "100 percent Americanism."

The American Legion Field-Allen Post 148 in Windham supports the precepts of the Legion's four pillars. The post has an Americanism Officer, David Horne, who annually coordinates and supports a variety of programs and projects that reflect the Americanism principals. The pillar is divided into youth programs, flag programs, support for veterans, and community outreach.

Under youth programs, the post supports the annual Boys State program which meets each June at Thomas College and tutors our high school juniors in the process of local and state government. The post currently has funds to support four boys this year with scholarships. (The Unit Auxiliary supports the same precepts for Girls State). More to follow on subsequent articles for this year.

The post annually selects a male and female student from the senior class for their leadership. The recipients receive a

leadership "School" medallion, pin and certificate and is awarded a modest scholarship for use in their education.

Legion Baseball, Youth Air Rifle Program and Boy Scout activities are also under the purview of the Americanism program and are supported by the post. The post liaisons each June 14, Flag Day, to hold a flag retirement ceremony with local Boy Scout Troop 805, Windham. The "Field-Allen" Legion Baseball Team carries the post name and colors. Lastly, the post collaborates with the WHS Jr. Cadets Corps under the leadership of Dan Wirtz to sponsor a Youth Air Rifle training program. It is anticipated that follow-on training will be offered to scout groups and other individuals based on interest.

The Field-Allen Post also supports flag etiquette and training programs for various organization and schools. If there is interest in these training opportunities, give the post a call.

The American flag, the symbol of our great country, is key to the precepts of the Americanism Program. The post goes to great lengths to recognize the American flag. In 2005, the post undertook an Americanism program to place 100 U.S. flags on the utility poles on the highways and byways of Windham. In May of this year, the post will be undertaking that same goal for the 15<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. Now, a little more senior group of post members will climb ladders and place Old Glory, one more time, on these poles around town.

Flags on the Cemeteries. Windham has 31 recognized cemeteries in the boarders of the town. Of those, 21 are known to

have interred in them the remains of our fallen veterans. Some are large areas such as Arlington in North Windham. Other of moderate size such as Chase (Highland Cliff Rd) and Smith (lower River Road with many Colonial era and Revolutionary War vets). Most are small, many out of the way, once family plots like the Elder cemetery on lower River Road, set back in the woods with one GAR marked vet grave from the Civil War. Each year teams of local vets honor their sacred duties to remember their fallen by placing a flag on every known veterans grave.

The same holds true in late fall, when, around Pearl Harbor Day, the post and the community come out to place a simple wreath with a red-white-blue bow on each of the veterans' graves, a tribute not unlike Wreaths Across America. The Field-Allen Post raises the funds needed during the summer months to purchase the wreaths and bow material. In late November, a Bow Party is held to make the bows and affix them to the wreaths for distribution.

Other programs that directly or indirectly support include blood drives and food drives. The American Legion, nationally, supports more Red Cross blood drives than any other organization in the country. The Legion post does its part by hosting four events a year at the WVC.

The post sponsors a very successful Vet Coffee program held each Wednesday at the Windham Veterans Center from 9-11 a.m. This Vet Coffee is multi-faceted in that it provides opportunity for local veterans to "drop-in" for a social experience with their peers. It also has a therapeutic element with many of our vets that gives

them an opportunity to share experiences in a safe environment.

Additionally, the post collects food items annually for the local food pantry over Memorial Day weekend and collects food items in support of the Portland VETCENTER food pantry for homeless veterans on a weekly basis at the WVA of Wednesday mornings from 9-11 a.m.

The Legion Family Poppy Program, an annual collection of donations, is used specifically and exclusively for the support of veterans and their families and active duty service personal and their families. When you see that red flower being offered, consider that it is being offered in memory of a veteran, and any donations will go 100% to the support of the veterans.

Each year on Memorial Day, the Field-Allen Post 148 coordinates and orchestrates the Town of Windham's Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony at the WHS. The post has been doing this for over 25 years. It starts coordination in February to bring the tribute to our veterans together each year.

I've gone on long enough, there most likely are more that I have missed. Americanism programs are a year-round opportunity for our members to serve their community. Often, they do not get the credit that they are do. If you see a veteran, thank them for their service. If you see a Legion member, thank them as well for all they do in your community!

Want to be part of the team? Contact the Field-Allen Post Adjutant Dave Tanguay at 892-1306 or see any post member.

*Submitted by David Tanguay, Adjutant, Post*

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

**District 2 continued**

**DiTomasso Keynotes Pembroke Post Banquet:** LTC (ret) Tom DiTomasso joined the William I. Pembroke Post 139 on Nov. 18, 2019 at their Leadership Banquet as the keynote speaker. LTC DiTomasso talked about his accounts as a member of Task



Force Ranger in the Battle of Mogadishu in Somalia. That mission was later depicted in the movie, "Black Hawk Down." Pictured are (left to right) Post 139 Commander Ethan McKinney, Past Commander Stephen Wentworth, LTC (Ret) Thomas DiTomasso and Jeremy Wentworth, Post 139 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander.

**Remembering Pearl Harbor**

Since the Town of Windham's relocation of their Veterans Memorial in 2005, now located in front of Windham High School, The American Legion Field-Allen Post 148 has been placing a Memorial Wreath on the stone in remembrance of the attack on Pearl Harbor and the beginning of World War II for America.



**Wreath Placement:** A wreath placement was conducted for the 78<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Pearl Harbor, December 2019, by Field-Allen Post 148 of Windham. Rendering honors, left to right, were Post 148 member David Rendall and Honor Guard OIC, Craig Pride.

*Photo by Larry DeHof*

On the 78<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the attack, Post Honor Guard members, David Rendall, Craig Pride and Larry DeHof continued the tradition with the placement of the memorial wreath on a very, very cold Dec 7, 2019.

**Post 148 Members Join Unit 148 Auxiliary for 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Awards Night**

American Legion Field-Allen Post 148 held a joint celebration with the Unit 148 Auxiliary to honor the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the National Auxiliary (1919-2019) on Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> 2019, with the Post's fourth annual Awards Night and Dinner. There were over 70 in attendance for the second consecutive year as the Legion family was treated to a turkey and ham dinner with a variety of side dishes and a splendid ceremonial cake compliments of Hannaford's of North Windham. Honored guest included: District Vice President Debra Rumery, Dept Treasurer, Nancy True and Past District President, Marian Merrill along with 2<sup>nd</sup> District Commander, Phil Ceasar and County Commander, Curtis Merrill. The festivities opened with the parade and posting of the colors of the United States, Legion and Auxiliary banners, five service flags and the POW/MIA flag followed by prayer by Post Chaplain, Dick Drapeau and the cutting of the ceremonial cake with 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Logo and "Service Before Self" written below.

Following the dinner, Unit President, Pam Whynot, assisted by Diana Greenier and Michelle Libby, recognized members of the Unit and Post for their support of the Poppy Program, Girls State Program and their very special annual Naturalization Program.

The Legion Post then recognized several members with the help of 2<sup>nd</sup> District Commander, Phil Ceasar. They included: eight new member recognitions with citations including Susan Keltner, the first member brought onboard the Post under the new Legion Act; four transfer members; Longevity awards were presented with lapel pins for 20-25-30-35-40 years of service including: Laurence Allen-20, Jerry Black-20, William Chipman-20 (22), Willie Goodman-20, Donald McCormack-20, Ed Ovington-20 (23), Ralph Rao-20, Richard Sakker-20, Peter Slivinski-20 (23), Rod Voisine-20(23), Charlie Craigin-25 (28), Terry Ladd-25, Maurice Merrill-25 (29), Bernard Pagurko-25, David Tanguay-25, Chris Tucker-25 (28), Ray Char-mad-30 (32), William Johnson-30 (34),



Above, Awards Night at Post 148 included posting of the colors and opening prayer. Those participating included, from left, Unit President Pam Whynot; Past District President Marion Merrill; Department of Maine Treasurer Nancy True; 1<sup>st</sup> District President Debra Rumery; Post Chaplain Dick Drapeau; Post Adjutant David Tanguay; Post Commander Mel Greenier; and 2<sup>nd</sup> District Commander Phil Ceasar.



Left, Susan Keltner is recognized as one of the post's newest members. Keltner came to the post via the Legion Act.



Bottom: Forty-year member Roger Timmons receives his certificate and 40-year pin from 2<sup>nd</sup> District Commander Phil Ceasar. Reading the citations is Post Adjutant David Tanguay.

Earl Libby-30, Arthur Nielson 30 (34.), Ken Sawyer-30, Mike Schwartz-30 (34), Ed Rogala-35, John Boyden-40, Gardner Percy-40, Roger Timmons-40, Don Rogers (61), (Number in Para indicate s actual years.) Those Post members not present will receive their pins at other meetings or will have the pins mailed to them.

The Post also recognized the Honor Guard OIC, Craig Pride, with a Meritorious Service Award for his coordination of an expanded HG service which was called on multiple occasions to conduct ceremonies both within and outside the District.

A very special Post level Award was presented next, named after a Past

Commander, Donald Rogers, who has provided over 60 years of service to the Post. Don was unable to attend the event this evening due to illness, but his namesake award, The Past Commander, Don Rogers Service Award, was presented to Post member Leon Davies for his selfless dedication and support of all post functions particularly the Weekly Vet Coffees and the Post Dinners, where Leon is the chief cook.

The final recognitions were presented by 2<sup>nd</sup> District Commander Ceasar, recognizing Post Commander Mel Greenier and Post Adjutant with national recruiter pins.

Closing prayer was by Auxiliary Chaplain, Diana Greenier.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 2 continued



**Field Allen Post 148 Invites Windham Patrol Officers in for Coffee:** Field Allen Post 148 members, from left, Morris Wright and Bob Bean (back) greet Patrol Officers James Cook and "Trica" Buck, joined by Post member Phil Sweetser, on Wednesday, Dec. 18, 2019, during an event called Vet Coffee at the Post. The Post extended an invitation via the Windham Police Chief for the local police force to "drop in" for coffee on their rounds on Wednesdays. This was the third week that the patrol officers had been able to stop by and chat with the veterans. It's a great opportunity to meet the officers and share what is going on in the community.



**Vets on Ice:** The American Legion Field Allen Post 148 in collaboration with the Sebago Lake Anglers Association of Naples, Maine will be placing a handicapped configured (wide door, 8 ft. ramp, heated, internal fishing holes) on Long Lake of Kent Landing boat launch area, Naples. The ice shed has been moved into a sheltered area for renovation, removing the wood-burning stove, replaced with a 10 K Btu propane heater. This change will accomplish the following: "During the work session next Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup>, starting about 0900 to convert the primary heat source from wood to propane by installing the *Mr Heater* wall unit and removing the wood stove. This will give us fast warm up/fast off capability and free up quite a bit of floor space since we will not have to give up the space the stove now encumbers as well as the space for wood storage, eliminate the 'smoke out' if you don't get the stove lighting quite right, and eliminate the risk of breathing problems should some vets have COPD. We might even be able to open 1-2 more fishing holes inside....." Bob Chapin, Sebago Lake Anglers Assoc. It is expected that the Veterans on the Ice, shed will be in place by the end of January 2020 and can be used by both disabled vets as well as all vets by contacting Bob Chapin. Here, Chapin sets up an Ice Shed on Long Lake in January 2019.

*File Photo by Dave Tanguay*

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 3

Livermore Falls Post 10; Lewiston Post 22; Auburn Post 31; Lisbon Falls Post 66; Turner Post 111; Sabattus Post 135; Mechanic Falls Post 150; Auburn Post 153; Lisbon Post 158; Lewiston Post 210



**Special Olympics Ride:** A Special Olympics fundraising ride was held on Aug. 11, 2019, by Chapter 153, Auburn. The riders raised \$210. They departed Post 153 in Auburn and after a 76-mile ride, ended at Camp Tall Pines in Poland. Upon arrival, riders were greeted by members of the American Legion Post 150 of McFalls, including Unit and Squadron members who had prepared a light lunch for the riders. A special thank you to all the members of Post 150 for continued support and to the Auburn Police Department and the two Auburn Police officers that gave up their time in order to support the ride. This event has been organized every year thanks to Bruce Pierce, Chapter 153 director of Auburn. At Camp Tall Pines, from left, are April Capper, Chapter 21, Bath; Mike Lallemand, Chapter 21, Bath, and state director of the Legion Riders; Officer Mike Chaine, Auburn Police, escort; Sgt. Jason Croft, Auburn Police, escort; Paulette Dingley, Chapter 153, Auburn; John Perrino, Chapter 153, Auburn, safety officer; Mike Travers, Chapter 153, Auburn; Denis Dubois, Chapter 153, Auburn, chaplain; Maria LaBonte, Chapter 153, Auburn, secretary; and Paul L'Heureux, Chapter 153, Auburn, treasurer. Funding is used for the camp for general upkeep and maintenance to keep the camp usable by Special Olympians.



**Commander Simard Joins Auxiliary:** Auxiliary Unit 153 of Auburn has a new member, Legion Post 153 Commander Steve Simard. Because of his wife, Lori, who also served our country, he became eligible to also join the Auxiliary. As a spouse of a female veteran. Steve also is a member of Squadron 153 Sons of The American Legion because of his dad's service in the military. Standing left to right, Unit President Suzanne Travers, Unit Treasurer Tracey Rioux, Post Commander Steve Simard, and Post Adjutant Lori Simard.



## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

**District 3 continued****Donation from Department of Maine, Post 153 Helps Post CN09**

I arrived home from the December meeting of the American Legion Post CN09 to discover a box of flags had been delivered by UPS just a few minutes before me. Still have the smile on my face twelve hours later. The post commander was most pleased you had been able to conjure up the flags. Job well done!

This satisfies a concern we have dealt with for some time. There are an unknown number of ex-U.S. service people living in the Argentia Naval Facility area. They, too, get older, and can be expected to pass eventually. As you are aware, Post CN09 is the only American Legion Post in Newfoundland and will be contacted by family seeking some sort of veteran services, usually the final courtesies and respect.

Your efforts on our behalf have improved our ability to properly show the respect all vets have earned. Thank you and all those who assisted you. Your generosity is much appreciated.

On behalf of Commander John Walther, myself and the entire Post CN09 may you

and yours have a most enjoyable and merry Christmas. John is currently en route to attend a Green Bay Packers game with his son.

Thanks again Friend and Fellow Adjutant.

*Submitted by Post CN09  
Adjutant Harlow  
Post CN09 Commander  
John Walther*

**Gift of Flags Allows Post to Commemorate Passing of Vets**

Merry Christmas to all at the William J. Rogers American Legion Post 153 in Auburn, Maine from Post CN09 in St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada. Your generosity has made it possible for us to ensure more U.S. vets will receive the proper respect on their passing.

Just as Maine has a long military history, so too does Newfoundland. The North American Charter was signed in Ship Cove when Winston Churchill, FDR, and Stalin signed a pact that eventually grew into NATO. Newfoundland

was home to the Argentia Naval Base, Ernest Harmon AFB and Fort Pepperill in St. John's. This has been home to many who were assigned here, met local girls (great cooks) and raised families.

Time marches on, those transplants are getting older and eventually passing. Their families reach out to Post CN09 as we are the only American Legion Post in the Province of Newfoundland. If it is at all possible to attend the service we do so, and to properly mark the occasion, present a flag to the family as a final respect. Your gifts will comfort four families someday.

I enjoyed your Post 153 Facebook page. It's great to see first-hand what others are doing. We have a Facebook Group you may find interesting. We're a small Post of 24 and recently held our 47<sup>th</sup> annual Family Thanksgiving Dinner with about 180 attending. We presented a \$500 scholarship to a very deserving High School Grad headed to university.

On behalf of Commander John Walther, all the officers and members of Fort Pepperill American Legion Post CN09 I wish you all at the William J. Rogers Post 153 a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Thank you again for your generosity.

*Submitted by Post CN09  
Adjutant Harlow  
Post CN09 Commander  
John Walther*

**Flags to Canada:** The Department of Maine recently received a request from Fort Pepperrell Post CN09 located in St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada. A number of U.S. veterans are living in the area, and they actually formed an American Legion Post in 1954 and currently have 25 members. They work with the community and provide assistance for the U.S. veterans in the area. They occasionally request items from the department but this last request caught the department off guard. They were in need of U.S. flags to drape over the coffin of any U.S. veterans that passes on; they asked for help from the Department of Maine office. While driving home from HQ, State Adjutant Paul L'Heureux decided to stop at the William J. Rogers Post 153 in Auburn where he is a member. He spoke to the Post Commander thinking what might or might not happen. Well, 15 minutes later he had four burial flags ready for shipment. Now you ask why did they not get them locally? Keep in mind that when a veteran passes on in the USA the request is handle immediately. But when you are located in a different country the process takes weeks to accomplish. But thanks to Post 153 in Auburn there will be no waiting period for our fellow veterans and their families. Pictured from left are William J. Rogers, Post 153 Commander Steve Simard; and State Adjutant Paul L'Heureux.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

**District 4**

Farmington Post 28; Kingfield Post 61; Phillips Post 64; Strong Post 78; Wilton Post 117; Rangeley Post 120

**Farmington Vet, Purple Heart Winner, Saluted**

Members and Auxiliary of the Roderick-Crosby American Legion Post 28 in Farmington gathered at the Sandy River Rehab facility to honor military veterans who reside at their facility. Special recognition was given to Ken Jones, a member of the U.S. Army Rangers, who received a purple heart and was a POW during WWII.

Local quilters and auxiliary members provided a hand-made quilt, complete with patriotic designs, as a "Quilt of Valor" for his service. Sandy River staff have erected

a display in their lobby, with photos of the dozen veterans who reside there. Ken was joined by several members of his family, including his son, Ken Jr., who shared a brief history of his dad's service to his country.

Stephan Bunker, post 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander, said "that the Legion has among its many goals, to foster patriotism and ensure that Americans never forget the sacrifices that men and women in uniform



Members and Auxiliary of the Roderick-Crosby American Legion Post 28 in Farmington honor Ken Jones, a member of the U.S. Army Rangers, who received a purple heart and was a POW during WWII. From left are 1st Vice Commander Stephan Bunker, Ken Jones and Post 28 Commander Matt Smith,

have given us in order that we may enjoy the freedom and safety that we too often take for granted. We pledge that our veterans will never be forgotten by us."

Post Commander Matt Smith added,

that we are quickly losing a generation of WWII veterans and it is important to honor them as the "greatest generation" as quoted from Tom Brokaw in his award-winning book, by the same name.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 4 continued



The Barbara Bush Children's Hospital at the Maine Medical Center receive a pickup truck full of new, unwrapped toys for children of all ages thanks to members and Auxiliary of the Roderick-Crosby American Legion Post 28 in Farmington and Matt Smith, Post Commander, and Steve Bunker, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander, who travelled to Portland to make the delivery.

## Legionnaires Donate Christmas Gifts

FARMINGTON – Members and Auxiliary of the Roderick-Crosby American Legion Post 28 in Farmington have been collecting toys for donation to children being treated at the Barbara Bush Children's Hospital at the Maine Medical Center. Arriving just in time for Christmas was a pickup truck full of new, unwrapped toys for children of all ages. The hospital staff stated that such gifts, especially at the holidays, brighten the children's stay while in treatment. The toys, accepted all year long, help to provide therapeutic play activities, entertainment, distraction, prizes, birthdays and holidays.

Matt Smith, Post Commander, and Steve Bunker, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander, travelled to Portland to make the delivery, generously provided by their veterans and auxiliary. They received a warm welcome by hospital staff, who assisted them in unloading the

haul and readying them for selection and wrapping for their special patients.

"This was a most special visit to the hospital, and the post members were determined that no child would be without a present to greet them this Christmas," Smith said. Bunker added, "My truck was full right to the tailgate" and reaffirmed that there is much truth to the saying, "The gift of giving is its own reward."

The post was looking forward to another very special winter event, the Special Olympics 2020 Winter games, held at Sugarloaf in late January. For years the post has hosted a free lunch for the Olympians, as they pause in Farmington to visit and have a meal with the Legion members.

Matt and Steve urge any veteran, honorably discharged, to contact them and join in on the many community service projects. Call 207-778-9371.

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

### Braving the Wind and Rain:

John D. Long, Buckfield Post 58, supported by Anderson-Staples, Oxford Post 112, were not stayed by wind or rain as they marched in Buckfield, in their annual Labor Day Parade, which was held on Monday, Sept.



2, 2019. The units hoped they were being observed along their route of march by the town's citizenry, who largely remained in their homes. Leading the parade is Buckfield Post 58 Commander James Lowell.



**Boys and Girls State Supper:** The Rumford American Legion Post and Unit 24 recently held a Boys and Girls State supper on Jan. 5. The delegates attended along with their families. They shared their experiences and received a Good Citizenship Citation certificate presented by Unit President Valerie Scott and Department of Maine 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander/Boys State Chairman Kirk Thurston. Pictured from left to right are Unit 24 President Valerie Scott, Keirstyn Lyons, Damien Arsenault, Dylan Desroches, Damien Nadeau, Dept of Maine 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Kirk Thurston and Department of Maine Sgt. At Arms/Post 24 Commander Tricia Thurston. Missing from the photo are Audra Bean, Avery Bolduc, Trevor Gallant, and Sean Gould.

ate presented by Unit President Valerie Scott and Department of Maine 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander/Boys State Chairman Kirk Thurston. Pictured from left to right are Unit 24 President Valerie Scott, Keirstyn Lyons, Damien Arsenault, Dylan Desroches, Damien Nadeau, Dept of Maine 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Kirk Thurston and Department of Maine Sgt. At Arms/Post 24 Commander Tricia Thurston. Missing from the photo are Audra Bean, Avery Bolduc, Trevor Gallant, and Sean Gould.

Photo by Kelly Lyons



### Post 24 Donations to the Betsy Ann Ross House of Hope:

The Rumford American Legion Post 24 family recently gathered donations for women veterans and their families for Christmas. They were joined by others to deliver these donations to The Betsy Ann Ross House of Hope in Augusta. The Betsy Ann Ross House provides hope and shelter to Maine's female veterans and their children. Pictured, from left to right, are Department of Maine Americanism Officer Alfred McKay, Legionnaire Destiny Poole, Department of Maine Sgt. at Arms/Post 24 Commander, Unit 24 member Becky Ulmer, Unit 24 President Valerie Scott, Head of House Martha Spierre, Unit 24 member Gini Blais, and Department of Maine 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Kirk Thurston.

### Veterans No Boundaries Collaborates in Maine:

Another successful collaboration between Maine Adaptive's Veterans No Boundaries, and Posts 20, 36, 68 and 81, demonstrating veterans helping veterans, was held on Saturday, Jan. 25 at Jackson-Silver Post 68 Locke Mills. Bethel's Veterans No Boundaries brings scores of veterans who are experiencing personal challenges, along with spouses and their children, from all corners of the nation together to experience a weekend of Maine winter activities, including a fabulous supper, games, quizzes, and prizes at Post 68 on their Saturday night. The various posts who participate in this endeavor enthusiastically look forward to enjoying a like occasion next year. Pictured (from left front) are David Patch, Commander Post 36, Albert Lake, Sgt.-at-Arms Post 68, Richard Grover, Adjutant, Post 81, and Norm Clanton, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Post 81; (second row, from left) Angelina Henderson, USN (Ret.), JoAnne McMahon, Post 20, Co-Chair Veterans No Boundaries, Harry G. Orcutt, Commander Post 68, and Raymond Hakala, Finance Officer Post 68.

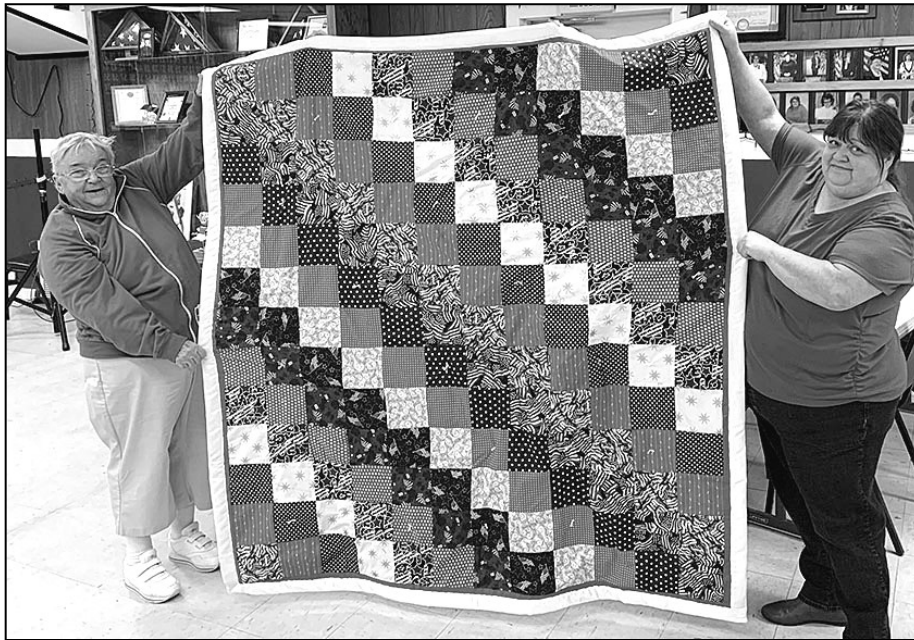


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Photo by Stonetree Creative Photo Studios

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

**District 5 continued**



**Quilts for a Cause:** Members of the Dixfield Post-100 Auxiliary have been busy making quilts for veterans who are currently residing at the Pinnacle Nursing Home located in Canton. Pictured here are (from left) Myrtle Aldus, coordinator of the event; Jody Sage, VP of Unit 100; and, holding the quilt from behind, (camera shy) Lois Green, secretary of Unit 100 Dixfield.



**Norway Fire Chief Acknowledged:** A hand carving by American Legion Post 82 member Arnold Pendexter was presented to Norway Fire Chief Dennis Yates along with a donation to the Fireman's Relief Association. Yates has assisted the post many times. Attending at the post's November meeting included (from left) Christine Yates, Dennis Yates and Arnold Pendexter.



**50-Year Plaque:** On Nov. 23, 2020, members of Post/Squadron 100 went to Montello Heights in Lewiston to present a 50-Year Continuous plaque to the widow of Arthur J. Carrier Jr. From left to right are Area 2 Detachment Commander Roland Patenaude, Daniel Carrier (son), Annie Carrier, Post 100 Commander Charlie Green and Post 100 Adjutant Doug Westbrook.

**Remembering the fallen and honoring the mission: The Coast Guard**

The following inspirational speech was delivered at Locke Mills Post 68 on Nov. 11, 2019 by former Coast Guard Officer Larry Merlino, who now serves on numerous Greenwood town boards.

**G**ood Morning. It is a pleasure and an honor to tell you about my Service, the United States Coast Guard, which traces its heritage to 1790. It is the oldest continuing maritime service.

The Coast Guard is, at all times, an armed service of the United States and more .... a lot more. Unlike the four services residing in the Department of Defense, the Coast Guard, currently a component of the Department of Homeland Security, has a blend of military defense missions with humanitarian, law enforcement, maritime safety, and regulatory missions.

Let's first talk about the "armed service" aspect. The Coast Guard shifts to the Department of Defense upon Congress declaring war or the President issuing an executive order. The Coast Guard has participated in every conflict the United States has been involved in, beginning with the Quasi-War with France, and continuing to date. The Coast Guard is all over the planet today, including the Middle East. In the early days of the country, when there was no Navy, the Coast Guard was the only off-shore force the United States had. The nature of the Coast Guard's military history is effectively captured in a very recent message from the Commandant of the Coast Guard:

"1. It is my honor to report that we will bring Lt Thomas James Eugene "Jimmy" Crotty, a Coast Guard and American hero, home.

2. Lt Crotty was born 18 March 1912, in Buffalo, New York. He graduated from the United States Coast Guard Academy in

1934 after serving as Company Commander, class president and captain of the Academy's football team. He served his first seven years after graduation on board cutters in New York City, Seattle, Sault Ste. Marie, and San Diego.

3. In the days leading to the attack on Pearl Harbor, he served in the U.S. Navy as Executive Officer of the USS Quail, part of the 16<sup>th</sup> Naval District-in-Shore Patrol Headquarters, Cavite Navy Yard, Philippines. He aided in the defense of Corregidor during

the Japanese invasion in the early days of WWII, supervising the destruction of ammunition and facilities at the Navy Yard and scuttling the fleet submarine USS Sea Lion to prevent its use by the Japanese. As the Japanese advanced on Corregidor, Lt Crotty eagerly took charge of cannibalized deck guns from the ship and led a team of brave enlisted Marines and Army personnel fighting for an additional 30 days until the Japanese bombardment finally silenced the defense of the island fortress.

4. Following the fall of Corregidor, Lt Crotty was taken prisoner by the Japanese and interned at the Cabanatuan Prisoner of War Camp. After his death on 19 July 1942 from diphtheria, he was buried in a common grave along with all those that had died that day.

5. After World War II, the U.S. Government moved remains from the common grave to the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial in the Republic of the Philippines. On 10 September 2019, as part of an exhaustive effort by DOD to bring



Larry Merlino, ca. 1960s

every service member home, Lt Crotty was positively identified from the remains exhumed from the cemetery in early 2018.

6. Lt Crotty ... was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and many other decorations.

8. Lt Crotty embodied our core values of Honor, Respect, and most especially Devotion to Duty. As we celebrate his life and legacy, we also celebrate the lives of more

than 600 Coast Guard members we were not able to bring home from WWII. He represents the proud legacy of the Long Blue Line of Coast Guard men and women who place themselves in harm's way every day in the service to their country and fellow man. He is one who made the ultimate sacrifice; we should never forget his efforts and the sacrifices of the thousands of Coast Guard men and women who served so bravely in our service over the last 229 years.

11. Admiral Karl L. Schultz, Commandant

As for the "and more ... a lot more" aspect, that is easily captured in the description of an "average day" in the Coast Guard: On an average day, the Coast Guard:

- conducts 45 search and rescue missions
- saves 10 lives
- saves over \$1.2M in property

- seizes 874 pounds of cocaine and 214 pounds of marijuana
- conducts 57 waterborne patrols of critical maritime infrastructure
- interdicts 17 illegal migrants; escorts 5 big-capacity passenger vessels
- conducts 24 security boardings in and around U.S. ports
- screens 360 merchant vessels for potential security threats prior to arrival in U.S. ports
- conducts 14 fisheries conservation boardings
- services 82 buoys and fixed aids to navigation
- investigates 35 pollution incidents
- completes 26 safety examinations on foreign vessels
- conducts 105 marine inspections
- investigates 14 marine casualties involving commercial vessels
- facilitates movement of \$8.7 billion worth of goods and commodities through the nation's maritime transportation system

These numbers are over a year old. The averages are higher now.

One last point. The Coast Guard's missions have changed over the years and will continue changing. The Coast Guard's motto is "Semper Paradis", which means "Ever Ready."

Thank you.

Larry Merlino, former officer, United States Coast Guard.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 5 continued



**Christmas Float:** Foster-Carroll American Legion Post 72 and VFW Post 9787, both of South Paris, Maine, organized a parade float honoring active military members who cannot be with their families at Christmas. The Maine Army National Guard joined the effort with two Humvees, one leading the float and the other to bring up the rear. Two ATVs pulled carts to take donated goods from parade watchers. The float was dedicated to current active duty military personnel separated from their families during the holidays and was decorated with blown-up images of local military members to include them in their hometowns' festivities. We want to thank the giving people of the Oxford Hills community for donations of staples and supplies, such as toiletries and personal care items, sunscreen and lip balm. Nonperishable food items such as Ramen noodles, seasonings, canned tuna and seafood, trail mixes and decorations were also collected. The collected items filled 35 care packages shipped over to two of the service members featured on the float. Sarah Glynn, Commander of American Legion Post 72 stated, "I believe that this is the first event we've focused on celebrating our current service people and their daily sacrifices. We hope to make the collection an annual tradition." At top are members of the VFW Auxiliary helping to pack the boxes. Above middle, from left to right, Ken West, Vera Angell, Rich Hatch, Dylan Braley, Alan Hill, Sarah Glynn and Teresa Drag gather for the Christmas parade. Bottom photo is of the parade float honoring active military members who cannot be with their families at Christmas.



**Commander Green Honored:** Dixfield Post-100 Commander "Charlie" Green recently was honored for all of his dedication in helping veterans in the area as well as his leadership at the Post home. He received a Certificate from the American Legion Department of Maine as well as a letter of congratulations from Congressman Jared Golden's office for a job well done. Standing (from left) are Congressman Golden; Post-100 Commander Charlie Green; District 5 Commander Randal Canwell; and Department of Maine Sgt. At Arms Tricia Thurston

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 Everlasting Ceremony:** Members and relatives of Post 30 members who had gone onto Post Everlasting gathered at the post at War Memorial Post 30, Camden on Nov. 15, 2019. They were there to remember and acknowledge their loved ones' passing during a Post Everlasting Ceremony. The ladies of the members along with a member and brother of a member attended and were presented with Post Everlasting Certificates in memory of their husbands and brother. Two ladies who could not attend will have their certificates sent to them. Those assembled included (front row, left to right), Grace Stearns, wife of Frank Stearns; Jean Stinson, wife of Clifford Stinson; and Doris Packard, wife of Paul Packard; and (back row, left to right): the Rev. Dave Franclemont/Post Chaplain; Gary Henry/Post Commander; Jeff Sukeforth/Post Adjutant; and Jerry Carr/Post member and brother of Past Commander Frank Stearns.

**THE AMERICAN LEGION  
102nd ANNUAL STATE  
CONVENTION June 12-14, 2020**

**Jeff's Catering & Event Center, 15 Littlefield Way,  
Brewer, Maine 04412**

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

**District 6 continued**



**Warren Post Fire Pit Drawing:**

Above, Warren Post 218 held their Fire Pit drawing at the Maine State Prison on Nov. 15, 2019. The winner of the drawing was Department of Maine Legion Baseball Director David Gray of Farmington, Maine, pictured below. Left to right, Department Service Officer Carl Curtis, District 6 Commander and Warren Post 218 Liaison contact Ray Lewis, Recreational Therapist Mike Fornier, Shop Supervisor (Fire Pit Construction) Hal Thayer, and Department Adjutant Paul L'Heureux.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

**District 7**

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

**Flag Drop Box Offered:** The Waldoboro American Legion Charles C. Lilly Post 149 is proud to offer a flag drop box for the community. This beautifully restored box was conceptualized and initiated by Past Commander Ralph Simmons, a member of the Post for 48 years, and was set up with the support of many Post members. This flag box offers people the opportunity to respectfully dispose of any no longer serviceable, worn and tattered United States flags. Pictured, from

left to right, are Finance Officer Carol Brazier, Chaplain Al O'Donnell, Past Commander Ralph Simmons, Adjutant Timothy Crawford, Commander Donna Wallace, 1st Vice Commander John Flaherty, Sergeant at Arms Ralph Turner, Bryan Hodgkins, and Ed Bean.



**Wiscasset Auxiliary Meets Pantry Challenge**

The American Legion Auxiliary unit in Wiscasset recently accepted and exceeded a challenger from the organization's state president to collect 107 items for donation to a local food pantry during the holiday.

Members of Bradford-Sortwell-Wright America Legion Auxiliary Unit 54 collected 107 items, which they donated to the pantry at St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Wiscasset.

Unit President Sandra Winters and member Carolann Rines delivered the donations, along with Joan Kalar.

Virginia Chaput, president of the American Legion Auxiliary in Maine, issued the challenge to ensure help for people in need during the holidays.

The Wiscasset unit plans to host a public supper and other fundraisers after the first of the year.

Since the establishment of the American Legion Auxiliary on Nov. 10, 1919, the patriotic service organization has worked to help and honor veterans and their families, as well as those in active service.

by Charlotte Boynton  
The Lincoln County News, Damariscotta  
Jan. 2, 2020



From left: Sandra Winters, president of the American Legion Auxiliary in Wiscasset, and Carolann Rines, a member of the Wiscasset unit, deliver food to St. Philip's Episcopal Church on Dec. 17.

Photo courtesy Sandra Winters



Above left, American Legion Regional Commander Bill Cossette Jr. of Wiscasset presents sophomore and student council member Hailey Talert with an American Legion service pin. Above right, WMHS junior and student council member Gwen Webber presents a veteran with a lap blanket.

Courtesy of Deb Pooler



**WMHS Students Visit Togus**

The Wiscasset High School Student Council went to Togus Dec. 9 to visit with the veterans there. This was the students' annual holiday visit with the veterans. Students sang holiday songs, made ornaments, decorated trees and visited with the veterans.

Students received service pins from American Legion Regional Commander Bill Cossette Jr. of Wiscasset. The students enjoyed talking with the veterans and listening to their stories of their military service. The students gave the veterans warm, handmade lap blankets as gifts. The blankets were made by Joan Reed of Wiscasset.

Students wrote heartfelt essays about the experience when they returned to WMHS. This annual visit has become very important to all those involved. "I am so proud of my students and the way they connect with the veterans,"

WMHS' WHS Student Council Advisor and Technology Coordinator Deb Pooler said. "It is so heartwarming to be able to bring a bit of joy to these veterans at Togus during the holiday season! The kids look forward to it every year!"

by Deb Pooler  
Boothbay Register/Wiscasset Newspaper  
Dec. 17, 2019

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 7 continued

# Homeless Veteran Trailer Offers a Short-term Solution

American Legion Past National Vice Commander John Hargreaves says there are approximately 100 identified homeless veterans in Maine on any given night. Of those, approximately 10 have reached out to a local or state agency about housing options but have yet to be placed somewhere.

It's that second group that raised the concerns of a group of Legionnaires at Hargreaves' post, Charles E. Sherman Jr. Post 36 in Boothbay, and has led to what could end up being a short-term solution for veterans needing to get off the street immediately.

Ed Harmon, a member of Charles E. Sherman Jr. Post 36, where he is a service officer and the commander of Sons of The American Legion Squadron 36, came up with the idea to convert a cargo trailer into a temporary residence for veterans in between applying for housing and being placed in some kind of residence. He and fellow Post 36 member Arthur Richardson, who has an electrical license and a background in carpentry, teamed up to build a prototype that the pair hope will become the first of many such trailers throughout the state.

Harmon said that he attends various meetings with other veterans service organizations, and state and local agencies, where he "kept hearing about the lag time on paperwork" for homeless veterans looking for immediate housing. "They're still sleeping on the street, in a car or under a bridge. How do we resolve this?" Harmon wondered.

Post 36 Commander David Patch attended many of the meetings with Harmon, where they started to understand "what was missing," in housing homeless veterans, Patch said. "To add to that, just a few months ago we had a homeless veteran who was in his car. We saw firsthand what the problem was. And following that veteran, we had a local veteran who ended up passing away in his sleeping bag alongside the railroad tracks. So we had the understanding what the problem was academically, if you will, and then we saw it and experienced it firsthand."

Harmon already was in the business of retrofitting campers for use by veterans, and that prompted the idea: "Why don't we build something that's tempo-

rary (so) that they can survive?" Harmon said. "Get them out of the cold. Get them horizontal. Give them some heat. Give them some hope. So that's how it developed. Seeing the plight that's been going on, I couldn't take it anymore."

He and Richardson went to work on a cargo trailer that Harmon had purchased, insulating it, lining the inside walls with fiberglass-reinforced plastic, and providing the trailer with LED lights and heat rated at 99.9-percent efficiency. The trailer has a bed, nightstand, end table, chair, microwave and refrigerator. The heat and electricity in the trailer is powered by plugging the trailer into a regular electrical outlet located outside of a home.

The Veterans Emergency Temporary Shelter (VETS) is intended to meet a need for "those veterans who are in that limbo between contact with an agency and actual placement in temporary transitional housing," Hargreaves said. "A lot of times on weekends they call, they walk (into a homeless shelter) and there's no beds. And they have to vet those veterans and there's nobody to call and check. The veteran is back in his car or under the interstate, wherever. The intent is that these (trailers) are located in places where the agency can put them directly in (the trailer) for two or three days, or maybe a couple weeks. We're looking at 12 or 13 units for the state of Maine probably. Maybe more. But that also depends on who can take them and who can provide the services."

Harmon said he and Richardson will "build as many of these as we can get money for and send them around the state." Over the next few months members of Post 36 plans to work with VA, the state and other organizations involved with the homeless population in Maine to create a process for making the trailers available to those entities assisting homeless veterans.

Getting the word out about the efforts of Post 36 hasn't been a problem. "(In Maine), this project is probably known by every organization that deals with homelessness, including the (Department of Veterans Affairs) and the state of Maine," Patch said. "Visibility in the state right now is not a problem."



**Holiday Fun With Santa:** The American Legion Charles C. Lilly Post 149, Waldoboro, Maine had a fun night at their Saturday night bingo on Dec. 21, 2019. Santa made a surprise visit to the Post and brought a really big bag of candy for everyone to share, and there were many raffle prizes. Bingo staff (from left) included Sergeant at Arms Ralph Turner, Chaplain Al O'Donnell, Commander Donna Wallace, Adjutant Tim Crawford, Service Officer Ensley Parker, 2nd Vice Otto Hunt, and Finance Officer Carol Brazier. Charles C. Lilly Post 149 has bingo every Saturday night, weather permitting. Doors open at 4:30 p.m., games begin at 6:30 p.m. Hope to see you there!

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 8

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



**Christmas at Togus:** At the Togus VA Medical Center, veterans enjoyed a Christmas party on Dec 13, 2019. The major gift was a CD/radio/Bluetooth set with two headphones. All long-term care and hospice patients received individual gifts and \$10 in canteen coupons. 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Kevin Kurklas, Alpha Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 25<sup>th</sup> Marines (Brunswick), 10 Coast Guard members from Sector Northern New England and Santa (with help from Roy Knight) visited with patients. Post 171 members Cdr. Mike Doyle, Bill O'Connell, Gary Cornwell and Bill Sabrowski distributed the gifts. Gale Doyle, Pat Cornwell, members of the now disbanded local chapter SUVCW (Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War) Auxiliary Lee Dione and Anne Sosnowski, and Witty Knitter Edie Seymour attended. Lobster rolls and pizza were served. A good time was had by all! At a Dec. 11 wrapping party, elves who assembled individual gift bags for the Togus party included Cdr. Mike Doyle, Gale Doyle, Bill and Diane O'Connell, Gary and Pat Cornwell, John and Lili Ott, Bill Sabrowski, Al Golden and Joe Civita (Post 20). A big thank you is extended to all who participated. The Post also went to the Plant Home in Bath Dec. 17 to visit nine veterans, who also received individual gift bags. Post 171 visited the Betsy Ann Ross House of Hope in Augusta on Dec. 22 to present bed linens to this nonprofit that provides transitional housing for women veterans.

Photos by Dave Sosnowski

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WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 8 continued



**American Legion Post 20 Archery and Shooting:** Left, young people from Post 20 test their skills in a shooting sports program. They include (from left) Thomas Crimmins, Nolan Dimbleby, Kathleen Mears and Isaac Dimbleby. Crimmins and Mears are members of both the Junior Shooting and Archery programs and in this situation were assisting the younger two.

Right, American Legion Post 20, District 8, Shooting Program participants highlighted their talents. These young people included Gavin Bailey (left) and Thomas Crimmins.

*Photos by Dave Watson of American Legion 20/Courtesy of the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine*



**Willet-McKenny Post 186 Receives Award for 100 Percent Membership:** Willet-McKenny Post 186 in Clinton was recognized for 100 percent membership at the District 9 meeting in January. Here, Department First Vice Commander Debra Couture presents the award to Post 186 Commander LaForest Hanscom at the District 9 meeting held on Jan. 8, while District 9 First Vice Howard Betts, District 9 Commander Don Chase and Department Finance Officer Greg Couture look on.

*Photo by Mike Madden, District 9 Historian*



**District 9 Christmas Party:** American Legion District 9 held its Christmas Party on Dec. 13, 2019, at Post 205 Augusta.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 11

Belfast Post 43; Unity Post 50; Winterport Post 138; Stockton Springs Post 157; Palermo Post 163; Brooks Post 183;



**Veterans Day at Harpswell:** Sen. Brownie Carson delivers the Veterans Day address at Harpswell Center Nov. 11, 2019. On chairs behind him are John Ott and Cdr. Mike Doyle. Behind them, from left, are Scott MacInnes, Bill O'Connell, Al Golden, Bill Sabrowski and Bob Webber. During the ceremony,

Cdr. Doyle observed rifle squad members Bill O'Connell, Bob Weber, John Ott and the Rev. Andy Currier, West Harpswell Baptist Church.

*Donna Frisoli photo.*

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; 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

**WWII Veteran Cane:** World War II Veteran Adelbert Carney Sr. received his Eagle Cane on Nov 12, 2019 at VA Togus. "Del" is in the hospice unit at Togus. Department 1st Vice Commander Debra Couture asked George and Donna Gunning, who make the eagle canes, if they could make one for him. After getting the service information, they made it in less than a day.

*Photo by District 9 Historian Mike Madden*



**Benjamin Berry Post 50 Community Events:** In honor of 100 years of existence in 2019, the Benjamin Berry Post 50 participated in a variety of community events. The post participated in Unity Days, cooking barbecued chicken dinners at the post and transporting them to the town for sale.

*Photos by Sheila Moody.*



## Benjamin Berry Post 50 Celebrates 100 Years of Existence During 2019

Benjamin Berry Post 50 was proud to celebrate 100 years of existence in 2019. This is part of our year in review.

May: Members put up the flags along the main roads through Troy and Unity and participated in the Memorial Day parade and wreath laying ceremonies in Unity

July: The post participated in Unity Days, providing barbecued chicken dinners which were cooked at the post and transported to the town for sale.

August: Commander Ron Cropley, Vice Commander Lee Spaulding and Finance Officer Ron Moody made sure the repairs were done to the flag poles at the Troy Veterans Memorial.

September: A flag retirement ceremony

was held at the post. Several local Scouts participated.

Also in September an inventory of the post's safety deposit box was done. It just happened to be exactly 100 years from the date the post was chartered. It was a good reminder of the legacy of the post.

November: An annual Hunters Supper reminded members of the support the members of the community provide.

December: To finish off the year, post members participated in the Wreaths Across America Ceremony at the Unity Cemetery, where Legionnaire Holly Parker sang the National Anthem and Ron Moody gave the address.

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 Post 97; Brewer Post 98; Newport Post 105; Etna-Carmel Post 17; East Corinth Post 115; Lee Post 160; Hermon Post 200; Dixmont Post 201; Glenburn Post 211; Hampden Post 213



### Corinna Post 73 Bridge Dedication Ceremony:

Top left, American Legion Post 73 of Corinna held a bridge dedication ceremony on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2019, in Corinna. Pictured, from left, are Paula Peirce, President of Legion Post 73

Auxiliary, Staff Sgt. Brandon Benson from the Bangor Marine Recruiting Office, and David Bolstridge, 2nd Vice-Commander at Post 73.

Top right, pictured from left, are Paula Peirce, President of Legion Post 73 Auxiliary, Al Tempesta, Town Manager of Corinna, Sharon (Sudsbury) Eaton (sister to Paul Sudsbury), David Bolstridge, 2nd Vice Commander at Post 73, and Victor Buckland, Post 73 Commander.

## Corinna Bridge Dedication Held in Honor of Marine PFC Sudsbury

A Marine who died in Vietnam was honored when American Legion Post 73 of Corinna held a bridge dedication ceremony on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2019, in Corinna.

The Main Street Bridge was named in honor of PFC Paul E. Sudsbury, who served in the Marines. Sudsbury was killed in action in Vietnam on Aug. 10, 1966. He was 21 years old at the time of his death. He had served for one year in

the Marines.

The ceremony was hosted by Post 73 and attended by town officials, state of Maine Legion officials, family members, friends and several Marine dignitaries.

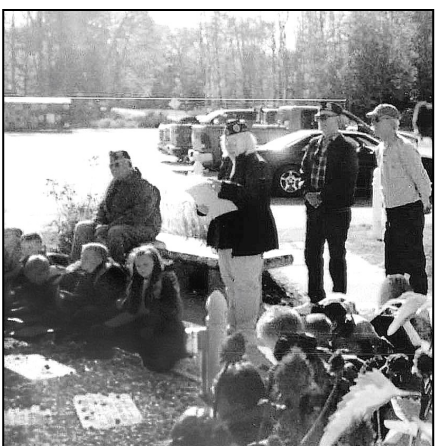
PFC Sudsbury was always faithful to his fellow Marines and to the values of America.

The ceremony was followed by a free dinner at the American Legion hall.



### Eagle Head Cane for 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday:

The Carl E. Burrill Post 77 members presented an eagle head cane to Lester Delano at his 100th birthday party at the House in the Woods lodge in Lee, Maine, on Jan. 18, 2020. Delano has become a Lifetime Honorary Member of Post 77. Delano is a WWII vet and resides in Lee. Pictured (from left) are Chandler Ireland, Cdr Darrell Savage, Delano, Arvid Good and Frank Roy.



### American Flags Given to Grade Schoolers:

American Legion Post 107 took part in an American flag event with Carmel Elementary School in October 2019. Commander Bob Sibley and member Ray Hichborn from Post 107 Etna/Carmel passed out flags to the first graders during Children's Day. Members Marvin Graves (seated) and Julia Pike tell the students about the importance of the flag and what a veteran is. Behind her are Commander Bob Sibley and member Ray Hichborn.

Photos by Don Candage/Adjutant/FINC Officer, Post



**100 % For 2019 to Post 97:** At a District 13 meeting on Nov. 3, 2019, at Lincoln Post 77, information was brought forward on current membership goals with the new Legion Act now in place. Several of the posts already have recruited new members to their posts in the past weeks. Every post told us of events on Veterans Day, parades, breakfasts, dinners and BBQs. There were 13 Legion members with one guest, Area Four Commander Lee Leeman, from seven different posts. Commander Tom Healey (left) of District 13 presents to Commander Henry Carey from Legion Post 97, Howland, a certificate of appreciation from the National Commander Brett Reistad for 100 % for 2019.



Above left, Tom Healey (left) of District 13 presents to 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Dalton Hodgins from Legion Post 200, Hermon, a certificate of appreciation from the National Commander Brett Reistad for 100 % for 2019.



Above right, Healey (left) of District 13 presents to Commander Darrell Savage from Legion Post 77, Lincoln, a certificate of appreciation from the National Commander Brett Reistad for 100 % for 2019.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 14

Dover-Foxcroft Post 29; Milo Post 41; Dexter Post 53; Brownville-Jct. Post 92; Greenville Post 94; Monson Post 116; Guilford Post 119; Sangerville Post 165



### Post 29 Unveils Christmas Tree:

Members of Post 29 decorated and donated a Christmas tree for the Festival of Trees event held this Holiday Season at the Commons at Central Hall in Dover-Foxcroft. It was a wonderful time, "Thank you's" go out to everyone for their support.



### Post Provides Gift Bags:

Members of America Legion Post 29 recently prepared and delivered Christmas/holiday gift bags for the veterans who are now living at Hibbard's Nursing's Home in Dover-Foxcroft.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 14 continued

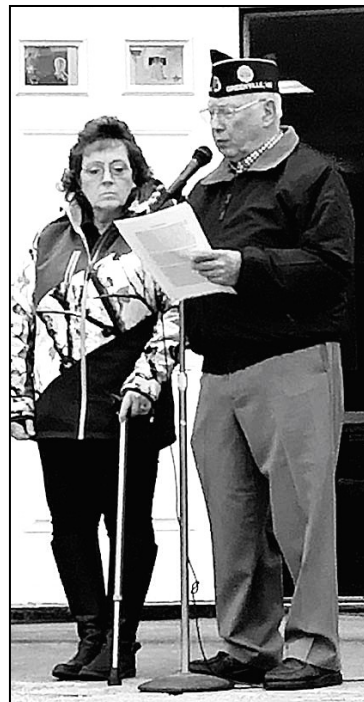


**Greenville Consolidated School Honors Veterans:** The Greenville Consolidated School honored Post 94 veterans and all veterans in attendance on Nov. 8, 2019. The ceremony was held at the school auditorium with an opening of Our Military Family, then the American Flag Ceremony by the second grade; the Pledge of Allegiance by the kindergarten class; The Star Spangler Banner by the MS chorus; America's White Table by the fifth-grade class; Dear Veteran by the first-grade class; We Would Like to Thank Our Veterans by the third-grade class; We Stood For Freedom by the sixth-grade class; Thank a Veteran by the fourth-grade class; Serving with Honor by Emcee Tom Watt; a moment of silence; God Bless the USA by Jessica Cobb; Thank You, Soldier by the seventh-grade class; The Next Time by the eighth-grade class; Armed Services Salute by the High School Band; Traveling Soldier by Serenity Duncan and Taylor Elsemore; and closing remarks by Lee Pearsall, Principal. In attendance were Post 94 veterans, Unit 94, Squadron 94, other post members, parents and many community members. It was a very heart-warming ceremony to watch the young children honor veterans.



**History of Cecil R. Cole Post:** Above right, Post 94, Greenville, held Veterans Day ceremonies at the Post Home, The History of Cecil R Cole, including the purchase of the building and the movement from its original location to its present location across Moosehead Lake in the winter of 1920, was told by Commander Pete Johnson. The Post Home ceremony was honored in having the Greenville Middle School Choir which sang "The Star-Spangled Banner." The event was attended by Legion, Auxiliary and SAL members, as well as school educators, students, residents and visitors, who were present for the day's activities and a luncheon at the Post.

**Wreath Laying for Deceased Veterans in Greenville:** Above left, a wreath-laying ceremony to honor the Deceased Veterans at the Honor Roll Wall at the center of Town in Greenville was performed at 10 a.m. on Veterans Day by Cecil R. Cole Post 94, members in Greenville. The ceremony was performed by Commander Pete Johnson.



## Post 94 Prepares for Disasters with Generator, Emergency Agreement

On Jan. 15, American Legion Cecil R. Cole Post 94 signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Town of Greenville and the Piscataquis County Emergency Management Office to codify responsibilities in the event of a manmade or natural emergency or disaster. Post 94 recently competed for and awarded a grant through the Piscataquis County Emergency Management Office for a 22Kw generator that will give the American Legion Post 94 emergency power in the event of long-term power outages. This capability and the Auxiliary's Unit 94 newly established "food bank" and Post kitchen capabilities gives the American Legion Post 94 Family the ability to serve as an emergency warming and feeding site in the event of local emergencies. The Post 94 Home can seat 100 people at a time for dinner, and members have fed as many as 350 people in three hours.

The MOU specifies when emergency or disaster response would be prompted. In accordance with Title 37-B, Maine Revised Statutes (M.R.S.), Disaster means "the occurrence or imminent threat of widespread or sever damage, injury or loss of life or property resulting from any natural or man-made cause, including, but not limited to fire, flood, earthquake, wind storm, wave action, oil spill or other water contamination requiring emergency action to avert danger or damage, epidemic, extreme public health emergency pur-



A newly installed GENERAC 22 Kw generator at American Legion Cecil R. Cole Post 94 provides power in the event of long-term outages.

suant to Title 22 (M.R.S.) 802, air contamination, blight, drought, critical material shortage, infestation, explosion, riot or hostile military or paramilitary action".

Post Commander Pete Johnson, Town Manager Mike Roy and Auxiliary Unit 94 President Nancy Billing appeared at a signing ceremony for a Memorandum of Understanding regarding disaster response.

**Howitzer Dedication: The Post Dedication Ceremony of the M102 Howitzer that was placed in front of the Post Home in September 2019 was performed by Commander Pete Johnson. The ceremony was attended by post members, Greenville High School Choir, friends and citizens of Greenville.**



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 Homefront Holiday Toy Drive:

Sarah Bayliss, manager of the Calais Dollar Tree, joins Calais Post 3 Commander Mike McLean for an early installment of Operation Homefront's holiday toy drive. Operation Homefront is a national nonprofit whose mission is to build strong, stable, and secure military families. The annual Holiday Meals for Military program began Nov. 14, 2019, providing lower and mid-grade ranking military families with all the grocery items necessary for a full holiday meal. More than 100,000 meals have been provided to military families across the country since the program began in 2009, serving more than 400,000 military family members.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

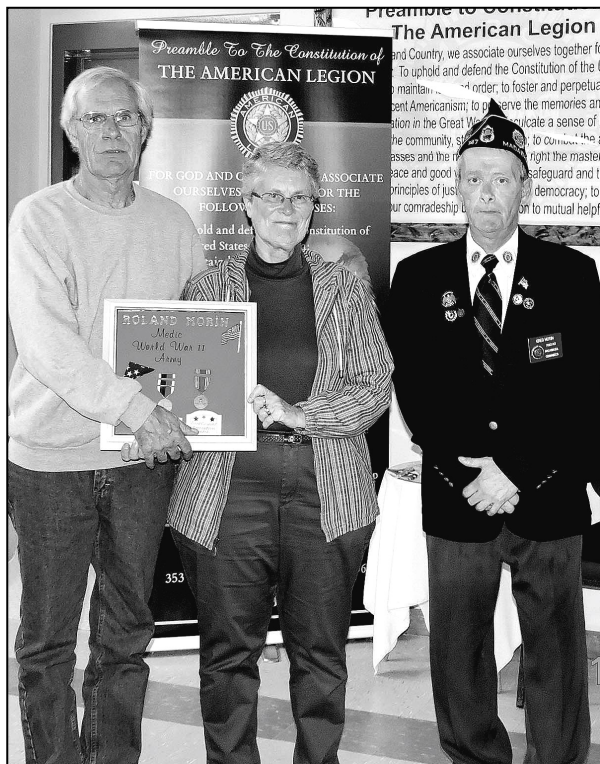
## District 15 continued



**Wreaths Across America in Calais:** On Saturday, Dec. 7, 2019, when Wreaths Across America held its annual HART (Honoring Allies and Remembering Together) Ceremony at Ferry Point Bridge in Calais, veterans were well represented. Those attending included, from left, MSG Peter Duston, Bugler; Richard Mealy, U.S. Army Retired; Mike Mclean, Commander, Calais American Legion Post 3; Tom Reis, U.S. Army Retired; CH (MAJ) David Sivret, Commander, VFW Post 9779; Sherry Sivret, Mrs. Crown of America; McARNG, MAJ Art Carter, U.S. Army Retired; and Andy Pottle, U.S. Army Retired and Commander of the Maine United Veterans Honor Guard. The escort of hundreds of veterans, supporters, partners, volunteers, location coordinators, Gold Star Families, law enforcement and others spent a week traveling from Wreaths Across America headquarters to the nation's capital and Arlington National Cemetery for National Wreaths Across America Day, Saturday, Dec. 14, 2019.

### Remembrance Day Ceremony:

Calais Post 3 Commander Mike McLean participates in a Remembrance Day Ceremony in St. Stephen New Brunswick, Canada on Monday, Nov. 11, 2019.



### World War II Medals Returned:

Thomas O. Cyr American Legion Post 147 of Madawaska returned World War II medals to the Morin family. The medals were found in an old family home. The World War II medals belonged to Roland Morin. Roland was a World War II veteran. He joined the Army on Jan. 15, 1943, and was discharged Nov. 22, 1945. Mr. Morin was in Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes and Central Europe. Mr. Morin's children were present to accept the medals on Oct. 14, 2019. From left to right are Mr. Morin's son, Joel Morin; daughter Elaine (Morin) Millette; and Post 147 Commander Greg Morin.

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

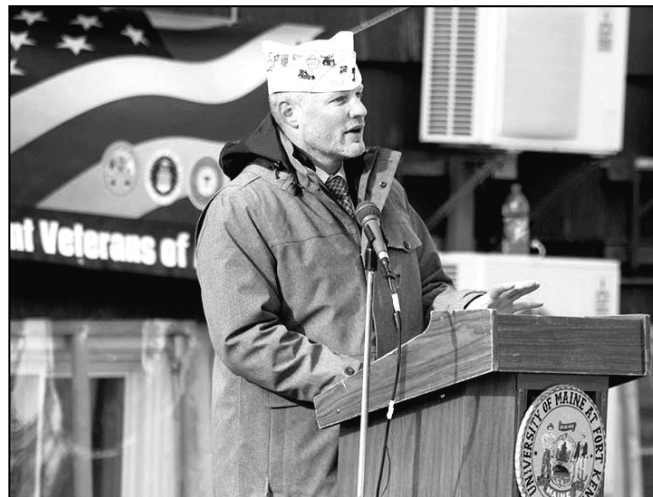
**Maine SVA Chapter Benefit:** Crossings in Fort Kent hosted a Student Veteran Associations meal on Nov. 9, 2019. This meal was put on to benefit the Student Veterans Association chapter



in Fort Kent. Above, participants included (from left) Maine Rep. John DeVeau; Congressman Jared Golden; Crossings owner John Hotchkiss; Leroy McKenzie, SVA Chapter President and American Legion District 17 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander; and Department of Maine Commander Matthew Jabaut. Below right are, from left, Hotchkiss, Caroline Yarmala of Post 202, Auxiliary Department Chaplain Audrey L'Heureux and Maine Department Adjutant Paul L'Heureux.

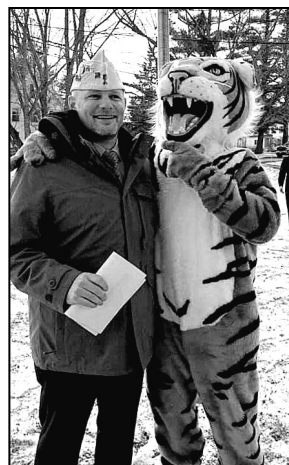


**UMaine at Fort Kent Raises the Flag:** At top, Matthew Jabaut, American Legion Department of Maine Commander, addresses a crowd at the Student Veteran Associations Flag Raising Ceremony at the University of Maine at Fort Kent on Nov. 9, 2019. Below left, Jabaut with Kent Mascot Benny the Bengal. Below right, Jabaut, Congressman Jared Golden and Leroy



McKenzie, SVA Chapter President and American Legion District 17 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander, mark the occasion. McKenzie said, "The main reason I decided to put on this event was to honor all of those veterans who have sacrificed everything in life to make sure as Americans, that we have the freedoms and rights we do now."

Photos by Franklin McKenzie



# Taps Column

<u>POST</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>CONFLICT</u>	<u>POST</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>CONFLICT</u>
Post 3 – Calais	Herman K. Peabody	Korea	Post 83 – Freeport	Ralph Dennison	Korea
Post 3 – Calais	Thomas V. Farnham	Lebanon/Grenada	Post 74 – Kennebunk	James C. Docherty	Korea
Post 4 – Gardiner	Carroll Wilfred Grady	WWII	Post 84 – Orono	David E Cullens Sr	Vietnam
Post 5 – Waterville	Russell D. Principato	Korea	Post 84 – Orono	James A. Treadwell	Korea
Post 5 – Waterville	James H. Michaud	WWII	Post 84 – Orono	Jesse R. Wilson II	Persian Gulf
Post 5 – Waterville	Edward J. Frappier	Korea	Post 84 – Orono	Richard C. Hashey	Vietnam
Post 5 – Waterville	Norma R. Pelletier	Korea	Post 88 – Presque Isle	Victor A. Brown	Vietnam
Post 5 – Waterville	Lucien Loubier	Korea	Post 88 – Presque Isle	Paul J. Wilson	Korea
Post 5 – Waterville	Raymond H. Blodgett	Korea	Post 102 – Stonington	Edward A. Blackmore	WWII
Post 6 – Hallowell	Robert A. Moriarty	WWII	Post 107 – Etna/Carmel	David M. Rogers	Korea
Post 9 – Machias	Gregory W Tidd	Vietnam	Post 107 – Etna/Carmel	Laurence H. Morse	WWII
Post 9 – Machias	William W. Whiles	Korea	Post 107 – Etna/Carmel	Franklin E. Lawrence Sr	Vietnam
Post 19 – Sanford	Robert A. Prevost	Vietnam	Post 116 – Monson	Lloyd A. Storer	Vietnam
Post 19 – Sanford	Noel Grondin	Korea	Post 118 – Mars Hill	C Ray Jones	Korea
Post 19 – Sanford	Daniel Ouellette	Vietnam	Post 122 – Jackman	Douglas Mulhall	Korea
Post 19 – Sanford	Raymond L. Lachance	Korea	Post 123 – Kezar Falls	Merle F. Day	WWII
Post 20 – Brunswick	Joseph M. Molnar	Vietnam	Post 128 – Standish	Philip Buker	Vietnam
Post 23 – Baileyville	James B. Mann	Vietnam	Post 130 – Bar Mills	Merton W. Grant	Korea
Post 24 – Rumford	Thomas J. Bonica Jr.	Korea	Post 132 – Richmond	Arthur J. Gaudreau Sr.	Vietnam
Post 24 – Rumford	George Croomier	Korea	Post 132 – Richmond	Chester Dean	WWII
Post 24 – Rumford	Phillip Broomhall Sr	Vietnam	Post 132 – Richmond	Ronald A. Weeks	WWII
Post 24 – Rumford	Michael J. Orfe	Vietnam	Post 132 – Richmond	Lawrence A. Dearborn	
Post 24 – Rumford	Conrad C. Bellegarde	Korea	Post 133 – Fort Kent	Leonard S. Walton	Korea
Post 24 – Rumford	J Richard Shea	Korea	Post 133 – Fort Kent	Maurice Rioux	Korea
Post 24 – Rumford	Robert Welch	Vietnam	Post 135 – Sabattus	William A. Pinar	Vietnam
Post 24 – Rumford	Gregory J. Ryder	Vietnam	Post 136 – Stockholm	Paul C. Mackay	Vietnam
Post 28 – Farmington	Harold. O. Small	Korea	Post 136 – Stockholm	Keith Flanagan	Lebanon/Grenada
Post 28 – Farmington	Kenneth R. Jones Sr	WWII	Post 136 – Stockholm	David L. Coulters	Korea
Post 29 – Dover-Foxcroft	Alexander C. Powell	WWII	Post 141 – Hartland	Durwood L. Hayden	Korea
Post 36 – Boothbay	Michael J. Eastwood	Vietnam	Post 145 – Frenchville	Bertrand A. Paradis	Vietnam
Post 36 – Boothbay	Merlin H. Gray	Korea	Post 145 – Frenchville	Robert C. Michaud	WWII
Post 37 – Thomaston	Rodney T. Deblois	Korea	Post 145 – Frenchville	Roger A. Bosse	Korea
Post 39 – Madison	Roger L. Champion	Korea	Post 147 – Madawaska	Kevin A. Michaud	Persian Gulf
Post 42 – Damariscotta	Edward F. Poland	WWII	Post 147 – Madawaska	Jon L. Lyons	Vietnam
Post 42 – Damariscotta	James H. Phillips	Korea	Post 148 – Washburn	John S. Herald Sr	Vietnam
Post 42 – Damariscotta	Eric J. Manning	Persian Gulf	Post 148 – Washburn	Robert J. Newberry	Korea
Post 42 – Damariscotta	Dennis F. Carey	Vietnam	Post 149 – Waldoboro	Edwin M. Dexter	WWII
Post 43 – Belfast	James Pennell	Korea	Post 153 – Auburn	Guy E. Provost	Vietnam
Post 43 – Belfast	James Pennell	Korea	Post 155 – Naples	Thomas Hubbard	Vietnam
Post 48 – Washburn	Robert K. Brown	WWII	Post 157 – Stockton Springs	Philip E. Wolley	Korea
Post 49 – Van Buren	Camille A. Lausier	Korea	Post 173 – New Portland	William J Cairnie SR	Vietnam
Post 50 – Unity	Charles Costa	WWII	Post 178 – Winslow	Peter C. Jeans	Vietnam
Post 52 – Oakfield	George D. Horton Jr.	Vietnam	Post 181 – Litchfield	Ronald C. Kenney	Korea
Post 54 – Wiscasset	Dennis G. Hill	Vietnam	Post 181 – Litchfield	Leo R. Small	WWII
Post 57 – Old Orchard	Ralph Pettengill	Korea	Post 181 – Litchfield	Asa C. Bouchard Sr	Vietnam
Post 58 – Buckfield	Donald H. Hicks	Vietnam	Post 181 – Litchfield	Roger C. Rogerson	Korea/Vietnam
Post 58 – Buckfield	Felix Langlais	Korea	Post 181 – Litchfield	Robert D. Mason	Vietnam
Post 65 – Lubec	John S. Appleby	Vietnam	Post 181 – Litchfield	Malcolm C. Harvey	WWII
Post 65 – Lubec	James McFadden	Vietnam	Post 197 – Westbrook	Allen P. St.Pierre	
Post 65 – Lubec	Joseph T. Glidden	Vietnam	Post 197 – Westbrook	James. O Gaudet	WWII
Post 42 – Damariscotta	James H. Phillips	Korea	Post 197 – Westbrook	John P. Lefebvre	Vietnam
Post 72 – South Paris	Harry L. Harper	WWII	Post 200 – Hermon	John A. Clark Jr.	Vietnam
Post 72 – South Paris	David S. Ramsay	WWII	Post 200 – Hermon	Terry F. Duran	Vietnam
			Post 202 – Topsham	Paul E. Bernier	Vietnam

**WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...**

## District 17 continued



**Thanksgiving Meal:** American Legion Post 49, Van Buren, sponsored a Community Thanksgiving meal on Sunday, Oct. 13, 2019. All workers and cooks were volunteers helping the Post. From left, the crew in the kitchen included, Joe and Joyce Michaud, District Officers, Harvey Beaulieu, 2nd Vice Post 49 and Tina Cormier, Unit 49 President.

**WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ...**

## St. John's Newfoundland Post CN09



**Commemoration and Education:** Above left, Canada CN09 Post Commander John Walther and Finance Officer Ray Reiser gather after laying a wreath at the St. John's War Memorial on Nov. 11, 2019. Above right, Canada CN09 Post Commander John Walther presents a Legion Scholarship for 2019 to Julia McNeil.

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## Attention: Next Deadline is Apr. 24

The deadline for material, stories and/or pictures to be submitted for consideration for use in the May 2020 issue of The Maine Legionnaire will be Apr. 24, 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

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS CARD**

Membership Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Post No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Refer to membership register

Member's Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Show as entered in membership register

Old Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street, Route or P.O. Box

Post Office \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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Street, Route or P.O. Box

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Remarks \_\_\_\_\_

**To update your address: Complete all sections of the above form and mail to The American Legion, Department of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901 or call Department HQ at 207-873-3229 | Email: legionme@mainelegion.org**



**Legislator Visit To State HQ:** Department Adjutant Paul L'Heureux, left, gives Representative Tom Martin (Sabattus/Greene) a tour of The American Legion, Department of Maine facility and POW/MIA memorial during his visit on Nov. 20, 2019.

## Support Veterans in the State of Maine by Promoting Your Business with Maine American Legion

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**CONVENTION YEARBOOK**

**SPONSORSHIP REQUEST FORM**

The American Legion, Department of Maine will be taking a new direction this year to improve our Annual State Convention Yearbook. Various changes will take place including the format of the publication as well as a digital copy that will be made available online at [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org).

To submit your sponsorship ad and payment, please visit <https://form.jotform.com/RachaelJ/ALDOM-Yearbook-Sponsorship-ReqForm> or [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org) and click on the image of the Maine American Legion

Convention Yearbook Sponsorship Request Form. A fillable form is also available for printing by clicking on the Convention Yearbook Sponsorship Request Form—Fillable. For more information, please call 207-873-3229 Ext. 2.

**HELP US CONTINUE TO SERVE VETERANS FOR ANOTHER 100 YEARS!**



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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.