

THE MAINE Legionnaire



MAY 2020

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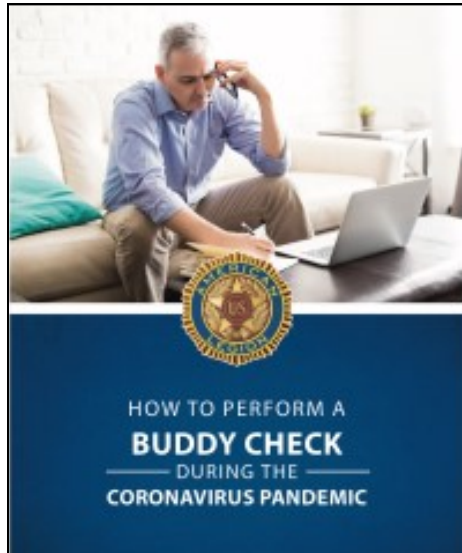
OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MAINE

28 Pages

American Legion Assists Thousands Through Buddy Checks

INDIANAPOLIS (April 13, 2020) – American Legion posts throughout the nation are reaching out to isolated veterans and their families through a Buddy Check program initiated in early 2019 that has helped thousands get through the current and ongoing coronavirus-COVID19 pandemic.

“If ever a veterans-service program was built for pandemic relief, it’s the Buddy Check,” American Legion National Commander James W. “Bill” Oxford said. “In communities large and small everywhere on the map, Buddy Checks are making big differences for veterans, their spouses and families. Hundreds of posts are reaching out in their local communities, especially to veterans whose age puts them at risk for infection. Legionnaires are using the phone, email and social media to safely find out how these veterans are doing and what we can do to help them. They might need something from the store or pharmacy. Sometimes, for a veteran who is alone and on orders to stay home, the most important thing is a phone call.”



American Legion Post 272 member Leroy Lippi Jr. has completed no less than 438 Buddy Check calls around his community of Linglestown, Pa., since the pandemic began. Rod O’Connor, commander of his post, has made another 162

More on “BUDDY CHECKS”, Page 3

Updates from our National Leadership COVID-19 Requires Temporary Changes to how we do Legion Business!

With all that is going on in our world with the pandemic, COVID-19 requires temporary changes be made to how we do our business, both personal and with our great organization, The American Legion.

Article VII of the Constitution of The American Legion stipulates, Section 1: Between National Conventions of The American Legion the administrative power of The American Legion shall be vested in the National Executive Committee, which shall be composed of the National Commander, the National Vice Commanders, and one National Executive Committee Member and one alternate from each Department to be elected as such Department shall determine, the alternate to act only in the absence of the National Executive Committee Member.

Section 2 states the term of such NEC member and alternates shall be two years commencing immediately upon adjournment of the National Convention next ensuing after their election and shall end at the adjournment of the second next succeeding annual National Convention.

Section 3 states members shall be delegates to the National Convention with vote which shall be exercised with their respective Departments, except that the vote of the National Commander shall be exercised only in their capacity as chair of the National Convention.

Pursuant to Article VII, Section 1, the NEC voted pursuant to Rule 12 of the Rules of the National Executive Committee, first to cancel the May meetings of the National Executive Committee due to the pandemic. Rule 12, titled Transaction of Business by Mail, E-mail or by Telephone was quoted as allowing the vote without meeting together as the governor of Indiana had declared a crisis due to COVID-19. The NEC members were emailed a copy of a resolution declaring the May meetings cancelled and were asked to vote and submit the vote via

More on “NAT’L UPDATES”, Page 3



Updates from our Department Leadership COVID-19 Requires Temporary Changes to Maine American Legion Business,

Dear Legionnaires,
The American Legion Department of Maine wants to let you know that **we are here for you** during these difficult times. Our staff and department officers are working carefully to make sure our organization continues to run smoothly and is here to support you with any issues that transpire. We are also working to help keep you informed on up-to-date information regarding the current Coronavirus pandemic and how it affects you, our Posts and our Department.

DEPARTMENT HQ: The American Legion, Department of Maine Headquarters office will be closed to the public for walk-ins only until further notice or when it is safe to reopen. We are however open for business with some staff working a few days a week in the office and some working both remotely from home as well as in the office. Voicemail messages relating to Department, Post, or District should be left by calling 207-873-3229 Ext. 2 and messages relating to Veterans Assistance should be left by calling 207-754-6044. All emails should be sent to legionme@mainelegion.org. The Service Office will also be checking their phone messages and emails during this time as well; to leave a message, please call 207-623-5726 or email carl.curtis2@va.gov.

All Posts are encouraged to process their membership utilizing the MyLegion.org website. However, for those Posts that do not use MyLegion.org, please continue to process membership manually and mail to Department Headquarters where staff will process as soon as they can.

The following programs and events have been cancelled for 2020 due to the problems with COVID-19, resolutions made by our National Headquarters and approval by our Department Executive Committee on April 11.

Annual State Convention—Cancelled. Pursuant to the recommenda-

tions made by our National organization and approval by our Department Executive Committee, all department elected and appointed officers will continue to serve in their current positions until the close of the next Department Convention scheduled to be held at Jeff’s Catering and Event Center in Brewer June 11-13, 2021. If anyone wishes to resign, please submit a written resignation to Department Commander Matthew Jabaut at mdjabaut@gmail.com and Department Adjutant Paul L’Heureux at paul@mainelegion.org. Elected and appointed officers for Posts and Districts are encouraged to follow this recommendation as well. If Posts or Districts decide to hold elections, it must be after you are able to hold meetings again.

The Sweepstakes drawing is scheduled as planned and will be held June 13 with a location to be determined.

Donations and ad space submissions to the State Convention Yearbook in support of our Maine Veterans has been extended to July 1. A digital copy will be made available by visiting www.mainelegion.org and a limited number of copies will be printed.

Dirigo Boys & Girls State—Cancelled.
Department Testimonial—Cancelled.
Maine Legion Baseball—Cancelled.
Maine Legion College—Department is currently accepting applications for Maine Legion College with cutoff date of July 1st and starting class on July 18th.
Scholarships and Awards—Deadline for submitting applications for scholarships and awards has been extended to July 1, 2020. Awards will be presented during our Fall Conference on September 19 at Jeff’s Catering & Event Center in Brewer.

For a complete listing of up-to-date information, cancellations and rescheduled events, please visit www.mainelegion.org.

A 'First' Look

Fellow Legionnaires, it has been an unbelievable few months. It is hard to believe that I was in Washington, DC with members of our Department Legislative Committee during the second week of March. We were shaking hands and conducting meetings with our Senators and Representatives and discussing The American Legion's State and National concerns with our legislators. By the end of that week, our world had changed significantly. COVID-19 became part of our lives.

I pray that you are all well and safe and that you are reaching out to other veterans and members of your Post to make sure that they are doing OK. The buddy checks for all are so very important. I cannot stress them enough. Also, if you are not doing well and need to talk to someone or need assistance, please reach out to a friend/member of your Post. We can help to find you the support that you need. Another great resource is Maine 211. You can dial 211 from your phone or go to the www.211maine.org website. It is one of the greatest resources that we have in the State of Maine. Basic sheltering or food needs, substance abuse issues, and other health concerns are just a few ways in which 211 staff can assist.

I want to thank the many health care staff, school teachers, first responders, postal employees, grocery store employees and all those who continue to work in essential services and supply us with basic necessities, helping to give us some semblance of normalcy in our daily lives. I know that we all know people or have family members who are working in these fields. Our Department Americanism Officer, Al McKay, works in the EMS field. I have a niece who is a nurse at a Bangor hospital, 2 daughters who are teachers, and a grandchild who is a clerk at Hanna-



**DEBRA
COUTURE**

ford. I thank all of them. We all need to do our part with social distancing to stay safe and well. My prayers go out to all our veterans and others who have been diagnosed with COVID-19, that they may soon recover.

I want to end on some positive notes. As we all resort to more online communication, it has been great to see so many wonderful quotes and examples of people helping others. I want to mention one. Soraya Umphrey, of The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Maine, Unit 2 in Augusta, has started a wonderful fund raiser. She is raising money for the American Legion, Children and Youth Programs by walking and having people sponsor her or walking on their own and sponsoring themselves. As Soraya said: "Not only does this raise a little money for our military and veteran's kids, but it also keeps us motivated to get out and walk for our health." Greg and I have sponsored ourselves and have walked over 70 miles this month. That is the most we have walked in ages! If you want to make a donation, it can be sent to the ALA, 5 Verti Drive, Suite B, Winslow, Maine 04901. Please put "C&Y Kids" in the memo block on any checks sent.

As we know, the State of Maine is currently celebrating its 200th anniversary. Many bi-centennial events have been cancelled or rescheduled. The Bi-Centennial Parade has been rescheduled for August 14 in Lewiston-Auburn. I am hopeful that many of our Posts will be able to participate in the parade. If anyone is interested in participating, please call me at 207-582-3897 or email me at navycaptpom-i0031@gmail.com to let me know if your Post is able to bring a float or march in the parade or both. It would be wonderful to have a great show of support from The American Legion, Department of Maine, for our State's Bi-Centennial Parade. As is stated at the Bi-Centennial Website, www.Maine200.org, this is "an historic parade celebrating Maine's veterans, youth, and culture...." I have underlined veterans. We are first in their statement. Let's show our numbers to the whole State of Maine. May God Bless you all. Stay safe and well.

*For God and Country,
Debra Couture*

Department Wins 2nd Place in Membership Development Marketing Excellence Program

The American Legion, Department of Maine placed 2nd in the Membership Development Marketing Excellence Program, a program sponsored through the Wgle Membership Innovation Initiative (AGIA) and was awarded \$7500 thanks to Department 1st Vice Commander Debra Couture. Deb's hard work in gathering information from Posts around the State of



Maine and her dedication to the Department attributed to the success of this award.

**Thank you Deb!
&
CONGRATULATIONS
on this
Great
Achievement!**

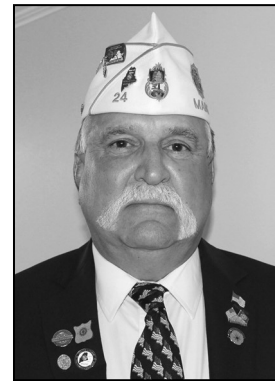
The American Legion, Dept. of Maine

A 'Second' Look

I hope that by the time you read this we are out of the grip of the pandemic. I know it has been a struggle for Post/Districts to conduct business as usual. For you history buffs (i.e. Comrade Hand and others), this is not the first time Legionnaires have had to fight this battle and have overcome the hurdles put in front of them. Imagine being at the first Legion Convention in Paris, France and be in the middle of the influenza pandemic. It started in the fall of 1918; after it subsided in the winter of 1920 at least 50 million people had died worldwide, including approximately 550,000 in the United States. Our forefathers made it through and we will also.

Commander Jabaut, remember the Adjutant's saying of Department Commanders "One and done", well not this year. He had mentioned to me earlier that it is not the first time. Our first Department Commander Albert Greenlaw 1919-1921. I guess it just took 100 years to come full circle.

I know a lot of Posts have been conducting Buddy Checks and being very successful. As we have heard earlier, Gray Post 86 helped a local woman with her firewood. In Rumford Post 24 conducted 2 Buddy Checks, first their delinquent list gaining renewed membership



**KIRK
THURSTON**

and a few transfers from Post 178. A few weeks later they conducted their second check calling every member on the roster they had a phone number for. The ones without a phone number were sent a letter checking in on them and requesting updated information. A few members have called back and provided updated information. One member when asked if he needed anything replied "bar of Irish Spring soap would be nice". He was also a recipient of a 50 Year Continuous Membership certificate and label pin. Both were delivered later that week on the sidewalk in front of his apartment.

The Auxiliary Unit 24 along with the Post Commander (dual member) held a meal with take-out orders only. People ordered by phone and set a time to pick up their meal at the back door of the Legion Hall. Legion family members donated money to cover the cost of meals for first responders in the area (23 meals).

Post 202 Topsham has also been providing Friday night meals for the community, selling out each time. Post 6 Hallowell conducted buddy checks from home following up with emails. I am sure there are many more that are doing wonderful things during this pandemic. The point to this is we need to continue our mission and educate the public on the great things we do.

These events were conducted using social distancing and observing all safety precautions to ensure the safety of all involved.

For all that are doing what they can when they can, keep up the great work! Remember we will get through this. This too will pass, stay safe and stay strong. Hope to see you soon.

Money Matters

As my first year as Department Finance Officer comes to a close, I wait with baited breath for the auditors to review the books and give me feedback on where I can make improvements. They have already started the review in Aroostook County and will make their way to Headquarters for the final portion. This year, the process will be a little different than in the past because of the social distancing requirements.

This year's budget was reviewed by the Finance Committee and forwarded to the Department Executive Committee (DEC) who has reviewed and approved it. As with each year, the Department needs to maintain its revenue streams in order to continue to support its programs, as well as pay the office staff so they can contin-



**GREGORY
COUTURE**

ue to do their jobs. Those revenue streams include membership renewals and new members, our spring and holiday label programs, and sweepstakes programs. Your support for these fund raisers is definitely needed.

The American Legion, Department of Maine Foundation is a 501 (c) 3, so all business and corporation donations are 100% tax deductible. All donations to the Endowment are invested and the revenue generated is intended to be donated to the Department of Maine for its programs. To date, we have received approximately \$11,000 in donations. The Department of Maine Foundation's Board of Directors approved to invest \$10,400 of that amount in a CD (certificate of deposit) that will generate a higher level of interest than a regular savings account. It is hoped that it will generate approximately \$200 in interest over the next year.

I would like to give you an example of what the Department would need in the Foundation Endowment account to support a complete program. The Oratorical program has a budget of about \$7,000. The Foundation Endowment account would need approximately \$350,000 in

More on MONEY MATTERS , Page 4

NEC Update

As we are now into this pandemic and the stay at home sheltered order means that we have had to change many of our ways of doing business and handling of the everyday happenings in both our own lives as well as those of the greatest and largest veterans service organization in the world – our American Legion and how we do to help our veterans and their families. From the cancelling of the May meetings of the NEC to the cancelling of the annual National Convention, the National organization has had to make some once in a lifetime decisions.

This year's Washington, D.C. conference went on with just a slight change from being normal. While there, I attended the conference in the Veterans Employment and Education Commission meetings and was also assigned to a sub-committee to evaluate and choose winners of the top DVOP (Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program Specialist), LVER (Local Veterans' Employment Representative), Small-Medium-Large Employer of Veterans of the Year Award, Local Office Employment Service Award, Employer of Older Workers Award, Enhance the Lives of Disabled Persons Award. We had a total of over 72 nominations to review. Each category has their own specific criteria to follow and which the nominees are to be evaluated. I was somewhat surprised at the nominations in that knowing the evaluation criteria of each category, the nominator did not either know the criteria or didn't follow the criteria. All of the nominees were evaluated by seven of us, including the sub-committee chairman. I did mention this to the sub-committee chair and stated that emphasis should be placed on the criteria of each of the areas.

We met during the lunch period which continued into the afternoon commission meeting but we were able to partake fully in the afternoon session. The session commenced on Monday with a panel discussion from the U.S. Small Business Administration, Office of Veterans Business Development, Military Veterans Agricultural Liaison of the USDA,



LLOYD WOODS

Transition to Veterans Program Office from the Secretary of Defense, and the Office of Transition, Education and Development of the VA.

One of the many topics discussed was the TAP (Transition Assistance Program) which should be offered to each veteran who is leaving military service and coming into the civilian life. There was some concern that this was not operating as smoothly as it could be. It is generally held in a three day workshop setting where one day is basically all day with information, one day pertaining to education and one day with vocational emphasis being presented to each attendee.

Another topic was "Grow with Google" with information given by the Program Manager and the Program Lead, Veterans and military families of this program. This program is designed to assist veterans in the job seeking skills and the families also. They use the military job codes and have job training programs on jobs.google.com/pathways. Other topics were the Quality Education and Training in the Private Sector, and Veterans Education and other benefits and Homelessness summit.

Following the Monday session, on Tuesday was the Commander's Call then "Know Before You Go" presentation before going to the Hill to speak with the various Senators and House Representatives or their aides. On Wednesday was the Commander's testimony before the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committees.

Please be safe and healthy out there. We WILL get through this and we are in this TOGETHER.

■ "BUDDY CHECKS" (Continued from Page 1)

calls. "My main goal in all of my calls is to ensure them that if they need assistance in any way ... that we are out there for them and for their needs," Lippi says. "If we can provide the service, I'm going to do that."

Woodland Hills, Calif., Legionnaires have delivered groceries and over-the-counter medicine to socially distancing veterans found through Buddy Checks. Post 43 in Tullahoma, Tenn., has worked with the Boy Scouts and Junior ROTC members to deliver food and supplies to veterans contacted through Buddy Checks there. "Our veterans and their spouses are very appreciative knowing that someone cares about their well-being and needs," Post 43 Commander Alan Harris said. "It is, after all, why we as an organization exist."

Country music singer Gary LeVox of chart-topping Rascal Flatts delivered an April 7 social media video to advance awareness of The American Legion's Buddy Checks and to urge continued outreach and participation. "Veterans need to know that we are thinking of them, that we care ... just to brighten up their day," he says in the video, asking his followers to visit www.legion.org to learn more about Buddy Checks.

"Be a buddy to a veteran," he says. "We're all in this together."

The American Legion keeps its membership of almost two million wartime veterans up to date on the coronavirus pandemic, including news of Buddy Checks, blood drives, meal services and more at www.legion.org/coronavirus. Included on the site is an online publication to guide posts about how to conduct Buddy Checks in their local communities.

Media contacts: John Raughter, jraughter@legion.org, (317) 630-1350

On the Agenda

All District meetings have been suspended until further notice due to COVID-19

The schedule for all District meetings is available on our website by visiting <http://www.mainelegion.org/pages/news-events/district-meetings.php>. Please continue to check back to this site as daily changes occur and restrictions are lifted.

■ "NAT'L Updates" (Continued from Page 1)

email to the National Adjutant. Shortly after receiving and reviewing the resolution the vote was sent as requested. The vote was unanimous in approval of the resolution. This was in accordance of Rule 12.

Subsequent to the above, and after consultation with the Convention Committee of Kentucky, the National Convention Committee, the National Finance Committee, the Advisory Committee to the National Commander and the National Commander, a resolution to cancel the National Convention, named Resolution #3 was presented to the National Executive Committee members for review and voting, either approving or disapproving, pursuant to Rule 12.

The resolution stipulated that due to the problems of COVID-19 the National Convention for 2020 be cancelled, that all national elected and appointed officers continue serving in their current positions until the close of the next National Convention scheduled in Phoenix, Arizona from August 27 through September 2, 2021, that all national commission and/or committee chairpersons and the current commission and committee members continue serving in their current positions until they resign or are either reassigned or reappointed at the 2021 Fall Meetings scheduled in Indianapolis, Indiana, October 12-15, 2021, that the National Executive Committee recommends that departments retain their current member of the NEC, if they so desire until the post-Convention meeting of the NEC at the Phoenix, Arizona, National Convention on September 2, 2021, that any resolutions needing to come before the American Legion National Executive Committee, may be brought forth to the NEC and subsequently considered and voted on by video meetings, electronic mail or any other allowed means prior to the 2020

Fall Meetings in Indianapolis, Indiana, that the per capita dues for the American Legion National Organization remain at \$18.50 for 2021, that the NEC strongly urges the national Sons, American Legion Auxiliary and departments follow a similar course of action to wit: (1) cancel their 2020 conventions and elections; and (2) maintain the status quo of their officers until next year and finally the community of Louisville, Kentucky accommodating the American Legion 2020 National Convention's cancellation decision in such a prompt manner without penalty or other financial cost to the American Legion. The NEC is hereby awarding the 2026 National Convention to the community of Louisville, Kentucky, via the American Legion Department of Kentucky Convention Corporation.

After receiving the resolution and reviewing it as requested a vote was made and transmitted to the National Adjutant as requested as soon as possible. Subsequently, the National Adjutant notified the NEC members that the resolution had unanimously been approved.

Even though the resolution does not say so, there were other meetings between April 8 and September 30 that have been cancelled, such as National Oratorical Finals, leading candidate orientations, DSO school, Membership Workshop, Junior Shooting Sports, Boys Nation, American Legion Baseball regional tournaments, American Legion World Series, Legacy Run, Americanism Conferences, Children & Youth conference, System Worth Saving and ROAR visits and any other minor meetings that may have been planned.

For up-to-date information, cancellations and rescheduled events pertaining to Maine American Legion, please visit www.mainelegion.org.

Award Submissions



Deadline for Submitting Applications for Awards Extended to July 1, 2020

THE MAINE Legionnaire

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Americanism Report

Greeting comrades, I truly hope this issue finds you well. All of the spring and summer programs have been cancelled. As you know by now, no Boys State. We still may have Memorial Day Parades. We also have Flag Day. As you are putting the FLAGS out on our fallen comrades' graves, be careful and maintain a safe distance from others. As of the writing of



ALFRED
MCKAY

this article, the Sea Dogs baseball game is still on. The Portland Sea Dogs will be having a Military Appreciation Day on Aug. 6th at 1300 hrs. The gates will open at 1000 and you are invited to play catch on the field from 1000-1115. A group photo will also be taken in front of the Maine Monster Scoreboard. The Sea Dogs are scheduled to play the Bowie Baysox, an AA affiliate of the Baltimore Orioles. Tickets are \$10.00 with \$3.00 coming back to The American Legion, Department of Maine. To order your tickets, please call Alan Barker at 207-879-9500 or email him at Abarker@seadogs.com. This price is for any and all you want to bring. Ticket deadline is Aug. 8 @ 2359 hrs. See you at Hadlock Field in August! Lets fill the stands with Legion hats!

■ "MONEY MATTERS" (Continued from Page 2)

donations to generate enough CD interest to cover all expenses associated with the Oratorical Program. \$11,000 is a very good start but we have a long way to go in order to be able to support our programs from interest earned. Please keep The American Legion, Department of Maine Foundation in mind when you want to

make charitable donations.

At the Post level, everyone should have registered with the Secretary of State in order to keep their non-profit status. If you have a canteen, I would highly recommend you have an annual audit completed by an independent auditor. All Post Finance Officers, please ensure your Federal IRS 990-N is submitted and that you are working towards a Post budget for the new fiscal year.

*Be Well, Stay Safe
Greg Couture*

**RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP
ONLINE TODAY!**
VISIT WWW.MAINELEGION.ORG OR
VISIT WWW.LEGION.ORG/RENEW

The Adjutant Speaks

I must start by hoping you are all doing as well as possible during these challenging times. If for any reasons you are in need, please reach out to us at headquarters and let us make every effort to assist you during these times. We cannot help unless you either contact your local post that you currently belong to or at your Dept. Headquarters.



PAUL
L'HEUREUX

As many of you will read in other articles in this issue, we have cancelled many of our current programs and have tried to reschedule a few others. Our next planned event if all goes well will be the Fall Conference to be held on September, 18-19 in Brewer. Please remember that this will not happen if the COVID-19 should dictate another course of action. During this current phase starting around the early weeks of March we have tried to stay ahead of the many directions that were given to us at the State & National level and provide the information as soon as possible. The most expedient way to deliver this has been the use of our webpage www.mainelegion.org. If you should have any questions please visit this site first and if you still have any concerns please contact the office at: 207-873-3229 and you will be directed to the proper person to answer your questions. At this time, you can only email or phone the office, no walk-ins are currently allowed.

Now moving on to a related subject is the actions some of the Legion posts have taken during these times. Many have spent time cleaning and disinfecting the post homes to start off with. Others have held Blood Drives coordinating with the Red Cross under strict conditions and appointments. Others recently made trips to Augusta to pick up food for the Food Pantry located in their town. While a few

decided that they always ask business in their community for donations they in turn went out to some of the struggling establishments and purchased gift cards so they may continue to operate. Others decided that they would do "take out service" and purchase local caught lobster and help the fisherman as well. That post sold over 200 meals in one night at the curb as allowed. Others have done Mexican night and the extra contributions have made a difference within the community.

Now these are the ones that we know about just recently and I did not want to mention any post name or location and fear missing any others as well as the correct information. And we know there are others doing unique things. As I write this article, we have received a little information that we will try to put in this issue, but we are looking for more articles from other posts as well as the ones listed above, that have stepped up to make things better for their community and the veterans of the State of Maine. We are talking about 15 minutes to send us an email and a picture if possible, following the State guidelines. We would like to have more for the next issue of this paper.

One of the last things that many Posts have done with great success, is the "Buddy Check" where the officers of the post called their membership to see if they were in need of any items, pickup prescriptions, maybe just to make sure they were OK. The only way I know about these are the calls I received from the members themselves who appreciated the contact. These small things do make a difference in someone's day during these times.

There are other stories out there that we need to know about and to let all our members know that The American Legion makes a difference every day for a veteran, for his/her family, our community and the State of Maine.

In closing, please remember to stay safe, reach out to others during these times, be patient and polite, and be pleasant and give each other a little lift when needed.

Forward & Focused



Donation In Support Of Maine Veterans:

The Maine Nordiques Hockey Team and Androscoggin Bank Colisse were honored to present a check in the amount of \$1300 to The American Legion Veterans Services following Veterans Appreciation Weekend. Proceeds were donated after the Maine Nordiques auctioned off game worn military-style jerseys following their game on Sunday, Feb. 23rd at Androscoggin Bank Colisse. Left to right, Dave Gagnon, Corporate Partner-

ship & Game Day Operations, Mike Cain, General Manager Androscoggin Bank Colisse, Paul L'Heureux, American Legion State Adjutant and Steven Simard, Auburn Post 153 Commander.

President's Message

Greetings to our Legion Family,

What a busy late Winter and truly unprecedented early Spring we have had. I have seen our family members and their loved ones finding ways to get through this situation, continuing to serve our missions and staying safe for themselves and others.

Back to our Winter, January presented so much loss for us as a Department. My deepest thoughts and prayers go out to all who lost and know we were right there with you. February was pleasant, I had an incredible time at the 1st Annual "Legion Luge" in Camden, and then the Annual "Winter Classics" in Topsham. So much fun while spending time with our fellow Legion family and raising funds for programs. Onto March, "A SCREECHING HALT". I, for one, was not prepared to see such a situation unfold. Mind you, I had foot surgery on Mar. 5, so I had created my own "Stay at-Home" session being cast bound and non-weight bearing recovery for 8 weeks, I need to say, I had no idea you would all be joining me.

"If you are unwilling to change and adapt as your situation in life changes, life will always be one step ahead of you."- Matt Fox".



**PRESIDENT
VIRGINIA CHAPUT**

I have been so inspired by our members, rising to the call, making face masks, and getting them to those who need them. I see curb side meals being offered, free or as fundraisers, to support our programs. I see members spending time with maintaining their Post homes, looking forward to returning to them when all this is over. I see Flags being put up in cities and towns anticipating the upcoming Memorial Day Holiday and honoring the memories of all, always, who served this great Nation.

I have seen acts of kindness being carried out by Auxiliary, Legion, Sons and Riders alike. That is who we are.

Adapting to be able to do what we believe is the right thing and inspiring others to do the same. Continually finding ways outside the box to do for others, Veterans, their families, and communities alike. Providing a service, filling a need, or just being a smile, a friendly voice, or a silent presence, assuring someone that they are not alone, for whoever might need it. That is what we do.

We show others acts of kindness that otherwise might not be carried out, that their needs are important to us, that we care for them and their wellbeing. We let others know they matter. That is why we matter.

I am proud to be a member of an Organization that steps up to the plate, adapts, endures, and pushes forward, in such an unpredictable world. To you, my friends and family, I say thank you, and I am grateful to have you in my life.

Until next time, we will get through this, together, apart.

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

First Annual Legion Luge A Great Success

Legionnaires, Auxiliary & Sons of The American Legion Join Together for a Day of Legion Family Fun, Competition & Fundraising

The first Annual Legion Luge race was sponsored by The Sons of The American Legion and was held at the "Snow Bowl" in Camden on February 15 starting at 10 AM with 12 degree temperatures. Each person had to pay a \$25 registration fee in order to compete.

The competition was based on the fastest run and you could enter either a "Sweetheart Team" (2-Riders) or compete among teams of (2-4) Riders, with the best times after 3 runs. Some of the teams

showed up in costumes and many showed up with additional donations. The atmosphere was not what we expected considering the temperatures, but the fun factor went off scale and everyone's response was the same, "What a great time" and everyone who attended made sure the event will happen again. Then 3 hours later the event ended with donations totaling over \$1500 with a smile on everyone's face.



Legion Luge 1st Place Team:

Gray Post 86 won first place in the Legion Luge team competition held at the "Snow Bowl" in Camden on Feb. 15. Left to right, SAL State Commander and Co-chairman of the event Ron Marr, Post 86 members Matt Johnson, Kari Harriman, Mari-sa Crooker, Debra Rumery, and Department Commander of The American Legion Matt Jabaut.



Legion Luge 2nd Place Team: Congratulations goes out to Bath Post 21 who came in second place in the team competition. Left to right, SAL State Commander and Co-Chairman of the event Ron Marr, Rick Cook, Kathy Spykstra, Tyler Winkler, Bryan Chaput, Auxiliary State President Ginny Chaput and Brayden Chaput.

FIRST EVER MAINE LEGION FAMILY LUGE

Sweetheart Team Winner:

Left to right, SAL State Commander Ron Marr, and Past State President Debra Marr, "Yes the organizers did win the sweetheart event", and presenting the trophy is Department Commander of The American Legion Matt Jabaut.



Toboggan Run: This is what it looks like at the bottom looking up and seeing a team come down to the lake area. This toboggan run team was leading until the end and one of the riders was teased all afternoon. Seated front, Topsham Post 202 member Caroline Yarmala, middle, Aux. State Chaplain Audrey L'Heureux, and back, Legion State Commander Matt Jabaut, who took the heat for not winning!

Service Office Update

Hello from the Service Office. First and foremost, I hope you all are doing your best to stay safe. These are unprecedented times and things are changing by the day. I am sure some of you are like me, longing for the day to have a face to face meeting without the fear of getting someone sick. I hope we can get past this and get back to a sum what normal time.



**SERVICE OFFICER
CARL CURTIS**

The VA is still working claims, although some compensation and pension exams are not being done. Others are being done via telehealth. This will slow the process down a little and make the process a little longer than normal. VA Maine is still on lock down which means that you cannot come by to say hi and we are conducting most of our business over the phone. That means that we will have to mail out all forms that require original signatures and slow the process even further.

If you need answers or come across a veteran that needs help, please call our office.

PLEASE READ AND RESPOND TO YOUR MAIL FROM THE VA!

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

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

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

If you have children, mention TFA to the Department Adjutant when you call to see if you are eligible to apply.

PSO Training Seminar. TBD

PSO Contact Information.

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

DSO Newsletter. To sign up for the newsletter, please email your contact information to carl.curtis2@va.gov and state in the body of your email if you would like your name listed in the newsletter as well as permission to link to your email address through the newsletter. The newsletter is emailed out monthly. The newsletter was developed as a way to stay in touch with Post Service Officers and to keep them up to date on changes and sources of information that is of value to

our veterans. The newsletter contains active links to a variety of resources for veterans as well as links to you, so you can better serve the members of your post. We are not doing mailings at this time.

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

day you file. **DO NOT FORGET TO FOLLOW UP AND FILE YOUR CLAIM!**

NEW AND MATERIAL EVIDENCE.

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

NEW WAYS TO APPLY FOR VA HEALTHCARE

Sign up for VA Healthcare. Sign-up

for VA Healthcare can now be done three ways! The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today it has eliminated paper signature requirements for veterans wishing to enroll in VA health care. Effective immediately, VA has amended its enrollment regulations to allow veterans to complete enrollment applications for enrollment in VA health care by telephone without the need for a paper signature.

By adding this telephone application option to VA's regulations with this amendment, VA will now offer three

ways to enroll. This option provides veterans a convenient third enrollment option.

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

TOGUS VA WOMEN'S CLINIC.

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

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

DSO CONTACT INFORMATION.

We are located at Togus VA Medical Center, Building 205, Room 318. You can contact us by telephone at 207-623-5726, Fax at 207-621-4821, or by email at carl.curtis2@va.gov.

maureen.malley@va.gov, or julie.kern@va.gov. We are here to assist you Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; on Friday the hours are from 9 a.m. to noon. We are closed on federal holidays and Patriot's Day. Just a reminder, it is always a good idea to make an appointment rather than drop in, as we may be seeing other veterans and would hate to miss you. That said, you are always welcome to stop in the DSO Office.

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

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



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 or legionme@mainelegion.org or mail to The American Legion, Department of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901.

HAPPY
Father's Day

June 21, 2020

Never Forget to Pay Your Dues!

Participate in the Automatic Annual Renewal Program for Future Annual Membership Renewals

Continuous Years Matter!

Set up automatic payments for future annual membership renewals to ensure that you never forget to pay your dues or create a lapse in your continuous membership years.

Visit www.mainelegion.org and hit the Renew button. Enter your membership ID and last name and check off the box "I

want to setup automatic payments for future annual membership renewals". Proceed by filling in the required information.

For more information or help in setting up the Automatic Annual Renewal Program, please call Department HQ at 207-873-3229.

Our Future: Renewals, Membership

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted millions of lives across the nation.

Home sheltering and social distancing requirements in nearly every state have affected the way American Legion posts do business, but they have not affected the way Legionnaires fulfill their duties to serve, as the organization's constitutional preamble declares, "through individual obligation to community, state and nation."

In recent weeks, we have all seen how important The American Legion is in a time of crisis. Blood drives, Buddy Checks, mask distributions, meal deliveries, school supplies for kids suddenly home-schooled by parents and hundreds of acts of gratitude to health-care workers

and other unsung heroes have depended on our volunteers, as well as funds that come from membership dues.

This does not happen without an incredible membership of dedicated military veterans and their families who know what it takes to succeed in a life-and-death mission.

My sincere appreciation goes to all Legionnaires who have stepped up to serve in a myriad of ways through the crisis. And I ask that those who have not yet renewed their American Legion memberships to do so now, at this time of urgency. It will take time for our local posts to return to their normal business activities, so membership renewal is extremely important right now.

Renewals give us the privilege of keeping up our services functioning, no matter how circumstances change. While new members help us expand our outreach and allow us to serve more people who need our help.

Secure, convenient online membership renewal can be completed online at www.legion.org/renew. All honorably discharged veterans who have served since Dec. 7, 1941, are now eligible to join The American Legion and can do so safely and easily at www.legion.org/join.

—www.legion.org
May 11, 2020



**NATIONAL COMMANDER
JAMES W. "BILL" OXFORD**

Supporting Our Communities Like Only The American Legion Can

Dear American Legion Family Members and Friends

When a crisis develops, American Legion Family members are there to help their community overcome it. When disaster strikes, American Legion Family members are there to comfort the afflicted. When a veteran needs assistance, Legionnaires are there to prop up their brother or sister.

That's the way it has been for a century of service to communities, states and nation. While The American Legion has responded to disasters and other setbacks over our organization's lifespan, we have never experienced such a unique challenge that we face now with the coronavirus outbreak.

If this was a normal year, this morning I would have presented my report to the National Executive Committee as part of The American Legion's Spring Meetings. Those were wisely cancelled due to the pandemic. Instead I wanted to share with you this message of how we are leading the way during this tumultuous time.

As I stay sheltered in place in North Carolina, I am so inspired by how our American Legion Family is continuing to serve its communities — from a safe distance. From coast to coast, American Legion members are providing food to health-care workers, securing personal protection equipment for first responders, and solving problems for the betterment of veterans, service members and youth in their communities.

If you have not already, please reference the new Buddy Check kit, which has been enhanced to better serve senior members of our veteran community, who are at the highest risk of COVID-19. Posts can carry on the Legion's mission by putting together a Buddy Check on the older veterans in the community. At the same time, don't forget families of deployed troops, veterans' widows, youths and others in your community who may need assistance, or just a friendly call.

There are many other ways that Legionnaires can contribute while adhering to social distancing guidelines. Among them:

Remember to submit your Consolidated Post Report to help us gauge the impact our organization is having worldwide. You can easily log into MyLegion.org and submit the CPR for your post electronically. Or download the form at the national website. They are due to departments by June 1 and national by July 1.

Work with your local American Red Cross chapter on sponsoring a blood drive to help fill the urgent need at this time.

Take a few minutes to fill out our COVID-19 impact survey. The American Legion is using this survey to track trends in response to the pandemic. Your identity will remain anonymous unless you choose to be contacted for assistance.

Stay safe, my friends and comrades.

James W. "Bill" Oxford, National Commander
—www.legion.org
May 6, 2020

Protecting our Nation's Veterans During the COVID-19 Pandemic

The coronavirus pandemic is a major public health and economic emergency. My top priority is to keep Mainers as safe and as healthy as possible during this crisis, and I am committed to providing Maine the resources it needs to keep up the fight and to fully recover when the battle is won.

This crisis is having repercussions on every member of our society, including Maine's more than 114,000 veterans. Many senior veterans are requiring special care at this difficult time. Many are in the civilian workforce or have started their own businesses. And many are now pursuing college degrees under the GI Bill.

The \$2 trillion CARES Act—sweeping emergency legislation to strengthen our health care system, save small businesses, and support workers—was passed unanimously by Congress in late March.

In addition to significant funding for hospitals and other health care providers, including rural critical access hospitals and rural telehealth programs, and other essential efforts, the CARES Act provided \$20 billion specifically for veterans' health care needs.

Our VA hospital at Togus and the Maine Veterans' Homes are on the front lines of our fight against coronavirus and have experienced infections among staff, patients, and residents. The dedicated and courageous medical professionals caring for our veterans are inspiring.

The CARES Act included a \$350 billion emergency economic relief plan I co-authored to allow small businesses to continue to pay their workers. The provision provides federally guaranteed emergency loans to small businesses that are experiencing a sharp drop in revenue due to COVID-19. These loans will be forgiven as long as employers keep their workers on payroll and use the money for eligible expenses for eight weeks.

The CARES Act also provides tax rebates of \$1,200 to individuals and \$2,400 for married couples. Veterans whose primary source of income is non-taxable VA disability compensation or other VA benefits are eligible to receive a rebate. Initially, the IRS planned to require veterans to file a tax return to receive a rebate check. I worked across the aisle with Senator Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona, and we successfully urged the



**SENATOR
SUSAN COLLINS**

IRS to change course. As a result, veterans who receive disability compensation and other VA benefits will now automatically receive their \$1,200 coronavirus rebate check.

In March, as universities in Maine and

across our country suspended in-person classes and shifted to online operations due to the pandemic, I cosponsored a legislative fix that allows veterans on the GI Bill to continue receiving full benefits they earned through their service to our country. Previously, many student veterans' benefits were based on whether or not they attend a physical university in person versus an online program. This bipartisan legislation, which passed unanimously, will help to ensure that the Department of Veterans Affairs can continue to provide GI Bill benefits to student veterans as they continue their studies online.

Finally, I urge all veterans to beware of coronavirus-related scams. These scammers try to convince you to purchase or provide personal information in exchange for a fake coronavirus test kit, vaccine, or cure. They may threaten suspension of your veterans' benefits or try to convince you to respond to a fundraising email. The IRS is also warning seniors to be on alert for criminals telling them that they need to provide or confirm their bank account information before they can receive their coronavirus rebate checks. If you think you have been contacted by a scammer, please report it to the Senate Aging Committee's toll-free Fraud Hotline at 1-855-303-9470.

If you have any questions or concerns about the benefits you are entitled to as a veteran, please contact one of my six constituent service centers in Augusta, Bangor, Biddeford, Caribou, Lewiston, and Portland. The men and women who have defended our freedom know how to overcome challenges. Together, we will win this battle.

U.S. Sen. Susan Collins

Scholarship Submissions Extended to July 1 due to COVID-19

Applications for the Department of Maine Children and Youth Scholarships, the Daniel E. Lambert Memorial Scholarship, and the James V. Day Scholarship submissions have been extended to July 1 due to COVID-19 pandemic. Any Post, individual or school who would like to receive a copy may obtain one by going online to www.mainelegion.org located

under Forms/Applications, or by contacting us via email at legionme@mainelegion.org or Tel. at 207-873-3229.



Legionnaires Represent Maine Veterans on Capitol Hill at the 2020 Washington Conference



Representing Maine Veterans In Washington: Maine American Legion represented Maine Veterans on Capitol Hill March 10 where they visited our Congressional Delegation as part of the Washington Conference to ask for support of our Maine Veterans and American Legion Programs. Left to right, PDC and Greenville Post 94 Commander Peter Johnson, Boothbay Harbor Post 36 Commander David Patch, Department Commander Matthew Jabaut, Locke Mills Post 68 member Jarrod Crocket, Past Department Auxiliary President Jeri Greenwell, and Department 1st Vice Commander Debra Couture. Not pictured, NEC Adjutant Lloyd Woods, Bangor Post 12 Commander Douglas Damon, and Department Special Projects Coordinator Amedeo Lauria who was busy taking the photo.



A Visit With Senator Collins: Maine Delegation meets with Senator Collins at the Dirksen Senate Office Building at 5:20 p.m.



A Visit With Senator King: Maine Delegation meets with Senator King at the Hart Senate Office Building, at 2 p.m.



A Visit With Congressman Golden: Maine Delegation meets with Congressman Jared Golden at the Longworth House Office Building at 12 p.m. Left to right, Congressman Golden, left, and Commander Jabaut, right.



Meeting With Congresswoman Pingree's Staff Advisor: Maine Delegation meets with Congresswoman Chellie Pingree's staff advisor Todd Stein at the Rayburn House Office Building at 10:30 a.m.

Scouting Corner

The American Legion relationship with the Boy Scouts of America goes back almost a 100 years to the founding of both. Following the First World War and the founding of The American Legion, as our "Boys" came back from overseas, many of these veterans started Boy Scout Troops and served as leaders. The early scout uniforms were basically WWI style military uniforms complete with Smokey the Bear hats. Here in Katahdin Council, it was WWI veterans who established and built Camp Roosevelt in E. Eddington. In fact, there is a WWI Grave Flag and Holder in front of the original Pamola Lodge Hall to remember these doughty veterans who established one of the premier scout camps in the Northeast. Right from the beginning, as Legion Posts were chartered and

is now, more important than ever to support organizations such as scouting to help our young people and future leaders cope with the challenges in today's life that most of us older legionnaires seldom faced. Drugs, alcohol, abuse, poverty, hunger, lack of family love, etc. You all know what we mean. The news is full of it. We The American Legion have a mission commitment to children and family. We also have the mission of sharing patriotism, traditions of selfless service to community and nation and remembrance to those who made the ultimate sacrifice to preserve our democratic institutions. Your strong commitment, support and partnership with your local scout units is called for.

We need to adapt to today's world and respond to the needs of family and children in proactive ways. Scouting is one of those vehicles of support. Boy Scouting is changing. We are now Scouts USA and we have girl (Yes! Girls) troops in "scouting" (ages 11-18) and girls in Cub Scouting (grades k-6) and we have always had girls in Venturing (ages 14 - 20). A recent President of my Venture Crew will be headed to sea as an Officer graduating from the Coast Guard Academy this May. Many of our leaders for both boys and girls are women and outstanding leaders. Just as we in the Legion have accepted

women veterans into our membership and leadership, we need to accept girls and women into our (Boy) Scouting programs.

Now! What can your Post do to advance your relationship with Scouting?

1. If you sponsor a scout troop or pack:

- Meet with the scout committee to improve communications – As sponsor, a member of your Post must be a Charter Representative on their Committee. Is yours actively involved?

- Teach the scouts about Flag etiquette, the meanings of Memorial Day, veterans funerals, the constitution, respect for veterans like visiting nursing homes.

- Actively include scouts in your events – color guards, ushers at dinners, placement of grave flags and wreaths, flag disposal efforts, Memorial Day and Veterans Day events.

- Help financially! My Post sponsors my Troop's attendance at the annual Klondike Derby at MMA. Help with scout camp! Help with fundraising events.

- Sponsor BSA shooting programs, encourage and sponsor scouts for Boy's and Girl's State.

- Encourage and assist your scouts to follow the scouts promise and law, do a good deed daily, create emergency preparedness plans, etc.

2. If you don't sponsor

a scout unit:

- Meet with the local scout committee and



Setting the Record: Scout Gabe Gay of Troop 138 sets a 5 year perfect record at the International Scout Camporee with his perfect four Tomahawk score. Gabe is the son of scoutmaster and Post 8 Commander Jonathan Gay.

developed, they sponsored Boy Scout Troops and still do. Many Legion Posts have given up sponsorship in recent years as interest in scouting diminished and adult volunteers became harder to find. It

headed to sea as an Officer graduating from the Coast Guard Academy this May. Many of our leaders for both boys and girls are women and outstanding leaders. Just as we in the Legion have accepted

Freeport Flag

Ladies: Following 9/11, three ladies in Freeport took upon themselves to stand on the street corner every Tuesday following the attack, waving flags. This year as they were now middle-aged, had to give it up. Wreaths Across America picked up the challenge and every Tuesday on route one in Columbia Falls Maine, volunteers raise the flag and waive their flags at passing traffic for an hour. Some of the volunteers are scouts of Pack and Troop 139 serving boys and girls from Beals to Steuben. Post Adjutant Peter Duston serves as a leader with both Cub Scout Pack 139 and Scout Troops 139.



The Flaming Chickadee Patrol of Troop 139 Cherryfield show off their award for Top Patrol at the Camporee.

Celebrating Veterans Day:

Cub Scout Pack 139 at the last Veterans Day Ceremony held at Jonesport/Beals High School. Den 1, Addison of Pack 139, affiliated with Post 8 put on an awesome Flag folding ceremony flanked by Den Leader Kaitlin Merchant (L) and Asst. Den Leader and SSG Jessica Fagonde (Air National Guard) (R).





THE BASEBALL BEAT COLUMN

20 Questions with Phil Curtis



By DAN WARREN

Special to The Maine Legionnaire

(Q: You are well known in Scarborough as an American Legion baseball coach of 1970's teams that included Scarborough player, and your Saco players. But you grew up in Cape Elizabeth?

A: Yes. CEHS, Class of 1955.

Q: You played sports?

A: Yes. Baseball, and basketball.

Q: Who was your baseball coach?

A: Durward Holman. The CEHS field is named after him.

Q: What do you remember about him?

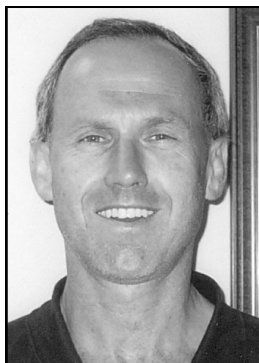
A: He was not only my coach, but also my teacher—in Algebra, Chemistry and Physics. He influenced me to become a teacher/coach for 32 years.

Q: Your CEHS teams played the Scarborough boys?

A: Yes. We had a good rivalry with Scarborough. SHS at that time was in the old Elwood G. Bessey School on Route One.

Q: The baseball field was in back of Bessey?

A: Yes. It was gravel, as I recall. Not much more than a cleared cow field with



DAN WARREN

ledge popping up here and there. No grass!

Q: The basketball court was in the basement of Bessey School.

A: Yes. It was small, and surrounded by cement walls. Ugh!!

Q: Do you remember any Scarborough boys you played against?

A: I remember playing two on two basketball in the barn at Bill Gelinas' house. I became friends with Bill, and also Kenny Durgin.

Q: Who do you remember of your CEHS baseball teammates?

A: Bill Hoadley, Al DeSantis, Rey Moulton, Jere Davis, my brother Roger Curtis, Lenny McPhee, Dave Armstrong, Dale Farnsworth, Marvin Clifford, and Mickey Higgins.

Q: What do you remember of the SHS teams?

A: I remember Ed Varney and Arlo Pike. Bruce Thurlow was a burly righthander pitcher. His fastball was "heavy" tended to bear in on your fists. One of the toughest pitchers I faced at any level.

Q: Did you play American Legion baseball in the summer, too?

A: Stewart P. Morrill Post of South Portland sponsored the team.

Q: What towns made up the Post team?

A: South Portland and Cape Elizabeth boys. Some SHS kids;

Q: Who do you remember as teammates on the Morrill Post team?

A: Arlo Pike and Ed Varney from Scarborough were on it. Mickey Higgins, Lefty Files, the Sullivan twins, Jackie Campbell, our ace pitcher John Roberts. The coach was Lou Tetrault.

Q: What would you say was the highlight of your baseball career in high school?

A: My sophomore year, I lost my starting second base position to a freshman. I was not a "happy camper," but finally worked hard, and won the position back. I also remember being selected as an All Cumberland County Conference (Triple C) All Star 2B my senior year. I took pride in that.

Q: You went on to play baseball at the University of Maine at Orono?

A: Yes. My college career started off in the spring of 1956 as a freshman. There was a freshman team then, and the coach was the legendary Jack Butterfield. He moved up the next year to the coach of the varsity team, and so I played for him then too.

Q: What positions did you play in college?

A: Jack moved me around as a player, and I played most positions throughout my college career—everything except catcher.

Q: What year did you begin starting varsity at UMO?

A: Junior year. I played left field. I remember playing UMass and getting two hits off future Major League pitcher Ed Connolly (he had a "cup of coffee," as they say, with the Red Sox). Senior year, I played first base,

Q: Any funny stories?

A: Senior year, playing against Navy, I was playing 1B. Joe Belino, who had won the Heisman Trophy in football that year, reached first on a single. I was holding him on, and we got to talking; suddenly, our left handed pitcher threw over. The

umpire called a balk on our pitcher! Too bad. A pick off would have made a better story.

Q: Who do you remember playing from SHS?

A: Rick Libby was a great centerfielder. Your brother Andy was a good catcher. I know you say I gave you the bunt sign all the time. Must be because you were a great bunter, or..

Q: You have a reputation as one of the top baseball card collectors in southern Maine?

A: It is a lifelong passion. I do a lot of stuff at auctions. Lots of fun.

By Dan Warren
April 24, 2020



Phil Curtis

Maine Nordiques Veteran's Appreciation Weekend

From Feb. 21 -23, 2020, the Maine Nordiques celebrated Veteran's Appreciation Weekend at the Androscoggin Bank Colisee in Lewiston. Many Legionnaires attended the game between the Maine Nordiques and North-

east Generals on the 22nd. It was a great evening for all. Legionnaires manned the 50/50 booth and the \$1/puck table.

Donations from the Maine Nordiques Hockey Team plus money raised at these 2 booths and a donation from the 50/50 winner totaled over \$1900 and was deposited into the American Legion Foundation, Department of Maine.



Legionnaires Give A Helping Hand In Celebration Of Veteran's Appreciation Weekend: (Left Photo) Department 1st Vice Commander Debra Couture, left, and Finance Officer Gregory Couture provide their assistance during Veteran's Appreciation Weekend by working the \$1 puck table during the game between the Maine Nordiques and Northeast

Generals on Feb. 22, while (Top Photo) left to right, Department Judge Advocate Jason Hall, Department Chaplain Ethan McKenney, Americanism Officer Alfred McKay, and Wiscasset Post 54 member Zakia Thiesen help man the 50/50 booth.



Protecting Maine Veterans during COVID-19

During this coronavirus crisis, my staff and I have focused on working directly with Mainers to connect them with the resources and support they need to get through these hard times and stay healthy. We've heard from a lot of veterans in the past few weeks, especially vets who are students, are older, or who have pre-existing conditions, because they're facing unique challenges due to the virus.

I want you to know that my office is ready to assist you with any coronavirus questions and concerns you may have, including answering general questions about Economic Impact Payment, working to get you needed VA care, and helping you resolve any issues with Social Security, Medicare, or other federal programs.

We can also answer questions about relief for small businesses, filing for unemployment, tax deadlines and much more. If we don't know the answer, we'll connect you with someone who does.

Phone lines are busy across the country, but we've dedicated extra staff to make sure we answer when constituents call. We're still available from 9 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on weekdays and someone will almost always pick up the phone.

In the meantime, veterans can rest assured that my office will do everything we can to ensure that the benefits they've been promised will continue. Students who are receiving GI benefits for their education should know that Congress passed a law in March to allow students to use those benefits for remote learning.



CONGRESSMAN
JARED GOLDEN

Vets don't need to do anything to make that transition: it should occur automatically. You won't lose out on the GI benefits you were promised because of the coronavirus.

For veterans with mental or physical health concerns who are receiving treatment from the VA, you'll have telemedical options, too. The VA's app – VA Video Connect – allows veterans to receive remote treatment safely and securely. Other VA updates can be found on Maine's VA website, or on their Facebook page.

As we all work hard to stay healthy, we're here to help you. Whatever you need help with, please reach out. We're here to make sure that you get the help you need and the benefits that you've earned. Please call, as my offices are still answering phones:

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

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

Maine Congressman Jared Golden

Health and Wellbeing of Maine Veterans a Top Priority

As I write to you, Maine and our nation are in the midst of a life-altering global pandemic. As we face many unknowns in responding to the coronavirus, I want to assure you that I'm working tirelessly to support every Mainer—including our veterans.



CONGRESSWOMAN
CHELLIE PINGREE

I'm proud to represent a state that has one of the nation's highest percentage of veterans, and the service of those Mainers motivates much of my work in Congress. I'm grateful that Legion leaders made time to visit my office in early March and discuss the mental health of veterans, female veterans' health care, and the ongoing work to address veteran homelessness—issues that have only been exacerbated since the start of this pandemic. The health and wellbeing of Maine veterans is a top priority for me as Congress responds to the coronavirus.

The most up-to-date and current information for veterans during this time is from the VA. Their website, va.gov, will provide you with guidance from local VA medical facilities and how they are handling this crisis. VA continues to encourage all veterans to call their VA facilities before seeking any care—even previously scheduled medical visits at community care providers.

Congress has passed several provisions that will directly benefit veterans

and help them through the coronavirus pandemic. The CARES Act, passed by Congress in late March, includes support for veteran-owned small business, VA telehealth, and almost \$20 billion in funding to the VA. This funding will save the lives of veterans with COVID-19 and ensure that VA centers across the country have the funding they need to keep veterans safe during this time.

Also provided through the CARES Act, Americans earning up to \$75,000 should already have started receiving their direct economic impact payment of \$1,200. If a veteran receives VA benefits, they automatically receive their stimulus checks, no matter if they normally file taxes or not—which ensures that our most vulnerable veterans will not be left behind by bureaucratic red tape.

Actions taken in March secured student veterans full GI Bill payments during this time. The House has also passed legislation to ensure work study programs and housing payments will continue through the semester, even if the veteran is unable to attend or the college fully shuts down. That bill is waiting for the President's signature.

Check in on your friends and fellow veterans during this time. While we are physically distancing from one another to prevent the spread of coronavirus, it is important that we don't socially isolate. These times can be lonely, but a call or a virtual visit always helps.

Know that I am here for anything you may need during these times—though the doors to my office remain closed, we are available remotely. You can call our Portland office at 207-774-5019. Stay healthy and stay home.

U.S. 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

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 _____	
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> <p>MAKE SURE YOU INCLUDE YOUR DATE OF BIRTH</p> </div> <div> <p>X</p> </div> <div> <p>SIGNATURE _____</p> </div> <div> <p>DATE _____</p> </div> </div>	

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

© 2015 AGIA 100135 A3713 38796

Complete details of the coverage are contained in accident only Master Policy MZ0933569H0000A/0001A underwritten by Transamerica Premier Life Insurance Company Cedar Rapids, IA. This plan is not available in all states.

*For Purposes of the Legionnaire Insurance Trust, a member of The Legion Family, with current year's dues paid, could be eligible for the \$5,000 Accidental Death benefit if he/she is traveling to, attending, or returning from an official function at which the Legionnaire represents his/her Post, District, Department, or National Organization in an official capacity.

Make Your Post More Efficient Call Efficiency Maine Today!

1-866-376-2463

www.energymaine.com

To All American Legion Posts:

During these challenging times, many of our Posts are taking the time to make Post repairs, remodeling, and conducting overall evaluations of Post operations. One of the key upgrades available at this time is to make your Post energy efficient. As I gathered information from those Posts that have made an effort with the purchase of this equipment, and used their own talented members to install this equipment the savings has become very obvious. These are a few examples: new hot water heaters, new boilers, new heat pumps, upgraded lighting systems and even new appliances. The savings in purchasing this type of equipment can be 30% of the project cost up to \$1000 in some areas. Remember, **YOU MUST CALL BECAUSE EACH PROJECT IS DIFFERENT**

My next challenge to you is that we

currently have NO Posts with solar panels on all those roofs. The incentives to do such a project are apparently out there for someone to set the new direction for energy efficiency.

With all the talent at each Post, it is time that we work together to move our organization forward and set the example for our future leaders. If you are an officer at the Post level, please take the initiative as other Post officers have done, and research what is available by contacting Efficiency Maine. Even if you are not a Post officer, and you have knowledge how the program works, please reach out to your Post to assist them to make it more efficient. Together you can make a big difference at every Post and your community as well.

Contact Efficiency Maine at: 1-866-376-2463

Donation to Headquarters Brings Much History of WWI Veteran from Oxford, Maine

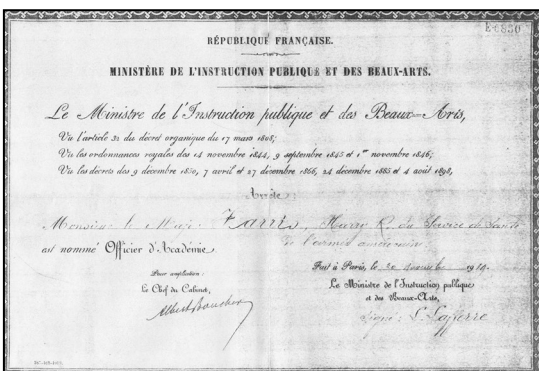


WWI Portrait Donation: Lois Witham of Poland, Maine, originally from Oxford, Maine, seated, left, holds the portrait of her grandfather Harry Roswell Farris at The American Legion, State Headquarters on Sept. 19, 2019. The portrait was donated to the Department by Lois, Augusta Post 205 member and cousin of Lois, Gregory Keene, standing, right, and his wife and Unit 112 Chaplain Patricia Keene, seated, right. Standing, left, receiving the donation is Department Adjutant Paul L'Heureux.



Photo Of Dr. Farris With Attached Note: Dr. Harry Roswell Farris World War I. (Father of Inez Farris Kimball and Maystell Farris Hulsman) received a decoration from French Gov't, named officer of academy "Order of University Palms".

*Mr. Harry Roswell Farris - World War I
(Father of Inez Farris Kimball & Maystell Farris Hulsman)
Received a decoration from French Gov't named officer of
academy "Order of University Palms".*



Certificate Award: This certificate was awarded to Dr. Farris who was in France for the last five months of WWI as a surgeon who helped set up a hospital in Paris. The hospital not only looked after the needs of American wounded, but French soldiers and civilians as well.



Major Farris, left, stands with other WWI officers in France.



Major Farris, seated, center, with other medical officers in France.



Major Farris, 2nd from right, stands with WWI Ambulance crew in France.



Paris Caucus Attendees: Major Farris attended the Paris Caucus that started the American Legion in 1919. The photo was taken ½ hour before beginning.



Mortar From WWI: This mortar was brought to Oxford by Dr. Farris from Paris at the end of WWI. This gun resided in Oxford, Maine at the Dick Styles home and now is on display in Ellsworth Memorial Park across from the Post Office in Oxford, Maine. Dr. Farris brought the mortar to Oxford, Maine from WWI, France.

Photo taken in France, WWI



Family: Dr. Harry Roswell Farris – Major/Lieutenant Colonel was born in Oxford, Maine June 25, 1874. He graduated from Oxford High School in 1894 and studied at Hebron Academy and then Vermont Medical College. Dr. Farris married May Estelle Blake on July 25, 1901 in Oxford, Maine where he practiced medicine as a civilian. He died March 23, 1923 in Oxford, Maine.

Photo left to right, Dr. Farris with his two daughters Mamie Estelle Farris (married name: Hulsman), Inez Prince (married name: Kimball), and wife May Estelle Farris.



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



Berwick Post 79 Honor Guard: Four members of the new Charles S. Hatch Post #79 Honor Guard in uniform. From left to right: Forrest Davis, Paul Amatucci, Stanley Sheldon, and Post Commander Dennis Ouellette.
Photo by Judy Ouellette

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

Garden of Flags

Recently an American Legion Post in the South West displayed their support for Heath Care and First Responders by lining the street of their town with American Flags. Such support and patriotism has not been seen since 9-11. The officers and members of Stewart P. Morrill American Legion Post #35 in South Portland felt moved to do something but were financially unable to match their fellow members in the South West.

However, there seems to be a large supply of small American Flags, supplied by the City of South Portland to the South Portland War Veteran's Association, ready and available for "planting" on the Posts front lawn. Commander Guy Linscott and 2nd Vice Commander Tony Batchelor spent their morning on Tuesday, April 14 planting 50 small American Flags on the Post lawn at 413 Broadway in South Portland.

Drive by and take a look at our little "Garden of Flags", one for each State of the Union. On May 16, the members of the South Portland War Veteran's Association, consisting of American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars members, will be placing these small flags on the graves of every Veteran buried in South Portland.

*Michael R. Pock
Adjutant Post #35*



Portland Post 17
Plaque Dedication Ceremony

On Saturday, 7 March 2020, six Vietnam veterans at Harold T. Andrews, Post 17, Portland came together to dedicate a plaque to Vietnam veterans. The plaque contains a Maine veterans' license plate with the number of Americans killed in Vietnam. It also contains round pins from each of 5 services; Air Force, Army, Marines, Navy, and Coast Guard. There are also Vietnam service ribbons and a brass plaque that reads, "Dedicated to those who gave the ultimate sacrifice Feb 28, 1961-May 7, 1975 Republic of Vietnam." The six Vietnam veterans were, left to right: Jack Kuntz, USMC,

John Talbot, USMC, Greg Mrowka, USN John Kimball USMC (holding the plaque), Bob Wright, USN, Russ Thuriault, USMC. The plaque hangs on a wall above the "missing man table" in the bar at Post 17.




*Photos by Portland
Post 17 member
Thomas P. O'Connor*

100 Year Certificate of Incorporation

Stewart P. Morrill American Legion Post 35 in So. Portland receives 100 Year Certificate of Incorporation on Feb. 26, 2020. Post 35 was one of several American Legion Posts that formed up soon after The American Legion was caucused on Mar. 15, 1919. Post 35 met and organized on Aug. 9, 1919 and applied to the State Secretary with 15 veteran servicemen's names to qualify as a Post. Post 35 elected its first officers on Sept. 26, 1919 and was incorporated on Feb. 14, 1920. The Post has diligently completed the non-profit incorporation renewals through the Secretary of State's Office every year

for the past 100 years. Through the hard work of many men and women, the Post has continued to operate over these many years. Those here today to accept this award are truly thankful for their hard work and sacrifice and are now tasked to keep the flame alive and pass it on to future generations. The award was officiated by Secretary of State Matthew Dunlap. Left to right, Department Finance Officer Gregory Couture, Department 1st Vice Commander Debra Couture, Post 35 Adjutant Michael Pock, Secretary of State Matthew Dunlap, and So. Portland Post 35 1st Vice Commander Wes Splettstoesser.



Fighting to the Finish Line, for the Foundation

Still Plenty of Time to Join Team Caroline!

A Virtual Race to Take Place in September 2020
Due to the Cancellation of the Boston Marathon



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



I run to forget the Anxiety
I run to embrace the Time
I run to embrace the Honor
I run to remember the Oath
I run to remember the Need
I run this MARATHON for the future of the Maine American Legion
~ Caroline Yarmala
A unique opportunity and the bonds of family and friends give way to a hope for the future.



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

The American Legion, Department of Maine currently publishes 4 Legionnaire newspapers per year which are mailed out to approximately 18K members in the State of Maine and also made available online by visiting www.mainelegion.org. All 4 issues will continue to be available online, but only 3 issues will be mailed out annually via USPS (DEC approval, April 11, 2020) contributing to a cost savings of approx. \$7K—\$8K/year. Publications for the Feb. May, and Aug. issues will continue to be mailed out to our members and made available online and the November issue will be available online by visiting www.mainelegion.org. The American Legion, Department of Maine welcomes any feedback you may have regarding this change. Please email them to legionme@mainelegion.org. We would love to hear your thoughts.



Subscribe to Our Emails Stay Connected with Maine American Legion

Subscribe to Maine American Legion's Emails and receive instant email updates including our bi-weekly newsletter "The Leadership Ledger" and The Maine Legionnaire newspaper. To join, please visit www.mainelegion.org and click on the "SUBSCRIBE TO OUR EMAILS" image or visit <https://form.jotform.com/RachaelJ/maine-al-email-subscription-form>. You may also call our Department Headquarters at 207-873-3229.



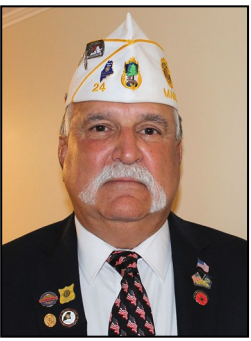
Elected and Appointed Officers Remain until 2021 Due to COVID-19 Pandemic



MATTHEW JABOUT
Commander



DEBRA COUTURE
1st Vice Commander



KIRK THURSTON
2nd Vice Commander



PAUL L'HEUREUX
Adjutant



GREGORY COUTURE
Finance



ALFRED MCKAY
Americanism



JEFFREY STEVENSON
Historian



PATRICIA THURSTON
Sergeant-At-Arms



LLOYD WOODS
NEC



RANDALL KLUJ
NECA



JASON HALL
Judge Advocate



ETHAN MCKENNEY
Chaplain



CARL CURTIS
Service Officer



MAUREEN MALLEY
Asst. Service Officer



Help Support Maine American Legion!



Keep Our Maine American Legion Programs Alive!

Support our Veterans and Donate Today!

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

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

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

DONATE

button.

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

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

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

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

MAKE A DONATION TODAY!

AMERICAN LEGION

**DEPARTMENT OF MAINE
FOUNDATION**

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

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

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

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

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

Checks should be made payable to American Legion Department of Maine Foundation and mailed to: 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!



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

This is a free, convenient service for

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

converting that extra car, truck, or RV into a tax deductible donation.. Our affiliate program makes sure your vehicle is properly handled so you get your tax deduction and Veterans in Maine get the benefit of your donation. You can currently donate online by visiting www.v-dac.com, or call 877-999-8322 to make your donation.

Shop "Amazon Smile" & Give While You Shop!

Dear Friends of the American Legion Department of Maine:

American Legion Department of Maine Foundation 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!

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.



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

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

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

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

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 2 continued

What's Happening at the 35th

As we all struggle to keep from going nuts, I want all of you to know that a few of us have been taking advantage of nobody being at the Post during this period.

We have pretty much shut the Post completely down except for the mailbox that is still open, and we are still receiving



billings and paying for them from our budgeted accounts. We have had our furnace "tuned up" and although we have had to dip into our reserves, we were able to fix our old furnace to help us get by for a couple more years. We recently lost out on a Community Block Grant to install Heat Pumps at the Post. The Board of Trustees has decided to go to "Plan B" and as soon as we can figure what "Plan B" is we will let you all know.

I would like to explain the three pictures that I included in this letter. The photo with the flags I entitled "Garden of Flags" (see pg. 13) because Guy and Tony planted 50 flags, one for each state, on our front lawn. I got the idea from an American Legion Post who put out large flags up and down their city streets. We don't have that many large flags, BUT we have hundreds of small "grave flags", so Guy and Tony planted them. Another picture is a Deep Sink and a Mop Rack that is pretty much self-explainable. I got tired of seeing a messy furnace room, so I built a

"Mop Rack", taken from a pattern I remembered from Boot Camp. Now we just need to get the Sea Cadets to put the mops back. The Deep Sink is purely a sanitary move so that we won't run the risk of dumping mop water down the Kitchen Sink. As an extra added bonus, we were able, not out of want, but because it broke, to replace a 100 year old sewer pipe in the furnace room. Last but not least is the "New Cooler" that was donated by Louis Maietta, who we sell our returnables to,



who even delivered it. The old cooler was "old" and noisy. Ross Fehnel helped clean out the old "Adjutant Room" in the front lobby and I constructed a large storage shelf and a flag rack to help organize things.

So even though we are "Shut Down" we continue to get little things done. The Parade was cancelled and everything else American Legion in the State, but we still plan to honor our fallen brothers by setting flags on their graves on the 16th of May. If you wish to help let us know, we have 1000+ flags ready for placing.

Stay Healthy, Safe and Sane.

Michael R. Pock - Adjutant

What Was Lost Has Been Found!

A few weeks back, I asked the Gorham Community in an Editorial to provide any information they might have concerning The American Legion Smith Wagner Post 60-Gorham. After a few leads and phone calls, I was able to contact the last Post Commander in Florida and the wife of the last Post Adjutant still living in Gorham. As a result of these clues, I was able to locate The American Legion Smith Wagner Post 60 banner and the one associated with the Post Auxiliary. They were placed in safe keeping with members of the Stewart P. Morrill Post 35 in South Portland. Those involved in the transfer have long passed away, so further information will be scant.

I've passed along a photo of the Banner along with Post 35 Adjutant, Mike Pock, who rummaged through old Post archives and files at the South Portland Post to find the banners. What is the significance of the finds? For one, it has historic significance as a representation of one of the original and at one point, the largest American Legion Posts in

Maine, established in 1919, the founding year of the National American Legion organization.

Secondly, if the future the Post is to be active again, the banner will be the focal point and continuity for a future revitalized Post. I would very much like to see this happen. I say this because the Gorham area (04038) has over 40 American Legion members associated with the Department of Maine's Post 178 holding Post or the AD 178 members who have association directly with the National Office. Each of these Legion Members could be future Post 60 members.

I am currently working with the Department of Maine to host an information meeting in the near future for these and other local veterans.

Please look to your mail and this local paper for additional information. If you have any interest in this venture, please give me a call.

*David Tanguay
Dept. of Maine 2nd District Adjutant
207 892-1306 |Dtanguay46@aol.com*



Smith-Wagner Post 60, Gorham Banner located at South Portland Post 35. Holding up the banner, left, So. Portland Post 35 Adjutant Mike Pock, and right, District 2 Adjutant David Tanguay.



Installation Of 4 Panel

Mural: On a bright and sunny May 8th, 2019, a Trio of CMP Linemen from Portland with two Aerial Bucket Trucks installed a 4 Panel Mural of The American Legion's Logo celebrating the Legion's 100th National Anniversary. The Mural Project was designed and painted by Westbrook HS Visual Arts Students and their Teacher, Matthew Johnson. The Idea came from Post 62 Americanism Officer Phil Spiller, Jr. Post 62 2nd Vice Commander Dennis Marrotte, a retired Portland Substations Technician, made one phone call to the Portland Line Office. Three Portland Linemen with 2 Aerial Bucket Trucks installed the Mural in time for its Dedication on Memorial Day 2019.

Bringing Wreaths Across America to a Location in Westbrook

Bringing Wreaths Across America (WAA) to a location in Westbrook was a priority for us. Being involved with WAA for 12 years as location leaders at Augusta and Springvale cemeteries and having traveled to Arlington with the escort twice, we really wanted to see a local cemetery become a location. We met with Arty Ledoux to present our proposal. He brought the idea to the cemetery committee and then to the City for approval. We raised the funds for the wreaths with generous donations from both American Legion Posts 62 and 197 and their auxiliaries.

Despite the wind and rain, the turnout was good. Master of Ceremonies was Cindy DeCosta, Chairman of the Board Rolling Thunder® Chapter 2 Maine. Speaker was Arty Ledoux, Veterans Service Officer for the City of Westbrook. The ceremonial wreaths were placed by Army-Tom Tarr, in honor of his grandson, Navy-Anne Broderick Navy Veter-

an, Marine-Nate Twombly, Marine Veteran, Air Force-Jim Bourke, Air Force and Navy Veteran, Coast Guard-Emily Brazee, Coast Guard Veteran, Merchant Marine-Alley Smith-Morrissey, Active Navy Reserves and Marine-Veteran in honor of Lester Wallace, POW-MIA-Tim DeCosta, President Rolling Thunder® Chapter 2 Maine.

Local community members also participated in the ceremony. The Color Guard was Boy Scout Troop 83. Community Singers were led by Sue Proulx and taps was played beautifully by high school student Dylan Bernard.

The ceremony was followed by the laying of wreaths in the Veterans Rest section by the public. A group then raveled to Riverbank Park to place wreaths at the monument located at the flagpole.

Thank you to the 2 local American Legion Posts for their support.

Cindy and Tim DeCosta

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 2 continued**Westbrook Post 62 Welcomes Colonel Gibson as Guest Speaker**

Colonel Andrew Gibson, Senior Joint Forces HQ Chaplain, Maine Army National Guard, is welcomed as the Guest Speaker at Westbrook's Stephen W. Manchester Post 62 "First Wednesday" Dinner and Post meeting on Feb. 5th, 2020. Colonel Gibson gave the Opening Prayer and described his career as a member of the Maine Army National Guard for 25 years. A decorated Veteran, he has been deployed twice: First in Bosnia in 1997, as one of the first two National Guard chaplains to ever be deployed to a hostile fire zone. His second deployment was to Afghanistan in 2006. Presently, Colonel Gibson is the Joint Forces HQ Maine Senior Chaplain, serving as the

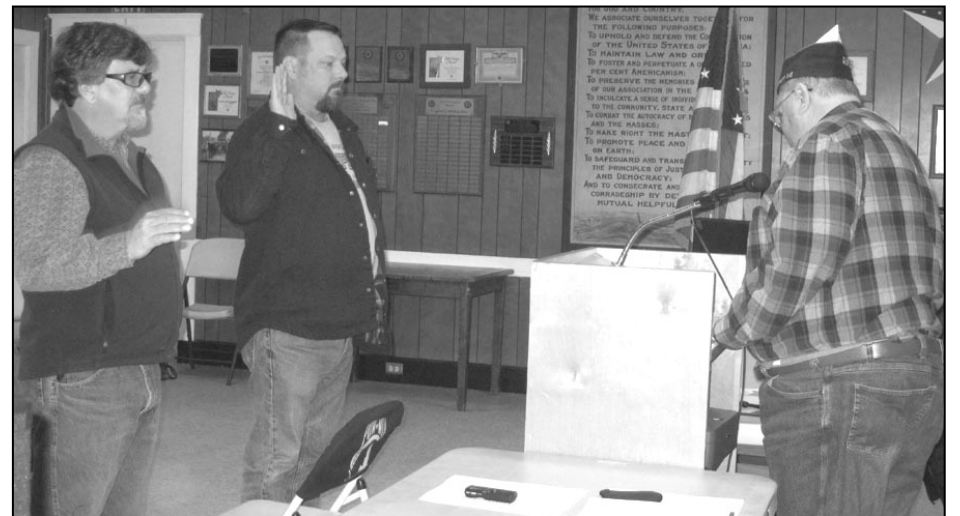
Director of Deployment Cycle Support for Maine's National Guard's soldiers and their families, providing spiritual needs and coordinating health needs for deployed soldiers and their families. He also organizes Interfaith Prayer Breakfasts. At the February meeting, he gave a powerful description and presentation about the 4 Military Chaplains who lost their lives on the USAT Dorchester, a cruise ship, converted to a Troop Carrier, on February 3rd, 1943, when it was torpedoed en route to Greenland with 900 Soldiers and ship's crew. All 4 Chaplains gave their life vests to their shipmates and went down together with the sinking ship.



Westbrook Post 62 Officers: Left to right, 1st Vice Commander Roger Barr, Chaplain Phil LeClerc, Commander Gary York, Treasurer Richard Gali-peau, 2nd Vice Commander Dennis Marrotte and Guest Speaker: Colonel Andrew Gibson, Maine Army National Guard Senior Chaplain.



Installation Ceremony: A welcome event that same evening was an Installation Ceremony for our newest Post member Richard Wagner. Richard is a Navy Veteran who served as an Air Traffic Controller. Sgt. at Arms Greg Beane, left, presents Richard Wagner, middle, to Post 62 Commander Gary York for his Installation Ceremony.



Invocation Prayer: Sgt. at Arms Greg Beane, left, and Richard Wagner, middle, stand at attention, as Post 62 Chaplain Phil LeClerc reads the Invocation Prayer for our newest member. CONGRATULATIONS Richard!!!

Westbrook Residents Join Westbrook Posts 62 & 197 to Honor its Veterans on Veteran's Day

Westbrook residents turned out to join its two American Legion Posts 62 and 197, who combined to honor, recognize and remember its Veterans, on Veteran's Day at Riverbank Park and its Veterans Circle. Mother Nature's plans for the Nov. 11th, 2019 ceremonies had a steady but light rain on its menu, but everyone persevered. Members of the WHS Band provided a polished rendition of the "Star Spangled Banner" and "God Bless America" powerfully sung by Westbrook Resident Junie Dugas. A singular presentation by Beth Kirkpatrick symbolized the powerful but solemn ringing of a bell for 11 Minutes, recalling the 11th Hour on the 11th Day of the 11th Month in 1918, at the signing of the Armistice ending WWI.



Veterans Day Welcome & Address: Left photo—Westbrook Post 62 Commander Gary York welcomes everyone for the Veterans Day Ceremony. Right photo—Commander York joins Westbrook business volunteer and organizer Deborah Shangraw in addressing both Westbrook citizens, veterans and ceremony participants.



Deborah Shangraw with a welcomed umbrella, to bring to reality, a wonderful Veteran's Day Ceremony held at the Riverbank Park's Veterans Circle Nov. 11. Post 197 hosted a wonderful buffet lunch donated by Westbrook businesses following the ceremony at Riverbank Park. The lunch was free for all Post 62 and 197 members and Westbrook

Team Work: Both Westbrook American Legion Post Commanders, left to right, Gary York, Post 62 and Steve Girard, Post 197, work together with Post members, City of Westbrook officials and Westbrook business owner and Volunteer

All Photos by Dennis Marrotte, Stephen W. Manchester Post 62 2nd Vice Commander

More on "Westbrook Veterans Day", Page 18

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 2 continued

■ “Westbrook Veterans Day”

(Continued from Page 17)



Veterans Day

Attendees: Left to right, Stephen W. Manchester Post 62 members Robert and Beverly Barton, and David and Donna Berry attend the Veterans Day Ceremony in Westbrook at the Riverbank Park and its Veterans Circle on Feb. 11.

Benediction:

Post 62 Commander Gary York and the audience listen as Post 62 Chaplain Phil LeClerc reads the Benediction to close the 2019 Veteran's Day Ceremony in Westbrook. To Chaplain LeClerc's left in the background are Post 62 Ladies Auxiliary Chaplain



Mary LeClerc with umbrella and to her left, Post 62 Treasurer Richard Galipeau. In the front, in dress Navy Uniform and Cap in hand, is Post 62 Americanism Officer Phil Spiller, Jr.

Bell Ringing: Beth Kirkpatrick, a neighbor and friend of Gary and Roxanna York, perform a stirring, solemn 11 minutes bell ringing, in honor and memory of the 11th Hour, on the 11th Day of the 11th Month in 1918, at the signing of the Armistice ending WWI.



Star-Spangled Banner

Performance: Westbrook Middle School Secretary Junie Dugas sings the “Star-Spangled Banner.”

*All Photos by Dennis Marrotte,
Stephen W. Manchester Post 62 2nd Vice Commander*



Bridgton Post 67 Launches Reading & Americanism Program:

American Legion Post 67 in Bridgton launches their Reading and Americanism program in SAD 61 Elementary schools. American Legion Auxiliary Unit 67 Historian Line Mulcahy kicked off the program at Bridge Crossing School in Bridgton. The initial book is the True story of Sgt. Stubby, the most highly decorated canine in WW1 and the only dog to be a member of The American Legion.



Donations Received In Support Of Revitalizing Post:

Commander Mulcahy from American Legion Post 67 receives donations from the Lake Region High School Interact-ASTRA Club. The students raised money in their support of the Revitalization of Post 67 because of its importance in the community. Left to right, Commander Mulcahy, Phil Ganem, Grace Plummer and Asst. Principal Holly Wilson.



Good Citizenship & Americanism Awards: Bridgton Post 67 Commander Donald Mulcahy, back, right, presents Good Citizenship and Americanism Awards to the Lake Region High School Interact-Astra students and their two instructors. These awards were given in heartfelt appreciation for their efforts in both working at Post 67 building and assisting in making the 100th Anniversary Ball a complete success. These students are an example of the quality citizens being produced in our school system. Their sense of duty to community and country is inspiring.



My Day Job Feeds

Many People: Recently a pantry in Rockland was in great need of food and there were logistics challenges. I asked the pantry if they could send trucks and I would ensure they received a good supply of staples. I did not expect to see Rockland American Legion Post 1, pictured, show up in force to provide for their community. Thank you Commander Shawn Driscoll for leading the charge and looking out for Rockland. And thanks to your team for meeting the challenge. Proud American Legion moment!!!

Gray Post 86 Commander Jason Hall

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 2 continued

American Legion Post 142 Thanks Home Depot: Peaks Island American Legion Post 142 Chaplain Chris Hoppin, left, presents a Special Award for Outstanding Support to Shaina Madeiros-Collins, Manager of Home Depot 2401 in Portland, ME, on March 5. Home Depot donated a Power Care Two-Stage 24" width Snow Blower that helped the Post launch a fund raising campaign for a new roof. Additional donations, deductible to the full extent allowable by law, may be sent to American Legion Post 142, P.O. Box 118, Peaks Island, ME 04108.

Busy Making Face Masks For

Vets: Post 148 member Phyllis Page completes her 100th free face mask to vets. She



has set up a face mask production project for local vets as a way to give back to her brothers and sisters in arms and in the community. She will continue to make them as long as there is a need for them. They are free for vets and just a small donation for others to help with supplies. If you are in need of masks, please let Phyllis know by emailing her at ppage3652@gmail.com or by calling 207-699-6386.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 3

Livemore 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

**Boys State Applications**

Hand Delivered: Auburn Post 153 member Steve Simard, right, presents Aspirations Specialist/Coordinator at Edward Little HS Jim Horn with Dirigo Boys State 2020 applications in early March, 2020. Jim hopes to have at least 5 attendees this year.

Moxie Festival Reunion

How history is made in The American

Legion never ceases to amaze me. When I first joined the American Legion in Auburn as a member of Post-153, I had no idea what this organization was actually about. As I started to learn about the history of the Post, I was told about a member of Post-153 named Bill Rogers and how he became a National Commander of The American Legion coming from a small Post in Maine. Then one day, he came to the Post and wanted to meet a few of the younger veterans that had recently joined. We both sat together and he explained to me what The American Legion does for the veterans in this country and the State of Maine. The small time spent with him was the beginning of my future in the Legion. As I learned more at the Post level, Bill then decided that I needed to go to the State Convention with him. As it turned out, I sat with other Legion members from all over the State of Maine and they told me how fortunate I was to have someone like him to mentor me on our Legion history and how I could also make a difference someday.

Fast forward, I was sitting with Bill one day and I inquired about his military and Legion experiences and one of the best ones was about going to flight school to become a pilot. During World War II, everyone was joining the military to serve our country during those crucial times. I knew from reading articles that many of our pilots were young but having no knowledge of how they were trained was very interesting to say the least. At one-point, Bill informed me that his roommate during that training was Ted Williams the legendary baseball player from the Boston Red Sox's. Well the history class had started and I was the only student to listen. I could not believe what he had experienced and he back it up with photos of Bill & Ted standing together. It was the beginning of history of The American Legion and Post-153 that I had

to share.

Well I shared Bill's stories with all that would listen so the history would never be lost. Then a few years ago a friend of mine who I had worked with had a son who retired from the Coast Guard and decided to join Post-153 since his dad also belonged. This new member, Steve Simard, started to get involved at the Post and he had heard that I knew some of the history of the Post including Bill Rogers. We looked at different photos together and I took the time to share some of Bill Rogers' history not only at the Post but also the many people that he had met during the times he was in the military and National Commander. When I told him about Ted Williams and showed him the pictures it apparently caught his attention.

Then in 2019, Steve went to the 37th Annual Moxie Festival to enjoy the day with friends. Walking around he heard that Ted Williams daughter was signing her book that she had written about her dad. There was a long line of people but Steve managed to talk to someone in charge and told him he was a member of The American Legion in Auburn and that he had some history of her dad. It just so happens that Steve was caring a copy of a magazine called the L/A Metro and they had done a story of Post-153 100th anniversary and in the magazine was a picture of Bill Rogers and Ted Williams. Well Claudia Williams wasted no time talking to Steve and telling him all about Post-153 and her dad's friendship with Bill Rogers. And now over 70 years later Post -153 had made a connection or maybe a reunion to add another page into our history.

By the way, Steve Simard is the Commander of Post-153 in Auburn and we are very proud of him in carrying forward that history as well.

*Paul L'Heureux
State Adjutant & Auburn Post 153 member*



Book Signing: Claudia Williams, left, signs the LA Metro Magazine cover of American Legion story during the Moxie Festival held in Lisbon, Maine in July, 2019.



Display Of American Legion Story: Claudia Williams, left, and Steve Simard, right, hold up the LA Metro Magazine which entails the story of The American Legion Post 153 100th anniversary.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 5

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



Rumford Post 24 Buddy Check Delivery & Presentation: During A "Buddy Check" at Rumford Post 24, post officers asked their members if there was anything they needed. James Miller had requested an item, so the item was purchased and delivered on Apr. 22. James has 50 years with The American Legion. At the same time his item was delivered, James, right, was presented with his 50 year certificate and 50 year pin by Rumford Post 24 Commander and Department Sgt.-At-Arms Patricia Thurston, left.

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

American Legion Delivers Food to Rockland

ROCKLAND — Veterans came to the rescue again for their community. Members of the Winslow-Holbrook-Merritt American Legion post in Rockland drove four pick-up trucks of food April 23 from the Maine Department of Agriculture building in Augusta to the Area Interfaith Outreach food pantry in Rockland.

Tracy Murphy, a volunteer at the AIO food pantry, said the American Legion's effort has helped keep the pantry stocked. She praised Russell Wolfertz Jr. for his spearheading the effort.

In the previous week, Wolfertz and the Pen Bay Council of Realtors made a similar food delivery from the Good Shepherd Food Bank of Maine distribution center in Auburn to the AIO food pantry.

"He is saving our butts," Murphy said.

The food pantry stopped last month accepting individual donations of food from people because of the COVID-19 outbreak as well as to prevent local stores from running low on supplies.

Wolfertz said the Realtors as well as the American Legion were glad to be able to help.

"This is a like a combat mission. We got the job done," Wolfertz said.

But in this mission, everyone feels good at the end of the day, he said.

The AIO food pantry continues to accept monetary donations to help it meet the growing demand for food.

By Stephen Betts | Apr 23, 2020
www.knox.villagesoup.com



Left Photo: Russell Wolfertz Jr., right, and Shawn Driscoll, far left, were among Winslow-Holbrook-Merritt American Legion members delivering food from the Department of Agriculture in Augusta to the AIO food pantry in Rockland. Right Photo: Kristin Heal and Jill Delano, of the Winslow-Holbrook-Merritt American Legion post in Rockland, help transport food from the Maine Department of Agriculture building in Augusta to the Area Interfaith Outreach food pantry in Rockland.

Photos by: Stephen Betts
www.knox.villagesoup.com

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 7

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



Annual Ice Fishing Tournament: Wells Hussey Post 42 SAL's 2nd Annual Ice Fishing Tournament in Damariscotta created to support a scholarship program for trade school students. Left to right, Scott Malone, Darrell Hodgkins, and Damariscotta Post 42 SAL's Detachment Commander Ryan Coffin. A very deserved "Thank you" to Lincoln County Business and residents!

Photo by Post 42 SAL 1st Vice Commander Mike Brewer

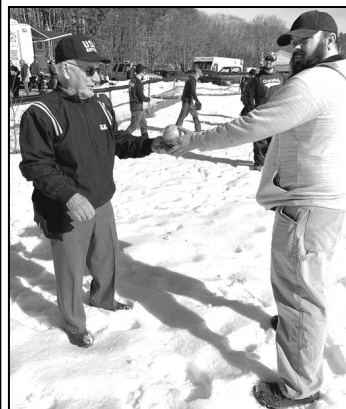
WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 8

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

Topsham Post 202 Annual Winter Softball Raises Money for Homeless Veterans

Topsham Post 202 hosted their 6th Annual Winter Softball Classic to raise funds for homeless veterans on Feb. 22. Five teams and community members helped Post 202 raise \$5000 for Maine veterans in need, a non-profit organization that helps vets with emergent housing needs and furnishes a veterans new apartment once housed.



Winning Team once again is Team Grateful from the Fryeburg-Lovell VFW.

Volunteer Ump Receives Award:

Brunswick Post 20 Chaplain Read Rich, left, receives an award from Post 202 Past Commander Nik Hamlin for being the volunteer umpire for multiple years.



Opening Remarks: Founder of the Winter Classic and Past Post 202 Commander Nik Hamlin is surrounded by all 5 teams as he speaks about why Post 202 holds this game annually.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 8 continued

Post 202 & 222cares.org Team Together to Assist Veterans & Their Families

Topsham Post 202 partnered with 222cares.org on May 13th to offer veterans and their families boxes of food to last each member in their household 2 weeks. In total we gave away 73 boxes to 15 veteran families! The Vet Center was on hand to answer any VA questions and to offer resources for veterans. Miss New England and Miss Teen New England also were a big help. The Post 202 team checked in on vets and packed the boxes in the veterans' vehicles.



Above left, Commander Nancy Laffin and Adjutant Sheryl Moore wait for the trailer to arrive while veterans were lined up in the parking lot waiting. Above right, Legionnaire Dylan Clark and his service dog Ashland direct traffic for seamless check in.



Above left, Adjutant Sheryl Moore proceeds to unload boxes from the 222cares truck. Above right, The Mighty Post 202 food4vets team! Left to right, Adjutant Sheryl Moore, 1st Vice Joe Lemont, Past Post 202 Commander Nik Hamlin, and Legionnaire Kevin Little.

Four Chaplains Ceremony

Brunswick Post 20 conducted a Four Chaplains Ceremony at the District 8 meeting held at Topsham Post 202 in February with 30 in attendance. The guest speakers included Pastor Mark Rockwood, Sr. Rev. George L. Fox, Methodist, Pastor James Clarkson, Rabbi Alexander D. Goode, Jewish, Marty Diller, Post 20, Rev. Clark V. Poling, Dutch Reformed, Pastor, Alan Baughcum, Fr. John P. Washington, Roman Catholic, and Post 20 Chaplain, Read Rich. Left to right, Jane Feeney Unit 202 President, Kate Meadow Unit 202 2nd Vice, Sheryl Moore-Adjutant, Roger Stevens-VFW 2197 Commander, Senator Eloise Vitelli, Representative Denise Tepler, Elaine Graviett Unit 202 1st Vice, Bill St. Louis -SGT-At-ARMS, and Nancy Laffin-Gillespie-Commander.



Continuous Membership Certificates Awarded: Above left, Phippsburg Post 216 member Scott Miller, right, receives a Continuous Membership Certificate for 10 years by Phippsburg Commander Ken Kellogg. Above right, Phippsburg Post 216 Charles Mainville, left, receives his 10 year Continuous Membership Certificate from Phippsburg Post 216 Commander Ken Kellogg. Presentations took place during the District 8 meeting held at Topsham Post 202 in February.



Phippsburg Post 216 member Robert Mead, right, receives a 34 Continuous Year Membership Certificate during the District 8 meeting held at Topsham Post 202 in February. Presenting Mr. Mead his certificate is Phippsburg Post 216 Commander Ken Kellogg.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 9

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



District 9 Four Chaplains Ceremony: District 9, Smith-Wiley Post 4 Gardiner Four Chaplain Ceremony held Feb 2. Top photo, left to right, Past Commander Jim Keenan, Sergeant-At-Arms Tom Smith, Post Commander Russ Helm and Department First Vice Commander Debra Couture. Bottom photo, left to right Post 4 Commander Russ Helm, District 9 Chaplain Barbara Kasiola, Post 2nd Vice Commander Lisa Helm, Post Sergeant-At-Arms, and Past Commander Post 4 Jim Keenan.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 9 continued



Announcing Results Of Oratorical Competition: Members receive a report from Department 1st Vice Commander Debra Couture announcing the results of the recent Department Oratorical Contest held at Thomas College on Feb 8 during the District 9 meeting held at Augusta Post 205 on Feb. 12. Left to right, District 9 Commander Don Chase, Department Finance Officer/District 9 Adjutant Greg Couture, District 9 1st Vice Commander Howard Betts, and Department 1st Vice Commander Debra Couture.

Boy Scout Eagle Project at Goodrich-Caldwell Post 6, Hallowell

Boy Scout Troop 647 member, Zac Ellis planned and carried out the restoration of the kitchen at Goodrich-Caldwell Post 6 in Hallowell for his BSA Eagle Project. Zac spent months planning out the rebuild including several presentations to the Post members as well as the Post building committee, the City of Hallowell Code Enforcement, and many potential donors. Zac was able to get all of the materials, funding, professional electrical help and lots of volunteer labor completely donated. Zac was required to manage the entire project from start to finish. Due to several CoVid-19 issues Zac encountered during the project he was required to adapt and shuffle much of his schedule to adhere to various requirements as they were set forth by the State of Maine.

The entire kitchen was sanded down and repainted, including the walls, trim, ceiling, and the heater. A new EnergyStar efficient cooking stove and LED ceiling

light/fan combo were installed. New custom made kitchen cabinets were set in to fill some otherwise underutilized kitchen space. This included a new stainless steel double sink with new plumbing. A new laminate floor was put down after the old floor was removed and some minor repairs were made. All electrical facilities in the kitchen were brought up to code by a licensed electrician who volunteered his time.

All told the entire project's estimated value was in excess of \$3000 and several hundred hours of time by many volunteers. Members of Boy Scout Troop 647, parents, family, friends, and professional members of the community all came together to make the Eagle Project a huge success.

The project was completed on April 25, 2020.

Article and photos by Glen Glidden, Scoutmaster Troop 647 and member of Post 6
Article submitted by Mike Madden, Historian District 9 and Goodrich-Caldwell Post 6



ZACKERY ELLIS WORKS ON Eagle Scout Project at Goodrich-Caldwell Post 6, Hallowell.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 10

Fairfield Post 14; Skowhegan Post 16; Pittsburg Post 32; Madison Post 39; Bingham Post 99; Jackman Post 122; Hartland Post 141; New Portland Post 173; Athens Post 192



Madison Post 39 Member Presented Certificate For 75 Continuous Years: Raymond N. Soucy, a lifetime and dedicated member of The American Legion Tardiff-Belanger Post 39, Madison, Maine, is presented a certificate from National Headquarters for his 75 years of continuous membership on March 15, by Past Commander of Madison Post 39 H. Ralph Withee. The Post was first named after Emile Tardiff; a soldier from Madison who died in

WWI. The name was changed to Tardiff-Belanger Post 39 after Maurice Belanger the first Madison soldier to die in WWII. Raymond is a Charter Member of the Tardiff-Belanger Post 39, Madison. He was Commander of Post 39 in 1951. In WWII Mr. Soucy was an Army pilot of the B24 Bomber. He had orders to go into combat, but the war ended before he had to go. On Apr. 18, 2020, Mr. Soucy celebrated his 95th birthday with his wife, Lauraine, at their residence in Madison, Maine. He unfortunately passed away on April 27.

Central Maine Communities Find Ways to Remember Those Who Died Serving Country

The Tardiff-Belanger American Legion Post 39 and Auxiliary held remembrance ceremonies Monday at six sites in Starks, Anson and Madison.

Most Memorial Day celebrations across central Maine were canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic, but in Starks, Anson and Madison, about a dozen veterans, their family members and friends paid tribute to those who died serving the country.

Tardiff-Belanger American Legion Post 39 and Auxiliary of Madison held ceremonies at six sites across the area Monday morning. The solemn gatherings included speeches, prayers and the laying wreaths at veterans' memorials.

The morning started in Starks and then the caravan of veterans and others traveled to Anson, where they gathered around the monument near the Town Of-

fice to hear American Legion Post 39 Commander Robert Demchak speak.

"Comrades, this day is sacred with the almost visible presence of those who have gone before us," Demchak said. "We honor the memory of those who gave their lives in the service of our country and of those who have dropped their burdens by the wayside of life and are gone to their eternal rest. May the ceremonies of today deepen our reverence for our departed friends and comrades."

Demchak served 23 years in the U.S. Air Force, the last years as a major who directed operations for the 15th Air Force

More on "Ways To Remember", Page 23



Despite the coronavirus pandemic, Anson still honored fallen veterans on Memorial Day.

Amy Calder/
Morning Sentinel
May 25, 2020

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 10 continued

■ “Ways to Remember”

(Continued from Page 22)

Combat Operations Center. He asked those present to renew their pledges of loyalty to the country and flag.

“Let us resolve by word and deed to emphasize the privilege and duty of patriotism,” he said.

The air was cool. An American flag flying at half staff floated in a breeze coming off the Kennebec River as the morning sun emerged from clouds, only to recede again.

The local legion, which celebrates its 101st birthday this year, was represented by several members Monday, including a

ing us to prosper as individuals, as a society and as a nation.”

Farrin, a U.S. Air Force and Air National Guard veteran who is the Americanism officer for the American Legion, asked those present to “take a few moments to reflect on the over one million men and women who never stepped off the battlefield.”

Farrin said service members are still fighting and giving their lives so others may enjoy freedom.

“I would also ask that you keep the family members of our fallen in your hearts and prayers,” he said, “because during this time of isolation, it is important to honor the legacy of those lost by caring for those left behind.”

At a fence overlooking the Kennebec River, auxiliary member Tiara Nile, carrying a white basket and escorted by Ziaccoma, the chaplain, dropped flowers into the water.

Again, the firing detail commanded by Legion Second Vice Commander Will Price, issued three volleys. The detail included Gene Dube, Legion Adjutant Bob Washburn, historian Dale Bickford, Ray Cloutier and First Vice Commander Aaron Rollins.

The group traveled to the Madison Public Library on Old Point Avenue and then to Forest Hills Cemetery on Upper Park Street, where participants repeated the ceremony.

Sitting in a red Jeep, Karen Nile and Ronald Hall watched the ceremonies. Nile said many of her family members served in the military, including her children, brothers and grandfather.

“I have a lot of respect for the military,” said Nile, who also said she is Tiara Nile’s cousin.

Hall had two words for what he witnessed Monday.

“It’s beautiful,” he said.

The caravan drove to East Madison, where participants ended the morning by holding another ceremony at the Cpl. Joseph Quirion Jr. Monument on East Madison Road.

Quirion was killed in action in Vietnam on April 3, 1968. His sister, Cindy Quirion Daigle, laid flowers at his monument during Monday’s event.

*By Amy Calder/Morning Sentinel
May 25, 2020*



State Sen. Bradlee Farrin, R-Norridgewock, speaks Monday during a Memorial Day ceremony in Anson.

firing detail that delivered three rounds. Legion Chaplain John Ziaccoma said prayers, Sergeant-at-arms Phil Daigle held the American flag and finance officer and bugler John Bryant played taps. Legion Auxiliary President Robin Turek placed a wreath at the veterans’ memorial.

State Sen. Bradlee Farrin, R-Norridgewock, delivered a brief speech honoring those who have died in service.

“While this Memorial Day may look and feel different due to the uncertain times we face, our lives disrupted and things that used to be routine are no longer an option, we need to continue our traditions,” Farrin said.

“One of the most-sacred traditions we have as Americans is to remember the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice defending our freedoms, allow-

Cindy Daigle, right, carries a bouquet of flowers for her brother Joseph Quirion on Monday in East Madison.

Michael G. Seamans/Morning Sentinel



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

District 13 Meeting a Success

District 13 meeting was held Mar. 1 at Hermon Post 200. Twenty-five members attended the meeting from 7 different posts. There were 3 speakers present to make the meeting a success. The first speaker was Dept. Finance Officer Greg Couture, who explained how donations in order to be tax exempt can be made to the American Legion Department of Maine Foundation with a memo indicating the post it goes to. Second speaker was Department 1st Vice Commander Debra Couture who spoke on

how to increase membership in our post. Two dates were set for calls to be made to members. One at Bangor Post 12 and one at Hermon Post 200. The third speaker was Area 4 Commander Lee Leeman who spoke from personal experience of the problems owning a business in a European country and selling it and returning to the states including the red tape and taxes involved. **Left to right, Department 1st Vice Commander Debra Couture, Department Finance Officer Gregory Couture, Hermon Post 200 Service Officer Peter Mead Post 200.**

**50 Year Membership Award:**

Bangor Post 12 Commander Doug Damon, left, presents Charles Birkel with a 50 year membership award from the National Commander and Adjutant. The ceremony took place Wed., March 4 at Post 12 located at 647 Main St. Bangor. After the ceremony and meeting, an outstanding fun filled typical St. Patrick's Day celebration was had with corned beef and cabbage, vegetables, and deserts catered by the Commander's wife Sheri Damon (an excellent chef).

Photo by Post 12 Historian John Nelligan

Honorary Life Membership: Lincoln Post 77 member Lester Delano, right, is presented with an Honorary Life Membership Certificate from Lincoln Post 77 Adjutant Frank Roy on Feb. 17.



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

Greenville High School Students take part in Legion Post 94/District 14 Oratorical Contest

Greenville American Legion Post 94 conducted Post and District 14 American Legion Oratorical Contest at Greenville High School on Jan. 13. The Contest requires each student to have an eight to ten minute presentation on a provision of the United States Constitution on a subject of their choice and respond with a three to five minute presentation to one of the four listed topics on the Constitution that is selected at the competition. Christian Trujillo was the 2020 winner and Ashley Bussell took second place.

The winner of the competition qualifies for participation in The American Legion State competition to be held February 8th, 2020 at Thomas College.

Koppenhaver Publishing



Greenville HS Students Participate In Oratorical Contest: Left to right, Greenville Post 94 Commander Peter Johnson, Sophomore Kayla Berthiaume, Serenity Duncan, Ashley Bussell, Eva Patrick, Junior Christian Turjillo and Greenville High School English Teacher Alan Cartright.



Judges, Timers & Tabulators For District 14 Oratorical Contest: Left to right, District 4 State Senator Paul Davis, and State Representative Paul Stearns.

Front row, Scott Roy, Joyn Sheltmire, John Guerin, Auxiliary President Nancy Billing, 2nd Vice Donna Mabee and chaplain Russ Carr.

Koppenhaver Publisher

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

Memorial Day Weekend: Calais Post 3 Commander Mike Mclean gives a Final Salute to our Veterans on Memorial Day Weekend.



Battle of The Bulge— Remembered Dec 16, 1944—Jan 25, 1945

January 25 marked the 75th anniversary of the end of the greatest land battle ever fought by the U.S. Army – the Battle of the Bulge. The event was remembered with a ceremony hosted by Wreaths Across America (WAA) and American Legion Post 8 on that very day.

A modest crowd gathered by the perpetual Christmas tree on WAA's tip of land located off Route 1 in Columbia Falls. The group included one of the living survivors of the battle, Pvt. Lawrence Salisbury of Otis who was especially honored.

Twenty-four local Bulge veterans were identified through research done by Legion Post 8. Their names along with ranks and units were read by volunteers attending the event who then placed a grave flag on the perpetual Christmas tree for the Christmas that they never had. Six of the veterans were remembered for their supreme sacrifice during that battle or before the war ended in the following May, in 1945.

Karen Worcester, Executive Director of WAA, welcomed the assembled crowd. Then, a history of the battle was given. The casualty rate of the battle was 10 percent of all US casualties of the entire war: 90,000 were killed, wounded or missing. Another 27,000 were captured and many of those died on their way back to Germany. The fighting was brutal and under the worst winter conditions in years. The German surprise attack caught the allies unprepared with logistical units, clerks and cooks fighting for their lives as infantry.

The standoff at the Belgium village of Bastogne has gone down in history as

the occasion when U.S. General McCaulliffe told the Germans "Nuts" when they demanded that he surrender his 101st Airborne.

Bastogne controlled the key rail and road crossings that the Germans needed in order to cut along the line between the British and Canadians in the north and the Americans in the south. Once the Germans took Bastogne, their plan was to push through to Antwerp and negotiate a cease fire.

In the end, the line bulged but held and the Germans suffered enormous losses as they were pushed back into Germany for the final months of the war.

The Scouts of Troop 139, Cherryfield, under Legion Commander and Scoutmaster Jon Gay, provided the color guard, led in the Pledge of Allegiance and helped place flags as soldiers' names were read.

Ramona West of Milbridge honored her late husband, Harold, a Bulge soldier; and Lucille Willey honored her father, Carroll Willey, another Bulge veteran. Pastors Larry Zimmerman of Cherryfield Congregational Church and Ed Butler of Cherryfield's First Baptist Church offered prayers. Eagle Scout, Coast Guard Veteran and police officer Eli Brown, another Cherryfield resident, sounded "Taps" as the scouts folded a casket flag to close the ceremony.

Editor's Note: Peter Duston, the writer of this story, is the American Legion Post 8 Adjutant. Duston participated in the Battle of the Bulge ceremony in Columbia Falls.

Published in The Coastal Chronicle



Battle Of The Bulge Ceremony: American Legion Adjutant Peter Duston, left, dressed in WWII uniform, along with Legion Commander Jon Gay, participate in the Battle of the Bulge ceremony in Columbia Falls.

*Photo courtesy of Assistant Scoutmaster, Amanda Davis
The Coastal Chronicle*



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

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 15 continued

SSG Erika Yates of Cherryfield Post 8 with her medic bag on an Army National Guard Air ambulance hoist.

Freeport Flag Ladies Remembrance:

For 18 years, three ladies in Freeport have stood out on the corner of Main Street every Tuesday to wave flags and remember 9/11.

When they announced their retirement this year, Wreaths Across America came to the rescue and took on the tradition. On Tuesday, December 10, Post 8 of Cherryfield took the lead to raise the flag and to wave flags at the traffic passing on Route 1 in Columbia Falls where a flag pole and monument have been placed to honor the Flag Ladies.

Here Jessica Fagonde, Fred Herman and Fran McDevitt represent the post along with Post 8 adjutant Peter Duston.



Cherryfield Post 8 especially remembered SGT Nicholas Golding, killed in action in Afghanistan during Wreaths Across America Day held on Dec. 18, 2019.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 16

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

American Legion Pays Tribute to Hodgdon JMG

HODGDON, Maine — For 18 years, the Hodgdon JMG program has shown its support and appreciation for local military heroes by hosting a Veterans Day breakfast ceremony.

But on Monday night, it was the veterans' turn to show their appreciation to the Hodgdon JMG group. Representatives from American Legion Post No. 47 in Houlton presented a plaque to the group during halftime of a Hodgdon boys basketball game versus Greater Houlton Christian Academy.

Each November, the Hodgdon JMG program serves a free breakfast featuring a meal of eggs, bacon, sausage, pancakes and more to area veterans and their families. The Hodgdon High School band performs musical selections while the high school and elementary school choruses perform vocal numbers. It is estimated that the group has served more than 5,000 breakfasts during that time span.

"Every year, the Hodgdon JMG puts on a program that is quite amazing," Watson said. "All of the veterans I talk to that attend really enjoy it. They welcome veterans from all conflicts and wars. We get a chance to get together, talk and renew old friendships. It is really a good time and we appreciate all they do for us." In



American Legion Post 47 Adjutant Jerry Riley, left, presents a plaque to Hodgdon JMG Specialist Jason Little Monday evening in appreciation of the annual JMG Veterans Breakfast event held in Hodgdon each November. In the middle is Post Commander Kris Watson.

addition, the Legion presented the group with a check for \$250 to the JMG program.

"It was truly an honor to receive this plaque from the American Legion," Little said. "Our JMG students are always appreciative of the opportunity to hold the Veterans Day Breakfast each year and to show respect to our local veterans and their families. It is one of our favorite events, with such a long history, and we hope to continue this tradition for years to come."

Commander Kris Watson and Adjutant Jerry Riley presented a plaque to Hodgdon JMG specialist Jason Little, along with several students in the JMG program.

*Joseph Cyr
Assistant Editor/Senior Reporter
Houlton Pioneer Times, Star-Herald, Aroostook Republican & News and St. John Valley Times
January 28, 2020*



Commander Kris Watson, students Seth Tapley, Lauren McGillicuddy, Kaydence Dow, Olivia Morris, Evan Berube, Nallah King, Serena Lufkin and JMG Specialist Jason Little.

Legion Supports The Hodgdon JMG

Program: American Legion Post 47, Houlton, presents a plaque and \$250 check to the Hodgdon JMG program Monday evening. Taking part are, from left, American Legion Post 47 Adjutant Jerry Riley, Post

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



appreciation for what they did during the COVID-19 pandemic. Left to right, Harvey Beaulieu, Bob Lapierre and Harold Lausier giving take-outs to drive thru customers.

Van Buren Post 49 Community Easter Dinner: Van Buren Post 49 served 141 people from the community and also delivered to home-bound senior citizens on Easter Sunday, Apr. 12, when at the time, there were no restaurants or drive thru services available. The Post members and volunteers received many thanks and



Angel Flight Donation From Madawaska Legion Family: The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and American Legion Riders of Post 147 Madawaska present a \$1,000 donation to Angel Flight Northeast, PALs and the Edgar J. Paradis Cancer Fund on Sun., Dec. 22. The donation will be used to assist local residents with transport to medical appointments. Donation being presented, front row, left to right, American Legion Auxiliary President Diane Daigle, Post 147 Commander Greg Morin, owner of Lakeview Restaurant Jennifer Daigle, and Stacie Linscott. Back row, left to right, Jennifer Collin, American Legion Riders Director, Becky Derosier, and Jeff Linscott.

Fort Kent Post 133 Meet & Greet with U.S. Army Veteran

On Fri., Nov. 22, 2019, members of the Martin-Klein American Legion Post 133, other community members including Town Manager Suzie Paradis, and local media, gathered together for a meet and greet with U.S. Army Veteran Tammy Landeen.

The Department of Maine American Legion became aware of Tammy, who was searching for sponsorship, by District 149 Representative John DeVeau. After several back and forth calls and emails, the idea of sponsoring Tammy was brought to the Dept of Maine leaders, where it was decided to help Tammy.

Tammy was presented a check by

American Legion District 17 2nd Vice Commander Leroy McKenzie on behalf of the Dept. of Maine American Legion. This check was for \$2,000 and went to help cover her expenses for Bobsled Pilot Driving School in Lillehammer, Norway. Tammy will be going to driving school so she can obtain her driving license to be able to compete on the World Cup Tour coming soon. After she gets her license, she will be heading off to Germany, Switzerland, and back then to the US for more competitions. Then Tammy will head back to Norway for the World Championships.

Tammy Landeen spent 10 years in the US Army before suffering an injury during

a training exercise that caused her to lose the use of her foot. She later sustained a spinal cord injury while horseback riding, leaving her no use in her legs.

Tammy has a heart of gold and is as tough as they come. Her drive and determination is one of a kind. She has a great support team led by her US Army Retired husband Shawn Landeen. She proudly states that none of this would be possible without the love and support from her husband and daughters.

After Tammy received the

Dept's check, she was also presented with checks from the Post 133 Ladies Auxiliary and American Legion Post 133 to help cover costs. Again, showing how united and selfless our American Legion Family is.

Tammy and Shawn Landeen reside in Caribou, Maine and are members of Martin-Klein American Legion Post #133. They have two daughters, Katalyn and Nickole.



Left to right District 17 2nd Vice Commander Leroy McKenzie, Tammy Landeen, Shawn Landeen, and Mallory.



Expenses Help Cover Bobsled Pilot Driving School: American Legion District 17 2nd Vice Commander Leroy McKenzie presents a \$2000 check to Tammy Landeen, right, on behalf of the Department of Maine American Legion on Nov. 22 to help cover her expenses for Bobsled Pilot Driving School in Lillehammer, Norway.

Taps Column

POST	NAME	CONFLICT	POST	NAME	CONFLICT
Post 6 – Hallowell	David Bryant	WWII	Post 84 – Orono	Robert Lounsbury Sr	WWII
Post 9 – Machias	Willard Carver	Korea	Post 84 – Orono	Martin L. Stitham	Vietnam
Post 15 – Caribou	Stephen Cashman	Vietnam	Post 88 – Presque Isle	John Lisnik	Vietnam
Post 15 – Caribou	Kenneth Habeeb		Post 88 – Presque Isle	John Wells Jr	Vietnam
Post 16 – Skowhegan	Francis Arsenaault	Korea	Post 94 – Greenville	Walter E. Crossman	WWII
Post 16 – Skowhegan	Roy C. Essex	Korea	Post 94 – Greenville	Dale Turner	WWII
Post 16 – Skowhegan	Douglas R. Reid	Vietnam	Post 99 – Bingham	William A. Frigon	WWII
Post 19 – Sanford	Paul Robie	Vietnam	Post 116 – Monson	Alfred E. Grant	Korea
Post 20 – Brunswick	Dale J. Hodgkins	Korea	Post 118 – Mars Hill	Milton Adelman	WWII
Post 20 – Brunswick	George J. McConnon	Korea	Post 119 – Guilford	Douglas Hall	Vietnam
Post 20 – Brunswick	Joseph E. Sheehan Sr	WWII	Post 132 – Richmond	Howard M. Kenney	Vietnam
Post 24 – Rumford	Richard Austin	WWII	Post 132 – Richmond	Violette S. Murphy	Vietnam
Post 24 – Rumford	Antonio Diconzo	Vietnam	Post 135 – Sabattus	Armand Truchon	Lebanon/Grenada
Post 24 – Rumford	Anthony N. Lavorgna	WWII	Post 136 – Stockholm	Harvard Holmquist	Korea
Post 24 – Rumford	David C. Magoon	Vietnam	Post 145 – Frenchville	Robert L. Chasse	Korea
Post 24 – Rumford	Archie Mann	WWII	Post 147 – Madawaska	James M. Kelly	Korea
Post 24 – Rumford	Joseph G. McKellick	Vietnam	Post 147 – Madawaska	Gerald Martin	Korea
Post 24 – Rumford	Ralph Partridge	Vietnam	Post 149 – Waldoboro	Henry Heywood	Persian Gulf
Post 24 – Rumford	Alyre Richard	Korea	Post 149 – Waldoboro	Francis Hileman	Korea
Post 24 – Rumford	William Theriault	Vietnam	Post 150 – Mechanic Falls	Fred R. Ward	Vietnam
Post 30 – Camden	Donald E. Simonton	Vietnam	Post 153 – Auburn	Eugene D. Conner	WWII
Post 32 – Pittsfield	James M. Frye	Korea	Post 153 – Auburn	Donald R. Dean Jr	Korea
Post 35 – S. Portland	Clayton Dyer	Korea	Post 155 – Naples	John Adams	Vietnam
Post 35 – S. Portland	Mark McDaniel	Vietnam	Post 155 – Naples	William S. McLaughlin	Vietnam
Post 39 – Madison	Raymond N. Soucy	WWII	Post 155 – Naples	David E. Proctor	Vietnam
Post 42 – Damariscotta	Richard Poland	Korea	Post 171 – Harpswell	Malcolm B. Whidden Jr.	Korea
Post 37 – Thomaston	Arthur Kiskila	Vietnam	Post 173 – New Portland	Floyd J. Norton	WWII
Post 47 – Houlton	William P. Folsom	Vietnam	Post 178 – Winslow	William Belfont	Vietnam
Post 50 – Unity	Carlton A. Braley	WWII	Post 178 – Winslow	Robert Collier	WWII
Post 50 – Unity	Walter S. Hacik	Korea	Post 186 – Clinton	David D. Pooler	Korea
Post 54 – Wiscasset	Charles Bailey	Korea	Post 197 – Westbrook	Ralph Allard	
Post 54 – Wiscasset	Charles A. Fluharty	Korea	Post 197 – Westbrook	Dennis E. Axelson	Vietnam
Post 65 – Lubec	William Corey	Korea	Post 197 – Westbrook	John P. Belanger JR	Korea
Post 65 – Lubec	Raymond Huckins	Vietnam	Post 197 – Westbrook	Ronald S. Bellefontaine	Korea
Post 65 – Lubec	Carlton Leighton	Korea	Post 197 – Westbrook	Eugene R. Hawkes	Vietnam
Post 69 – SW Harbor	Merrill Seavey Jr	Vietnam	Post 205 – Augusta	Howard Annis Jr.	Korea
Post 74 – Kennebunk	Lloyd Littlefield	Vietnam	Post 207 – Trenton	Wilbur N. Ranney	Vietnam
Post 81 – Bethel	James L. Barnes	Vietnam	Post 207 – Trenton	John Coburn	Korea
Post 82 – Norway	John R. Davis	Korea	Post 213 – Hampden	Kenneth W. Preble	Korea
Post 84 – Orono	Thomas Haley	Korea			

Job Searching in the Era of COVID-19

Job hunting is daunting in the best of times, and as many companies move to remote work and many workers are being furloughed and laid off due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it may seem nearly impossible. For veterans and those who are coming off active duty during the pandemic, it can be an especially daunting task.

The American Legion spoke with Brian Parker, Navy Federal Credit Union assistant vice president of Corporate Communications, and Joel Kohn, vice president of Sales and Marketing at Fidelis Sustainability Distribution, LLC, to get their input on current trends and tips searching for jobs during a pandemic.

“There’s a lot of hope out there and companies are hiring,” said Parker, noting it does depend on the industry. “Look for jobs in the supply chain, logistics and for essential-worker types of positions. These are industries that are continuing to boom during the pandemic and will continue to boom after. If there’s a second wave, these are going to be the more secure jobs.”

For veterans who are looking for their first post-military job, these positions can be ideal. And while they may not be the perfect position long-term, they offer real-world experience in the workforce.

LinkedIn and other social media

platforms are excellent resources when on the job hunt and these sites are seeing increased activity during an era of social distancing. Parker said one of the most important things you can do regarding your social media accounts is simply to keep them up to date.

“(LinkedIn) is often one of the first places a hiring manager is going to go to make sure your resume is matching your LinkedIn profile,” he said. “I would also add anything to your LinkedIn that you can’t fit on your resume. Hiring managers want to see results, demonstration you know the job, and demonstration of qualities you learned in the military. Look at LinkedIn as an open canvas.”

“I think anyone who has served (in the military) has inherently marketable skills,” Kohn said. “I look at it similarly to college grads joining the workforce where there’s almost a catch-22 where folks don’t want to hire you because you lack specific experience. Well how do you get that experience if no one will hire you?”

“Ultimately, it comes down to someone willing to take a chance on you and that’s all on you. You have to be able to use creative intellect to translate how you as an individual can be a benefit to any organization. Know enough about the position you’re trying to fill and leverage your specific experience.”

When it comes to reopening, Parker believes businesses will be initially very cautious and very bottom-line focused.

“They want employees that will produce and eventually gain additional business for them because we’re in an environment where even after we get out of this pandemic, we could fall back into this environment at any point. You want to be sure you’re positioning yourself in an organization that’s going to make you extremely valuable.”

Kohn encourages job applicants to remain optimistic and adaptable.

“There’s a lot of uncertainty right now,” he said. “Never give up, because you never really know when that opportunity is going to pop up. Maintain contact with prospective employers and your veteran network.

“Don’t sell yourself short. Have an understanding of whatever job you’re looking for and have the creative intellect to seamlessly translate what you did in the military to make that hiring manager comfortable in taking a chance on you.”

To learn more about these companies and to view open positions, visit [NavyFederal.org](https://www.legion.org/careers/249139/job-searching-era-covid-19) and [FidelisSD.com](https://www.legion.org/careers/249139/job-searching-era-covid-19).

*By Mackenzie Wolf
May 28, 2020*

<https://www.legion.org/careers/249139/job-searching-era-covid-19>



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

The American Legion's official training program for officers, members, Legion College applicants and those who simply want to expand their knowledge of the nation's largest veterans service organization is now available online.

Already taken the old course? The American Legion Extension Institute has been rewritten, updated, streamlined and enhanced with videos, digital photos, clickable links, a historical timeline and additional features. The program should take less than two hours to complete. It is divided into six sections, with a quiz at the end of each one, followed by a final exam. To take the course, please visit www.legion.org/alei

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Attention: Next Deadline is July 24

The deadline for material, stories and/or pictures to be submitted for consideration for use in the August 2020 issue of The Maine Legionnaire will be July 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

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

(Deadline extended to July 1 due to COVID-19)

Donations Welcomed!

No time to create an ad! We also welcome individual and business donations!

MAINE AMERICAN LEGION



**CONVENTION
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The American Legion, Department of Maine understands the hardships and challenges so many are facing during this difficult time. Therefore, we are only asking those who are able to give, to please show support to our Veterans in the State of Maine by placing a donation today to Maine American Legion Convention Yearbook, or promote your business with Maine American Legion via sponsorship ad and payment (See instructions below).

A list of contributors as well as all sponsorship ads will be published in our Maine American Legion Convention Yearbook which will be made available online at www.mainelegion.org in July.

To Donate, please visit www.mainelegion.org and click on the **MAINE AMERICAN LEGION CONVENTION YEARBOOK DONATIONS WELCOMED** button.

Donations may also be made by check payable to The American Legion, Department of Maine, and earmarked "Yearbook Program". Mail to: The American Legion, Department of Maine, 5 Ver-



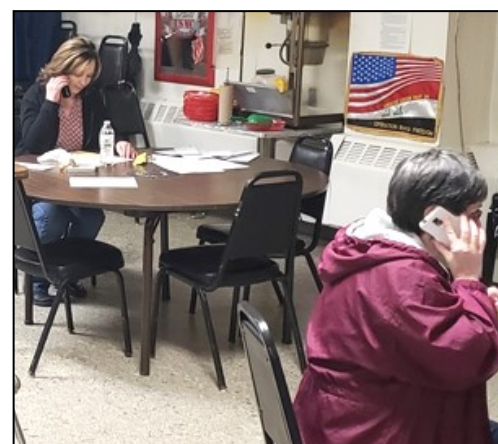
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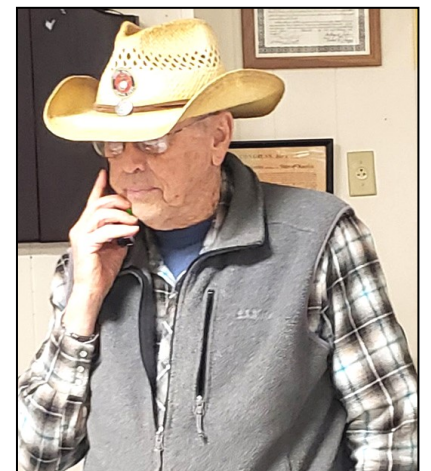
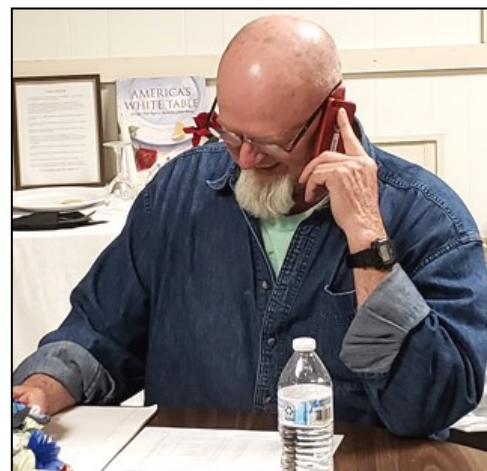
**HELP US CONTINUE TO
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**Buddy Checks
Performed At
Rumford Post
24 on April 19**
where approx. 300 phone calls were made to local veterans and members of the Post to see how they were doing and if they had any needs. Those without phone



numbers were sent a letter requesting they update information and give a call back to Post 24 to let them know how they were doing. Many calls have since been received by members to update their information and shared how much they appreciated someone checking in on them. Top photo, Rumford Post 24 Finance Officer Bill Scott; left photo, Post 24 Commander Patricia Thurston, left, and Robin Blanchard; bottom left, Post 24 Adjutant Bill Hobson, and bottom right, Post 24 2nd Vice Commander Jack Blanchard.



DISCLAIMER

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

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