

THE MAINE Legionnaire



MAY 2021

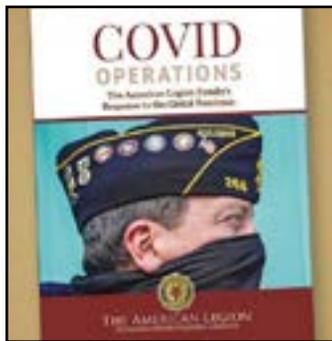
Vol. 36, Issue 2

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

AMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF MAINE

24 Pages



Bookazine Illustrates Legion Family's Pandemic Response

From the moment COVID-19 was declared a global pandemic in March 2020, the American Legion Family leaned into the crisis to serve communities, states and a nation in need. That story is told and illustrated in a photo-filled, 84-page bookazine now available from Emblem Sales at www.legion.org/emblemsales. Or order a copy by calling (888) 453-4466. The limited edition bookazines are \$9.95 each plus shipping and handling.

The American Legion Family mobilized to feed the hungry and isolated throughout the pandemic. Hundreds of thousands of protective face masks were obtained and distributed by American Legion posts, American Legion Auxiliary units, Sons of The American Legion squadrons and American Legion Riders chapters. When blood was sorely needed, the American Legion Family gave in record amounts. The 100 Miles for Hope challenge provided members and their families a healthy outlet during the difficult time, one that nearly 5,000 enjoyed as the pandemic wore on.

Meals were prepared and distributed throughout the country – from state-wide support services in Michigan and Maine to free hamburgers for truck drivers alongside highways in upstate New York and snacks for quarantined



NATIONAL COMMANDER
JAMES W. "BILL" OXFORD

troops in Alaska. Virtual or socially distanced meetings, veteran career fairs, memorial ceremonies and drive-by birthdays – even a virtual Texas American Legion Boys State – became standard practice throughout the organization, conducted safely to reduce spread of infection. Some posts offered COVID-19 testing. Others later became vaccination sites.

The COVID Operations publication not only says what the American Legion Family did during this time, it illustrates who we are, and why it matters.

This bookazine can be used whenever someone asks what the American Legion Family is and does. It is a strong example of the recently adopted American Legion motto, "Veterans Strengthening America."

---www.legion.org/dispatch
APR 01, 2021

VBA Message on

COVID-19 Vaccines



COVID-19 SAVE LIVES Act

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is now offering COVID-19 vaccines to all Veterans, regardless of their VA healthcare enrollment status, as well as their spouses and caregivers under the SAVE LIVES Act.

VA Medical Centers (VAMC) are expanding distribution of the vaccine to the wider Veteran community, while continuing to prioritize vaccinations and healthcare delivery for Veterans enrolled in VA care. VA is committed to offering COVID-19 vaccines as quickly and safely as possible.

For more information about COVID-19 vaccines at VA or to sign up to receive a COVID-19 vaccine at a VAMC in your area visit <https://www.va.gov/health-care/covid-19-vaccine/>

Veterans and employees are highly encouraged to seek all available options within their local communities and not rely solely on a vaccination from VA. You can find COVID-19 vaccines near you with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) VaccineFinder at <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/reporting/vaccinefinder/about.html>

Thank you for wearing a mask, maintaining social distance, and following CDC guidelines to protect yourself and others. For CDC guidelines, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>

Thomas Murphy
Acting Under Secretary for Benefits
Department of Veterans Affairs

Jeff's Catering & Event Center in Brewer to Host Annual State Convention

PREREGISTRATION REQUIRED!

Covid-19 Protocol Guidelines in Place

The American Legion, Department of Maine is proud to announce its 102nd Annual State Convention at Jeff's Catering & Event Center, 15 Littlefield Way, Brewer. Department Commander Matthew Jabaut will call the convention to order promptly at noontime on Friday, June 11.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, preregistration is a must for all delegates, alternates, members and guests (award recipients and their guests which is limited to no more than two do not have to pay the registration fee).

The conventions main focus will be for the purpose of electing Department Officers for the ensuing year, to elect delegates and alternates to the 2021 National Convention, to consider the resolutions and actions of subordinate bodies

and transact any other business properly brought before the convention in conjunction to following proper CDC guidelines.

Presentation awards to the 2020 and 2021 award recipients will be formally acknowledged as well as a few guest speakers invited to speak on behalf of The American Legion.

The registration fee to attend is \$10/person which covers both sessions to be held June 11-12. To preregister, please visit <http://www.mainelegion.org/pages/news-events/state-convention.php> and click on the Member/Guest Registration Form & Elected Post Delegate/Alternate Form.

If you are a delegate or alternate to this year's convention, please remember to bring your current American Legion membership card or PUFL card.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP ONLINE TODAY!

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

Don't lose your continuous years!

Pay your 2021 dues before June 30, 2021.

Collection for 2022 membership begins July 1, 2021.

A 'First' Look

Fellow Legionnaires, it has been over a year now since this pandemic began. Hopefully, we will see the cases continue to decrease as we adjust to the "new normal" around us. Unfortunately, there will not be any Boys or Girls State again this year. Our State Convention has been scheduled for June 11-13. Stay tuned and read your Leadership Ledger to keep up to date on Legion programs and what will be happening each month. If you do not receive it electronically, please email legionme@mainelegion.org and ask to be added to the email list. That is how you will be informed of the latest happenings and cancellations.

[Mylegion.org](http://mylegion.org) had some big changes made to its programming in the past few months. For those of you who use mylegion.org, I am sure you have seen the changes that have been made to this system. Unfortunately, there are still many repairs that need to be made to the new computer system before we will see it running like the "old" system. Please be patient as we wait for the new and better mylegion.org.

Because of the new mylegion.org and the problems that have been encountered with the rollout of this new system, the target dates for meeting the 95% and 100% membership have been extended. The new target date for 95% is May 12th and the 100% target date is June 9th. The last report that Maine received from National in April stated that Maine was in 9th place nationwide. That is very good. Please keep up the good work of renewals and the Buddy Checks. Remember that your members



**DEBRA
COUTURE**

and other veterans are your friends and neighbors, as well as many who may live across the country. Reaching out to them may help them make it through another day. You may discover that they need some medical assistance, food, or shelter. Make that effort. You may help to save a Vet's life with that call.

The Department of Maine also received some good news this past month. For the second year in a row, the Department of Maine competed for and placed second in the Legionnaire Insurance Trust Membership competition. The application process consists of demonstrating ideas that Maine has used to gain new members and how to keep those members involved, as well as how posts adjusted to the changes over this past year with membership recruitment while dealing with COVID-19. The second place award was \$7500. Maine has received a total of \$15,000 over the past 2 years. I am hopeful that all of you will come up with some ideas on how these funds can be spent to increase our membership. Please send an email to Paul L'Heureux at paul@mainelegion.org with any ideas you may have on promoting membership and using these funds. One thought that we have discussed is personalizing the posters that National includes on their website at www.legion.org/membership/recruitingtools. You can download the posters into a Word document and change the pictures on the poster to pictures from your own post or district and also include local contact names and numbers. Department can assist with the printing of these posters.

As we roll into summer with better weather and hope that COVID restrictions continue to lessen, there are several events that were cancelled last year and are now tentatively scheduled to take place this summer. The State's Bi-Centennial Parade that has

[More on "1ST VICE" Page 4](#)

Two for Two!

Maine Places 2nd Two Years in a row in Membership Development Marketing Excellence Program

Congratulations goes out to Department 1st Vice Commander Debra Couture for taking second-place two years in a row in the Membership Development Marketing Excellence Program sponsored through the Wigle Membership Innovation Initiative (AGIA).



The American Legion, Department of Maine was awarded \$7500 thanks to Deb's hard work and dedication which attributed to the success of this award.

**HARD WORK &
DEDICATION PAYS OFF!**

CONGRATULATIONS DEB!

The American Legion, Department of Maine

A 'Second' Look

Hope this finds you all in good health and spirits. We are really close to our Annual Convention, which we all should be planning for. Things at Department are a little hectic ensuring all awards from last year and the ones for this year are ready for distribution. The key phrases for Convention this year will be 'flexibility and patience'.

By the time you receive this paper Post Adjutants will have received and returned to Department the 'Annual Post Data Report'. This report was due to Department April 15, 2021. The reports and the information contained within each are very important. Last year we missed 100% CPR reporting by 1 Post. This year of course the goal is 100% reporting of all reports at District and Post levels. NO EXCEPTIONS!

The following information is a repeat from my last article, which bears repeating.

Annual Post Data Report – This form depicts all Post information currently on file at National and Department HQ. Review and make any necessary changes or corrections and submit to Department HQ. This form is not available online.

Consolidated Post Report (CPR) – You have two reporting options with this report. Online using mylegion.org or by mail using the paper form which can be found on the Department website. This report is due at National July 1st, if mailed, it is due to Department by May 29th.

Notification of Post/Squadron Commanders & Adjutants Form – As soon as new officers are elected for the current year of no later than July 1st. The Post Adjutant is to complete the form and submit to Department even if the Post does not have a Squadron.

Post Officers Form – Form must be filled out even if there are no changes from previous year. This form is due to Department by July 1st. The District Officers Form is to be filled out by the District Adjutant and submitted even if there are no changes from previous year. This form is also due to Department by July 1st.

The last three report forms can be found on the Department's website under the FORMS/APPLICATIONS but-

ton. For the last month or so Buddy Checks have been conducted throughout the state. I want to THANK all that have participated in them. As it has been said before, these checks are very important for retaining our membership and checking on the wellbeing of our fellow veterans. Keep up the good work!

During National Commander Oxford's briefing before Congress he shared the success of The American Legion's 'Buddy Check program, which he said reached and found tens of thousands of isolated veterans in need of food, medication, transportation, voting assistance, mental health checks and "most important, a compassionate voice during a tough and confusing time." So bottom line is that Buddy Checks work!

Hurdles, it has been a year full of them with the Pandemic and now one more. With the upgrade to MyLegion.org, many Posts have had to revert back to mailing or hand delivering membership to Department. This too will pass soon and be just a bad memory. Hang in there, we as a group, are very resilient.

Now is the time that Posts/Districts are conducting elections and having installations. This brings up a good point about training your replacement. Let's face it, do we really want to be a Post/District Commander for 20 years. I found some quotes from Past National Commander Rehbein and National Commander Oxford. They are as follows: The success to becoming an effective leader is mentorship. PNC Rehbein shared six things to look for in a mentor within The American Legion.

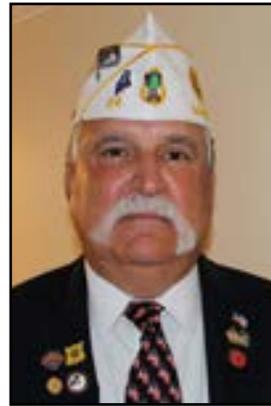
A mentor has to be someone that:

- Is familiar with the challenges you face;
- Is confident that you can overcome those challenges and have the initiative to take on those challenges;
- Gives advice and not commands;
- You can confide in;
- You can trust; and
- Is working for your good and not using you to further their own career.

"Mentorship is essential to the success of The American Legion," Oxford said. And as for his leadership philosophy, Oxford said it's pretty simple. "A leader provides direction that the group is going to take and creates the excitement and enthusiasm to move in that direction."

"Will you be the leader that I think you can be? Set the course and make it happen."

As I mentioned earlier, I hope this article finds you in good health and spirits. Hope to see you soon.



**KIRK
THURSTON**

NEC Update

Hello again fellow Legionnaires. I do believe spring has arrived even in the far north of Maine. Let me tell you, I for one am happy to see it arrive. Now if we can hold on for a few more weeks, or less, until the state government amends the COVID restrictions, we will all be happy. Please follow the distance restriction and face covering mandate for a short while more. Lives are depending on it.



LLOYD
WOODS

As I understand it, posts and districts are meeting and holding nominations and elections of new officers for the coming year. This is an important time for all of us as the individuals we elect are the ones that will oversee the different operations of our posts and districts. They will require our assistance and backing in order to fully operate as needed.

As with all departments, the National organization is preparing for the National Convention in Phoenix in late August and the first days of September if all goes well. The business of this organization needs to be done and the National Executive Committee is com-

pleting such with virtual meetings as required. The Spring Meetings in May will be conducted virtually in May with committee/commission meeting being held also virtually. This is a way to do business during these times but hopefully we will soon be able to meet face to face again.

The National Adjutant recently sent a memo regarding Resolution No. 21, National Executive Committee – May 4-5, 2016 which reiterates the 1960 NEC to urge departments to restrict resolutions to matters relevant to purposes for which The American Legion was organized. That resolution, in the concluding paragraph states that all resolutions being forwarded for action at the national level should be supported by identification of the individual or group originating the resolution, by a written statement of the supporting arguments in favor of the action sought and outlining the material relevance of the subject to the purposes for which The American Legion was formed. It is very important that the requests of that resolution be very important and carried out.

Finally, please be safe and thank you for all that you do and all that you will do for our great organization. If I can ever be of any assistance please feel free to contact me either at home, 896-5662, via my cellphone, 557-4971 or via email at llolin@ainop.com.

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

How to shop AmazonSmile:

1. Go to <http://smile.amazon.com> and sign in with your Amazon.com credentials. If you already have an Amazon account, there is no need to create another one.

2. In the search box, type American Legion Department of Maine Foundation and start shopping. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to the American Legion Department of Maine Foundation.

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

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

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

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Today!**

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On the Agenda

JUNE MEETINGS

District 12 – Hancock: June 14, S. W. Harbor Post 69, dinner 6:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m., mtg. installation

Money Matters

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 staff to do their jobs in the office. Those revenue streams include membership renewals and new members, our spring and holiday label programs, and sweepstakes programs. Your support for these pro-



GREGORY
COUTURE

grams will still be 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. Keep the Legion in mind when you want to make a donation.

At the Post level, I hope everyone has registered with the Secretary of State in order to keep their non-profit status. If you have a canteen, I would always recommend you have an annual audit. A set of eyes from the outside is your 990N is submitted and you have a recommended budget for the next fiscal year for your Post.

Be Well, Stay Safe!

Hope to see you at our convention.

Legion Posts Affected by COVID can Apply for \$1,000 Grant

Public health mandates in response to the coronavirus included stay-at-home orders and business closures. Those mandates financially impacted American Legion posts nationwide as member and community outreach efforts were limited, resulting in a loss of revenue.

To provide some relief during these challenging times, financial grants are now available for eligible American Legion posts.

Resolution No. 36, Mission Blue Post Assistance Program, will provide \$1,000 grants to posts that are in good standing with their respective department. These funds must be used exclusively to pay current or past due rent, mortgage, utilities and insurance.

The American Legion National Executive Committee approved Resolution No. 36 Oct. 14, during its annual Fall Meetings. Funds for the approved grants will be provided through The American Legion National Emergency Fund (NEF).

Eligibility for a Mission Blue Post Assistance Program grant requires posts to have:

1. A Consolidated Post Report on file.
2. Filed an IRS 990 within the pre-

scribed due date.

3. Filed all other required forms and reports as prescribed by the department.

4. Actively participated in one or more American Legion programs in the last 18 months.

5. A financial need.

6. A certificate of insurance naming The American Legion doing business as American Legion National Headquarters as an additional insured.

7. Documentation indicating that the post is properly incorporated.

The Mission Blue Post Assistance Program grant application is available online at https://www.legion.org/documents/pdf/Mission_Blue_PAP_Application_1.pdf

American Legion posts applying for a grant will be required to first submit the completed application to their respective department for approval before it can be sent to National Headquarters. This application procedure is the same as the NEF.

American Legion posts have until Dec. 31, 2021, to apply for a Mission Blue PAP grant.

The American Legion | Oct. 29, 2020
<https://www.legion.org/financialassistance/250756/legion-posts-affected-covid-can-apply-1000-grant>





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Americanism Report

Greeting Comrades,
For those of you who support Boy State, thank you. As you know Boys and Girls State has been canceled for this year due to safety concerns. Next year, they will be back bigger, and better. After school resumes this coming fall, let's get out there and promote the Oratorical Scholarship Program as well as Boy's and Girl's State. Do not wait and then have to scramble to contact the schools and try to get the students interested and ready to attend either program.

With Memorial Day approaching, the Posts will soon be placing flags on our Veterans' graves. Invite local Scouts, civic organizations, the town select boards, schools and other fraternal organizations to assist in this most important endeavor. Instill the meaning and the honor of having earned the privilege of having the flag, and remember to say the Veteran's name so they will never be forgotten.

Posts can and should invite all who



ALFRED
MCKAY

are mentioned above to a Flag Retirement Ceremony. This can be done after the new flags are up, or wait and have it near or on Flag Day.

As summer gets here and hopefully the Covid-19 restrictions ease, let's get out and enjoy the summer activities. If you attend a Legion Baseball game, wear your Legion Hat.

This will be my last article as your Department Americanism Officer. I want to thank all of you for allowing me the honor and privilege to serve you in this position. I am looking forward to seeing you in Brewer at the Annual Legion Convention in June.

too. If you know of any veteran who would like to attend, please ask them to email me at newwomenets@gmail.com.

As we move forward with vaccinations and as restrictions lessen, please keep a smile on your face and be kind to others. We can now see each other's smile again if we are outside and that is wonderful.

May God Bless you all. Stay safe and well.

For God and Country,
Deb Couture

The Adjutant Speaks

What's
Going
On?

Here is another edition of our informational newspaper that will hopefully start to show more activities at our 173 local Legion Posts located from Kittery to Ft. Kent, Maine. Until Covid-19 your current paper was up to 32 pages and we actually had to hold back certain articles in order to get the paper out on schedule. Now we are starting to see more of our Posts opening and they are actually trying to get back to some type of normalcy. I know you are getting tired of hearing it but the "curb-side" food take-out is still growing and the success stories just keep reaching HQ. For those that have hesitated, what are you waiting for?!!

Many of you are starting to work on the Memorial Day activities at your Posts and we have even been contacted about parades that are currently in the planning stages. I receive many phone calls about putting flags out at the local cemeteries and how the importance of this day makes a difference in the morale of our American Legion family. Some are even doing cook-outs after all the events and are determined to follow the basic guidelines and get people out and enjoying themselves. That's a CAN-DO attitude!

Our membership is still coming in and we are hopeful that we can reach 95% in the next few weeks. As you

read this section remember that every one of you make a difference by paying your dues. Some of the phone calls currently made by our Department Officers have been very successful because of a few points made in regards to how we currently help veterans because of the programs we have in place. If you decide not to pay, we are also sending a message to current veterans that may not consider joining because we have decided not to renew. How can you sell the youth activities such as Legion Baseball, Oratorical and Boys & Girls State program? Please make a difference and "pay it forward" because this country keeps making veterans and only veterans know how to care for them, that is why The American Legion makes a difference every day.

Speaking about Legion Baseball, I have met with the Committee and we are on track to have this program running. We currently have 18 confirmed Senior Teams and 22 Junior Teams with a few more possible in the near future. The coaches and committee members are dedicated and committed to get the youth of our state outside and involved with team building, pride and most of all--sportsmanship. Since 1925 American Legion Baseball program has been a stepping stone for these young players to become good citizens who have also become the coaches of today, realizing the importance of this enduring program.

Finally, the State Convention is currently in the planning stages as we determine the guidance criteria set by the State of Maine in the coming weeks. Currently the dates are set for June, 11th & 12th with a completely redesigned agenda and environment. As

[More on "ADJUTANT SPEAKS" Page 6](#)



PAUL
L'HEUREUX



**State Adjutant
Addresses Thomaston
Post 37: Department of
Maine Adjutant Paul L'Heu-
reux, speaks to the members
of Post 37 on March 7 for the
Installation of Officers Ceremo-
ny held at the Post home.**

Photo by George Robinson Jr.

Judge Advocate

In my short time as Department Judge Advocate there is a correlation that seems apparent. Like the military itself, a Post must shift and offer more personalized, tailored positions that give prospective members -- or those thinking of leaving the Legion -- a sense of purpose and belonging. The Post must survey its members, as well, and find out what their current role in the community is.

In the 1950's, or any decade up until now, the programs each Post defined for their communities may have changed for what your community needs now.

One Post in Maine had a huge concentration on Scouting and Legion Baseball in the 1960's only to find that with the age of technology less youth are partaking either program in 2021. Yet their membership still believes they are supporting both (when in fact they haven't had a true Legion Baseball team in 5 years and their scouting troop has moved to the neighboring town and they now have a pack).

Another Post I visited, after speaking with some members outside, believed their purpose was to raise funds to send young men to Dirigo Boys State. When I asked how many they had sent they didn't have an answer. After speaking with members of the Executive Committee it turns out they hadn't sent any students to Boys State for over 4 years.

Maybe, just maybe, its time to do a Post/Community Evaluation. Is it time to revitalize to get new, passionate members in? Is it time to assess your Post's role in the community?

An evaluation should be able to measure the results of a post's activities.

- Qualitative analysis of a post
- Quantitative analysis of a post

The primary purpose is to indicate whether a post is:

- Fulfilling a useful function,
- Whether it is an organization attracting veterans, and
- Whether it is truly a community asset.

Honestly evaluate the post and community.

- Evaluation will indicate where a post is needed or revitalized.
- Evaluation will indicate where improvement is most needed, or where one might want to brag about what their post is doing greatly.

Make sure you share your responses with your own post and brag about how well you're doing. The evaluation should provide a road map to see where improvements are needed.

Here is a sample your Post can utilize, share it with the entire Post Family and track the results.

1. Post has good youth programs.

When scoring this one, look not only at the variety of the programs and the number of youths served, but also at the post's management of the programs.

Score _____
2. Post members are interested and active.

Does the post offer a variety of activities to appeal to the interests of a broad spectrum of the membership or are all the "eggs in one basket?"

Score _____
3. Post is a real asset to the community.

Does an identifiable segment of the post's financial support and volunteer manpower go to assist community programs and facilities – hospital, charity fund drives, recreation programs, etc.?

Score _____
4. Post is a community center.

A dozen card players and/or a few daytime bar patrons won't identify your post as a community center.

Score _____
5. Post aids veterans in need of help.

This element begins with an active post service officer and goes on from there – counseling, medical care of hospitalization assistance, claims, jobs, education and training, etc.

Score _____
6. Post has a businesslike operation.

Don't be decoyed on this one by an adjutant who substitutes activity for progress. Look at the condition of post records, files, clubroom operation, etc.

Score _____
7. Post is a friendly place to be.

Does post make a sincere effort to make new members feel at home? Or does it cater to the few "regulars" who drop in every day?

Score _____
8. Post is well thought of by the community.

Does the post have an effective public relations program to display its achievements and its participation in civic programs?

Score _____
9. Post offers activities and func-



JASON HALL

tions for Legion families.

Are such activities well planned and well attended?

Score _____

10. Post conducts regular, interesting meetings.

Are meetings conducted according to ritual? Does commander have a prepared agenda? Are programs planned in conjunction with the meetings?

Score _____

11. Post conducts regular, interesting meetings.

Are meetings conducted according to ritual? Does commander have a prepared agenda? Are programs planned in conjunction with the meetings?

Score _____

Rating Schedule:

- 0- No Participation
- 1- Poor
- 2- Below Average
- 3- Average
- 4- Above Average
- 5- Excellent

Now, transfer your scores for each of the ten items to the chart on the next page by placing a check mark in the appropriate scoring column for each item.

- 0-4 Dead
 - 5-14 Poor (Barely Breathing)
 - 15-24 Below Average (Early Stage of Malignancy)
 - 25-35 Average (Can Be Sold Enthusiastically)
 - 36-50 Excellent (Sells Itself)
- If you scored 25 or more, chances are gaining new members is not a problem. If you scored 24 or less, time to get to work.

As elections are being conducted or just completed, now is the time to find out what your community needs. Now is the time to sculpt your Post and membership into a force to serve veterans and the community.

- You will appreciate the results:
- Members who participate take ownership of their organization.
 - The public sees the good being done and wants to join and be a part of it. (New, younger members are never a bad thing.)
 - Everybody wins when your Post aims to be better. The members, the community, the youth....everybody.
- Go give it a try, I assure you it will open your eyes and can only help your Post serve better.

For God and Country,
Jason T. Hall
Department Judge Advocate

Rating Schedule from Total Score:

Rate 0 to 5	0	1	2	3	4	5
1. Youth Programs						
2. Interested and active members						
3. Community asset						
4. Community center						
5. Aid to veterans						
6. Businesslike operation						
7. Friendly atmosphere						
8. Attitude of community						
9. Functions for families						
10. Post meetings						

President's Message

Greetings Legion Family,

We are coming back around, full circle, through the last two years, years that there was extraordinarily little that remained the same.

I believe we have all learned a lot about what we personally and as an organization, are capable of. Even with having to be together, apart, this organization is unstoppable.

I have met wonderful members and had the pleasure to work with some incredible Officers across the Family. We have shared losses and celebrated successes, we have made some categorically positive changes in how we



**PRESIDENT
VIRGINIA CHAPUT**

do some of our programs and how we continue to support our Veteran's, their Families and Communities.

I look forward to watching fellow members grow and come into their own places as leadership of this great organization and anticipate continuing to roll up my sleeves and work side by side you all to make things happen moving forward.

In closing, I thank you all for your support and for making me feel welcome in everything we have done, and I know we are far from done.

Thank you for your service, Legionnaires, from a very grateful citizen and the Daughter of a Navy Veteran. Please allow me to share a few words of Maya Angelou, "How important it is, for us to recognize and celebrate our heroes and sheroes". We celebrate you!

I wish you well, be safe and stay as amazing as each and every one of you are.

Respectfully,
Ginny Chaput, President
American Legion Auxiliary, Dept. of Maine

The American Legion Calls for Expediting Visas for Afghan Interpreters

WASHINGTON (April 29, 2021) – Stating that "time is of the greatest essence," American Legion National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford wrote to President Joseph Biden and Secretary of State Antony Blinken and called on the administration to speed up the processing of visa applications for interpreters who assisted U.S. troops in Afghanistan.

Oxford explained that he sent the letters because of the dire consequences that interpreters face. "A Michigan Legionnaire who served in Afghanistan described the situation in stark terms. Interpreters who are discovered by the Taliban will be swiftly beheaded. The unlucky ones will have to watch their families die first," he said. "While we welcome an end to these endless wars, we must never abandon the brave Afghan and Iraqi allies who took great personal risk to assist our military with its missions. We must not leave them behind. They have earned safe passage to America."

Oxford directed his Washington staff to work with the Biden administration on the best way to fix what has been described by Brown University as a "slow and inefficient" processing program that takes over two years. In his letters to Biden and Blinken, Oxford noted that Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) recipients "go through the strict-

est vetting and approval process of any category of person coming to the U.S. already, but we must balance security concerns with a commitment to those who fought alongside us."

The American Legion foresaw this issue in 2018 when its National Executive Committee unanimously passed Resolution No. 16, which called for Congress and the president to recognize Afghan and Iraqi SIV recipients who "stood shoulder to shoulder" with U.S. troops and diplomats.

Oxford further promised that "The American Legion will not let this go. Military equipment is being removed from Afghanistan right now. But people are our greatest asset. We urge every American to contact their congressional delegations and insist that they prioritize the protection of our heroic allies and their families."

About The American Legion

The American Legion is the largest veterans service organization with nearly 2 million members in more than 12,000 posts across the nation. Chartered by Congress in 1919, The American Legion is committed to mentoring youth and sponsoring wholesome community programs, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting a strong national security and continued devotion to servicemembers and veterans.

Historian's Bunker

Department of Maine Writing Contest Changes are Coming

Since the last issue of The Maine Legionnaire there have been changes to some of the information concerning the writing contest guidelines. This is all part of the growth of creating



**GEORGE
ROBINSON JR**

any new program. The first of these changes was to separate the Operating Guidelines for the Media and Communications Committee (MCC) into two distinct documents. The first document is now the MCC Operating Guidelines. The second document takes the writing contest appendices from the MCC Operating Guidelines and establishes a standalone writing contest document.

As part of this change some of the content concerning the three categories of the Department of Maine writing contests was deleted, while other small mistakes and information was corrected. The contest categories were reduced from five to four, within only three post size competitions. The four categories are:

- Small Post – 1 to 100 members
- Medium Post – 101 to 200 members

■ "ADJUTANT SPEAKS" (Continued from Page 4)

we work on this challenge you will be kept updated by emails, web page and the by-weekly newsletter, The Leadership Ledger. As we make those adjustments, we want all of you to please use patience & common sense if you plan to attend. If you do not feel comfortable you should make the decision

Large Post – 200+ members
District – Newsletter Only

The new guidelines will be introduced at the next Department of Maine Convention. Information about the next Convention should be forthcoming in the coming weeks. Each Post will receive a printed copy of the guidelines at the Convention. Additionally, the guidelines will be posted on the Department website and historians/authors will be able to download them for their use.

The awards and certificates for the 2019-2020 contests have been obtained and are at the Department Headquarters. These will be presented at the next Department Convention. Remember, when the next Conference can be held is completely contingent on the Covid-19 situation and the ability to have a convention that can host seated participants under State and Legion social distancing requirements. Additional information about the 2020-2021 contests will be coming soon. Look for it on the Department Facebook page. The new guidelines may not be used to judge 2020-2021 submissions.

I have a question for our female Legionnaires. Is there a Post Historian, or someone with an interest, among any of you that would like to become a member of the MCC? If there is, the MCC has a seat for one of you to fill.

*"History is being made every day.
Don't let it pass you by."*

to not attend, and we will respect that decision as well. We know that many of you miss that "camaraderie" that has been part of this organization for 102 years. We earnestly hope that we can return to some normalcy as we move forward. Please keep in mind that things may change as we keep you updated on our progress to accomplish this task.

Stay Safe and keep your sights "Forward and Focused."

102nd National Convention of The American Legion

This year's National Convention will be held in Phoenix, Arizona Aug. 27 - Sept. 2, 2021. The hotel assigned for members from the Department of Maine will be the Hyatt Regency Phoenix, 122 North Second Street, Phoenix, AZ 85004.

The hotel room rate is \$123 plus tax rate of 12.57% per room/night (subject to change) for one King or 2 Queen size beds. Additional Occupant in room per day - Flat Rate; Rollaway Rate per Day

- \$20.00; Parking Rate per Day - Self - \$23.00; Valet - \$37.00.

If you are thinking about going to National Convention, please let the American Legion, Department of Maine know by calling 207-873-3229, or email paul@mainelegion.org and we will be sure to put you on the mailing list for the information.

For more information, please visit www.legion.org/convention/resources.



Meeting the Transportation Needs of Disabled Veterans

Our nation owes American veterans an enormous debt, one that can never truly be repaid. Honoring our commitment to those who served our nation in uniform involves continuing to support them when they return home and meeting the needs of veterans who are disabled.

I recently introduced a bill with Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV) that would make a positive difference in the lives of disabled veterans who require adaptive modification of their vehicles long after they are discharged or retire from active duty.

The bipartisan Advancing Uniform Transportation Opportunities (AUTO) for Veterans Act would make these veterans eligible to receive a grant to help purchase a new adaptive vehicle once every ten years, helping them to drive safely and maintain their independence. This is especially important for states such as Maine, where many veterans live in rural communities and must travel for some of the health care they have earned through their service.

The U.S. Department of Veterans



SENATOR
SUSAN COLLINS

necessary adaptive equipment, such as specialized pedals or switches. The grant is often used together with the VA Special Adaptive Equipment Grants, which help veterans purchase adaptive equipment, such as powered lifts, for an existing automobile or van to make it safe for a veteran's use. The Department of Transportation estimates that the average cost to replace modified vehicles ranges from \$20,000 to \$80,000 when the vehicle is new.

Affairs is currently authorized to provide eligible veterans with a one-time grant of approximately \$21,400 to be used to purchase a new or used automobile and

Although veterans can receive multiple Special Adaptive Equipment Grants over the course of their lives, they currently are limited to a single grant to purchase a vehicle. The AUTO for Veterans Act addresses this limitation, which fails to take into account that a disabled veteran may need more than one vehicle in his or her lifetime.

According to the Department of Transportation, the average age of a household vehicle is 11.8 years, and a vehicle that has been modified structurally tends to have a shorter useful life. The Disabled American Veterans, the Paralyzed Veterans of America, the VFW, and the Fleet Reserve Association endorse AUTO for Veterans. These veteran organizations find that the substantial costs of modified vehicles, coupled with inflation, present a significant financial hardship for many disabled veterans who need to replace their primary mode of transportation once their car, or van, or truck reaches the end of its lifespan.

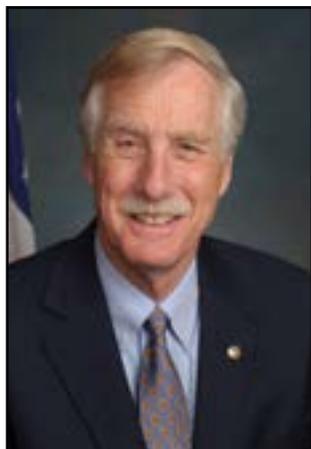
A Maine veteran whom I know well, Neal Williams of Shirley, used a VA au-

tomobile grant in 1999 to purchase an adaptive vehicle, a Ford Econoline van. He also had to purchase several adaptive vehicles since 1999, with each one lasting more than 250,000 miles until they simply were no longer road-worthy. His current vehicle now has more than 100,000 miles and soon he will need a new one. He told me that purchasing a new van will cost him well over \$50,000, which is more than he paid for his home. The AUTO for Veterans Act will relieve him—as well as many veterans throughout the country who need to purchase expensive adaptive vehicles in order to drive safely or to drive at all—of an enormous burden.

The AUTO for Veterans Act would help so many of our disabled veterans who need vehicles with adaptive equipment so that they can drive themselves and drive safely. This is an important step that we can take to meet this need, and help those who have made so many sacrifices to serve our nation.

The American Rescue Plan Is Delivering for Veterans and the VA

For more than a year, America has been devastated by COVID-19 — and Maine's veteran community is no exception. The virus has killed



SENATOR
ANGUS KING

more than 500,000 of our friends, neighbors, and loved ones; crashed the economy; stressed personal finances; endangered local businesses; and stretched our medical providers beyond their breaking points. In the face of this crisis, we needed bold federal leadership to support the American people — and the American

Rescue Plan (ARP) is delivering.

I was proud to vote for the ARP in March to help confront the damage done across the board — and that damage is severe. The pandemic has hit our veterans hard, leaving many struggling to make ends meet, scrambling to keep their business afloat, or even fighting for their lives.

The American Rescue Plan is making critical investments to address this crisis — starting with our healthcare infrastructure. The law includes \$160 billion to support the fight against COVID-19 by speeding vaccine deployment, bolstering public health infrastructure, and improving access to testing.

Critically, the package not only addresses the cause of this crisis, but also the fallout. From rescue checks to extended unemployment benefits to support for small businesses, the American Rescue Plan's provisions are making a difference for veterans across Maine.

The economic benefits are essential, helping families keep food on the table and a roof over their head. It was also a priority of mine to make sure that the bill included \$17 billion to support broadband deployment and increase educational connectivity nationwide; so many veterans were able to access medical care via telehealth, and we need to make sure these resources are available to our veterans in all pockets of the country.

Beyond these large-scale efforts that aid our veteran community, the legislation also includes veteran-specific funding to boost the VA, improve care, and help unemployed veterans find new careers. These provisions include:

- \$14.5 billion to the VA for COVID related healthcare, helping more than 9 million veterans who may have delayed care due to the pandemic. In addition, the legislation includes support for veterans who receive housing support, including an estimated 37,000

homeless veterans.

- \$1 billion in debt forgiveness or reimbursement for veterans who paid a copay or other cost sharing for medical care between April 6, 2020 and September 30, 2021

- \$750 million to support State Veterans Homes, including grants for new construction.

- \$386 million in training and employment assistance, helping unemployed veterans shift careers to enter high-demand occupations.

At the end of the day, I worked hard on this bill and voted for it because Maine people, including our veterans, needed help. This law is meeting that need, and setting us on the path to put this dark chapter of American history behind us once and for all. The effort is far from done — but it's making progress, and I'll keep working with my colleagues to ensure that our response meets the magnitude of the moment.

The Power of Veterans in Congress

Regardless of what branch we served in, as servicemembers we trained to work as a team towards our mission and put the needs of others above our own. These skills are rare in Congress these days, which is one reason



CONGRESSMAN
JARED GOLDEN

why partisanship and distrust are at historic levels.

Given our training and experience, I believe veterans are uniquely capable of cutting through the dysfunction in Congress and working together across party lines to accomplish a goal. That's one reason I joined the For Country Caucus in 2019. For Country is a group of veterans in the House — mostly 9/11-era — who dedicate themselves to working in a nonpartisan way to create a more productive government and are committed to serving with integrity, civility and courage.

This Congress, I've been honored to be chosen as a co-chair of the group along with Republican Van Taylor of

Texas. Rep. Taylor and I both know that our group doesn't mean anything unless we can get things done, and we've already begun outlining our goals and tactics for this Congress.

Our first mission is the creation of a memorial to the fallen servicemembers who lost their lives in the Global War on Terror (GWOT). For the thousands of veterans and their families who have served after the September 11th attacks, a memorial to the GWOT would help encourage healing and reflection. For civilians, the memorial would be an opportunity to pay respect to those who have sacrificed for our country and to recognize the horrible costs of war.

We're bringing our case to President Biden and his administration, and we're also working hard to grow bipartisan support for the bill. So far, we've helped the bill's sponsor, Rep. Jason Crow, add over 100 cosponsors. We hope that getting this bill across the finish line is just the first step towards realizing this group's potential to get things done in Congress.

If you have ideas about areas where you think the For Country Caucus should focus, please let us know. And if there is any way my staff and I can serve you, reach out:

- Bangor Office: Phone: (207) 249-7400
 - Caribou Office: Phone: (207) 492-6009
 - Lewiston Office: Phone: (207) 241-6767
- Thank you for your service.

Recently Passed Bills to Benefit Maine Veterans

The first few months of the 117th Congress have proven to be extremely busy. Importantly, several recently passed bills will benefit Maine veterans. As your Congresswoman, I want to make you aware of several new programs that may benefit you. If you have any questions or if I can be of any help, please feel free to contact my office at 207-774-5019.

The American Rescue Plan, enacted into law with my full support, included up to \$1,400 stimulus checks for 90% of Maine families depending on their income. As I write this column, thousands of Mainers have already received Economic Impact Payments, but many veterans and their beneficiaries who receive Compensation and Pension (C&P) benefit payments and who don't normally file a tax return still haven't received theirs. I'm happy to announce that beginning in late April, Maine veterans who receive veterans' benefits will begin receiving their stimulus checks. I want to make sure that Maine veterans and their families get the money that is rightfully theirs. Help is here, and our veterans have the long-awaited support they need to help them recover from the impact of COVID-19. If you still have not received your payment, I encourage you to go online and check the status of their payment using the "Get My Payment" tool at: <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment>. Please let my office know if we can be of any assistance.

The American Rescue Plan also includes ample funding for the VA and support for veterans who have lost their jobs or closed their businesses due to the pandemic. \$14.5 billion will be allocated for the VA's COVID-19 related health care, \$262 million to reduce the backlog of compensation and pension claims, and \$750 million for both construction grants and payments to improve conditions at state homes. The American Rescue Plan also establishes a \$386 million COVID-19 Veteran



CONGRESSWOMAN
CHELLIE PINGREE

Rapid Re-training Assistance Program, providing up to 12 months of training and employment assistance for unemployed veterans to reenter the work-

force. There are also provisions to support veterans receiving housing support and provide resources for homeless veterans. If you have any questions about how the American Rescue Plan will benefit you, please reach out to my office and we'll be happy to help.

I'm also working with my colleagues in the Maine and Alaska delegations to provide care for veterans with early-stage dementia. We recently called for the VA to swiftly implement a law unanimously passed in December that would address a current gap in care for veterans living with early-stage dementia. Maine Veterans' Homes has provided domiciliary care for veterans with early-stage dementia in its homes since 2004, but newly enforced VA eligibility requirements limited access for many of these veterans and suddenly deemed them ineligible for domiciliary care. While the VA grandfathered those already in treatment, nearly 43 veterans have been unfairly denied eligibility since January. The State Veterans Homes Domiciliary Care Flexibility Act rights this wrong by providing the VA flexibility to ensure this vulnerable group of veterans receive the care they rightfully deserve and that the VA can help address the growing need to provide assistance for these patients.



Bridgton Post
67 Commander Brian Conroy, left with Department Commander Matthew Jabaut at the Post 67 Officer Appointment Ceremony March 2.

Service Office Update

Hello from the Service Office. It looks like things are slowly returning to normal. The limits are increasing, and folks are leaving their homes again. It is time we again looked for veterans in need. Let's not forget that we are an organization that was founded on helping all veterans. If you pull into a parking lot and the vehicle next to you has a veteran license plate start a conversation with them. I would believe that you have more knowledge of VA programs than they do. It is a simple act that could change lives.



**SERVICE OFFICER
CARL CURTIS**

There have been three conditions that have been added to the presumptive condition list for agent orange exposure. They are Bladder Cancer, Hypothyroidism, and Parkinson's - like symptoms. The VA is still trying to figure out how they will process these new conditions. My advice to you is that if you have been denied for any of the three conditions, call the office and we will resubmit you for them.

Another topic I would like to address is the situation with Compensation and Pension exams. The VA is having issues with the contract examiner companies. I have several claims that have been pending for months due to lack of providers. I have some veterans that have decided to travel to New York City just to have an exam. I would not recommend you do this. Please contact our office if you have been waiting for months with no word from the VA. We can check on the process and give a nudge downstairs to try to speed up the process.

I have come across a few veterans within the last two weeks that believe that just because they served, they are entitled to compensation for any injury. The system does not work that way. The fact that you served means that you have the right to apply for service-connected compensation. You as a veteran still must meet the requirements under the law to be compensated. You must also attend a compensation and pension exam. If you meet the requirements you will be granted compensation. If you have questions or would like to submit a claim please

call our office so we can assist you.

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 You do not have to be a post service officer to attend training. You just have to care and want to make a difference.

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

DSO Newsletter. To sign up for the newsletter, please email your con-

tact 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 BASEBALL BEAT COLUMN



20 Questions with Donnelly Douglas of Maine Baseball Hall of Fame

By DAN WARREN

Special to The Maine Legionnaire

Q1. You are busy these days preserving baseball memories and artifacts for fans all over the state through the Maine Baseball Hall of Fame website and social media?

A. Yes. The process is long overdue. Baseball has a beloved place in the history of the state of Maine. The new HOF web site reflects that.

Q2. You played a prominent role in Maine baseball history as a player at Westbrook High School, American Legion ball, Amherst College, Cape Cod League, and then the Chicago Cubs organization, correct?

A. I enjoyed my days as a pitcher, just as I enjoy my role now with the Hall of Fame, keeping the history alive.

Q3. Your home town of Westbrook has a colorful history with American Legion baseball. In 1965, Westbrook boys teamed up with Scarborough and Gorham to win the state Legion title?

A. Yes. Johnny Cumberland of Westbrook struck out 21 batters in the title game against Bangor. He went on to pitch in the Major Leagues. Russ Haignis of Scarborough had the game-winning hit. Bo McFarland of Scarborough was one of the best players on the team. Other standouts were _____.

Q4. What does the new HOF web site feature?

A. We have been working hard the past two years putting short biographical sketches of Hall of Fame inductees onto the website. We also have an impressive collection of photos.

Q5. What is the goal of the website?

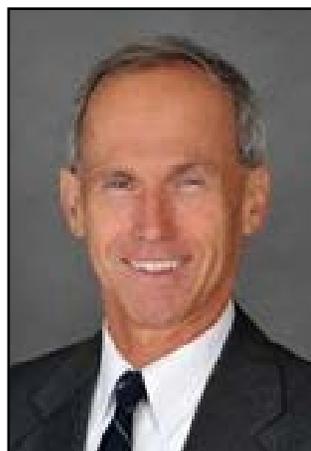
A. We want to honor the inductees. We want a place where the inductees and their families and relatives and friends can go to find out about their proud place in the game in the state of Maine.

Q6. Are there other projects the State of Maine baseball Hall of Fame has going now concerning this website?

A. Yes. We want to branch out and reach all generations in the state of Maine, children, grandchildren, new fans and old fans, so we are starting to use social media. We have a Twitter account that we use to offer news items every day about baseball in the state. We also have an Instagram account where we offer photos from the past.

Q7. What is plan for the future?

A. We know a lot of people are on



DAN WARREN

with these

A. Yes. Greg Strom is our technological wizard. Greg worked for many years at the Apple store at the Maine Mall, and now is employed in IT at the University of New England, and also operates a private computer consulting company, and a photography studio.

Q9. Does Greg have a connection to the game of baseball?

A. Yes. He grew up in Camden, and is the grandson of a Maine baseball great, Rupert G. Johnson of Standish. Rupe was a great coach, and was inducted into the Maine HOF shortly after we began in 1969.

Q9. Do you have other people involved as well?

A. Yes. Dan Warren of Scarborough has been a motivating force in encouraging the HOF to come into the 21st-century with a website and social media.

Q10. Does Dan have a background in the game and connection to the HOF?

A. Yes. He played at Scarborough high school, and among his coaches were three men who would later be inducted into the Maine baseball Hall of Fame: Packy MacFarland, Phil Martin, and Bob Curry. Dan also played summer American Legion ball for a Saco/Scarboro team where HOF in-

ductee Brad Leach was pitching coach. Facebook, so we will be increasing our efforts to bolster our Facebook page and communications.

Q8. Do you have other individuals helping you projects?

A. Yes. Greg Strom is our technological wizard. Greg worked for many years at the Apple store at the Maine Mall, and now is employed in IT at the University of New England, and also operates a private computer consulting company, and a photography studio.

Q11. Has Dan continued in the game of baseball since his playing days?

A. Yes. He was the general manager and assistant coach of the local Scarborough Libby Mitchell American Legion Post 76 baseball organization for about 20 years. Dan was inducted into the Maine Baseball Hall of Fame in 2017 for his baseball activities.

Q12. Has the state of Maine had players who's going to play professional baseball?

A. Yes. In fact, there is a great framed piece of artwork that shows baseball cards of the 15 or 20 Maine players who have gone on to the big leagues.

Q13. Is there someplace where fans can see that framed artwork?

A. Yes. The Portland Sea Dogs organization has been kind enough to provide a room at Hadlock Field for the Maine Baseball Hall of Fame. There are plaques on the wall honoring inductees, and also that framed set of baseball cards is on the way.

Q14. Does the Maine State Baseball Hall of Fame host any events?

A. Yes. Prior to coronavirus, the

HOF held an induction banquet each summer. The event is usually at the downtown Holiday Inn Portland, and features speeches by the inductees, and a nice meal for family members and friends. The inductees throw out the ceremonial first pitch at the Portland Sea Dogs game the night before, which is always a Saturday evening.

Q15. Will there be an event in 2021?

A. We have not decided yet. We hope to, but we want to be safe.

Q17. If the virus does not allow a live event, will the HOF consider a Zoom type event?

A. We have been asked to host a zoom event. We are considering that.

Q18. You mentioned photographs being available through your Instagram account each day. What type of photos do you feature?

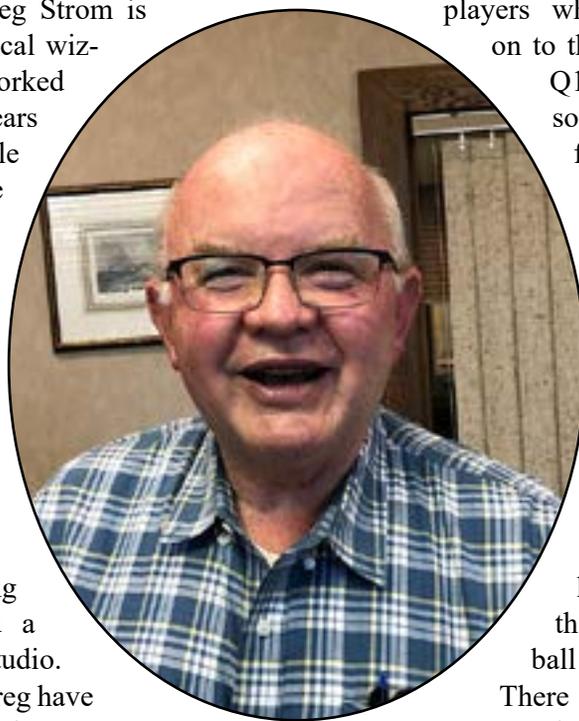
A. One of the co-founders of the Maine Baseball Hall of Fame, Vern Putney, was a long-time sports reporter for the Portland Press Herald. He collected a tremendous collection of photograph which he donated to the Hall of Fame.

Q19. What are some of the photographs?

A. We have featured a photo of former University of Maine and Baltimore Oriole star Mike Bordick; a photo of former University of Maine and Seattle Mariners pitcher Billy Swift; and a number of other photos of old-time baseball in small town Maine and elsewhere.

Q20. Do you have a favorite aspect yourself of the Hall of Fame?

A. I particularly enjoy the old "town ball" teams. We love to honor players from all 16 counties in Maine. Town teams are such a rich part of the tradition of the state from back in the 1920s, 30s and 40s.



Donnelly Douglas



THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MAINE

OFFICIAL CALL

FOR THE

ONE HUNDRED AND SECOND ANNUAL CONVENTION

In accordance with Article IV of the Constitution and By-laws of the Department of Maine, The American Legion, the one hundred and second Annual Convention is hereby called to convene at Brewer, Maine, June 11-12, 2021.

The first business session will be called to order at 12:00 p.m. Daylight Savings Time, on the afternoon of Friday, June 11, 2021, with the final business session scheduled for Saturday morning, June 12, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. All general business sessions of the convention will be held at Jeff's Catering & Event Center, Brewer, Maine.

PURPOSE

The convention is called for the purpose of electing Department Officers for the ensuing year; to elect delegates and alternates to the 2021 National Convention to be held in Phoenix, Arizona; to receive reports of all Department Officers and standing committees; to consider the resolutions and actions of subordinate bodies and to transact any other business properly brought before the convention.

REPRESENTATION

Each post is entitled to one delegate and one alternate, and one additional delegate and alternate for each one hundred members or fractional part thereof paid up to May 12, 2021. A post with less than 15 members is not entitled to any delegates. All department officers, district commanders, area commanders and Past Department Commanders, in good standing, shall be entitled to vote and have all the rights of delegates in the convention. These officers and Past Department Commanders are delegates-at-large and must not be named as post delegates.

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

RULES OF ORDER

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

MEETINGS

The Resolutions Committee shall hold a public hearing on all resolutions submitted in accordance with the Consti-

tution and By-laws at Jeff's Catering & Event Center on Friday, June 11, 2021, at 9 a.m. All delegates and alternates and members of The American Legion are invited to attend the session. Following this public hearing, the Committee on Resolutions will go into executive session to vote on resolutions to be brought before the body.

The Department Executive Committee will hold the first meeting at Jeff's Catering & Event Center on Sunday, June 13, 2021. All department officers, district commanders, area commanders and Past Department Commanders are requested to attend.

CREDENTIALS

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

paid by sending a check made payable to The American Legion, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0727.

NOMINATION AND ELECTIONS

At the first session of Department Convention on Friday, June 11, 2021, nominations shall be made for the offices of Department Commander; Department First Vice Commander; Department Second Vice Commander; Department Historian; Department Americanism Officer; Department Sergeant-at-Arms, National Executive Committeeman and National Executive Committeeman Alternate.

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

card, badge, convention registration and your 2021 membership card must be displayed during voting.

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

UNIFORM OF THE DAY

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

MEMORIAL SERVICE

The Department Chaplain of The American Legion will conduct a Memorial Service to be held just prior to conclusion to the Saturday session, June 12, 2021. Posts wishing to have deceased members included in the Post Everlasting Ceremony are requested to submit a list of the honored dead to Department Headquarters. Lists must include name of deceased comrades and conflict served. If your post files a Post Everlasting list for The Maine Legionnaire and said list is up to date, a second list is not necessary.

LAW AND ORDER

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

PRESS

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

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

A formal installation ceremony will be held Saturday, June 12, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. All department officers and district commanders will be sworn into office at that time and will automatically become members of the Department Executive Committee.

RAFFLES OR SALES ITEMS

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

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

THE AMERICAN LEGION

102ND ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION

June 11-12, 2021

Jeff's Catering & Event Center, Brewer

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND!

paid.

All credentials must be verified by the Credentials Committee, which will be in session at Jeff's Catering & Event Center, Brewer, Maine, from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 12, 2021.

The Department Adjutant shall issue to each post, 30 days prior to convention, a statement of the number of 2021 membership cards, accompanied by state and national dues, received at Department Headquarters on May 12, 2021. Listed with the membership report will appear the number of delegates allowed each post.

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

If there should be any changes in personnel on the list of delegates or alternates, corrections should be made with the Credentials Committee. Delegates must be registered with the convention in order to vote (1975 Convention Mandate). Registration fee of \$10 for each delegate and alternate may be

All candidates for elective department office must file with the Department Adjutant, prior to May 12, 2021, a letter of intent to seek office and furnish a copy of discharge papers, which makes them eligible for membership in The American Legion. The ballots for the Department Convention will be pre-printed indicating those candidates who have filed for office. Any candidate declaring after May 12, 2021 or nominated from the floor of the convention, will be a write-in candidate. Blank spaces will be left for write-in candidates. (DEC Mandate Jan. 27, 1985).

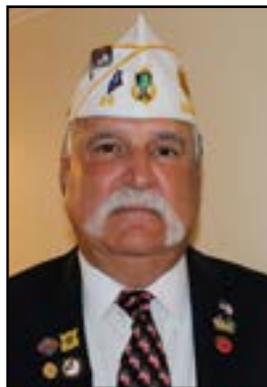
VOTING

Delegates may get ballots from the Credentials Committee at Jeff's Catering & Event Center on Saturday, June 12, 2021. The Credentials Committee will be in session for two hours on Saturday morning, June 12, 2021, from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Each delegate will go to the convention hall during the hours specified and secure ballots. No ballots will be issued after 10 a.m. Delegates will cast ballots immediately. Delegate's

Department Officer Candidates 2022



DEBRA COUTURE
Commander
Litchfield Post 181



KIRK THURSTON
1st Vice Cmdr.
Rumford Post 24



ALFRED MCKAY
2nd Vice Cmdr.
Damariscotta Post 42



PATRICIA THURSTON
Americanism
Rumford Post 24



GEORGE ROBINSON, JR.
Historian
Thomaston Post 37



ETHAN MCKENNEY
Sergeant-At-Arms
Harrison Post 139



LLOYD WOODS
NEC
Madawaska Post 147



MATTHEW JABAUT
NECA
Topsham Post 202

What a Delegate Should Bring: This is a short reminder to all legionnaires attending the 102nd Annual State Convention in Brewer, June 11th and 12th. If you are a delegate or alternate to this year's convention, please remember to bring your current American Legion membership card or PUFL card. Attendees should go to the registration table immediately upon arrival and pick up your delegate or alternate package. Only registered delegates are allowed to vote or address the convention. The official uniform of The American Legion is the Legion cap.

Preregistration Required!
Due to Covid-19 guidelines and restrictions on occupancy, preregistration is mandatory with no exceptions in order to maintain proper headcount. To register, please visit <http://www.mainelegion.org/pages/news-events/state-convention.php> and click on the Member/Guest Registration Form & Elected Post Delegate/Alternate Form


Maine Veterans' Dental Network
 A resource for veterans to access dental care who aren't 100% service-connected to the VA, don't have dental insurance, and can't afford to pay out of pocket.
Free Dental Services
 For more information, contact Sarah Sherman at the Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services at 207-430-5816 for help locating a participating dental clinic near you. Veterans must provide a copy of their DD-214 (Honorable or General Under Honorable) to receive services.
SPONSORED BY NORTHEAST DELTA DENTAL & THE MAINE BUREAU OF VETERANS' SERVICES


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

 Endorsed by Your Department of The American Legion

You are eligible for LegionCare: \$5,000.00 in Accidental Death Insurance at NO COST TO YOU if a covered accident occurs while traveling on official Legion business*, or \$1,000.00 at NO COST TO YOU for all other covered accidents. This has been arranged on your behalf by Your Department of The American Legion. As soon as your enrollment is received, LegionCare will take effect. Your acceptance is guaranteed, so mail your coupon today.

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

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

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

Have you filled out *all* the above information?
 Please mail to: Legionnaire Insurance Trust • P.O. Box 26720 • Phoenix, AZ 85068-6720
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Complete details of the coverage are contained in accident only Master Policy M20933559H0000A/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 higher Post, District, Department, or National Organization in an official capacity.

Cut it out

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; Wilton Post 117; Rangeley Post 120

Berwick Post 79 Observes National Vietnam War Veterans Day

The Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act, signed into law in 2017, designates March 29th of each year as National Vietnam War Veterans Day. On Saturday, March 27th, the members of Charles S. Hatch Post #79 assembled at Berwick's Veteran's Memorial Park to hold a remembrance ceremony.

The keynote address, a Vietnam Memorial tribute, was eloquently delivered by Post #79 1st Vice Commander Bryan English. He emphasized that "as a nation we owe it to the men and women who served in Vietnam to recognize them for their service" and recalled that as a young child growing up in the south during the 1960's, there was always a prayer at his church to "Bless the boys in Vietnam and bring them home". He concluded his presen-

tation with these words: "Thank you for serving. May God truly bless those still in Vietnam, those here among us and may he continue to keep them safe in body, mind and spirit."

The event was made more solemn by the presence of the Post Honor Guard, under the command of Honor Guard Captain Forrest Davis, with the rendering of a 21-gun salute. The Berwick Community Television team filmed the ceremony and created a moving and heartfelt video that includes impromptu interviews with some of the veterans of the Vietnam War who were in attendance. The video can be accessed via BCTV On-Demand through the Berwick Town Website at www.berwickmaine.org.

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

2020 Obligations Continue In Spite of Pandemic with Harold T. Andrews Post 17

We are writing this letter from the members of Andrew's Post 17 who also have had a long tough year.

We are proud to report that during the Coronavirus we have been fortunate to continue (masked and distanced) our obligations to the Community, our Post and The American Legion.

In March, when the pandemic took over, we canceled all meetings and secured the Post. With Memorial Day coming, we have a big decision to make. What about the parade for the city? We had our parade on May 31 with one man, Retired First Sergeant Richard Cobb marching alone carrying an American flag in his full dress uniform. Sgt. Cobb placed a wreath on Portland City Hall with Madam President Cheryl Kuntz.

A group of 25 members, sons and Auxiliary, placed 1500 flags on graves of Veterans who are interned at Forest City Cemetery. This was done masked and distance with all the grace the recipients of the flag deserves.

We also held out Veterans Day Parade on November 11th again under Covid19 Regulations. Again, we had Sgt. Cobb march alone with the flag and 100-year old WWII Veteran Ernest Brien of the Andrews Post riding in a convertible as Grand Marshall.

At Christmas, Covid still had us under its spell so we canceled our yearly Christmas Party. This was hard because some members and friends count on it.

Instead, we donated \$500 to Barbara Bush Children's Hospital and \$500 to Ronald McDonald House Portland, Maine. We are also proud that we donated \$1,000 to Wreaths Across America. Joining us, the Sons of the Andrews Post also donated \$500. And thanks to the Scarborough Moose Lodge, who also gave us \$500 to donate to the Wreaths Across America.

Thanks, and see you on the other side of this at the next convention

The Andrews Post 17 Members

Pre Valentine Day Bottle and Food Drive

The members of Post 35 hosted a Food and Bottle Drive on Feb. 13 in their parking lot to support the South Portland Food Bank. Canned goods and supplies were collected with the help of Post members and members of the Ferry Village Neighborhood Association.

Members from the Post and from the FVNA stood in the 20-something degree weather to collect food and recyclable containers. The Post set up a table for the food supplies and collected a respectful amount of food stuffs; however the recyclable contributions were more than expected. Estimated counts of 35 bags of bottles were received. In a time when the local Super Markets offer a redeemable system people stepped up to donate their can and bottles to the American Legion. The Post took in \$672.00 in returnable containers

last fiscal year and presently is at 2/3 of that figure so far this fiscal year. The proceeds go into the General Fund to be used for Holiday Baskets and Youth Programs.

A special thanks to Commander Guy Linscott, Vice Commander Wes Spletstoesser, Adjutant Michael Pock, Finance Officer Ken Marston, Trustee Ed Seymourian and members Doug Kohnke and John Hyland for organizing and collecting. Additional thanks to Martha and Sarah Hyland as representatives from the Ferry Village Neighborhood Association.

Michael R. Pock - Adjutant



Coast Guard Chiefs Assist in Post Improvement Projects

In the never ending list of Post Improvement Projects, Adjutant Michael Pock was assisted by Coast Guard Yeoman Chief Petty Officer Debra Cruz, Boatswains Mate Chief Petty Officer Josh Pool and Marine Enforcement Chief Petty Officer Rick Spicer in a small renovation project at the Stewart P. Morrill American Legion Post in South Portland.

The Stewart P. Morrill American Legion Post 35 has occupied their building at 413 Broadway since moving from "E" street in 1936. Over the years the building has been operated and maintained as best as its members could considering financial and personnel avail-

ability.

With the help of the Coast Guard Sector Northern New England stationed in South Portland many painting and improvement projects have been accomplished. The American Legion and the Coast guard have a very good working relationship over the years and the Posts Senior commanders are all former Coast Guard members.

"Semper Paratus" is the Coast Guard motto meaning Always Ready and the members of Post 35 are always thankful especially when it means Marine Safety and a Coast Guardsman with a paint brush.

Michael R. Pock - Adjutant

American Legion Post 35 Back in Baseball Business

American Legion South Portland Post 35 recently sponsored a girls little league softball team. With the help of Richard Matthews and the Board of Trustees the team uniforms were purchased and a "field sign" was installed at the South Portland Little League field on Pine Street in the Ferry Village neighborhood.

The Stewart P. Morrill Post has sponsored American Legion base-



Little League Sponsorship: Left to right, Wes Spletstoesser, Guy Linscott, Richard Matthews and Michael Pock.

ball teams for as long as the Post has been in South Portland, dating back to when the Post was organized in 1919. The American Legion team has won numerous awards and trophies in the past years but has been unable to field a team in the past two years. Not wanting to let the spark of team sports and community activity die in South Portland, one of the members of the Post reached out to Mr. Matthews about sponsoring a little league team. The sponsorship was set up and a sign was made and recently hung on the fence at the ballfield. Post Commander Guy Linscott, 1st Vice Commander Wes Spletstoesser and Adjutant Michael Pock were instrumental in pushing the project forward.

The sponsorship is just another function of the American Legion in Community Involvement that has Americanism as one of its primary activities. Come out and support our team and the American Legion.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 2 continued



100th Birthday Celebration: Elmer "Tug" Graffam celebrates his 100th birthday with a cake from American Legion Post 62. Pictured, from left, are Graffam, his daughter Christine Dileo, Post Commander Roger Barr and 1st Vice Commander Dennis Marrotte.

Photo by Robert Lowell/American Journal

WWII Combat Vet Celebrates 100th Birthday

Elmer "Tug" Graffam, who fought in World War II under Gen. George Patton, celebrated his 100th birthday last week with royal treatment from the Stephen W. Manchester Post 62 of the American Legion.

Post 62 Commander Roger Barr, 1st Vice Commander Dennis Marrotte and legionnaires recognized Graffam Feb. 27 with a drive-by parade past his Forest Street home, a house he built two houses from where he was born.

On Feb. 23, Barr and Marrotte presented Graffam with a giant, sheet-giant cake decorated with the legion emblem and presented him with a book, "Last Shots for Patton's Third Army" by Robert Fuller.

A Westbrook native, Graffam was born Feb. 24, 1921, and graduated from Westbrook High School in 1940.

He has been a member of Post 62 for 21 years.

Advertisement

SSgt. Graffam served as a cook and



Elmer "Tug" Graffam on duty with Gen. George Patton's Third Army.

Contributed / Christine Dileo

member of a gun crew with the 243rd Artillery Unit in Patton's Third Army in France, Germany and central Europe. In the Ardennes Forest in Belgium and Luxembourg, Graffam survived the fierce fighting in Battle of the Bulge in snow and bitter cold. His unit, Graffam said Monday, didn't have cold weather clothing, just what was issued.

The homecoming news article. Contributed / Christine Dileo

In a news article published in 1945, Graffam said he saw Patton several times.

"He kept in constant touch while we were on the move," Graffam is quoted as saying, "and it was impossible to miss him."

Graffam's daughter, Christine Dileo, said her dad's unit in 1944 had been sent to France to liberate the city of Rombas. The GI's, she said, bonded with the citizens there. Her father gifted three cans of C-ration peanut butter to a 9-year-girl whose family was starving.

In a homecoming from war, Graffam dropped in unannounced to see his mother in Westbrook just before Christmas in 1945.

"She almost fainted," he recalled.

Advertisement

He first served with the National Guard in Westbrook and trained in the Post 62 headquarters on Dunn Street before being drafted, he said.

Graffam went by train to Mississippi for advanced training before shipping out aboard the Queen Elizabeth.

Graffam once won a raffle organized by soldiers and spent five days

in a luxury hotel in Nice, France, on the Riviera. To return to his unit, he flagged down a mail truck.

After the war, Graffam married Elsie McCauley of Gorham in 1946. They met at Tom's Restaurant in Westbrook. Over the years, he worked for food-related companies, including partnering with his brother Linnie Graffam in a Gorham restaurant.

Today, he enjoys crossword puzzles, checkers and dominoes and reads the American Journal and The Forecaster every week.

By Robert Lowell - American Journal
March 4, 2021

<https://www.pressherald.com/2021/03/04/westbrook-notes-march-4/>



The homecoming News Article

Contributed / Christine Dileo



Bridgton Post 67 Coffee Social: Post 67 had an amazing turnout for their Post Coffee Social on April 23 with 14 total making an appearance, including Department 1st Vice Commander Debra Couture. Bridgton Rotary Club President Julie Forbes & Rotary Members, Bridgton Community Center Executive Director Carmen Lone, Bridgton Recreation Director Gary Colello were also in attendance to receive American Legion Post 67 Awards recognizing their efforts in helping rebuild the Post over the years. Left to right, Bridgton Post 67 Commander and District 2 Judge Advocate Brian J. Conroy, Friend Rotary Misty Sulloway, Rotarian Dick Enright, Rotarian President Julie Forbes, Rotarian 2020 Past President Carol Madsen, Post 67 Adjutant Ron Edson, Post 67 Sgt-At-Arms Barry Bisco, and Department 1st Vice Commander Debra Couture.



Recognition Award:

Bridgton Post 67 Commander Brian Conroy, right, and Post 67 Adjutant Rod Edson, left, present Bridgton Recreation Director Gary Collelo, center, with a Post 67 recognition award for his help in rebuilding the Post over the years.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 2 continued

One on One with...New American Legion Post 67 Commander Brian Conroy

Under the leadership and drive of Commander Don Mulcahy, new life and purpose was breathed into the decaying little building on Depot Street.

Many hands and many heartfelt donations transformed the desolate structure into a vibrant and revived American Legion Post.

Now, Brian Conroy looks to build upon that legacy as the new Lopeman-Potts Post 67 Commander.

"The previous Commander, Don Mulcahy, helped us in building one of the most amazing Posts in our state. As the new Commander, my mission is to continue to build on that legacy and improve every step of the way," Conroy wrote in his letter to Post 67 membership. "In combat, the outgoing unit being relieved must train the incoming unit on the lessons learned and the way forward. This is referred to as the 'Right Seat Left Seat Ride.' I stand before you ready to lead and build the best Post in the country."

The News recently reached out to Commander Conroy for the following One on One interview:

Q. How is a Commander selected? As Commander, what are your responsibilities? Commanders are selected by general elections cast by all members of the Post. In February, I ran for Commander and was selected by our members. During our Officer Appointing Ceremony held March 2 at the old Town Hall, State and District officers came to appoint, support and congratulate our leadership. I am humbled and honored to be the Commander of American Legion Post 67. I recognize that members have had senior leadership come before them with false promises, only to climb the ladder for self-fulfillment. I stand before them promising to do better. I give them my word to always put veterans first, know myself and seek self-im-



American Legion Post 67 Commander Brian Conroy and wife, Ami.

provement, be technically and tactically proficient, make sound and timely decisions, set an example, know my people and look out for their welfare, keep my people informed, seek responsibility and take responsibility for my actions, ensure assigned tasks are understood supervised and accomplished, train my people as a team, and employ my team in accordance with its capabilities. Most of all, I want to inform everyone I will change the game as we know it.

Q. What skills or characteristics do you feel you bring to the position that will benefit Post 67? As a Non-Commissioned Officer in the U.S. Military during my 17 years of service leading soldiers from the front including eight combat deployments, I have the philosophy of don't ask your subordinates to do anything you wouldn't do yourself, lead from the front with your sleeves rolled up, and always seek self-improvement to include holding yourself accountable for all actions good or bad. I lead.

Q. During your tenure, what will be your main goals/focus? I will seek to change the culture of our organization from every level of the American Legion leadership and our community partners. I will not focus on negativity, gossip or rumors as we simply don't have time for it. I will stand in the face of the impossible and demand a successful outcome just as I've done during my service to this great nation. I left this community in 2002 for college and a career in the U.S. Military and since my return in February 2019, I have committed to serving my community in several ways. I am an Army Senior Non-Commissioned Officer and Platoon Sergeant for the 3-304th Infantry Regiment in Saco. The New Hampshire State Joint Force Headquarters Sexual Assault Victim Advocate Coordinator and now the Commander of Post 67. I cannot do these things alone nor have I. I have utilized the help of each and every person in this Post and community, and I will rely heavily on them during my commandership. I am not here to make friends, nor am I here for political gains, a fancy hat or medals. Trust me, I have enough of those. I am a (PUFL) Paid Up For Life regardless of the outcome. I am here to make the tough calls and commit my time to oversee the successful improvement of a lifelong team known as the American Legion Post 67 of Bridgton, Maine.

Q. How/when did you get involved with Post 67? What has impressed you most about the local Post? I first joined the American Legion via a phone call from a satellite phone in 2018 during a combat deployment to Iraq and Syr-



Post 67 Leadership: Left to right, Commander & Membership Chairman Brian J. Conroy, Adjutant & Finance Officer Rod Edson, Sgt-at-Arms Barry Bisco, Service Officer & Chaplain Kelly Ela, Historian Liam Opie, Judge Advocate & First Vice-Commander Mark Smith.

ia supporting (OIR) Operation Inherent Resolve. The members and what they bring to the table have surprised me most to include the love and support from the community. We have not only rebuilt our Post building over the last three years, but we've created that culture and comradery that we all have missed and seek out after our service in the military.

Q. Anything you take away from past leadership as you take over the role of commander? I think the previous Commander is a wonderful man and did amazing things to build this Post. One thing I learned from him is you can't do it all yourself as you're only one person. You must always utilize the assets around you which are your biggest investment, your members. Mainly what skills and experience your leadership and membership bring to the table. Charge them with putting in as much of themselves as they're comfortable with and continue to challenge them to be invested in the betterment and outcome of the Post. I am only as good as those I surround myself with. I have always prided myself with having some of the most amazing people in the world around me driving me to be a better father, husband, leader, soldier and community member. Becoming the Commander of Post 67 has only taken that goal to the next level as our members have some of the richest backgrounds known and I am so excited to learn from them and work alongside of them.

Q. Now that the Post's physical structure has been seriously upgraded, how does one look to build its membership and services? During my short time with the American Legion, I have noticed that the only drive is to improve the structure and grow membership to get the attention of state and district leadership. During my Commandership, I will strive to create a family, involve the families of members, include the community in everything we do, and to always put the veterans first, not just impressing senior leadership. I have found that being a part of something greater than yourself is what people are eager to do. I will ensure we give them that opportunity and make

them feel welcomed at all times.

Q. Let's take a few steps back, and tell me how you decided to make the military a career? I graduated from Lake Region High School and Lake Region Vocational Center June of 2002 and set out for college at The California Culinary Academy. As many college students experience, I found myself broke and lacked the detailed plan needed for my next step in life. I stopped into a recruiter's office in May of 2004 and six days later I shipped out Navy Boot Camp in Great Lakes, Ill. The military built me into the man I am today. I owe everything to the amazing men and women who serve this great nation each and every day, especially those who made the ultimate sacrifice. We all signed a blank check putting our lives on the line in order to ensure the safety and success of this country. We miss holidays, family gatherings, birthdays, anniversaries, weddings, funerals and time with loved ones to put the love of our country to the forefront. It's an honor wearing this uniform each and every day. I wouldn't trade it for the world on a silver platter.

Q. What led you to becoming a chemical biological radiological nuclear and explosives specialist? Sounds dangerous. What does one do in this role? I imagine you must have been placed in some very difficult spots, any general examples you can share? I started my military service in the U.S. Navy as an Aviation Ordnanceman in May of 2004 serving onboard the USS George Washington (CVN-73) on Norfolk Naval Station in Norfolk, Va., eventually finding a home with Team/Group shortly after in Little Creek, Va. until January 2011 when I transferred into the U.S. Army. I had to go back through Basic Training yet again as the U.S. Army doesn't recognize U.S. Navy Boot Camp. When picking my new (MOS) Military Occupational Specialty, I already had an extensive background in Guns, Bombs, Torpedoes, Rockets and Missiles so taking that to the next level as a CBRNE Specialist

[More on "CONROY" Page 16](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 2 continued

"CONROY"

(Continued from Page 15)

seemed like a great idea and eventually became one of the best career choices I would make. CBRN Specialists protect the country from the threat of weapons of mass destruction. The weapons they train to detect, and protect against, include any weapons of a chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear type. The 74D CBRN Specialist use planning and highly sophisticated equipment, and coordinating defense systems. They work in support of joint and combined arms operations. CBRN specialists serve on Biological Integrated Detection Teams, STRYKER NBC Reconnaissance Platoons, Technical Escort Battalions, Special Forces and Ranger Units. They are trained to manage, train, and maintain protective gear of fellow Army soldiers. This equipment is used in the event of a CBRN threat on the battlefield. Systems that a CBRN specialist may use include: CBRN reconnaissance systems, Biological agent detection systems (BIDS), Obscurant systems that hide movements or defeat enemy targeting, CBRN decontamination systems and other CBRN hazard detection and warning systems.

Q. What led you to being a sexual assault victim advocate/coordinator? What are the challenges you face in this role? Prior to departure for my most recent combat deployment with the 275th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion from June 2017 to June 2018, the Battalion Commander, Executive Officer and Command Sergeant Major asked me to serve as the Sexual Harassment/Assault Response Program Unit Victim Advocate. During our pre-mobilization activities, I attended the 80Hr SHARP Foundations Course and applied for my Department of Defense Sexual Assault Advocate Certification Program. I serve as a Unit Victim Advocate for the Army Reserves for the 3-304th Infantry Regiment of Saco, and currently serve as the Joint Force Headquarters Victim Advocate Coordinator in Concord, N.H. for both Army and Air National Guard as a Title 5 Federal Civilian Employee.

The JFHQ VAC serves as the designated specialist of victim support services who coordinates and oversees local implementation and execution of the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR) Programs. Ensures overall local management of sexual assault awareness, prevention, training, and victim advocacy (VA). Provides collateral duty victim advocate support by providing, along with the JFHQ SARC, advice, guidance or victim services question clarification. Incumbent is required to maintain a network of victim advocacy

services contacts to ensure 24/7 availability. Provides comprehensive advocacy services to individuals exhibiting a wide range of issues related to being a victim or survivor of sexual assault. Assist victims in developing safety plans, conduct a risk assessment, and provide emotional support, crisis intervention, prevention awareness and education to victims. Assesses the need for immediate victim response and develops a plan for assistance.

Q. At this point, any thoughts of what you will do career wise, stay military or pursue other interests? I came into the military as an E-1 in May of 2004 and by the time I retire I will be an E-9/CSM Command Sergeant Major hopefully in the next five to eight years. As far as my Federal Civilian GS General Schedule career which is similar to the military being it goes from GS-01 to GS-15, I entered in the Nuclear Division of Radiological Health Code 105.5 at the Norfolk Naval Shipyard in Portsmouth, Va. as a GS-06 in November of 2016 and have the goal of a High-3 as GS-15 retiring on/about 2044. In regards to the American Legion, I started as the Assistant Adjutant in September of 2020 and just started my Post 67 Commandership on March 2 and hope to excel to the District level, Department level and possibly the National level depending on what opportunities present themselves.

Q. What do you enjoy in your free time? Spending time with my family, outdoor recreation and serving my community.

Originally from? Bridgton, (Church Street) and Pleasant Hill, Calif. (East Bay Area). My Dad is the Bay Area in California and my Mom is from North Bridgton, so I split my time growing up between both areas. As an Army Brat, we lived all over the place growing up so it allowed me to become diverse in many backgrounds and meet people all over the country.

Where do you reside? Off of Route 114 in Naples, Maine.

How old are you? Turned 37 on Feb. 11.

Family? My Wife AmiLee Conroy is my high school sweetheart and hero taking lead on raising our six children — Deagan (14), Keegan (12), Devlin (12), Dierks (6), Asher (4) and Rhett (2). I have two older brothers, Bradley R. Conroy (37) of Novato, Calif. and Peter A. Conroy IV (41) of Saco; father Peter A. Conroy III of Woodacre, Calif.; and mother Constance J. Shahan of Springvale.

By Wayne E. Rivet, Staff Writer
The Bridgton News | May 25, 2021
<http://www.bridgton.com/one-on-one-with-new-american-legion-post-67-commander-brian-conroy/>



Department of Maine Leadership: A successful ceremony for Bridgton Post 67 Officer Appointments took place at the Old Town Hall on March 2. Extended thanks from Post 67 Commander Conroy to all involved as well as a special thanks to District 2 Adjutant Dave Tanguay and District 2 Commander Phil Ceaser for their preparations and delivery of the ceremony. Attendance from Department of Maine Leadership, left to right, Commander Mathew Jabaut, Finance Officer Gregory Couture, First Vice Commander Debra Couture, Americanism Officer Alfred McKay, Sgt-At-Arms Patricia Thurston, Second Vice Commander Kirk Thurston, Honor Flight Maine Director Laurie Sidelinger, Post 67 Commander Brian J. Conroy, & District 2 Adjutant Dave Tanguay.



Rotary Donates To Veterans Program: The Bridgton-Lake Region Rotary Club recently presented a \$520.10 check to the Naples American Legion Post 155 to support the Veterans in Need program. The club took 250 from its budget, and \$270.10 was raised through the Hannford Supermarket Customer Donation Kiosk. Left to right, Marine Veteran Dick Bell, Son of Legionnaire Stephen Lapointe, Rotary Club President Julie Forbes, Rotary Club President Julie Forbes, Post Commander Army Steve Smith, Auxiliary Maxine Goodwin and Rotarian Dick Enright, AirForce.

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

Remote and Mask to Mask Meeting in the Western Province

Following the example of the American Legion National Executive Council (NEC), whose Rule 12 allows them to conduct remote meetings when circumstances warrant, District 5 Oxford County recently adopted a Bylaws Addendum Remote Meeting Rule of its own. With COVID19 affecting a scheduled nomination meeting at the host Post in February, the rule was invoked to circulate the District Nomination list for 2021 – 2022 proposed by the Nomination Committee. The actual Election Meeting was held mask

to mask at another Post the following month. The Rule calls for remote District Meetings to be held primarily by email, which is the communication tool most universally utilized in the District. If that medium fails, phone trees and the US Mail are the fallbacks.

Jackson-Silver Post 68, Locke Mills, was the first Post in the District to adopt a similar rule, in that their email list reaches more than 57% of its members. The Post Rule was adopted us-

[More on "DISTRICT 5 MEETING Page 17](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 5 continued

“DISTRICT 5 MEETING” (Continued from Page 16)

ing a combination of email and snail mail so that all members could express their opinion on the measure and vote accordingly. There were no dissenting votes, with more than a Bylaw-stipulated quorum voting favorably. The Post will conduct its election of officers utilizing the same means at the end of April. In May, however, the governor's having promulgated a relaxation in her group meeting proclamation, the Post will hold its first mask to mask Executive Meeting in almost a year on May 12th, and its Installation Meeting on May 20th. The Post will also host the Annual Town Meeting on Saturday, May 22nd.

District 5 held its own Installation Meeting at Napoleon Ouellette Post 24, in Rumford, on Wednesday, April 21st, in conjunction with the installation of Post 24 officers. The meeting was opened by District 5 Commander James Lowell, who then relinquished the podium to Department 2nd Vice Commander Kirk Thurston, who did double duty as both the Installing Officer and Installing Sgt.-at-Arms. The closing prayer was offered by Department Auxiliary Chaplain Linda Jack. Below are photos of that happy occasion provided by Unit 68 Secretary Susan M. Vacca. Note the confident smiles of those who were installed as they look forward to performing the duties incumbent upon the positions to which they have been elected.



District 5 Installation Meeting: Left to right, Dept. 2nd Vice Kirk Thurston, District 5 Finance Officer Richard Grover, 1st Vice Gloria Hall, Chaplain Randall Jack, 2nd Vice Harold Wilbur, Adjutant Harry G. Orcutt, Commander James Lowell.



Rumford Post 24 Installation Of Officers: Left to right, Exec Comm. Nick Kelley, 1st Vice Jack Blanchard, Exec. Comm. Don Roach, Chaplain Robin Blanchard, Adjutant Robert W. Hobson, Finance Officer Tricia Thurston (Outgoing Commander), Sgt.-at-Arms Melissa Theriault, Department 2nd Vice Kirk Thurston (Installing Officer & Sgt.-at-Arms).

Rumford Post 24 Four Chaplain's Ceremony

RUMFORD -- American Legion Post 24 held the annual Four Chaplains ceremony on Feb. 7.

This day commemorates the events of February 3, 1943, when the troop ship USAT Dorchester sank. Dorchester left New York on January 23, 1943, carrying 4 chaplains and about 900 others as a part of convoy of three ships.

It was torpedoed by German submarine U-223 off Newfoundland at 12:55 a.m. When Dorchester began to sink, four chaplains of different religions, George L. Fox (Methodist), Alexander D. Goode

(rabbi), Clark V. Poling (Baptist) and John P. Washington (Catholic) were helping to calm down the passengers and organized an orderly evacuation. The life vests were passed out to men, but the supply ran out before each man had one.

The four chaplains gave their own life vests to others and helped as many men as they could into the boats, then they linked their arms together, saying prayers and singing hymns, went down with the ship.

Because the water temperature was 34 degrees and the air temperature was 36 degrees, hundreds of men died due to hypo-

thermia before rescue ships came. Of the 904 men aboard the ship, only 230 were rescued.

The four chaplains were posthumously awarded by the Purple Heart and the Distinguished Service Cross on December 19, 1944. In 2006, the chaplains were awarded by the Medal of Honor.

The Four Chaplains' Medal was introduced by Congress on July 14, 1960. These medals were presented posthumously to the next of kin of each of the four chaplains of Dorchester on January 18, 1961.

Congress established February 3 as Four Chaplains Day in 1988. This day is observed with official proclamations and, sometimes, flags flying at half-mast.

At the Post 24 ceremony, Aux. Vice

President Carol Roach read “The Saga of the Four Chaplains.”

Reading the biographies of the four chaplains were Tricia Thurston of Chaplain George L. Fox (Methodist), Nick Kelly of Chaplain Alexander D. Goode (Jewish), Kirk Thurston of Chaplain Clarke V. Poling (Reformed Church), and Jack Blanchard of Chaplain John P. Washington (Roman Catholic).

Rena Nichols placed the roses and lit the candles at each chair with a photo of a chaplain.

Chaplain Robin Blanchard led everyone in saying the Lord's Prayer, and then read the Four Chaplain's Poem.

The ceremony concluded with the playing of Taps.

Bruce Farrin/Rumford Falls Times



Four Chaplain Biography Reading: From left, reading the biographies of the four chaplains were Tricia Thurston of Chaplain George L. Fox (Methodist), Nick Kelly of Chaplain Alexander D. Goode (Jewish), Kirk Thurston of Chaplain Clarke V. Poling (Reformed Church), and Jack Blanchard of Chaplain John P. Washington (Roman Catholic).

Photo and description by Bruce Farrin/Rumford Falls Times



Four Chaplains Poem (Left Photo): Rumford Post 24 Commander Ed Perry looks on as Chaplain Robin Blanchard reads the Four Chaplain's Poem. **Commander Award Presented (Right Photo):** Following the Four Chaplains Ceremony on Sunday, Feb. 7 Napoleon Ouellette Post 24 of Rumford Vice Commander Jack Blanchard presented the Commander Award to Tricia Thurston. The surprise presentation to Thurston was in recognition of loyalty, devoted service and leadership in upholding the principles of the American Legion for God and Country.

Photos and description by Bruce Farrin/Rumford Falls Times

Post 68 Four Chaplains Sunday

Four Chaplains Sunday, the first to occur in February, fell on the 7th in 2021. Jackson Silver Post 68 commemorated the sacrifice of the four Army chaplains who gave up their life vests to the next men in line when those on the troop ship USAT Dorchester gave out, thus guaranteeing that the chaplains would not survive the torpedoing of their vessel off of Greenland on the night of February 3, 1943, by the German submarine U-223. Of the 902 men aboard Dorchester, 672 died. When

the news reached the United States, the nation was stunned by the magnitude of the tragedy and the heroic conduct of the four chaplains.

The Post commemoration at the Locke Mills Union Church was conducted, because of restrictions imposed by the Wuhan Corona Virus 19, by four participants, but shared with numerous others as the Reverend Sondra Withey, using her cell phone, live streamed it on Facebook. The cere-

[More on "POST 68 4-CHAPLAINS" Page 18](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 5 continued

"POST 68 4-CHAPLAINS" (Continued from Page 17)

mony may yet be viewed on the Church public group account (LOCKES MILLS UNION CHURCH). The Reverend Withy is a member of Unit 68 Auxiliary. The bell ringer in the ceremony was the Unit Secretary Susan M. Vacca, and the American Legion script was conducted by Post Commander Harry G. Orcutt. Also participating was the church keyboardist, Linda Stowell.

Though an annual event, and there being much information publicly available on

the internet, it occurred to Commander Orcutt that the sacrifice of the four chaplains should be remembered year round. To that end, he and his wife, Ms. Vacca, created a 21½ x 29 inch poster illustrating the chaplains' sacrifice aboard the Dorchester, along with a two page history of why they are remembered. This poster was then hung on the back wall of the Post's Great Room, as seen below. Anyone desiring to replicate the poster for their own Post, may contact Commander Orcutt at mgen1775@gmail.com and he will send them the two illustrations and script used to produce the poster.



4 Chaplains Poster Displays Year Round: Sgt.-at-Arms Al Lake, left, and Jackson Silver Post 68 Commander Harry G. Orcutt, right, pose next to the 4 Chaplains Poster which hangs on the back wall of the Posts Great room in remembrance of their sacrifice year round.

Photo by Post Adjutant Kelly Bickford

A Remarkable Life

The sands in the hourglass that measured the life of Leroy Day finally ran out after 104 years 9 months and some weeks, on Saturday, April 3, 2021. A Past Commander of Jackson Silver Post 68, he had recently celebrated his 75th year of membership. When Leroy was born, the United States had not yet entered into WW I. If his parents had brought him to witness the Woodstock (Bryant Pond) Decoration Day Parade (today's Memorial Day), the veterans he would have observed would have been the Town Veterans of the Spanish American War, who would have been preceded by the veterans of the American Civil War Grand Army of the Potomac. Horse power in his childhood would have most likely referred to whether his neighbors had a one horse buggy, a two to four horse farm cart, or a multi horse logging wagon. His life spanned the advent of the mechanized age, the age of flight, the atomic age, the space age, and the information age. He last drove his car at the age of 102. To all those who had the enormous good fortune to know Leroy, his life and accomplishments are the stuff of legend. As Frank Sinatra's signa-

ture song stated, and it can be applied without question to Leroy: "I've lived a life that's full, I traveled each and every highway, and more, much more, I did it, I did it my way."

He served in the U.S. Army in WWII, being present at Dutch Harbor, Alaska, on June 3, 1942, when the Japanese Light Aircraft Carriers Junyo and Ryujo paid an unfriendly visit. The planes of Junyo got lost and had to return to their ship; about a dozen planes of the Ryujo inflicted heavy damage in bombing our installation. Ultimately, the Japanese Imperial Navy lost the Pacific War on June 4th, thousands of miles to the South and West, at Midway Island where four of Admiral Nagumo's Fast Carrier Task Force, all of which had precipitated the war in attacking Pearl Harbor, were destroyed by American Naval Carrier Aircraft.

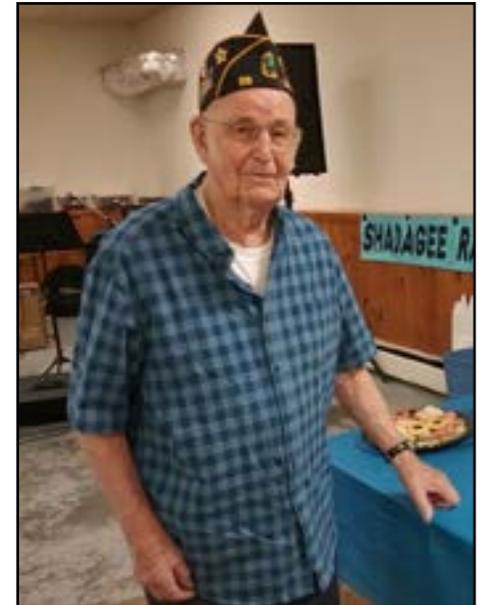
Possessed of a yet sharp mind and relaxed in his demeanor at his 100th Birthday Party at his residence, Legionnaire Day recalled the attack on Dutch Harbor in detail. He also remembered that during his year plus of service in Alaska, it rained almost constantly, there being but four or five days

of sunshine. At the end of the war he was assigned as an Army supervisor on a Philippine road clearing crew; he recalled that when his crew encountered unexploded ordinance, they would hold up and await Army Engineers to clear them.

Returning to Maine in 1946, 75 years ago, he became a member of both the American Legion and of Jefferson Masonic Lodge. Stephen Hakala, Master of Jefferson Lodge (brother of Post 68 Finance Officer Raymond Hakala, and the late Wayne E. Hakala, Past Commander of Post 68 and District 5), in his announcement of Leroy's demise, captured the essence of Leroy's life's journey, and the contributions to the organizations in which he held membership. Stephen stated:

Brother Day was a warm and beautiful Christian man whose warm smile and lovely sense of humor brought joy to everyone. He was a dedicated family man, he and his late wife Lois raised four children. He was a decorated World War II veteran and dearly loved the community, state and nation. He loved Masonry and held every office at Jefferson Lodge numerous times and knew The Blue Book from cover to cover. He was an

avid sportsman and loved sharing the location of special fishing holes to his friends. His passing will leave a void in all our hearts. Please remember The Day Family in your thoughts and prayers. There will be no funeral, rather a "Celebration of His Life" on his birthday June 24th, at The Day Homestead in Woodstock.



Leroy Day on August 16, 2018 at his 72nd Post Membership Celebration.

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

Story of Service - Arthur E. Winslow

Arthur E Winslow was born around 1895. Arthur served in World War 1 with the United States Army. The enlistment was in 1917 and the service was completed in 1918.

Arthur enlisted on June 6, 1917; he was the "First to Enlist" and has an American Legion Hall named after him, (American Legion Post #1 Rockland Maine). After enlistment, he was transferred to Augusta June 8, 1917 Company F 2nd Infantry, Maine National Guard. He sailed for overseas in the latter part of September 1917.

Arthur was promoted to Pvt. 1st Class December 1, 1917 and assigned to Company F, 103rd Infantry. He was mortally wounded in the Toul Sector on June 16, 1918 and died on July 6, 1918, at evacuation hospital No. 1. Arthur was buried in a cemetery at Toul, word of his death was received in Rockland on July 16, 1918. On November 11, 1927 "Armistice

Day," The American Legion held services to honor the first two soldiers from Rockland that paid the supreme sacrifice, they named a block of Main Street in downtown Rockland "Winslow Holbrook Square" Lt. Albert D Holbrook was born in Rockland Maine on January 26, 1896. Lt. Holbrook was mortally wounded on June 6, 1918 during the battle of Belleau Wood, from which he died on June 19, 1918 at Fismes, France. He is buried in the Oise - Aisne American Cemetery, near Fere - en - Tardenois, France.

My grandfather, (on my mom's side) Earl Dolham also served in WW1 and survived, he passed in 1965 just before I



Arthur E. Winslow

was born.

Since World War I, there has been a tradition of service in my family. My uncle Robert (on my mom's side) served in the United States Army during WW2 he also survived the war;

[More on "WINSLOW" Page 19](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 6 continued

“WINSLOW”

(Continued from Page 18)

he passed away in Maine in 2015.

My father, Alvin Maynard Winslow, served in the United States Navy during WW2 in the Pacific Theatre. He left the service after the war and passed in 1998.

My oldest brother Alvin Winslow, Junior served in the United States Navy during Vietnam and was a commissioned officer, reaching the rank of

Lieutenant before leaving the service and joining the Merchant Marine.

I served in the U.S. Navy from May 1986 to May 2006. It may seem strange that I had an uncle that served in WW1 considering I was born in 1965 and that would be understandable; however, my dad was born in 1911, and I am the youngest of his kids.

---U.S. WWI Centennial Commission –
Story of Service

---Arthur E Winslow - World War I Centennial
(worldwar1centennial.org)
ADI (AW) Darren Winslow, USN (Ret)



Certificate of Honor: An American Legion Certificate of Honor was presented to Lt. Dan Buckley at Dan's home in Damariscotta. Dan is from Massachusetts, joined the Army National Guard there and was never recognized for his service. Being from Mass he is not eligible for the State of Maine recognition and the Mass Bureau of Veteran Affairs never replied to any of his requests for a certificate. Dan was presented with an American Legion Certificate of Honor for his service along with a State of Maine Vietnam Challenge coin and a War Memorial Post 30 Service Appreciation coin. Dan said this was the only time he had received any thanks for his service and was brought to tears for the kindness. Left to right, US Army National Guard, Vietnam Veteran 2Lt. Dan Buckley and Area 3 Commander Jeff Sukeforth.

NOT Why Did You Join the Military?

“Why did you join the military?” I've been asked that question more times than I can remember over the past 50 years. And “Did it make a difference in your life?” is another.

I grew up in a small farming town in western New York. Upon graduation from Vocational High School in 1966, I had no idea where my life's walk would take me. A huge fan of John Wayne and his ability to win multiple wars in various service branches, I was determined I wanted to join the service and serve my country too, but that was out for now. My parents would not sign an early enlistment waiver. After all, the Vietnam conflict was ramping up and they were in no hurry to send me into that! I decided I would enter the workforce until I was 18 and then revisit my options. Too young by New York State law to take ad-

vantage of my machinist training in Vocational school, I went to work at F.W. Woolworth Co. after receiving an invite from a family friend to enter their management training program.

One day not long after my 18th birthday, I woke up, got dressed for work, and decided on the drive in, that after work I would head down to the local U.S. Navy/Marine recruiting station and sign up. As I entered the door I saw an empty desk with a “GYS-GT. Harris” placard on it. Across the room from that, another desk, this one occupied, with a placard reading “BMCM Kimmel” (E-9 Master Chief). He had a very “determined” look on his face and was motioning to me. “Sit down here recruit... what can I do for you today?”, he barked. Still thinking about the John Wayne movie In Harm's Way I had just seen recently, but feeling a

little nervous, I sat down in a well-worn chair. He asked if I was interested in the United States Navy as a possible career, I blurted out “You bet! Oh yeah, and I wanna go to Vietnam!” We talked, he told me my options... I was ready to sign on the dotted line for 20 years right then, but the Master Chief suggested I enlist for 4-6 years first to see if I “liked” it.

After work I went home and told mom and dad I'd joined the Navy and was leaving the following week for Great Lakes Training Center not far from Chicago, IL. I was the first of four children to enlist and my mother was heartbroken that her “number 2 child” was off to war.

My father could not understand why I hadn't joined the Army as he had in WWII. The following week, my father took me to Buffalo where all current enlistees were sworn in, put on a bus to the airport, and then a plane for Chicago and then onto another bus headed for Naval Station Great Lakes for 12 weeks of boot camp. After about 2 weeks in my assigned company we were asked if any of us had any musical training. That's when I was to learn about “volunteering”. With time in the high school band and summers in the volunteer fire department's Drum & Bugle Corps, I was “volunteered” to join the Great Lakes Recruit Drum and Bugle Team. I was promptly transferred to Drill Team Company 5941 where we did our regular military training plus drill team practice during the week and traveled to local events on the week-ends.

Following graduation from Great Lakes and a 30 day leave, I boarded a military leased commercial plane bound for Japan. After 23 plus hours and a train ride from Tokyo, I reported aboard the USS Providence already on a WESTPAC Cruise and home-ported in Yokosuka, Japan. I would spend from October 1967 to December 1968 a member of the “Tonkin Gulf Yacht Club” patrolling the Vietnam coast and harbors 2-3 weeks each month. After just a few weeks in 3rd Division, I decided the “Deck Force “was where I belonged and a Boatswain's Mate life was for me. While on the “gun line” I was a member of the loading crew in the 6” gun turret, and spent 4 hours on duty, 4 hours off. Down time usually meant participating in other missions with the Carrier Task Force on Yankee Station in the South

China Sea or occasionally a short liberty call somewhere. “The Fighting Flagship” of the 7th Fleet would go on to earn the “Top Gun Award” for firing thousands of 5” and 6” rounds in more than 100 days on the gun line in 1968 in support of the 1st and 3rd U.S. Marine Div, the U.S. Army 1st Cavalry Div., and the Army of the Republic of Vietnam.

I have found that certain memories will never fade over time. One such memory is getting underway from Yokosuka in January of 1968 and heading down to the gun line for a couple of weeks. Upon completion of our time there we pulled off the line and began steaming south for a liberty call in Subic Bay, Philippines. But that was not to be. The USS Pueblo was hijacked by North Korea, and the Providence joined the USS Enterprise carrier Task Force in an

effort to reclaim the hijacked vessel. This operation failed and as history records, our comrades endured 11 months of captivity by North Korea until their release. The USS Pueblo was never returned and even though still carried on the Navy's “Active Duty” ships list today, remains in Pyongyang, North Korea as a propaganda “museum”. After our assignment in North Korea waters, we were ordered to return to the South China Sea/Tonkin Gulf area and take part in the TET Offensive in February of 1968. During the Battle of Hue, the Providence supported the US Marines 1st Div, US Army 1st Cavalry Div, and the ARVN involved in that operation giving close shore gun support where requested and being fired on by enemy land batteries on more than one occasion. Sometimes so close, I would watch tracer bullet trails on shore light up the skies off the starboard fantail. By the time we returned to Yokosuka, Japan we had spent 49 continuous days at sea with 23 underway replenishments, and fired 7,994 rounds of 5” and 6” ammunition. Relieved by the USS Oklahoma City, the Providence returned to San Diego, California joining the 1st Fleet in early 1969.

In March of 1970 I joined the commissioning crew of the USS Reeves already in dry dock in Bath, Maine. By September, we were on our way from Bath via the Panama Canal to our new home port of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. June 1971 found us steaming westward for a deployment in the Gulf of Tonkin. The Reeves returned six months later where I was separated from active duty. After separation, I moved to Portland Oregon, married a local girl and started my post Navy life. I remained in the U.S. Naval Reserves until 1973 when I was honorably discharged after 6 years. However, in late 1976, divorced and missing the security of military life, I decided to return to active duty in the Navy. The intention was to finish my 20 year service requirement and retire from the U.S. Navy. I reported aboard the USS McCloy home ported in Norfolk, VA in January 1977 after a “refresher” 2 week boot camp. The following year while on my first “Med cruise” (six months visiting various European ports), family problems loomed stateside so, I departed the cruise half way through and returned to the United States on emergency leave. I felt because of the current circumstances I had to leave the U.S. Navy behind me and was honorably discharged for the 2nd time in 1978 never to return to active duty again. I had served a total of 8 years. Looking back, my only regret was I didn't “finish out my 20” in the Naval Reserves.

I remained in Virginia for the next 30+ years. In 1982 I was licensed and ordained a Pentecostal minister, and in 1987 I married the love of my life, a Mainer from Union I met while we were working for the same Virginia Beach Company. Since re-entering civilian life, I've joined the VFW as a member-at-large, became a lifetime member of the DAV, and a lifetime member of VVA. I am also a life member of the American Legion, joining while living in Chesapeake, Virginia in 2007. After retire-

[More on "MILITARY" Page 20](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 6 continued

"MILITARY"

(Continued from Page 19)

In 2012 my wife and I moved back to Maine to be closer to my wife's elderly parents. I am presently the Maine American Legion District 6 (Knox County)/Post 30 Chaplain and the USS Providence Association Chaplain. Representing the state of Maine American Legion, I participate in numerous veteran events and ceremonies annually. Recently, I was asked to go to Washington, D.C. through the Honor Flight Network, a multi-state program that transports veterans to our nation's capital to see "their" monuments FREE of charge. Awesome!

Although now older, disabled and diagnosed with PTSD, life is good in my 70's.

In addition to my Chaplain duties with the American Legion, and the USS Providence Association, I now have a "new calling". I visit sick and disabled veterans in local hospitals and nursing homes in the area as often as I am able. I noticed during visitations with my father-in-law, a WWII Veteran, in the nursing home where he was being cared for, other veterans had no visitors in their last days. This should not be! EVERY veteran should know they are not forgotten. I believe my visits bring them comfort and personally, visiting other veterans is very therapeutic for me. Looking back, I do not regret anything that has happened on my life's walk so far.

Did the United States Navy make a difference in my life? Yes, yes it did.

By Rev. Dave Franclemont
USN Vietnam Veteran

District 6 and Camden Post 30 Chaplain

Camden American Legion Receives Check from Masons

Members of War Memorial Post 30-American Legion were presented with a check on Feb. 22 from Federal Lodge No 6 of Masons in Rockport. The check was a grant from the Maine Masonic Charitable Foundation presented to a fellow nonprofit agency who remains involved with their local communities.

The check was presented to Post 30 1st Vice Commander Skip Pierce

by Bill Chapman the District Deputy Grand Master assisted by Joe Corrado, Worshipful Master of Federal Lodge.

According to Pierce the money will be used to upgrade the posts interior lighting which has been in use since the building was built. He said this upgrade will make it more cost efficient concerning our electricity use and will make it better for those using the building.



Camden American Legion Receives Check from

Masons: Left to right, Camden Post 30 Adjutant Jeff Sukeforth, Camden Post 30 1st Vice Commander Skip Pierce, Federal Masonic Lodge Master Joe Corrado, and 7th Masonic District Deputy Grand Master Bill Chapman.

Photo by Paul Satkowski/Post 30 Historian

St. George Post 35 & Surrounding Communities Celebrate 100th Birthday of WWII Veteran

In March 2021, the American Legion Kinney-Melquist Post 34 and the communities of South Thomaston and St. George celebrated the 100th birthday of World War 2 veteran and Legionnaire Edgar Post. The celebration included a drive-by parade led by the South Thomaston and St. George Fire and Ambulance services and included over 50 cars filled with

veterans and community well-wishers. Edgar is a lifelong resident of Spruce Head, Maine and life member of the American Legion Post 34. He is a United States Coast Guard veteran who served during World War 2 in both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters. After the war he worked in the local lobster industry for many years and as a deep sea diver. Edgar was also the fourth

Fire Chief of South Thomaston's department. On his birthday he received over 150 cards from friends and family in celebration of this significant milestone.

Photo by Post 34 Service Officer Jan Gaudio



Presentation of a

Flag flown in Edgar's honor and celebration of his 100th birthday.

Left to right, Edgar Post and Post 34 First Vice Commander Thornton Batty, Jr.

Williams-Brazier Post 37 Officer Installation



Introduction: Jeremy Miller, Williams Demmons, and Kent Woodward, call the meeting together on March 7 to begin the Installation of Officers Ceremony held at Thomaston Post 37.

Photo by George Robinson Jr.

The process to elect new officers began in January when nominations were made for those wishing to hold an officer post during the 2021-2022 year. Elections were to be held in February, but bad weather forced the cancellation of the monthly meeting.

On March 7th, because all of the officer nominations were unopposed, Post 37 Adjutant, Kent Woodward, declared that all nominated officers did not need to hold elections for their positions. All nominees were declared winners and assumed the duties of their respective positions.

The Post 37 hall had been prepared beforehand and set up for the Covid-19 environment. All seating was arranged

with plenty of room and all newly elected officers were able to meet the current social distancing requirement of six feet.

In a distinct honor, Department of Maine Adjutant, Paul L'Heureux, and District 6 Adjutant, Jeffrey Sukeforth, were present to install all officers into their positions. Both Adjutant L'Heureux and Adjutant Sukeforth spoke highly of the efforts of Post 37 during the pandemic in 2020. They especially praised Post 37 for being the leader in showing the other Posts in Maine how to hold a Covid-19 safe Officer Installation Ceremony.

The Post 37 officers for Post 2021-22 are: Commander Jeremy Miller; Adju-

[More on "INSTALLATION" Page 21](#)



Post 37 Installation: Left Photo: District 6 Adjutant Jeff Sukeforth, left, installs Post 37 Adjutant Kent Woodward. Right Photo: Department Adjutant Paul L'Heureux, left, installs Post 37 Sergeant-at-Arms Jonathan Grout.

Photos by George Robinson Jr.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 6 continued

"INSTALLATION" (Continued from Page 20)

tant Kent Woodard; 1st Vice-Commander Adam Grunder; 2nd Vice-Commander William Demmons; Finance

Officer Dawn Wright; Service Officer Jeffrey Wright; Historian George Robinson, Jr.; Sergeant-at-Arms Jonathan Grout; Chaplain Vacant; Americanism Vacant.

By George Robinson Jr.



Post 37 Commander

Address: Jeremy Miller addresses members of Post 37 for the first time as Post Commander during the installation ceremony held March 7 at Thomaston Post 37.

Photo by George Robinson Jr.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 15

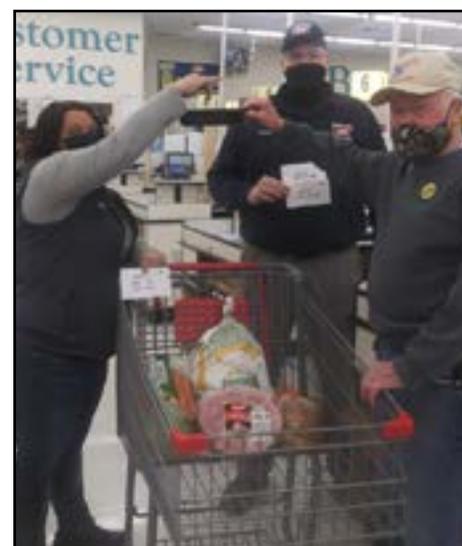
Calais Post 3; Cherryfield Post 8; Machias Post 9; Eastport Post 11; Baileyville Post 23; Danforth Post 45; Pembroke Post 59; Lubec Post 65; Jonesport Post 108; Vanceboro Post 172; Topsfield Post 191



St. Patrick's Day Food Basket Drawing: Calais Post 3 Commander Mike McLean, left, & Co-Owner of Calais IGA Bob Craft, right, draw the winning ticket for the St. Patrick's Day Food Basket on March 15. The Calais IGA teamed up with the "Calais American Legion Support Fund" to donate this month's special. The lucky winner went to Jim Meyers along with two \$25 IGA Gift Cards.



St. Patrick's Day Food Basket



Easter Food Basket Winners: Calais American Legion & Calais IGA "Easter Food Basket" Drawing held April 2 in support of the Calais American Legion Support Fund! Left to right, IGA Co-Owners Amy Craft & David Pike, and Calais Post 3 Commander Mike McLean.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 9

Augusta Post 2; Gardiner Post 4; Waterville Post 5; Hallowell Post 6; Winthrop Post 40; Oakland Post 51; Togus Post 90; Vassalboro Post 126; Richmond Post 132; So. China Post 179; Litchfield Post 181; Clinton Post 186; China Post 195; Monmouth Post 204; Augusta Post 205



Newest Member of Hallowell Post 6 At 101 Years Of Age: Goodrich-Caldwell Post 6, Hallowell, initiated its newest member on April 2nd, Maxine Blackburn, at the age of 101. She was elated to become our newest member. She served during WWII from 1943-1945. Maxine was an Administrative Assistant to the Naval Commander at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston. She now resides in Hallowell with a family member and is sharp as a tack. Welcome to the American Legion Maxine. Front, Maxine Blackburn, back, left

to right, Post 6 Adjutant Gerald Stuart, Post 6 Commander Maureen Malley, and member James Owens.

Photo by Mike Madden
District 9 and Post 6 Historian

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 12

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

Wreaths Across Deer Isle

An island wide volunteer effort supported by Post 102 in Stonington assembled and placed over 700 Christmas wreaths on veteran graves in cemeteries



throughout Deer Isle in December. A local Iraq war vet conceived of the idea after having participated in the wreath laying at Arlington Cemetery in prior years. He was so moved by the experience that he felt we should honor local vets in the same fashion and organized the event.

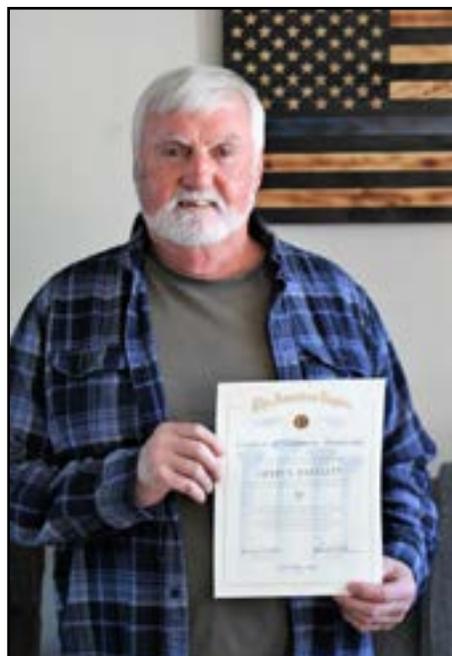
By Ron Dahlen
Stonington Post 102 1st Vice Commander

Wreath Placed On Discovered Grave In Stonington: A wreath was placed on the grave of Revolutionary War veteran John Harvey. Harvey's grave was discovered last year in a long forgotten cemetery hidden in stand of woods in Stonington.

Photo by Ron Dahlen
Stonington Post 102 1st Vice Commander

American Legion Honors Calais Veteran for 50 Years of Continuous Membership

Dedicating 50 years to a single thing is rarely an easy task, but for one local veteran, he has done just that. U.S. Marine Corps veteran Gerry Bartlett was recently recognized by the highest levels of the national veteran organization for his half-century service to The American Legion Post 3.



Marine Corps veteran Gerry Bartlett displays a certificate recognizing 50 years of membership to American Legion Post 3.

Bartlett joined the military in 1970, spending some of his four years in Japan. He said at that time, signing up as a member of The American Legion was "just what the guys did." He signed up while home on leave.

Bartlett described legion membership as a way to interact with others and enjoy the camaraderie of fellow veterans. When Post 3 had its own hall, dances were held often, and the members did many community service projects and "always raised money for something," Bartlett said.

Now, regular meet and greets are held for veterans and their spouses, when not interfered by COVID-19, and a new veterans center downtown is bringing a gathering place for story swapping, rekindling the spirit of comradeship, and other forms of assistance.

The American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919, having evolved from a group of war veterans. Today, the organization focuses on the well being of U.S. Armed Forces veterans through health care assistance, political lobbying, and community outreach, among other things. The American Legion is one of the most influential nonprofit groups in the United States.

Jayna Smith | jayna@calais.news
The Calais Advertiser | March 4th Edition

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 15 continued

Latrines, Leadership and Scouting

Midnight, September 1956 – Fort Dix, NJ and I am on my hands and knees in an old army latrine with a toothbrush attempting the impossible task of cleaning the place.

I attended and taught many leadership classes in the Army, Scouts and education but the most valuable lesson I ever learned was while cleaning latrines in Army Basic Training. Fort Dix, NJ – 1956 and I was a shy, green teenager of 17 putting on Army Fatigues in my first week of Basic. Boy! Was I out of my league! I had enlisted in the Regular Army with reluctant permission of my mother. As a small town boy with limited worldly experience, there I was, surrounded by city guys from New York and New Jersey, mostly all older than me because the draft in the 50's tended to draft older men. Besides, if you had a college exemption, you got drafted upon graduating, even if you had a PhD. I was one of the few who had enlisted and I got harassed for being "a stupid kid".

The first week went by and I was still in some shock when the Barracks Sergeant called me out to report to the Company Orderly Room. Now that was not a place any one of us wanted to go because we knew that we would be in trouble. The First Sergeant informed me the CO wanted to talk with me. OMG! The CO! What had I done? As I stood in front of his desk, literally shaking in my combat boots, he complained that since they had gone through the prior service reservists, national guard and ROTC dropouts who had all failed, he had run out of acting squad leaders so was now looking for a Boy Scout. "I see by your 201 file that you're an Eagle Scout so I guess that you know something about leadership! Congratulations! You're the new squad leader in your platoon. "Gulp!" My squad of 8 were all older guys including one with a Masters in Psychology and very different from me. Their immediate response was one of laughter and derision and they rubbed it in. To make matters worse, our barracks sergeant assigned us latrine cleaning for our work detail but as a result of the attitude of my squad, it became a permanent detail.

The first few days were a nightmare. As we were supposed to do our detail after morning chow, my squad basically laughed while I frantically tried to clean. I asked, begged and tried to appeal to their better nature but only

got lukewarm response from only 2 or 3 of them. Remember, these were WWII barracks and in pretty rough shape – the latrines were scuzzy and rusty. The first couple of days, our platoon sergeant yelled at me but the third day, he really got angry and made me report to him after lights-out with my toothbrush. Cleaning with a toothbrush is, of course, impossible and by 1 am, he took pity on me and sent me to bed. A couple or three nights of almost no sleep, I became desperate, angry and then brave enough to ask my sergeant what I should do. "What do you want to do?" "How do I get them to help me clean?" He told me that I was in charge, that I was the leader and responsible to get the job like any Army Mission done, no matter what. I asked the sergeant if I could give them extra duty and he said that it was my call, I was the leader. So I gave him the names of the 5 worst offenders and they all went on KP and guard duty and Oh, were they mad! They verbally abused me so badly, that I gave 2 or 3 of them more extra duty and my sergeant backed me up. Finally, they all got the message and grudgingly they helped clean enough that we passed inspection – Hoo-ray, finally.

I had learned in the Scouts about taking care of my patrol and Explorer Crew and as an experienced camper and hiker I could offer help to my soldiers in taking care of their feet when we went on a forced march and how to sleep dry when we bivouacked in our pup tents in the rain. We made waterproof sleeping bags from our ponchos and blankets - a scout trick and my guys were almost the only dry soldiers in the platoon. I had moleskin and tape in my pack to help them fend off blisters. They were beginning to appreciate that I had some skills to make their lives a little more comfortable in the field. Land navigation? No problem – learned that in the Scouts. We finished the course so quickly that we had a couple of hours to nap under a tree while the others were getting lost. My soldiers began to show me some respect as I was learning about leadership – Get the job done first and take care of your soldiers. Later I would use the mantra: "Mission first – people always" in all the leadership classes I would teach.

Oh yes, the rest of the story! During our final inspection, we were lined up in the barracks in front of our bunks

where you could bounce a quarter. Our gear was laid out in precise formation. The inspecting party marched through. The Regimental Commander, a crusty old Colonel had a few words with a couple of us and then disappeared into the latrine at the back of the barracks. Shortly a Captain appeared and spoke with the First Sergeant. "Who's in charge of this latrine?" The barracks sergeant hollered: "Duston! Report!" Once again, I was shaking in my boots as they escorted me down the steps into the latrine. The old Colonel challenged me with: "You in charge of this latrine?" "Yes Sir! For the past 8 weeks". "Well, son!", he replied, putting his hand on my shoulder, "This is one of the finest cleaning jobs that I have seen in a while. These old s..t houses are tough

to clean and you should be proud of the job that you have done."

Well, he might have been pinning a medal for heroism on me, I was so proud. I heard later that latrines were a pet peeve of his and he even got as personal as sticking his head under the toilet rims to check for rust.

My squad stood tall and proud at graduation and when we said our goodbyes, they each shook my hand and thanked me for teaching them the outdoor Boy Scout stuff and that for a dumb kid who enlisted, I was "ok".

I learned an important lesson about leadership in that latrine that has stood by me the rest of my life.

Mission first – People Always.

Peter Duston, Adjutant, Post 8
Department Scouting Chair

Legion Honors Veteran for 50 Years of Membership

Local veteran George Blaney has been recognized by the highest levels of The American Legion for his 50 years of continuous service to the organization. Blaney served in the U.S. Army, followed by time in the U.S. Navy Reserve. He is a member of Wil-

liam T. Wren Post 23 in Baileyville.

Still, Blaney believes his membership in The American Legion has served him well. "It's the comradeship that you had while you were in the military," he says of his belonging. "Only a veteran knows a veteran."

Post 23 Commander Ken Young explained that becoming a member is simple. A person needs their DD214 and pays a low annual dues. "If you want to help out with the functions that we do, that's good; if you don't, that's ok," he said. "There's no pressure."

Meeting attendance is not mandatory; however, the post does meet regularly at its 98 Main Street, Baileyville location. Meetings are held the third Monday of each month at 6 p.m.

To learn more about William T. Wren Post 23, one can reach Commander Ken Young at 207-427-9058 or Adjutant Norm Richard at 207-427-6620.

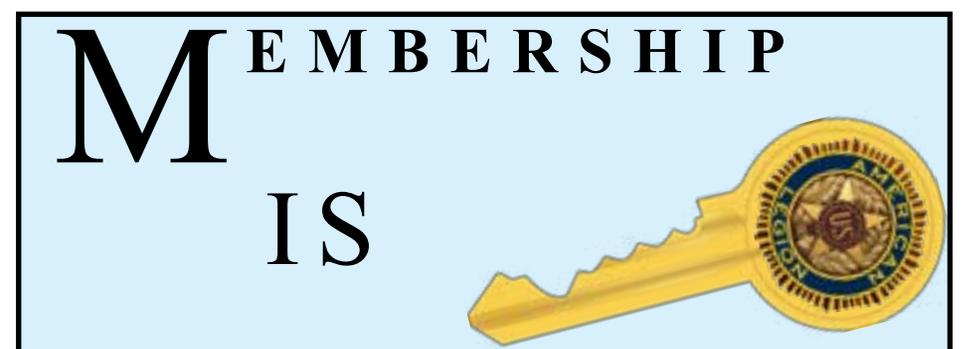
The American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919, having evolved from a group of war veterans. Today, the organization focuses on the well-being of U.S. Armed Forces veterans through health care assistance, political lobbying, and community outreach, among other things. The American Legion is one of the most influential nonprofit groups in the United



Baileyville Post 23 Veteran Honored For 50 Continuous Years: Veteran George Blaney was recently honored for his 50 years of membership to The American Legion.

Photo by Jayna Smith
The Calais Advertiser

Jayna Smith | jayna@calais.news
The Calais Advertiser | March 18th Edition



T a p s C o l u m n

<u>POST</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>CONFLICT</u>	<u>POST</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>CONFLICT</u>
Post 2 – Augusta	Arville L. Fann	Korea	Post 102 – Stonington	Peter Carminati	Gulf
Post 2 – Augusta	Beverly Paine	Korea	Post 108 – Jonesport	Lloyd Copp	Vietnam
Post 4 – Gardiner	Stephen P. Hanley	Vietnam	Post 108 – Jonesport	Michael D. Corbett	Vietnam
Post 4 – Gardiner	Lincoln Luken	WWII	Post 112 – Oxford	Burton L. Corkum Jr	
Post 4 – Gardiner	Ralph F. Sargent	Korea	Post 119 – Guilford	Franklin J. Moulton	WWII
Post 4 – Gardiner	Michael Tilton	Vietnam	Post 128 – Standish	Mike Lynch	Vietnam
Post 4 – Gardiner	Joseph Tinkham II	Vietnam	Post 132 – Richmond	Leon Allen Jr	Vietnam
Post 4 – Gardiner	Donald E. Tracy	Korea	Post 132 – Richmond	Arthur Boulay	Korea
Post 5 – Waterville	Thomas Corey	Vietnam	Post 132 – Richmond	Ronald McCarthy	Vietnam
Post 5 – Waterville	Reginald Gagnon	Korea	Post 134 – Alfred	Roger Messier	Korea
Post 6 – Hallowell	Maxine Blackburn	WWII	Post 136 – Stockholm	William J. Hazelwood	Vietnam
Post 9 – Machias	Daniel Look	Vietnam	Post 138 – Winterport	Frank Arsenaault	WWII
Post 9 – Machias	Richard E. Richards		Post 138 – Winterport	Gibran N. Elhajj	Korea
Post 15 – Caribou	Dale Olmstead	WWII	Post 138 – Winterport	Reginald J. Cole	Vietnam
Post 19 – Sanford	James Sherman	Vietnam	Post 138 – Winterport	Douglas McFarland	Vietnam
Post 20 – Brunswick	Ann G. Beal	Vietnam	Post 138 – Winterport	John Solak	Vietnam
Post 20 – Brunswick	Kenneth “Chip” Stewart	Vietnam	Post 138 – Winterport	Ralph Wharff	WWII
Post 21 – Bath	Thomas G. Coffill Jr	Vietnam	Post 139 – Harrison	Richard Schieferstein	Vietnam
Post 21 – Bath	Theodore I. Peacock JR	Vietnam	Post 145 – Frenchville	Michael J. Daigle	Vietnam
Post 21 – Bath	Richard H. Ricker	Korea	Post 145 – Frenchville	Camille Morneault	Korea
Post 21 – Bath	Gary M. Roberts		Post 147 – Madawaska	Eugene R. Bethge	Vietnam
Post 21 – Bath	Edward Ward	WWII	Post 147 – Madawaska	Robert J. Bilodeau	
Post 22 – Lewiston	Normand Bureau	Korea	Post 147 – Madawaska	Rosaire Blanchette	
Post 24 – Rumford	J. Leonard Barrieau	WWII	Post 147 – Madawaska	Raoul L. Chasse	
Post 24 – Rumford	Donald Clifford	WWII	Post 147 – Madawaska	Aurele Clavette	Vietnam
Post 24 – Rumford	Nicholas Diconzo	Korea	Post 147 – Madawaska	Gerald J. Cyr	
Post 24 – Rumford	John T. Edwards	Vietnam	Post 147 – Madawaska	Charles R. Daigle	
Post 24 – Rumford	Sylvanus Glover	WWII	Post 147 – Madawaska	Leo J. Deschaine	Vietnam
Post 24 – Rumford	Lawrence A. Goguen	Vietnam	Post 147 – Madawaska	Richard C. Doucette	Korea
Post 24 – Rumford	William L. Petrie	Vietnam	Post 147 – Madawaska	David B. Dow	Vietnam
Post 24 – Rumford	Patrice A. Roy	Vietnam	Post 147 – Madawaska	Claude Dube	Korea
Post 24 – Rumford	Timothy Swan	Other	Post 147 – Madawaska	Cecil Dugal	
Post 24 – Rumford	Francis Steele	Korea	Post 147 – Madawaska	Allan J. Gendreau	Lebanon/Grenada
Post 24 – Rumford	Richard Venskus	Lebanon	Post 147 – Madawaska	Clifford Gendreau	
Post 28 – Farmington	David Hall	Vietnam	Post 147 – Madawaska	Nivard J. Hebert	WWII
Post 30 – Camden	Leforest E. Dodge Jr	Vietnam	Post 147 – Madawaska	James N. Madore	
Post 30 – Camden	Harold R. Drinkwater	Korea	Post 147 – Madawaska	Joel Marquis	Other
Post 42 – Damariscotta	Joseph Carusone	Korea	Post 147 – Madawaska	Jolyn Michaud	
Post 43 – Belfast	Paul Belden	Vietnam	Post 147 – Madawaska	Joseph E. Michaud	Vietnam
Post 43 – Belfast	Alden Leach	Grenada/Lebanon	Post 147 – Madawaska	Robert Osterberg	Vietnam
Post 43 – Belfast	Gerald L. Rumney	Korea	Post 147 – Madawaska	Joseph R. Ouellette	Vietnam
Post 43 – Belfast	Danny C. Ward	Vietnam	Post 147 – Madawaska	Gerald J. Picard	
Post 47 – Houlton	Lester G. Drew	WWII	Post 149 – Waldoboro	Charles Gruppe	WWII
Post 47 – Houlton	Linwood Jameson		Post 149 – Waldoboro	Douglass Knowlton	Vietnam
Post 49 – Van Buren	Frank Tilley	Korea	Post 149 – Waldoboro	Elliott I. Tonken	Other
Post 53 – Dexter	Frederick Banks	Korea	Post 149 – Waldoboro	Clarence York	Vietnam
Post 50 – Unity	Walter Burton	Vietnam	Post 150 – Mechanic Falls	Robert J. Malcolm	Korea
Post 57 – Old Orchard Beach	Leonard Lasczak Jr	Vietnam	Post 150 – Mechanic Falls	Albert J. Mayberry	
Post 59 – Pembroke	Keith Barrett	Vietnam	Post 153 – Auburn	Robert R. Bedard	Vietnam
Post 59 – Pembroke	Earl L. Ellinwood	Korea	Post 153 – Auburn	Donald Caron	WWII
Post 59 – Pembroke	Harry W. Jamieson	Korea	Post 153 – Auburn	Edward M. Fahey	WWII
Post 62 – Westbrook	Arthur Begin	WWII	Post 153 – Auburn	Franklin L. Gould Sr.	Other
Post 62 – Westbrook	Richard Campbell	Korea	Post 153 – Auburn	Joseph L. Lepage	WWII
Post 62 – Westbrook	Warren Gilman	WWII	Post 153 – Auburn	Paul L. Parent	Vietnam
Post 62 – Westbrook	Lucien Label	WWII	Post 153 – Auburn	Richard M. Parent	Vietnam
Post 62 – Westbrook	Roger Leborgne	WWII	Post 155 – Naples	Robert J. Champagne	Vietnam
Post 62 – Westbrook	Charles Melanson	WWII	Post 155 – Naples	William S. Northgraves	Vietnam
Post 62 – Westbrook	Byron Rogers	Korea	Post 155 – Naples	Lewis Wetzel	WWII
Post 65 – Lubec	Ralph I Denbow	Korea	Post 157 – Stockton Springs	Clarence W. Elden	Vietnam
Post 67 – Bridgton	Robert Downing	Korea	Post 172 – Vanceboro	Henry Christensen	Korea
Post 67 – Bridgton	Herbert Moulton	Korea	Post 178 – Winslow	John Bouchard	Vietnam
Post 68 – Locke Mills	Leroy Day	WWII	Post 178 – Winslow	Robert Maloy	WWII
Post 68 – Locke Mills	Keith Savage	Lebanon/Grenada	Post 178 – Winslow	Keith Morrison	Korea
Post 69 – South West Harbor	David Benson	Korea	Post 178 – Winslow	Daniel Wing	Korea
Post 69 – South West Harbor	Clarence L. Rodick Jr	Korea	Post 188 – Eliot	Harry Lane	Korea
Post 72 – South Paris	Lewis E. Freeman Jr.	Vietnam	Post 188 – Eliot	Robert W. Perham	WWII
Post 72 – South Paris	Norman L. Tweedie	Korea	Post 197 – Westbrook	Paul Bois	Vietnam
Post 74 – Kennebunk	Ronald Murray	Vietnam	Post 197 – Westbrook	Ernard Gervais	WWII
Post 74 – Kennebunk	Bobby Shrader	Korea	Post 197 – Westbrook	Paul Grant	Korea
Post 79 – Berwick	James Jones Jr	Vietnam	Post 197 – Westbrook	Paul Lavigne	Korea
Post 93 – Bucksport	Carl Bowden Sr	Vietnam	Post 197 – Westbrook	Howard K. Waig	Vietnam
Post 94 – Greenville	Roger Currier	Vietnam	Post 200 – Hermon	Norman J. Michaud	Vietnam
Post 94 – Greenville	Adrian J. Morin	WWII	Post 200 – Hermon	Ronald E. Porter	Korea
Post 94 – Greenville	Kendall Price	Korea	Post 205 – Augusta	Leon F. Folger	Korea
Post 100 – Dixfield	Oscar Hebert	Korea	Post 207 – Trenton	Edwin King	Vietnam

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Attention: Next Deadline is July 16

The deadline for material, stories and/or pictures to be submitted for consideration for use in the August 2021 issue of The Maine Legionnaire will be July 16, 2021.

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



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PLAY BALL!!! Opening Day, Little League-Windham. American Legion Field-Allen Post 148 carried the colors for the Opening Day Ceremonies at the Little League field, East Windham on Saturday May 1st. Left to right, Roger Timmons, Richard Graves, Richard Drapeau, David Rendall and OIC Craig Pride.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS CARD

Membership Card No. _____ Date ____ / ____ / ____ Post No. _____

Member's Name _____

Old Address _____
 Street, Route or P.O. Box

Town/City _____ State _____ Zip _____

New Address _____
 Street, Route or P.O. Box

Town/City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Remarks _____

To update your address, complete all sections of the above form and mail to: The American Legion, Department of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0727.

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to The American Legion, Department of Maine and mail to 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901-0727. Please include an additional \$5 for every 5 coins purchased. Coins are also available for free pick up at \$10 each. All proceeds go towards helping Veterans in the State of Maine, their families and various programs in The American Legion. For questions, please call State HQ at 207-873-3229.



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