

THE MAINE legionnaire



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OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

AMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF MAINE

32 Pages

Rumford Native Elected Commander to Lead Maine American Legion

Kirk D. Thurston was elected as the Department of Maine Commander of The American Legion during the 103rd Annual State Convention in Brewer, Maine on June 11, 2022. Kirk was born and raised in Rumford graduating in 1975 from Rumford High School. He joined the Navy in 1976 and retired in 1996 with 20 years of service. Kirk was a Cryptologic Technician (CT) assigned to the Naval Security Group Activity (NSGA) which was under the operational control of the National Security Agency (NSA). He started his Naval career at NTTC Corry Station, Pensacola, Florida attending 'A' and 'C' school before his assignment to NSGA Keflavik, Iceland (the rock). The next assignment was at NSGA Edzell, Scotland. Halfway through his tour, is when Patricia Shahan from Los Angeles arrived for her first Naval assignment and the rest is history. The following assignments to follow were NSGA Skaggs Island, California, NSGA Misawa, Japan, and NSGA Pensacola, Florida. While stationed at Pensacola he was temporarily assigned to the Department of Justice (DOJ) for a six-month tour in Washington DC. Finally on the USS Hue City (CG66) as a Cryptologic Combat Support System (CCSS) Operator and Threat Analyst homeport at Mayport, Florida. While on the Hue City, he completed two Med Cruises and various numbers of operations off the East Coast and in the Caribbean. While on one of the



STATE COMMANDER
KIRK THURSTON

Caribbean trips, the ship crossed the Equator and Kirk became a 'Shell Back'. Commander Thurston and Tricia have one grown child Lauren

Weston her husband Will and her family. Grandsons Anthony, who shares a birthday with the American Legion, and newly arrived (3 days after installation) Callum who was born on Flag Day. To say these two must be SAL members is an understatement.

Kirk has been a legionnaire for 20 years and very active since 2006, he is a member of the Napoleon Ouellette, Post 24, Rumford. He has held officer positions at the Post, District, Department, Area, and again at the Department level. He is also a dual member and was Squadron 24's Adjutant and Commander for a few years. He has been on various committees at the Department and National levels and chaired a few at the Department level.



Commander's Briefing:
Department 1st Vice Commander/current Department Commander Kirk Thurston, left, receives feedback from Past National Commander Anthony "Tony" Jordan, right, about expectations to follow as State Commander of The American Legion before being sworn in at the Annual State Convention in Brewer on June 11.

Troiola Elected American Legion National Commander

Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola (pronounced Tree-Ola) was elected national commander of the nation's largest veteran service organization on Sept. 1, 2022, in Milwaukee during The American Legion's 103rd national convention. His theme as national commander is "V.E.T.S., Veterans, Education, Teamwork and Sponsor."

A life member of American Legion Post 1682 in Rockland County, N.Y., he served in the U.S. Navy and Navy Reserves from 1969 to 1974. He completed a tour aboard the USS Nitro, an auxiliary ammunition ship with the Sixth Fleet. He was honorably discharged as a boatswain's mate third class. He is also a member of Sons of The American Legion Squadron 1682 based on the World War II service of Jim's father.

Jim spent his entire working career in the automotive service industry, where he began as a parts manager at a local Chevrolet dealership and went to serve in many capacities of management. At the time of his retirement in 2017, he was director of service and parts at a New York Metro Mercedes Benz dealership. After a brief time at home, he began an entirely new career as a school bus driver for the Falmouth School District and part-time motor coach operator.

Jim served in many offices at every level of The American Legion. He was elected department (state) commander of



NATIONAL COMMANDER
VINCENT J. "JIM" TROIOLA

New York for 2010-2011, and chaired several national commissions to include the National Security Commission, Legislative Commission,

Veterans Employment and Education Commission and the Membership and Post Activity Committee. He was elected national vice commander for 2016-2017.

He married his wife Saveria (pronounced Sa-Vare-ee-ah) in 1973. They have two daughters, Laura and Jeanette; a son-in-law, Michael; and three grandchildren, Alexander, Abigail and Natalia. The Troiolas include three generations of American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion membership.

Jim currently lives in Maine to be close to a daughter and his grandchildren, while still being within driving distance to the Department of New York.

www.legion.org/commander/bio

You can 'Be the One'

Dear American Legion Family and Friends,

In my year as national commander of The American Legion, I can think of no greater goal than to reduce the number of veterans who die by suicide each day.

I made this a priority during my speech when I accepted the honor of being elected commander during our 103rd national convention last week in Milwaukee.

"My platform and No. 1 priority for my year as national commander will be tackling the toughest challenge facing veterans: veteran suicide," I said in my

acceptance remarks. The American Legion is asking you to 'Be the One'. And by you, I include every one of us, military and civilian alike. We all need to 'Be the One' to begin thinking, talking and acting to save just one life."

What does it mean to Be the One? For a veteran, it means reaching out for help to assist a loved one, or calling a help line in times of crisis. The new 988 emergency suicide hotline is a valuable resource. You can also chat online at this webpage or text 838255.

[More on "BE THE ONE" Page 10](#)

Commander's Comments

It was nice to see everyone at our Annual Convention. For those that were not able to make it, you missed a great time. Becoming your Department Commander has been a long journey, to say the least, and as with any



**KIRK
THURSTON**

journey, there are many people to thank. First, I must thank my family for their love and support. As with many of us, we have had mentors along the way. In 2006, Paul L'Heureux and Gard Enman were revitalizing my Post. I was not at the initial meeting and was voted in as 2nd Vice Commander. Go figure. Did not have a clue about the American Legion or the officer positions offered. Thanks to the help and guidance of those two legionnaires, the Post doors have remained open. I have held an officers' position at some level of the American Legion since. Over the years, I had the great pleasure of mentorship from many legionnaires. Paul L'Heureux, Edward J. Roach Jr., Dave Sanborn, Ron Sailor, Mr. Jerry Greenwell, Tom and Ramona Naragon, Lloyd Woods, Anthony 'Tony' Jordan, Chic with his importance of the Blue Star Banner program, and many, many more. To say the least, they usually agreed with each other..., which to me was a great way to learn the ins and out of this great organization, we call the American Legion. THANK YOU all for your support and guidance and to those that have reported to the High Commander of us all. I THANK YOU all for your help and friendship.

The American Legion is a big family, and I am glad to be a part of and to call you all Brothers and Sisters. We must always be there for each other and more than ever we need to continue this very important endeavor. We need to be ever mindful of the changes evolving around us. If we as an organization are to continue for another 100-plus years, we need to be able to adapt to the times. Ask your youngest members of your Post/Squadron or Unit what they would like to see at their Post homes. What would attract them to be more involved and to attract younger Veterans?

Training, now more than ever, we need to continue training our fellow legionnaires. Whether it be taking the online course, the Maine Legion College course, or just the mentorship of fellow legionnaires. There is so much out there on the Legion.org website in regards to training. You would be surprised what they have to offer.

We must remember our Four Pillars. At times, it seems we are drifting farther away from where we began. How many of you can name the Four Pillars? In this

coming year, we must concentrate on re-building. Re-building the importance of an American Legion Post in our communities. Re-building the trust and comradery in the American Legion, Department of Maine. Instill the importance of the chain of command within the Department, starting at the Post level. Every two weeks, information comes out of the Department, in the form of the Leadership Ledger. How many are in receipt of this? The information within this publication should be included in Post and District meetings. This is just one of the tools at our disposal. We must know about these tools, and how to use them. We all must learn from our mistakes. Yes, we all make them, but we must recognize them, own them, and then move on. It is time to bring the FUN back into our Programs. You must admit, it is better to work with people on projects that are having fun while accomplishing the task.

I would be remiss if I did not mention everyone's favorite topic. MEMBER-SHIP! Can we improve our numbers? Absolutely! We must start early. I know no one likes getting those renewal notices from National in July, so pay early and encourage others to do the same. How many here are PUFLs? Do you receive renewal notices? Hmm, maybe you all should think of that. Support your membership chairs at each level and make those Buddy-Checks.

Today, the #1 issue facing those who served is veteran suicide.

- According to the National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report. 17 veterans still die by suicide each day.

The American Legion is activating a national platform to end veteran suicide.

The Be the One campaign will:

- Destigmatize asking for mental health support, creating opportunities for those with mental health issues to speak freely and get the support they need.
- Provide peer-to-peer support and resources in local communities.
- Deploy FDA-approved therapeutics for veterans to identify issues and find resources for support.

1. The stigma associated with mental health issues is a barrier to veterans seeking assistance.

2. Family members may be the first to recognize the signs that their veteran needs help, but they may lack the knowledge of how to approach the situation.

3. Veteran service organizations, like The American Legion, provide a well-established peer support network that is ready, willing, and able to help in local communities.

4. The Legion is also willing to explore partnerships with other like-minded organizations where the opportunity exists to amplify and/or complement one another's strengths.

The American Legion needs your help in ending veteran suicide.

[More on "COMMANDER'S COMMENTS" Page 7](#)

A 'First' Look

My fellow Legionnaires, first, I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity and privilege to serve you and the Department of Maine as the 1st Vice Commander this year.



**ALFRED
MCKAY**

As the new Legion year starts, let's turn our attention towards membership, both last year's unpaid dues and getting this year's dues paid up and turned into Department Headquarters. Posts should set up at local events and promote the Legion as well as the Legion Family. I have set a goal for all Posts to attain 100% early in the upcoming new year. There are resources in the Department that could and should be utilized to attain this goal. I can and will assist you and your post with this task. All you need to do is ask. Membership, both renewed and new, is the responsibility of all Legionnaires, not just the Post 1st Vice Commander, Post Membership Committee, or the Post Adjutants.

This year's Convention had a very good attendance; next year's convention will have an even better turnout.

I am hoping for excellent attendance at the upcoming Fall Conference. All Posts should send at least one (1) member to receive the information the Department will have as well as the printed material that will be available.

With the fall and winter seasons rapidly approaching, continue to do buddy checks. With buddy checks, the veteran's well-being is much more important than just his dues. Do not make the focus of the telephone call a collection call. A telephone call can be a good thing, an in-person visit is much better. As we all know and most likely will do ourselves, is say all is fine on the phone, when in reality it's not the case. A cup of coffee and a chat can have a life-changing effect on someone, maybe even you.

In short, it is ALL of our responsibility to make sure the NEW members, the more experienced members, and prospective members, get a feeling of being wanted, needed, and appreciated. And most of all WELCOMED into the post they are your guest. Word of the experience will travel far and fast. We are the American Legion Family.

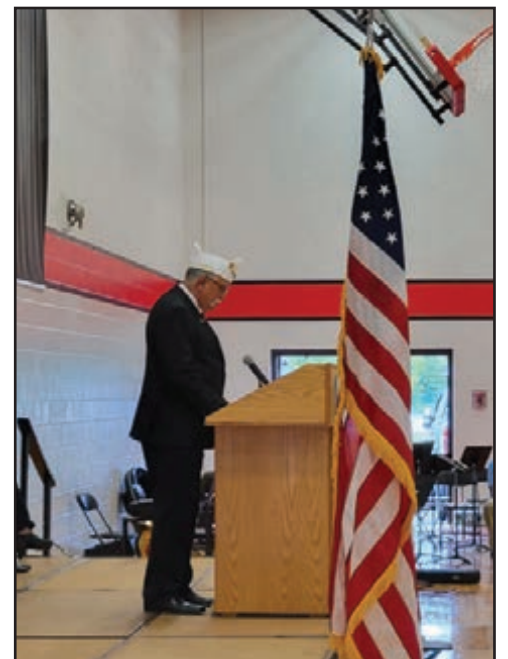
Once again thank you for the privilege and I look forward to working with you.



Dispatcher Of The Year:

Tracie Webster of Thomaston receives The American Legion, Department of Maine Dispatcher of Year award from Department 2nd Vice Commander/ current 1st Vice Commander Alfred McKay during the Annual State Convention in Brewer on June 11.

Dirigo State Welcome Speech: Department Commander Kirk Thurston welcomes Dirigo State delegates, family, friends, and guests to the Dirigo State Graduation held at Thomas College in Waterville on June 24.



NEC Update

As we start a new membership year and new year for those officers elected at the post level, district level, and department level we all have to remember that it is our responsibility to support those new officers in their new positions and to work with them the best that we can. I would like to congratulate each officer either elected or re-appointed/elected and thank them for stepping up to do the best they can do in their new/old position. Congratulations to each and every one of you and know that I will do my best to assist you in any way that I can.

Nationally we are preparing for the



**LLOYD
WOODS**

annual National Convention which this year will be held in Milwaukee from August 26 through September 1. There will be training sessions hosted by various presenters from the National organization as well as meetings of the various committees and commissions of our organization. Also being held will be two (2) meetings of the National Executive Committee – one pre-convention on Monday and one post-convention as soon as the convention itself is complete.

Other scheduled meetings will be the commission meetings on Saturday, then on Sunday, the Convention Committee meetings will be held. In the convention committee meetings, each department assigns members of their delegations to attend the specified meetings.

As your representative on the National Executive Committee, I would like to assure you that I have your and the department's best interests at hand. As I have previously stated to you all, I am "Proud to Serve".



Welcome: National Executive Committeeman Lloyd Woods, left, shakes the hand of then candidate for National Commander Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola, right, to welcome him to the Annual State Convention in Brewer on June 10.



Women's Veterans Advisory Committee at the Annual State Convention in Brewer on June 11. Left to right, Dept. 2nd Vice Commander and WVAC Chairperson Patricia Thurston, Sabattus Post 135 Americanism Officer and Chaplain Tracey Rancourt, Department Commander Debra Couture, District 9 Commander Maureen Malley, District 5 1st Vice Commander Gloria Hall, and Topsham Post 202 member Caroline Yarmala.



On the Agenda

OCTOBER MEETINGS

- District 3** – Androscoggin: Oct. 11, Auburn Post 31, 2PM
- District 5** – Oxford: Oct. 20, Buckfield Post 58, 7PM, Pumpkin Pie after.
- District 6** – Knox: Oct. 24, Camden Post 30, 9AM
- District 8** – Sagadahoc: Oct. 3, Bath Post 21, 1:00PM
- District 9** – Kennebec: Oct. 12, Winthrop Post 40, 7PM
- District 12** – Hancock: Oct. 11, Bar Harbor Post 25
Dinner at 6:30PM, Meeting at 7:30PM
- District 13** – Penobscot: Oct. 2, Bangor Post 12, Bangor Armory, 2PM
- District 14** – Piscataquis: Oct. 15, Milo Post 41, 12 Noon Lunch w/Business Meeting at 1PM
- District 15** – Washington: Oct. 9, Pembroke Post 59, 2PM
- District 17** – No. Aroostook: Oct. 9, Eagle Lake Post 176, 1PM Meal

NOVEMBER MEETINGS

- District 3** – Androscoggin: Nov. 15, Turner Post 111, 2PM
- District 5** – Oxford: Nov. 17, Bethel Post 81, 7PM, Refreshments after.
- District 9** – Kennebec: Nov. 11, Waterville Post 5, 7PM
- District 10** – Somerset: Nov. 9, Madison Post 39, 6:30PM
- District 12** – Hancock: Nov. 8, W Harbor Post 69
Dinner at 6:30PM, Meeting at 7:30PM
- District 13** – Penobscot: Nov. 6, Bangor Post 12, Bangor Armory, 2PM
- District 14** – Piscataquis: Nov. 19, Monson Post 116, 12 Noon Lunch w/Business Meeting at 1PM
- District 16** – So. Aroostook: Nov. 13, Ars Hill Post 118, 1PM (Special Meeting)
- District 17** – No. Aroostook: Nov. 6, Fort Kent Post 133, 1pm Meal

A 'Second' Look

Greetings, I am proud to serve as your Department 2nd Vice Commander for 2022-2023.

I am proud to be a part of this organization and honored to serve alongside some very hard-working Legionnaires as well as our Legion Family. Let's straighten our caps and prepare to support our Four Pillars (Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth). Each of these pillars contains a variety of programs that benefit our nation's veterans, its service members, their families, the youth of America, and ordinary citizens.

I have reached out to many District Adjutants and Commanders regarding overdue reports for this year. The feedback I have received is that emails and or telephone numbers are incorrect. This certainly can be resolved by submitting your updated Post and District Officers Form. The Leadership Ledger shows a large number of Posts that have not submitted the Consolidated Post Report (CPR), Notification of Post/Squadron Commanders and Adjutants forms, Post and District Officers Forms and Annual Post Data Reports. These



**PATRICIA
THURSTON**

reports are very important to our organization. Please take time to check out the Ledger to see if your Post or District is showing that you have not submitted them. The deadline has passed for these reports, but it would be important to ensure Department has updated contact information. If you have already submitted and find you are on the incomplete list, please contact Department for guidance. Let's work harder in 2023 to guarantee we reach 100% for Post and District reports that need to be submitted.

Training, Training, Training! You have a huge selection of training material available through your Department and National websites. The Department website, www.mainelegion.org, is filled with information that will enhance everything you do for our organization. This includes who your current Department Officers are, the Directory, Membership, Resources, News and Events, Programs and Forms and Applications, and more. The Department offers our very own Maine Legion College which is divided up into three weekends. If you are interested in this college, contact the Department Adjutant to sign up for the next class. Dates to be announced for future classes.

At the National level (legion.org), you will find everything you always wanted to know about our organization. Check out the drop-down tabs that include Pro-

[More on "A SECOND LOOK" Page 7](#)



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Money Matters

I would first like to give proper credit to Tommy Adkins and Greg Couture, previous American Legion Department of Maine Financial officers, for their individual and collective contributions in setting forth a strong financial pathway to ensure the American Legion of Maine will be around for the foreseeable future. In shadowing Greg for my first several months preceding taking the helm as the new Department Finance officer, he was able to get me ahead of the curve so as to continue his and Tommy's work without a gap in productivity.

To ensure everything continues to run smoothly, all Post Finance Officers



EUGENE "GENE"
CONNOLLY

I hope to see you all at this upcoming Fall Conference!

Careful and Cautious everyone!

are advised to please make sure your 990's are submitted to the IRS and don't forget to send in your Maine Annual Report to the state for non-profit organizations.

I hope to

see you all at this upcoming Fall Conference!

Careful and Cautious everyone!



Convention Awards: Just before the State Convention, the State Adjutant decided to send 2 qualified people to pick up the plaques and other awards. Left photo, left to right, soon-to-be State Commander Kirk Thurston, our

contact person for over 15 years from Yankee Trophy Jonathan Barnes, and Dept. Judge Advocate Jason Hall. Something went wrong on this mission because the State Adjutant, Paul L'Heureux was not seen in the picture because he was carrying the items to the vehicle while the photo was taken. After picking up the awards the crew headed to another building to pick up portable radios for the State Convention and Dirigo State. Right photo, left to right, Dept. Judge Advocate, Jason Hall, long-time contact person at Yankee Communications Wayne Witham, and soon-to-be Commander Kirk Thurston. Again, the State Adjutant apparently is loading the vehicle while the photos were taken. Mr. Witham advised the crew that he had attended Boys State and his son also attended and have always spoken highly of this program.

The Adjutant Speaks

The Annual State Convention went very well with a record number in attendance. We received great feedback from many including the Auxiliary and the Sons of The American



PAUL
L'HEUREUX

Legion. They really enjoyed our new award that was presented to the Border Patrol for all that they do to protect the great State of Maine. (See photo on page 30). After the presentation, we were all educated on what the men and women do to protect our borders and how some are members of The American Legion. Awards and guest speakers then moved to the resolutions that were read and discussed and then voted on by those present at the convention. It has been many years since we had any resolutions, and to witness the discussion was exactly the process in which this American Legion was formed. Our founding members would be proud that the process still works 103 years later. The Resolutions are located on page 13 of this issue.

The Sons of The American Legion also joined us to listen to the guest speakers and had their presentation during our convention so that the Legionnaires could see what a great job they do to support not only their organization but the veterans in the State of Maine. Great comments and applause for what they do.

A very special award was given during the convention to our Department Finance Officer Greg Couture for his retirement. Greg carried the Department of Maine during some very challenging times, not only Covid -19 but helping us to revitalize posts that have had serious financial issues. He was always there to travel knowing that we were not going to be welcomed and well received but to get them back on track. His talent with finances and a great attitude helped us get the job done. Thank you, Greg, for your support of all 173 posts.

As the convention moved forward, out in the lobby the staff from Headquarters, Rachael, Keira, and our two

newest employees Rebecca and Jeanette greeted all who entered and assisted them with all the credentials and packets that were available to each of the 173 posts in the state. They brought a laptop computer and printer with the capability to remote directly to headquarters to answer and resolve many questions concerning membership and other department information. They are all indeed talented in different aspects of the operations.

I also had a chance to speak to the Department of Maine Auxiliary Secretary Michelle, which is my counterpart, and she also said that they had not expected the turnout and mentioned that the attitudes were great with much interaction going on. I asked about the noon buffet and Friday night's banquet, and apparently, she had not received any complaints and that many in attendance were very pleased with "Jeff's Banquet facility". They were also pleased with the unlimited coffee, ice water, and juice available during the convention. I guess it's the little things that can really make a difference.

On Sunday morning, we held our mandatory Department Executive Committee (DEC) meeting to deal with some mandatory convention issues. In my position, I have one major concern, and that is a quorum to actually conduct the meeting. The department officers could not believe the turnout for this meeting. It was the largest attendance in over a year with much feedback and ideas shared. These dedicated leaders stayed another night or traveled again to attend and conduct business that was required to be done. Even some of the replacements were in attendance in case someone was missing. Thank you all for making this a special day as we move forward with the challenges of the future.

The American Legion is changing, and we will have many challenges in the future days that we have never seen before. It will take special skills to lead us forward to succeed and a special attitude that is not about self but about the team. We cannot avoid those challenges if we look for this organization to care for those who come after us. Together, with those that have the skills to guide us, we will overcome these issues and become stronger in doing so. Remember, no rank among us and no "I" in team. Be safe, move FORWARD, and stay FOCUSED.

MEMBERSHIP IS



Judge Advocate

POLITICAL ENDORSEMENTS AND DONATIONS

Maine is gearing up for another round of elections at the State level. There is some information your Post should be aware of this time of year.

Article II, Section 2, of the National Constitution of The American Legion states, "The American Legion shall be absolutely nonpolitical and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment."

The National Charter, approved by Congress, also stipulates The American Legion as an organization "is nonpolitical" which is interpreted as "nonpartisan". Therefore, The American Legion as an organization is prohibited from contributing, helping, or endorsing a candidate, and putting political signs in front of a Post. A Legion member, as a private citizen, and not representing a Post or



JASON
HALL

The American Legion, can support a candidate by legal and ethical means. (TAL Charter-36 US Code §21706)

If your Post is housing candidates, ensure you remove or cover Legion emblems and flags to avoid any impression of endorsements. Every candidate should be presented with an equal opportunity at the same time to use the Post facilities on the same terms and conditions.

If a Legionnaire is attending a political event, the Legion cap (the official uniform) should be removed so there is no implication of endorsement by The

American Legion. Also, cover any article of clothing showing the Legion emblem or name.

If financial contributions are offered by candidates for political office, campaigns, action committees, or political parties, The American Legion should politely decline. Accepting contributions may be legal, but The American Legion must avoid perceptions of supporting any candidates or political parties.

To be eligible under our nonprofit status, the IRS mandates the strict nonpartisanship of all such activities by organizations eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions under Section 501(c)(19) of the Code. Failure to do so could endanger an American Legion post's nonprofit status. A nonpartisan organization does not support, oppose or provide aid to any candidate for public office or to any political party. In a nonpartisan drive, registration and voting assistance and information and materials must be

offered and made available to all, regardless of which candidate or party they support.

The American Legion values its independence and effectiveness on veterans' issues. Staying neutral on candidates or political parties is in a Post/District/Department's best interest.

The American Legion can take positions on issues and lobby for veterans' benefits and a strong America. We can support issues that impact The Four Pillars.

The American Legion is a nonpolitical, nonpartisan organization but advocates for all U.S. citizens to register and vote in all elections. American Legion Family members can download The American Legion's "Get Out the Vote" and "Vote, America" brochures at www.legion.org/vote/publications.

Historian's Bunker

HISTORIAN CONTEST RESULTS HAND POST ARTICLE GUIDELINES UPDATE

Hello once again. In this issue I will be providing Post Historians, and other Post article authors, the guidelines for the new Post Article Category in the Department of Maine History writing contests. Most of you are probably wondering why no one received an award for the Post Article Contest, especially after all the hype. Unfortunately, I had a small car accident two days prior to the scheduled contest judging and was unable to attend due to the lack of transportation. Because of the Article Contest being new, it was decided not to judge the submissions. Please don't despair however, the articles will be judged, and awards will be presented at the fall or winter Conference.

I would like to add my congratulations to the following awardees for their winning submissions in the 2021-2022 history contests. Your submissions reflect your hard work and commitment to your duty as a Post or District Historian. Your submissions will become the example for other Historians to follow.

- Post History Yearbook - War Memorial Post 30, Paul Satkowski
- Post History Narrative - Field Allen Post 148, David Tanguay
- Post Newsletter - Bi-Annual - Kin-

ney-Melquist Post 34, Jan C. Gaudio

- Post Newsletter - Monthly - Field Allen Post 148, David Tanguay

- Post Newsletter - Quarterly Small Post - Williams-Brazier Post 37, George Robinson, Jr.

- Post Newsletter - Quarterly Medium Post - War Memorial Post 30, Jeffrey Sukeforth

- District Newsletter - District 2, Cumberland County

- 103rd Anniversary Post Narrative - Bar Harbor Post 25, Paul Blackstone Thank you, each and everyone.

Below are the Post Article Guidelines. Please read these and follow them. They will be used to judge the Post Article Categories for next year. If you have any question down hesitate to contact me at robmainer@outlook.com or Tel: (207)790-2204.

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

Newsletter/Newspaper/Magazine Articles

A post newspaper, or magazine article newsletter, is a means for each post in the Department of Maine to get the word out to post membership, while adding to the history of a Post. This will help keep members informed of post activities as well as important news and information from the post and the American Legion. In addition, a post newspaper or magazine article can be used within the post's community, and surrounding area, to entice public participation in activities. A newsletter is a valuable recruiting source.

I – Basic Information

A newspaper or magazine article can be written by anyone at their post and cover any topic, as it relates to the post, i. e. history, activity, event, post member spotlight, etcetera. To qualify for the Depart-

ment of Maine Post Article Contest, the article must be published in newspaper and/or magazine in the Department of Maine "The Maine Legionnaire, Post Newsletter, or local newspaper(s). At a minimum, the article is to be one page long, not including photographs.

Use plain and unruled 8½ x 11 white and/or colored bond paper for your article. The articles should be computer generated on both sides of the paper using a printer. It is allowable to use a typewriter to produce a submission but not recommended. It is recommended that Microsoft Word be used for all typing and formatting. Margins are a must for neatness, readability, and standardization. The standard margin for articles will be one inch, all around.

Use single-spaced copy on pages with a three to six-space indentation for new paragraphs and single-spaced lines for photograph identifications. If you have any doubt of the spelling of a word, use a dictionary. Also double-check the spelling of all names.

The information found in any article is another link in the permanent record of a post and its history. This outline should be followed as closely as possible. It is to the editor's advantage to check any submission against the guidelines suggested here. These guidelines will be used to score all articles submitted to the annual Department of Maine Article Contest.

The submitted article will be accompanied by the Department of Maine Submission Form, SF-01. The form must be filled out in its entirety and be submitted to the Department of Maine Adjutant and Historian. Failure to submit SF-01 will result in the disqualification of the submission. A total of 3 articles from a post can be submitted. Only one submission form needs to be submitted with the articles but

the title of each submitted article must annotated on the SF-01.

The submitted article must be submitted in the format as stated above. Any articles submitted, that are copies of any printed publication, **WILL BE** disqualified from the competition.

The Judging Committee will score all submissions fairly and with impartiality. If any judge on the committee has an entry in any competition, they are judging that judge cannot judge his/her own entry. Categories will be judged on whole point awards for any category.

The History and Media Committee (HMC) has developed a Department of Maine scoresheet for the Post Article Contest. Scoring will be a three-way process. The first will simply be an "eyeball" judgment in which the weaker submissions will be removed from consideration. Secondly, the remaining submissions will be looked at closer and will be scored by the category score sheet, if needed. Thirdly, if scoring is done, and there is a tie in the scoring of the submissions, the Department of Maine Historian will make the final decision for the winning submission.

1) **Post Size Categories:** There are four categories that will be used in the scoring process. These are:

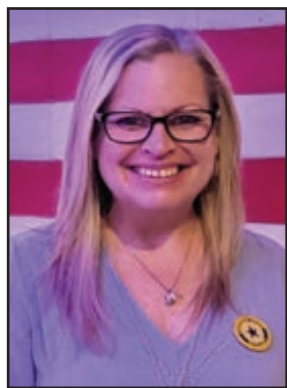
- a. Small Post - Post Membership of 1-100
- b. Medium Post - Post Membership of 101-200
- c. Large Post - Post Membership of 200+
- d. District

2) **Awards:** Plaques and certificates will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place awardees at the National Post Narrative History and Post Yearbook History Con-

[More on HISTORIAN'S BUNKER Page 7](#)

President's Message

Greetings on behalf of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Maine. I thank you for allowing us to have this platform to discuss all things Auxiliary. I look forward to working with Commander Thurston and the Department of Maine this coming year. I am ready to hit the ground running to talk about my Presidents Project for 2022-2023.



DEBRA RUMERY

My Presidents project for 2022-2023 will be called "You Will Never Walk Alone", where we will focus on the prevention and awareness of veteran suicide in the State of Maine. We will be collaborating with the VA in Togus with two programs. One is Unit 63, which is the psychiatric ward, and the VA Maine Suicide Prevention Program and Outreach at Togus.

One of the big ways that we will be raising funds and awareness is the You Will Never Walk Alone Walk-a-Thon. Donations will be used to enhance the lives of the veterans that are patients at Unit 63. We will also be working with the VA Maine Suicide Prevention Program and Outreach at Togus. This office works with the veterans on Unit 63 but they have a massive community outreach working with local police, DHHS and other agencies working on suicide prevention statewide. Donations will assist with creating resource kits that are distributed statewide to help with prevention. Additionally, when patients are discharged, they are given resource bags and some receive clothing and shoes. Donations can help purchase items to go into the resource bags, such as sunscreen, bandages, informational pamphlets and other basic necessities. If you are interested in participating, or would like more information, please reach out to me. All this plus so much more can be expected from the Auxiliary this year! Stay tuned!

For God and Country,
Debra A. Rumery
President 2022-2023

American Legion Auxiliary Department of Maine



Suicide Awareness and Prevention 2022—2023 Department President's Project YOU WILL NEVER WALK ALONE

In 2022 it is estimated that 17 veterans commit suicide on a daily basis.

How do we help?

Togus VA Unit 63 is home to some of Maine's vulnerable veterans. There are a multitude of ideas and needed items your donations can help with for Unit 63. We are not asking for items to be donated, only monetary donations to purchase items requested by Togus as the needs change on a regular basis.

Ideas for Unit 63

Stationary items, Slippers, Greeting cards (use 200-300 per month), Puzzles, Toiletries (full-size), DVDs, Paperback books, Games, Possible creation of a library on Unit 63, Sensory items, Christmas gifts for residents, Therapeutic fish tank, Sponsor events, such as pizza parties; movie nights, Bait/tackle boxes, Drawing pads (non-spiral bound), Nintendo Switches w/extra controllers.

Additionally, when patients are discharged they are given resource bags and some receive clothing and shoes. Donations can help purchase items to go into the resource bags, such as sunscreen, bandages, informational pamphlets and other

basic necessities.

We will also be working with VA Maine Suicide Prevention Program and Outreach at Togus.

This office works with veterans on Unit 63, but they also have a massive community outreach working with local police, NAMI, DHHS, CBOCs and other agencies working on suicide prevention statewide.

Your donations can assist with creating resource kits that are distributed statewide to help in prevention efforts.

Start your plans today to hold a fundraiser for this much needed project for our veterans.

We're kicking off fundraising efforts with the idea of holding walk-a-thons; please see the walk-a-thon flyer for further information. However, that is only one idea of how to raise funds. Be creative as you always are.

Send all donations to Maine ALA, earmarked "President's Project" to Maine ALA, 5 Verti Drive, Suite B, Winslow, ME 04901.

SUICIDE PREVENTION IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS



Department of Maine Auxiliary 1st Vice President Debra Rumery, right, stands with Dept. Auxiliary Historian Stasi Heitmann, left, during the Annual State Convention held in Brewer June 10-12. Debra was sworn in as the 2022-23 Dept. of Maine Auxiliary President on June 11.

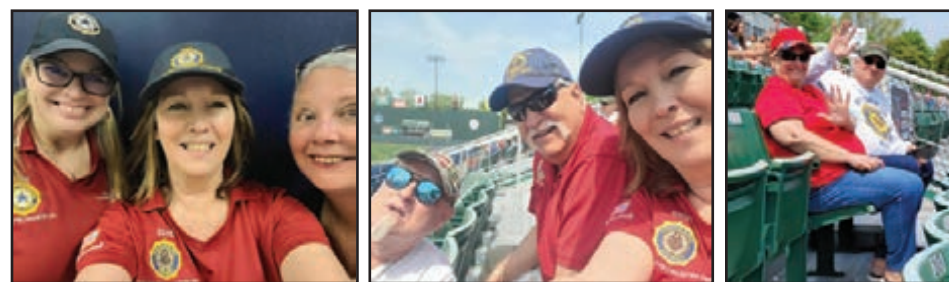


Outgoing Auxiliary President Audrey L'Heureux, right, and Dept. Sgt.-at-Arms Leroy McKenzie's daughter Lux, left, at the Annual State Convention June 11.

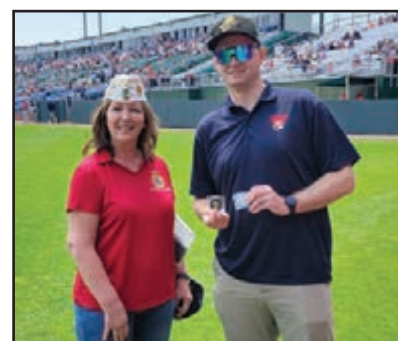
American Legion Family Fun Time at the Sea Dogs

May 21st was American Legion Day at Hadlock Field in Portland! What a great time spent with our American Legion Family! Many Posts, Units, and Squadrons were represented

throughout Maine. Thank you to Sea Dogs Allan Barker for supporting the Americanism Officer Patricia Thurston in organizing this event. Sea Dogs won 4 to 0!



May 21st Legion Family Fun: Left photo: Auxiliary 1st Vice President/current Auxiliary President Debra Rumery. Middle photo: Left to right, Rumford Post 24 Adjutant Bill Hobson, Dept. 1st Vice Comdr./current Dept. Commander Kirk Thurston, and Dept. Americanism Officer/current 2nd Vice Cmdr. Patricia Thurston. Right photo: Jeri Greenwell, left, and Dept. Finance Officer Eugene Connolly, right.



Legion Coin Presentation: Americanism Officer/current 2nd Vice Commander Tricia Thurston presents Allan Barker Legion coins to thank him for organizing American Legion Day at Hadlock Field on May 21.

“HISTORIAN BUNKER”

(Continued from Page 5)

tests. In addition, a Certificate of Honorable Mention may be awarded at the discretion of the National Historian. Certificates of participation will be awarded to all other participants.

Plaques and certificates will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place winners at the Department of Maine Post Narrative History and Post Yearbook History Contests. In addition, a Certificate of Honorable Mention may be awarded at the discretion of the Media and Communication Committee. Certificates of participation will be awarded to all other participants.

- 1st Place-Plaque & Certificate
- 2nd Place-Certificate
- 3rd Place-Certificate
- Honorable Mention-Certificate
- Participation-Certificate

II – Scoring

1) Article Title and Author Name: 5 Points - The article should have a title and the author’s name. A title should be something that a reader can see what the topic of the article will be while being catchy enough to draw the viewer to read the arti-

cle. The font size used for the title should be the largest size in the article. Scoring will total forty (40) points. There is an additional five (5) bonus points that the judges can award for something original, or eye-catching, as they read the article.

2) Department of Maine Submission Form, SF-01: 1 Point

3) Article Continuity: 4 Points

a. Fonts: 1 Point - Keep the font the same throughout the article. The author may use a font color to highlight article titles and other areas of interest. Do remember that the article should look the same as it was submitted for publication to Department of Maine or local publications.

b. Layout: 1 Point - Articles should be in a single page format, not columns. It is up to the publication submitted to in deciding how they will publish the article. Keep overall continuity in mind.

c. Content: 2 Points - Content should be a topic that is relevant to the Legion and the Post. There are many topics that can be utilized within the content of a publication. Remember to tell the story of the topic.

d. Readability: 4 Points - Each article should be easy to read and easily

followed. The following categories are important in publishing a newsletter that can be easily read and followed. The article can be written in the first, if the article is from the authors point of view. The third person will be used for all other stories.

Compound sentences should not be used in the writing style. This does not mean that a two-sentence compound cannot be used, just do not overuse it. For scoring purposes, a compound sentence consists of three, or more, sentences joined in some way, such as “and,” to make one sentence.

- Correct Grammar Usage: 1 Point
- Check spelling: 1 Point
- Check punctuation: 1 Point
- Check that the correct acronyms are used: 1 Point

e. Photographs: 6 Points - Photographs, whether color or black and white, should be used. Blurry and fuzzy photos are a distraction and will take away from the overall continuity and readability of an article. When identifying individuals do so from left to the right. There is a total of 10 points to be awarded for this section. Identification of photos should use the following sequence of information and be consistent throughout the newsletter.

- Identification
- Name(s): (Full proper name – no nicknames): 1 Point
- Occasion: 1 Point
- Location: 1 Point
- Date: 1 Point
- Photo Credit: 1 Point
- Photo Clarity: 1 Point

f. Tie Breaker: 5 Points - In the event of a tie in the article competition, the Department of Maine Historian issue a point to one of the tied articles in order to break the tie.

4) Score Sheets: If an author wishes to score their own article before submission, please email the Department of Maine Historian and he/she will forward a copy of the score sheet to the requestor. Besides their use for scoring in the Post Article Contest, the annotated score sheets should be used as an education tool for each author to write an improved article for the following competition year. In addition to the plaque and Certificate of Appreciation being presented at a Maine Department Convention, a copy of the contestant’s scoresheet will be included in the presentation folder.

“A ‘SECOND’ LOOK”

(Continued from Page 3)

grams, Services, Members, Media, and Contact. Under the Media tab, you will find many training opportunities that include Training Tuesdays, Training in

a Box, and more. The possibilities are endless.

My current email and phone number are in the directory; please reach out if needed.

Thank you for reading and I look forward to seeing everyone soon.

“COMMANDER’S COMMENTS”

(Continued from Page 2)

Be the One to:

- Ask veterans in your life how they are doing.
- Listen when a veteran needs to talk.
- Reach out when a veteran is struggling.

Pledge to Be the One at betheone.org by signing up for email updates.

My commander’s project is Operation Reboot Outdoors (ORO). In ORO President Dan Waite’s own words “I am here, running Operation Reboot Outdoors because I found my way out of the darkness. I have made it through missions on the battlefield, alongside my brothers and sisters, and I found a new battle here at home. I am here, on this battlefield, on a mission to help my brothers and sisters find true North. My favorite therapy is found in the wilderness and on the water. My medicine is the outdoors, and I am committed to showing my Veteran brothers and sisters the value the outdoors has added to my civilian life. Nature offers me the serenity and clarity I have not been able to find in other forms of treatment. I have a genuine love of the outdoors, which I want to share with all veterans looking to find relief, focus, and camaraderie.” We offer hunting and fishing trips to Veterans at no cost and with no hidden fees. We have registered Maine Guides on our team, and we are focused 100% on bringing the experience of our natural environment to veterans. This is a Brotherhood, and we are committed to helping veterans and active duty military only. We will also offer many other recreational adventures that do not involve hunting and fishing.

I truly believe that our Mission is making a difference in our communities

and the lives of the men and women we serve. We are helping close the gap between military and civilian life that claims the lives of 17 heroes a day. Here at ORO, we provide a sense of security and belonging for those who suffer combat trauma and physical limitations. We treat each other equally, regardless of ability, and ensure a safe and memorable experience by welcoming all Veterans and having their six here and once they go home. Operation ReBoot Outdoors will continue to strive to be one of the best Outdoor-focused organizations for Veterans that our country has ever seen.”

If you are interested in supporting this great program, then send your donation to Department at 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, 04901. Write on the memo line of your check Commander’s Project ORO. Posts have various ways to raise money, whether it is having suppers, dances, or even car washes. Every little bit helps! Thank you all in advance for supporting this great group of volunteers.

Dirigo State, to me, was a great success. Thank you to all involved in making this program what it has become. I spent most of the week with the delegates and those young adults were extremely energized from day one to the end. Our future looks great with the potential leaders that attended this year. Next year I encourage you to attend as many events as you can and see these delegates in action. You will be impressed.

We have a wonderful American Legion Family (TEAM MAINE), I look forward to the challenges, and joys this year will bring. I also, look forward to working with every one of you. I challenge you all to have a productive year and have fun while doing it. Now lets’ get started! Until we meet again, “Fair Winds and Following Seas.”

Kirk Thurston Department of Maine Commander's Project OPERATION REBOOT OUTDOORS Show Your Support by Donating Today!

Operation ReBoot Outdoors invites you to join in their Mission to provide outdoor recreational therapy to Veterans, service members, and law enforcement personnel



who struggle with trauma from war or traumatic events serving our nation and our communities. Operation ReBoot Outdoors shows these heroes they can find purpose after service through the outdoors as well as empowerment in camaraderie. We hope you will be the one to join our Mission to stop the high percentage of suicides that plague our families, community, and country.

We hope that you will “Be the One” to reach out to a veteran and to support Operation Reboot Outdoors!

Support the American Legion Commander's Project!

Please send and make all donations payable to:

**American Legion Dept of Maine
5 Verti Drive
Winslow, Maine 04901**

Remember to earmark check for
Commanders Project O.R.O.



Honoring Our Commitment to Veterans with Resources and Recognition

Recently, I attended a White House signing ceremony for three bills I championed to help ensure that America's veterans receive the benefits, resources, and recognition they earned through their service to our country. It was a pleasure to witness the President sign into law two important bills that will strengthen breast cancer detection and prevention services, and one to pay tribute to the courageous Army Ranger veterans of World War II.

Women are the fastest-growing part of our veteran population. The bipartisan MAMMO for Veterans Act I co-authored will expand veterans' access to high-quality breast cancer screening and lifesaving cancer care. Specifically, the law will require the Department of Veterans Affairs to develop a strategic plan to improve breast imaging services, create a telemammography pilot program for veterans in areas where VA does not offer in-house mammography, and expand veterans' access to clinical trials through partnerships with the National Cancer Institute.

As a companion to that bill, the President also signed the SERVICE Act of 2021. This legislation expands eligibility for VA mammography screenings to veterans who served in areas associated



**SENATOR
SUSAN COLLINS**

with burn pits and other toxic exposures. The U.S. Army Rangers Veterans of WWII Congressional Gold Medal Act provides for the award of a Congressional Gold Medal to World War II Army Rangers in recognition of their heroic service. Approximately 16 million Americans served in the U.S. military during that war. Among those soldiers, only 7,000 were Rangers. Of that elite group, there are now just a handful of living World War II Rangers left.

Those Rangers distinguished themselves in both the European and Pacific theaters. They are perhaps best known for their astonishing bravery and determination on D-Day, when they scaled the sheer 100-foot cliffs at Point du Hoc to eliminate the German threat to the amphibious landings at Omaha and Utah

beaches below. Six months later in the Philippines, another Ranger battalion carried out a daring operation behind enemy lines to rescue more than 500 Allied POWs from a Japanese prison camp. That legendary special-operations unit established a legacy that continues to inspire us eight decades later.

In addition, both chambers of Congress have overwhelmingly passed historic legislation to address toxic exposure among service members. The Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act of 2022 will ensure all generations of toxic-exposed veterans receive the health care and benefits which they have earned.

The bill is named after Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson, who deployed to Kosovo and Iraq with the Ohio National Guard. Tragically, he died in 2020 from toxic exposure as a result of his military service. Among its many priorities, the PACT Act will expand VA health care eligibility to Post-9/11 combat veterans, which includes more than 3.5 million toxic-exposed veterans. It will add 23 burn pit and toxic exposure-related conditions to VA's list of service presumptions, and it will expand presumptions related to Agent Orange exposure to in-

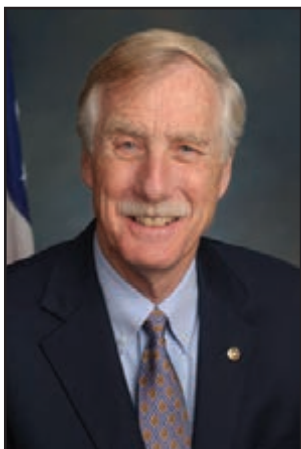
clude Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Guam, American Samoa, and Johnston Atoll. Additionally, it will strengthen federal research on toxic exposure, improve VA's resources for toxic-exposed veterans, and expand training for VA health care and benefits professionals.

The brave men and women who have served in our military put themselves in harm's way, and it is our responsibility to provide them with the highest quality health care for any illnesses linked to their military service. For far too long, veterans exposed to toxic substances such as Agent Orange and burn pits during their deployments have not received the recognition or resources they needed. This comprehensive legislation puts us on the path to fulfilling the enormous debt we owe these veterans by expanding critical research on toxic exposure and providing relief to toxic-exposed veterans who may be experiencing serious illnesses and debilitating symptoms.

Our nation has a duty to honor the courage and sacrifices of those who serve, not just with words, but also with actions. As a Senator and the grateful daughter of a veteran, I am committed to ensuring that the government keeps that sacred obligation.

Unpayable Debt of Gratitude Owed to Veterans in Return for Their Personal Sacrifices

For generations, America's men and women in uniform like you have made immense personal sacrifices to defend our country and our freedoms. We owe an unpayable debt of gratitude, and have a solemn responsibility to serve our veterans with the same dedication with which you served us. This means en-



**SENATOR
ANGUS KING**

suring you have world-class benefits, honoring your service, and addressing the issues that matter to you.

Among the most pressing issues facing our veteran community is an epidemic of suicides – with more veterans taking their own lives in 2019 alone than to combat during the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars combined. Congress, the Department of Defense, and the administration all need to step up to urgently take on this crisis. There is no one easy solution – it's going to take a coordinated effort that addresses the problem from all angles. That's why I've been meeting with veterans, officials, and experts to learn more about what's driving the epidemic, and how we can beat it.

A few months ago, I discussed this

crisis with Maine Air Force veteran Chris McGhee, during a regular Veterans History Project interview I conduct in partnership with the Library of Congress. Chris works as a community veteran advocate and wisely suggested that America could better understand this crisis by having the Pentagon study suicides by branch, occupation, and location – that way we could identify who is most at-risk.

Following our conversation, I was able to make Chris' suggestion a reality in the draft National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) – annual legislation that addresses the pressing security challenges facing our country and supports our Armed Forces. When passed, the NDAA will require the Department of Defense to study suicide among our

military ranks and publicly release their findings. This will allow us to more effectively allocate resources for prevention, while also giving servicemembers a better sense of the risks they face.

This won't completely solve the crises of veteran and servicemember suicide, but it would be a real step in the right direction and save lives. I thank Chris for his advocacy on this issue and for his selfless service.

If you have any thoughts for how we can take on this issue, or any other facing Maine veterans, please let me know. You can email my Director of Outreach at Teague_Morris@king.senate.gov or call my office at (202) 224-5344. I hope to hear from you on ways to support our state's veteran community.

Service Office Update

Hello from the Service Office, since my last article we have seen the biggest bill to help veterans get approved by both the house and the senate. I know that a lot of legionnaires in Maine that contacted their district



**SERVICE OFFICER
CARL CURTIS**

reps to help push the bill through. It is now waiting to go to the President's desk for signature. A big thank you to all who assisted in this. The benefits of the bill are too many to mention so I will just list a few. It allows presumptive service connection for those who served in Thailand, Guam, and other places in Southeast Asia for Agent Orange exposure. It also increases medical coverage for 911 veterans from 5 to 10 years.

There have been three conditions that have been added to the presumptive condition list for agent orange exposure. They are Bladder Cancer, Hypothyroidism, and Parkinsonism.

The VA also added three conditions to the presumptive condition list for Veterans that served in the Southwest Asia theater of operations during the Persian Gulf War, and/or Afghanistan and Uzbekistan after September 19, 2001. The Southwest Asia theater of operations refers to Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the neutral zone between Iraq and Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, the Gulf of Aden, the Gulf of Oman, the Persian Gulf, the Arabian Sea, the Red Sea, and the airspace above these locations. Those conditions are Asthma, rhinitis, and sinusitis.

The last change I want to highlight is to the motor vehicle excise tax exemption for those veterans who are 100% permanent and total disabled through the VA. The entitlement is for one vehicle per year. Please stop by your local town hall for additional information.

In the last article, I talked about the problem with the contracted companies that are handling most of the compensation and pension exams for the VA. As an update, I can tell you that the situation is improving. That does not mean that the system is running

smoothly. It means that the delay is less than it was and that I am hearing less from veterans that they are told to leave the state of Maine for an exam. If you come across a veteran that was told he must travel outside the state for an exam, please let me know.

If you would like the Department Service Officer to attend your district meeting or a post open house to help attract new members, please give us a call.

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 the 19th of February, 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. You do not have to be a post-service officer to attend training. You just have to care and want to make a difference. 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. The newsletter has turned into the American Legion Department of Maine Service Office Facebook page. Please like the page and check it often to stay up to date on what is happening with the service office and new information from VA.

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 1 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 re-submitting 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, or julie.kern@va.gov. We are here to assist you Monday through Thursday, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm, on Friday the hours are from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. 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, 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.



Preventing VA Closures in Rural Maine and Across the Country

Whether veterans live in a city or a rural community, we have a duty



CONGRESSMAN
JARED GOLDEN

to honor their service and sacrifice. I've been concerned recently with re-

pe a t e d threats to rural veterans' health care here in Maine.

Earlier this year, the Maine Veterans Homes facilities in Caribou and Machias nearly closed before the state legislature was forced to step in. And in March, bureaucrats in Washington quietly recommended closing VA facilities in rural communities across the country, including three here in our state.

What's the story on these recommendations? In 2018, before I was elected, Congress passed a bill that created a panel called the Asset and Infrastructure (AIR) Commission and tasked it with processing recommendations to 'streamline' VA facilities. We found out a few months ago that those recommendations include the proposed closure of the CBOCs in Houlton, Fort Kent, and Rumford, and the closures of the emergency department and community and residential care programs at Togus.

Closing these facilities would put health care further out of reach for many Maine veterans, forcing them to drive even further than they already do for VA care. We can't let that happen.

To prevent these closures, I have been working across the aisle with a representative from West Virginia to introduce a bipartisan bill that will eliminate the AIR commission and the threat that it posed

to these facilities Maine veterans rely on for health care.

I know that Mainers are dedicated to supporting our veterans and that they do not want Congress to reduce access to health care for veterans. I have heard from veterans' organizations across the state, including the American Legion, about the impact these closures would have on your members.

Congress should not have created this commission in the first place, and my bipartisan bill would eliminate the AIR Commission before it has the chance to act on these misguided recommendations to close VA healthcare facilities. I'm committed to continue working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to stop this failure of veteran care before it continues.

In the meantime, if you or someone you know could use help from our team, please reach out to our team specializing in veteran's issues by calling 207-492-6009 or via email. We've got a team dedicated to helping you solve problems with the VA and other programs affecting vets.

I also know that times are tough right now and costs are rising. Even if it is not related to your service, my team and I are here to help. Please let us know if we can help you solve problems you or your family is having with Medicare, Social Security, the VA, or other federal programs or agencies.

My staff and I want to hear from you. If we can be of assistance, please reach out at the above number, or directly to one of our offices below:

- Bangor Office: 6 State Street, Bangor ME 04401. Phone: (207) 249-7400
- Caribou Office: 7 Hatch Drive, Suite 230, Caribou ME 04736. Phone: (207) 492-6009
- Lewiston Office: 179 Lisbon Street, Lewiston ME 04240. Phone: (207) 241-6767
- Washington Office: 1223 Longworth HOB, Washington DC 20515. Phone: (202) 225-2943

You can also send us an email at: golden.house.gov/contact/email-me

Shop "AmazonSmile" & Give While You Shop!

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 <https://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 Le-

gion Department of Maine Foundation.

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

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

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

Shop "AmazonSmile"
and make a difference Today!

"BE THE ONE" (Continued from Page 1)

For a spouse, family member or caretaker, it means recognizing when the veteran is struggling and getting them the help they need. You are in a position to not only see the risk but have the trust of the veteran in his or her time of crisis. For fellow veterans, friends and other civilians, it also means being proactive to get the veteran the help they need. Don't assume someone else will act. Take the initiative.

In the coming months, National Headquarters will roll out resources, stories of how posts and members are demonstrating how they are working to minimize the veteran suicide rate. For now,

you can find additional information here. I also encourage you to listen or watch The American Legion Tango Alpha Lima podcasts this month as they are all dedicated to the topic of suicide prevention. The episodes are published each Tuesday morning and can be found here.

As part of this initiative, I encourage you to share how you or your post is promoting Be the One, supporting programs that help those suffering from PTSD and similar initiatives. Share your stories on our Legiontown website.

Together, we can all make a difference in the lives of veterans. That is why The American Legion is known as ...

Veterans Strengthening America.
James Troiola
National Commander
The American Legion

103 Percent Membership Award

American Legion National Commander Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola will award his national commander "Be the One" membership incentive pin to any post, district, county, division or department commander, or



membership chairman, who achieves 103 percent of their assigned membership goal for 2023.

Download the 103% membership award form by visiting <https://www.legion.org/commander/103percent>

100% American Legion Family Ribbon

American Legion National Commander Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola will award his 100% American Legion Family Ribbon to any American Legion Family that achieves 100 percent membership by the 2023 100% membership target date. For this award, the Legion Family is defined as a post and/or any combination of an Auxiliary unit or Sons squadron. Each must achieve 100% membership to qualify for the award.

The department adjutant will transmit information to:

The American Legion National Headquarters

Attn: Internal Affairs & Membership
P.O. Box 1055

Indianapolis, IN 46206-1055

Download the 100% American Legion Family Ribbon Form by visiting <https://www.legion.org/commander/ribbon>

National Commander's Pin Incentive Program

American Legion National Commander Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola will award his national commander "Be The One" membership excellence pin to any Legionnaire who obtains three new members into The American Legion.

A new member is any eligible person joining for the 2023 membership year who was not a member of The American Legion during the 2022 membership year. Transfers do not count as new members.

Each member listed must be eligible

for membership in The American Legion. Forward names of Sons of The American Legion members or Auxiliary members to your squadron or unit for use in their respective incentive programs.

Only one pin will be awarded per individual. Upon receipt, national membership staff will confirm the names in the national database and mail the pin directly to the person who earned it.

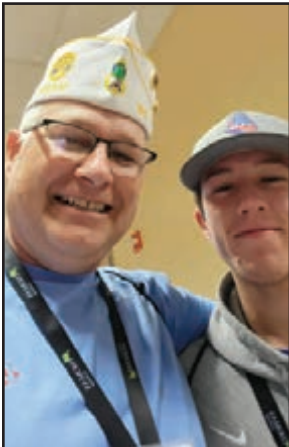
Download the "Be the One" membership incentive form by visiting <https://www.legion.org/commander/pin>



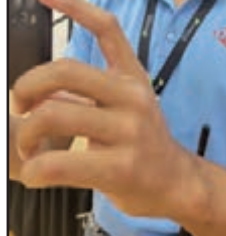


Dirigo State Highlights

Thomas College, Waterville
June 19-24, 2022



Dirigo State Governor Odora Olise takes the Oath of Office (left photo) and receives a congratulatory handshake from Dept. Commander Kirk Thurston (right photo).



2022 Dirigo State Winners

Award	Delegate's Name	Dirigo Town	Maine Town
Boys Nation Delegate #1	Alecxsander Freitas	Blaine	Naples
Boys Nation Delegate #2	Peter VanOverbeke	Chamberlain	Winterport
Boys Nation Alternate #1	Gabriel Despradel	Blaine	Auburn
Boys Nation Alternate #2	Atticus Simpson-Brown	Pinkham	Arrowsic
Girls Nation Delegate #1	Adora Olise	Pinkham	Kennebunk
Girls Nation Delegate #2	Kristen Merrill	Blaine	Augusta
Girls Nation Alternate #1	Lainey Bell	King	Winslow
Girls Nation Alternate #2	Harper Howell	Pinkham	York
The American Legion Scholarship Winner	Austin Sellinger	King	Auburn
The American Legion Scholarship Alternate	Payton Blagdon	Daggett	Wiscasset
ALA Scholarship Winner	Tessa Hartley	Chamberlain	Holden
ALA Scholarship Alternate	Greta Paulding	Daggett	Windham
Samsung Scholarship - Boy	N/A		
Samsung Scholarship - Girl	Cynthia Shelmerdine	Muskie	Warren
Governor	Adora Olise	Pinkham	Kennebunk
Senate President	Peter VanOverbeke	Chamberlain	Winterport
Speaker of the House	Saber Hanington	Muskie	Windsor
Chief Justice	Gabrielle Gladu	Pinkham	Lewiston
Municipal Best Citizens			
Blaine	Kristen Merrill		Augusta
Blaine	Jack Smart		So. Portland
Chamberlain	Elizabeth Roberts		Unity
Chamberlain	Peter VanOverbeke		Winterport
Daggett	Ava Klein		Freeport
Daggett	Brendan Palmer		Norway
King	Lainey Bell		Winslow
King	Natalie Emmerson		Woolwich
Muskie	Lucas Cousins		Hampden
Muskie	Saber Hanington		Windsor
Pinkham	Gabrielle Gladu		Lewiston
Pinkham	Helena Kay		Lisbon Falls



Posting The Colors: During the Graduation Ceremony for Dirigo State, held June 24 at Thomas College in Waterville, the American Flag was posted by members of The Maine Warden Service Color Guard. Those dedicated members, left to right, Justine Fowlie, Tim Coombs, Brandon Sperry, and Kris Barboza. On behalf of all members of the Maine American Legion Family, we thank them for the continued support that they have shown year after year.

103rd Annual State Convention Award Presentations

June 10-11 at Jeff's Catering & Event Center, Brewer



Law Officer Of The Year Brandon N. George, Naples



Firefighter Of The Year Ass't Chief Jerry Harjula, So. Thomaston Fire Dept.



EMT Of The Year Lieutenant Joseph D. Lemont, Durham



Veterans Empl. & Education Commission Camden Maine Police Dept.

Dispatcher Of The Year ([see pg. 2](#)) | **Nat'l Security Award** ([see pg. 30](#))



Post Service Officer Of The Year Eve Lynn Powell & Ryan Moore (not shown), Milo Post 41.



James V. Day Scholarship: Elise Worth of Sabattus is awarded one of two \$500 James V. Day Scholarships from Department Commander Debra Couture. Elly Sirois of Fort Kent who was unable to attend received the 2nd James V. Day Scholarship award.



Americanism Awards: Left photo: David Tanguay, center, accepts the Americanism Award on behalf of Windham Post 148. Right photo: Leroy McKenzie, center, receives the Americanism Award on behalf of Eagle Lake Post 176. Presenting the awards is Americanism Officer Patricia Thurston, left, and Department Commander Debra Couture, right.



1st Pl. Post Narrative Windham Post 148 David Tanguay.



103rd Anniversary Post Narrative Bar Harbor Post 25 Paul Blackstone.



1st Pl. Post Article (Large) Camden Post 30 Jeffrey Sukeforth.



1st Pl. District Newsletter: District 2 (Cumberland Cty). Receiving award, District Two Commander Phil Ceaser, left, and District 2 Adjutant Dave Tanguay.



1st Pl. Post Article (Medium) Windham Post 148 David Tanguay.



Humanitarian Award Gary Dolloff, Rumford

Convention Awards presented by Department Commander Debra Couture. History Awards presented by Department Historian George Robinson, Jr.



Son's of The American Legion 100% Membership Awards



SAL Award: Son's of the American Legion Director Mike Hustus, left, receives Special Achievement award from Department Adjutant Paul L'Heureux for obtaining 100% membership for the Son's of the American Legion. At the podium is SAL Adjutant Russ Taylor.



Auxiliary Award: Department Commander Debra Couture, left, presents Department of Maine Auxiliary President Audrey L'Heureux The American Legion Auxiliary President's award for her achievement as Auxiliary President 2021-2022.

State Convention Awards

Brewer, Maine June 10-11, 2022

Convention Awards

2022 Children & Youth Scholarship - \$500 scholarships: Laila Adawadlar of Springvale, Mya Grant of Lewiston, Alice Mary Skiff of Newcastle, Rowan Thor Hurlburt of Lincolnville, Rachael Hastey of Sullivan, Elly Sirois of Fort Kent.

2022 Daniel E. Lambert Scholarship - \$1000 scholarships: John "Jack" Cesario of North Berwick, Tucker Edward Gagnon of Brunswick.

2022 James V. Day Scholarship - \$500 scholarships: Elly Sirois of Fort Kent, Elise Worth of Sabattus

2022 Post Americanism & Youth Program Award to Smart-Soucise Post 176, Eagle Lake; Field-Allen Post 148, Windham.

2022 Humanitarian Legionnaire Award to Gary Dolloff, Rumford

2022 Humanitarian Citizen Award to Roger C. White, Rumford

2022 Educator of the Year Award to Amanda Boyce, West Gardiner, Winthrop High School

2022 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award to Officer Brandon N. George, Naples

2022 Firefighter of the Year Award to Assistant Chief Jerry Harjula, So Thomaston Fire Dept

2022 EMT/Paramedic of the Year Award to Lieutenant Joseph D Lemont, Durham

2022 Dispatcher of the Year Award to Tracie Webster, Thomaston

2022 National Public Service Award to Veterans Employment & Education Commission: Camden Maine Police Department

2022 National Security Award to U.S. Border Patrol – Houlton Sector (William J. Maddocks received award on behalf of Maine Sector)

2022 Outstanding Post Command-

er (Tony's Tiger Award) to Steven Girard, Westbrook Post 197

2022 Outstanding District Commander (Roger's Rangers Award) to Leroy McKenzie, District 17

2022 Post Adjutant of the Year Award to Lori Simard, Auburn Post 153

2022 Legionnaire of the Year Award to Dave Tanguay, Windham Post 48

2022 Post Service Officer of the Year Award to Eve Lyn Powell & Ryan Moore, Milo Post 41

Department Officer Awards 2021-2022: *Historian* to George Robinson, Jr., Thomaston; *1st Vice* to Kirk Thurston, Rumford; *2nd Vice* to Al McKay, Damariscotta

2022 Department Finance Officer Award to Gregory Couture, West Gardiner

2022 4th Estate Awards (newspaper) to Machias Valley News, Sarah Craighead Dedmon; The Quoddy Tides, Edward French

2022 4th Estate Awards (radio) to WLOB Radio, Ray Richardson

2022 4th Estate Awards (television) to Channel 6 News WCSH, Sam Rogers

2022 Post Narrative Award to David Tanguay, Field-Allen Post 148, Windham,

2022 Post History Yearbook Award to Paul Satkowski, War Memorial Post 30, Camden,

2022 Post Newsletters – Bi-Annual to Jan C Gaudio, Kinney-Melquist Post 34, St. George,

2022 Post Newsletters – Monthly to David Tanguay, Field-Allen Post 148, Windham,

2022 Post Newsletters – Quarterly, Small Category to Williams-Brazier Post 37, Thomaston, George Robinson, Jr.

2022 Post Newsletters – Quarterly, Medium Category to Jeff Sukeforth, War Memorial Post 30, Camden,

2022 District Newsletter to District 2, Cumberland County

2022 Post Article - Medium Category to David Tanguay, Field-Allen Post 148, Windham,

2022 Post Article - Large Category to Jeff Sukeforth, War Memorial Post 30, Camden,

2022 103rd Anniversary Post Narrative to Paul Blackstone, Bar Harbor Post 25

2022 Legion Family Awards: *American Legion Auxiliary* to Auxiliary President Audrey L'Heureux; *Sons of The American Legion* to SAL Detachment Commander Mike Hustus; *Legion Riders* to Rider Director Mike Lallemand.

2022 Post Excellence Awards to George Edwin Kirk Post 25, Bar Harbor; Chadbourne-Merrill Post 29, Dover-Foxcroft; War Memorial Post 30, Camden; Stewart P. Morrill Post 35, So.Portland; Joseph P. Chaisson Post 41, Milo; Frank E. Whitmore Post 63, Ellsworth; Towne-Holmbom Post 116, Monson; Field-Allen Post 148, Windham; Charles C. Lilly 149, Waldoboro.

2021-2022 Recruiter of the Year Award to David Tanguay, Windham Post 148

100% Post Membership by Dec. 31, 2021, Honor Ribbons to George Edwin Kirk Post 25, Bar Harbor; Tighe-Beaudoin-Farley Post 26, Biddeford; Stewart P. Morrill Post 35, South Portland; Cobscook Post 59, Pembroke; Lopeman-Potts Post 67, Bridgton; Rodney Stinson Post 102, Stonington; Barrows-Skidgel Post 105, Newport; Field-Allen Post 148, Windham; Willett-McKenney Post 186, Clinton; Smart-Soucise Post 176, Eagle Lake; Hampden Memorial Post 213,

Hampden.

2021 Goal to Grow – 30 Days Prior to Nat'l Convention (July 30, 2021) to Fort Pepperrell Post CN09, St. John's NF Canada; Goodrich-Caldwell Post 6, Hallowell; Narraguagus Post 8, Cherryfield; Feeney-Groves Post 13, East Millinocket; Grover-Hinckley Post 14, Fairfield; Woodcock-Cassie-Coombs Post 18, Vinalhaven; Smith-Tobey Post 21, Bath; Baird-Calderwood-Morrison-Parson Post 33, North Haven; Kinney-Melquist Post 34, St. George; Williams-Brazier Post 37, Thomaston; Alfred W. Maxwell Jr Post 40, Winthrop; Rex L. McKenney Post 45, Danforth; Decker-Simmons Post 51, Oakland; Bradford-Sortwell-Wright Post 54, Wiscasset; John D. Long Post 58, Buckfield; Cobscook Post 59, Pembroke; Prescott-Fairbanks Post 64, Phillips; Lopeman-Potts Post 67, Bridgton; Tedd-Lait Post 75, Old Town; Cecil R. Cole Post 94, Greenville; Philip S. Bryant Memorial Post 111, Turner; Rangley Lakes Post 120, Rangley; Field-Allen Post 148, Windham; Smart-Soucise Post 176, Eagle Lake; Boynton-Webber Post 179, South China; Jandreau-Connors Post 180, St. Francis; Westbrook Memorial Post 197, Westbrook; Corey Edwin Garver Post 202, Topsham; Phippsburg Memorial Post 216, Phippsburg.

Team 100 American Legion Family Ribbons to Auburn Post 153

Silver Brigade Membership Award to Auburn Post 153 Adjutant Lori Simard & Westbrook Post 197 Commander Steve Girard

Certificate of Meritorious Service to Field-Allen Post 148, Windham

All-Time High Award to Field-Allen Post 148, Windham

2022 Resolutions Action Taken at State Convention

The American Legion, Department of Maine Resolutions Vote--Convention Floor, June 11, 2022

Resolution No. 1 Changing Department Convention Voting Resolution - Resolution Committee votes ought to pass as written. **MOTION PASSED**

Resolution No. 2 - Removing District Officers for Unexcused Absences – Resolution Committee votes ought to pass as written with adjustment of changing the number of absences from three (3) to two (2). **MOTION PASSED**

Resolution No. 3 - Removal of Area

Commanders Position - Resolution Committee votes ought to pass as written. **MOTION PASSED**

Resolution No. 4 - Mass Media Public Relations - Resolution Committee votes ought to pass as written. **MOTION PASSED**

Resolution No. 5 - Automatic Increase in Department Per Capita Dues Based on National - Resolution Committee votes ought to pass with one change: ...additional department per capita increase of 100% of national increase. **MOTION PASSED**



2022 American Legion Baseball State Champions
Queen City Riverdogs, Hampden, Maine

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

MEET THE OFFICERS 2022-23



KIRK THURSTON
Commander
Rumford Post 24



ALFRED MCKAY
1st Vice Cmdr.
Damariscotta Post 42



PATRICIA THURSTON
2nd Vice Cmdr.
Rumford Post 24



EUGENE CONNOLLY
Finance Officer
Portland Post 17



GEORGE ROBINSON, JR.
Historian
Thomaston Post 37



JOSEPH MICHAUD
Americanism
Madawaska Post 147



PAUL L'HEUREUX
Adjutant
Auburn Post 153



LLOYD WOODS
NEC
Madawaska Post 147



MATTHEW JABAUT
NECA
Topsham Post 202



JASON HALL
Judge Advocate
Gray Post 86



LEROY MCKENZIE
Sergeant-At-Arms
Eagle Lake Post 176



ETHAN MCKENNEY
Chaplain
Harrison Post 139



CARL CURTIS
Service Officer
Brunswick Post 20



State HQ Office Staff Set Up For Convention: Office Manager Rachael Currie, 3rd from left and office assistants, left to right, Rebecca Orella, Jennette Glidden and Kierra Washington, far right, prepare to set up for the Annual State Convention two-day event in Brewer on June 10.

SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS

Winners of the Summer Sweepstakes Raffle drawn at the Annual State Convention in Brewer on June 11.

Grand Prize winner of \$1500 was awarded to Dennis Daniels, Westbrook Post 197; \$500 to Manuel DaSilva,

Winslow Post 178; \$300 to Robert D. Houle, Waterville Post 5, and \$200 to Brice G. Harris, Augusta Post 2.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Victory for Our Veterans

Greetings to Maine Legionnaires, Not long ago, we alerted you to The American Legion's campaign to pass our generation's most comprehensive veterans' health legislation and called on your help to pass it. You responded, and I am proud to share the results of your American Legion advocacy.

After months of negotiation and advocacy, the Senate voted 84-14 to pass the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our PACT Act of 2022. This legislation will comprehensively upgrade the presumptive process for veterans exposed to toxins and provide care for millions of veterans. To quote our National Commander Paul E. Dillard:

"The American Legion is grateful for the service of millions of veterans who were exposed to burn pits, atomic radiation, Agent Orange and other environmental poisons. Thanks to the U.S. Congress, these men and women will

be able to receive the care and benefits they have earned. The PACT Act is a historic bipartisan achievement. The American Legion thanks not only those who voted for this legislation but the thousands of Legionnaires and advocates who worked to make this happen. We look forward to President Biden signing the Honoring Our PACT Act into law."

You are a part of today's victory, You contributed to the over 18,900 messages Legionnaires sent to Congress demanding action on toxic exposure, making this an issue our lawmakers could no longer ignore. Thank you for joining me on this campaign, and I ask that you keep your eye out for future "ALERT" messages from the Legion. See you in our future battles!

Respectfully,
Lawrence Montreuil
Director, National Legislative Division
The American Legion National Headquarters

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

Military Appreciation Day 2022

On July 6, the Sanford Mainers of the New England Collegiate Baseball League (NECBL) played host to the veterans and military service members of York County at the annual Military Appreciation Day at Goodall Ballpark in Sanford. The American Legion Post 19, assisted by the Amvets & VFW, organized and coordinated the event.

On a beautiful summer evening, the Color Guards of the Civil Air Patrol #078 and the American Legion Post 74 Kennebunk plus Cadets from the Civil Air Patrol, Sanford Composite Squadron escorted veterans from the US Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard onto Goodall Field for a Special Ceremony honoring all veterans and military personnel from all the branches of the US Military.

Jim Bachelder, Master of Ceremonies, a US Navy and Vietnam Veteran, introduced each veteran representing the various services: Rob Martin, US Army; Richard Brunelle, Marines; Joanna Ruggs, Navy; Arthur Rocray, Air Force; and Percival Lowell, Coast Guard. Each received a standing ovation from the over 600 in attendance.

A Special Recognition Ceremony was given to Leon Tanguay, World War II Army Veteran of the 28th Infantry Division, who was captured during the liberation of France and held in a German POW

camp till the end of the war. He received a special citation and standing ovation from the audience.

All veterans and military personnel in attendance were applauded as they stood for their military anthem. As a special highlight, all members of the Sanford Mainers shook the hands of the Veterans on the field, and each received a baseball signed by the Mainers. The National Guard Unit of Sanford gave out National Guard cushioned seats and Nurf balls for those in attendance.

The event was sponsored by Marc Motors and Ben Greenberg from Marc Motors, who threw out a pitch prior to the game. Ben played for the Mainers for 3 years and received a rousing welcome back by the assembled crowd. Leon Tanguay retook the field after the National Anthem was played and threw a strike to the catcher to start the regular scheduled game.

This was the 6th year that the event has been held excluding, 2020 due to covid cancellation. Everyone in attendance enjoyed the Military Appreciation Day event and all service members in attendance look forward to next year.

A big Thank You to the Sanford Mainers Baseball organization for a truly memorable evening.

Sanford Post 19 Adjutant Dale Midgley

Sanford Post 19 Military Appreciation Day: Veterans receive baseball from Sanford Mainers. Left to right, ballplayers Ryan Butler and Devin Bade, veterans Arthur Rocray, Richard Brunelle, Joanna Ruggs, and Rob Martin.



Veterans Salute For Anthems: Navy veteran, (left photo), salutes during the Navy Anthem. Left to right, Arthur Rocray, Joanna Ruggs and Richard Brunelle. Right photo, Leon

Tanguay, WWII Veteran, 28th Infantry Division, and former POW, salutes as the National Anthem is played.

Photographs Courtesy of Emmy Vitali, Special Social Media Manager/Official Team Photographer Sanford Mainers

Chair of Honor Donated by Hussey Seating Co.

Mr. Jeff Saucier, on behalf of Hussey Seating Company, North Berwick, Maine donated and presented a Chair of Honor to the members of Webber-Lefebvre Post 74 in Kennebunk, at their meeting on June 1. The Chair of Honor is used in conjunction with a small table setting to conduct a ceremony at each official

American Legion meeting to remember and honor our POW's and MIA's still unaccounted for from all wars and conflicts involving the United States of America.

Each element of the table setting has meaning starting with the white tablecloth to symbolize purity.

Other elements of the ceremony

include:

- An empty chair (Chair of Honor) to symbolize they are not here.
- A Bible, representing faith in a higher power.
- A lemon slice to remind everyone of these people's bitter fate.
- A pinch of salt to remind us of their families' tears.
- An inverted wine glass to show that the missing cannot toast with us.
- A candle reminiscent of hope.
- A red ribbon to show unyielding

hope for a proper accounting of the missing.

- A single rose to represent the blood they may have shed.

The officers and members of Webber-Lefebvre Post 74 wish to thank the Hussey Seating Company, Jeff Saucier, and American Legion Department of Maine District 1 Service Officer Lynn Rendell for their time and efforts in procuring and donating the Chair of Honor for the post!



Kennebunk Post 74 POW/MIA Ceremony: Members of the Post 74, front row, left to right, E. Karytko, J. Burke, Commander J. Gouveia, M. Lamontagne, M. Nutting, H. Cross. Back row, left to right, District 1 Service Officer L. Rendell, P. Dargis, R. Avey, J. Saucier of Hussey Seating Co., District 1 Commander P. Moessner, T. Nutting, P. Gregoire, B. McBride, R. Dumont.

Scholarship Awarded to KHS Student

For the third year in a row, The American Legion Webber-Lefebvre Post 74 in Kennebunk and Kennebunkport Post 159 have collaborated to provide a \$1500 scholarship to a Kennebunk High School senior who will go on to pursue further education. Kennebunk High School (KHS) is part of Regional School Unit 21 that serves students from the towns of Kennebunk, Kennebunkport and Arundel. Kennebunk High School seniors may apply for a variety of scholarships including the one provided by these American Legion posts.



Out of a group of 32 highly qualified and worthy applicants in 2022, the American Legion posts are proud to select Joseph Kiezulas as the recipient of this year's scholarship. Joseph, a Kennebunk-

port resident, is in the top 10% of his graduating class and was captain of the KHS varsity basketball team during his senior year. In addition to his academic and athletic achievements, Joseph has made his way by working each summer since 9th grade. An interest in technology gave him the impetus to learn how to make repairs to smart phones for one of his co-workers and others. This interest in technology will lead him to attend Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech) in the fall to pursue a degree in Computer Science. The American Legion posts would like to congratulate Joseph on his accomplishments and wish him great success in his future endeavors as he pursues his educational and career goals!



Lebanon Post 214 Receives Generous Donation: American Legion Post 214 is the recipient of a new POW/MIA chair, due to the generous donation of the Hussey Seating Company of North Berwick, Maine. This donation is due to the efforts of District Service Officer Lynn Randall of Berwick, Maine and Jeff Saucier Territory Sales Manager of Hussey Seating Company, 38 Dyer Street Ext. North Berwick, Maine 03906. Left to right, 1st Vice Commander Steve Wanager, Commander Jim Cray, Post Adjunct Dennis Moore, Judge Advocate Rene Doiron, Past Commander Donald Lovely and Sergeant-at-Arms Faye Brewster.

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; Naples Post 155; Portland Post 161; Falmouth Post 164; Portland Post 168; Westbrook Post 197

Meritorious Service Award

Each year, members of the American Legion pay their membership dues to the Post they are attached to. With the exception of PUFL, Paid Up For Life, members who took the option to pay a onetime payment to avoid the annual fee.

Each Post has a Membership Committee who collects the dues and forwards that payment to National and Department Headquarters. A small amount, depending on the total fee, is returned to the lo-

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 2 continued

"AWARD"

(Continued from Page 15)

cal Post.

Each year the Department level leadership, consisting of the Department Commander and the Department 1st Vice Commander, collect the tabulations to see how each Post is doing in the membership area. Maintaining membership has always been the goal of any organization and the American Legion prides itself in pressing the importance of serving the veterans and maintaining strong Posts.

For many years this award has not been achieved for South Portland Post

35. Looking at our Post flag, I noticed only four yellow ribbons: 1994, 2003, 2004 and 2018. This year we added the 2022 ribbon with great pride. The ribbon is given for achieving or exceeding 100% of their given membership goal, as set by the Department of Maine. Additionally, Post 35 was awarded a Post Excellence Award for pretty much the same guidelines, but from the National level. The Excellence award has additional requirements that must be met, that a well-run Post would normally strive to achieve. Post 35 was awarded the Post Excellence award in 2018 also.

Post 35 Adjutant Michael R. Pock



So. Portland Post 35 100%

Membership: With great pride, Post 35 meets membership goals for 2022 and brings home another ribbon. Left to right, Commander Guy Linscott, Adjutant Michael Pock, and 1st Vice Commander Wes Splettstoesser.



Special Memorial Day

Recognition: Prior to Memorial Day, several members and citizens visit the City of South Portland Cemeteries. Their sole purpose is to place American flags

on the graves of our beloved fellow veterans who have died. Memorial Day honors all people who have served in the military of the United States, not just the ones who died in that service. Veterans Days is the day to commemorate those who served and never returned. One person who is buried at Forest City Cemetery in South Portland is Emile Lejeune, who was a seaman who served aboard the USS Plymouth in 1876. While serving aboard and in port at Port Royal South Carolina, Emile rescued a civilian who had fallen off the Port Royal Warf. For Emile's action, he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. Emile lived a quiet normal life and died at the age of 63 and is buried at Forest City Cemetery in South Portland. His grave went completely unnoticed until it was discovered thru research by the American Legion. South Portland Post 35 1st Vice Commander Wes Splettstoesser is shown in the photo rendering honors and placing a flag on Emile's grave.

AARP Appreciation Supper

After a long tax season and an extended period brought on by the extra money provided by the State of Maine, the AARP Tax Assistance Program kicked in once again to help Seniors with their tax returns. Debbie Upson and a team of twelve other volunteers have been working since February up until "Tax Day" from 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM every Monday at Post 35. Then Gov. Mills announced an excess in taxes that would be given to every Maine taxpayer who applied. However, since Social Security isn't taxed in Maine, numerous seniors did not file. That is where Debbie and her

team stepped in and assisted these citizens. The Post was open from 1:00 PM till 5:00 PM for 6 weeks until the end of June, at no cost to AARP or the taxpayers.

In appreciation of all the hard work, the Executive Committee and the vote of membership agreed to put on a Supper to support these volunteers. On June 15, Paul Thibeault cooked up a delicious pork loin supper with all the trimmings, including salad, rolls and pie, all served up by Ken Marston, Bob Hughes and Mike Pock. This was the first "food event" that Post 35 has put on since the start of COVID - 19 and the "boys" were a little rusty, but they pulled it off and were more than glad to pay back these wonderful volunteer works from the AARP.

Submitted by Post 35 Adjutant Michael R. Pock



So. Portland Post 35 Helps Seniors With Taxes: Debbie Upson, front row, 2nd from left, and a team of volunteers assist Maine seniors with filing their taxes.



Westbrook Post 62 Installs New Officers: Post 62's newly installed Officers watch and listen to the Installation of Post 62 Commander Dennis Marrotte. Left to right, Past Immediate Commander Roger Barr, 2nd Vice Commander Greg Beane, Adjutant Gary York, Chaplain Richard Galipeau, Service Officer Harry Gorham, Americanism Officer Phil Spiller, Jr, Sergeant-at-Arms Raquel True.

Post 62 Chaplain Reads Prayer: Installation Officer & Past Department Commander Daniel Ayotte and newly installed Post 62 Commander Dennis Marrotte listen as Post 62 Chaplain Richard Galipeau reads the Prayer to guide and protect the new Post Commander.



Installation Officer Daniel Ayotte congratulates Dennis Marrotte as the new Post 62 Commander.

Photos by Westbrook Post 62 Treasurer Gerry Doyon

50 Continuous Years: Blanche Kelley, 93 years young, proudly displays her dual framed portrait from Veterans Day 2021, by American Journal Photojournalist Robert Lowell. The framed portrait also includes her 50 Continuous Years of Membership in Westbrook's Post 62, from The National and State of Maine American Legion. She was given this on Memorial Day, May 30, at a surprise presentation in Westbrook's Riverbank Park during Memorial Day Ceremonies. Kelley was a Co-Grand Marshal, with Roy McPherson of Westbrook's Memorial Post 197.

Photo by Post 62 Historian & Commander Dennis Marrotte



Bugles Across America

Lynn is a member of the "Bugles Across America", a non-profit organization founded in 2000. She lives in N.H. Lynn performed "TAPS" for the Internment of Ashley Pike, a Westbrook Post 62 member. Ashley was a WWII Merchant Marine Veteran who sailed on Liberty Ship convoys. The service was on Sunday, June 12, at the Riverside Cemetery Annex in South Paris. That was the same weekend of this year's State Convention in Brewer. David (Tanguay) suggested I check the website: www.buglesacrossamerica.org.

Within 24 hours, I received a positive response followed by an e-mail from Lynn. This was a "Miracle!" Ashley's extended family was very pleased.

Many thanks to David (Tanguay) for stepping forward with his suggestion, as I had never heard of "Bugles Across America."

Members are both active and retired military, as well as some civilians in all 50 States.

Article and Photos by Westbrook Post 62 Commander Dennis Marrotte

For more information regarding Bugles Across America, visit their website: www.buglesacrossamerica.org. "Bugles Across America, NFP was founded in 2000 by Tom Day, when Congress passed legislation stating that Veterans have a

right to at least two uniformed military people to fold the flag and play Taps on a CD player. Bugles Across America was founded to take this a step further. In recognition of the service these Veterans have provided to their country, we felt that they each deserve a live rendition of Taps by a real bugler. To this end, we are actively seeking capable volunteers to provide this valuable service to Veterans and their families.

Bugles Across America now has over 4000 bugler volunteers located in all 50 states and growing number overseas. Since the Department of Veterans Affairs is expecting more than 1/2 million veterans to pass every year for the next 7 years, Bugles Across America is ALWAYS recruiting new volunteers.

Bugler Volunteers can be male or female. They can play a traditional bugle with no valves, or they can complete the ceremony on a Trumpet, Cornet, Flugelhorn, or a 1, 2 or 3 valved bugle. The bugler can be of any age as long as they can sound Taps with an ease and style that will do honor to both the Veterans, their families, and the burial detail performing the service. There are no fees or dues to participate as a volunteer, although there are certain directives that must be followed."

[More on "BUGLES", Page 17](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 2 continued

“BUGLES”
(Continued from Page 16)



BAA Member Plays TAPS:
Lynn Santosuosso, U. S. ARMY Quartermaster, Ret., right, with her service dog, Sirius, and left photo, travel ready.



Westbrook Post 62 BBQ & Concert In The Park: Maine Army National Guard's 195th Band's Brass Section Uplifting the Audience at Westbrook's Riverbank Park, Wednesday evening, July 6. The "Brass" section of the band, uplifted the sun-splashed audience in perfect low humidity blue skies weather, opening with the "Star Bangled Banner", bringing everyone standing to attention! Post 62, with the Westbrook Lions Club, cooked up a storm, complete with homemade strawberry shortcake for their audience, a great fundraising cookout. The pre-scheduled Tuesday evening concert by the Westbrook City Band was postponed by steady showers, a new date TBD, so this short notice concert by the 195th ME. ARMY NG's Band's Brass Section came just at the right time.

Photo by Westbrook Post 62 Commander Dennis Marrotte

Scouts Take On Flag Retrieval:

Westbrook Post 62 officers and members, with our very enthusiastic sponsored Cub Scout Pack 70 from Prides Corner Congregational Church, removed several hundreds of flags at Westbrook's Woodlawn Cemetery on Saturday, June 18; flags that had been put in place on May 14 in preparation of Memorial Day. Back row, left to right, Cub Pack 70 Parent Michelle Buck, USCG Ret. Post 62 new member Michael Thomas, US NAVY Ret. Post 62 new member Tom Mahon, Cub Scout Pack 70 Parent Andre Wesner, Pack 70 Scout Master & Troop 84 Scout Master David Collins, Immediate Past Post 62 Commander Roger Barr, Post 62 Commander Dennis Marrotte (installed June 1, 2022). Front row, left to right, Pack 70 Cub Scouts, Tyler Buck, Timothy Lovett, Ethan Higgins, Benjamin Wesner, Eamon Lovett, and Cub Scout Pack 70 Parent Kimberly Lovett. Not in photo: Post 62 Service Officer Harry Gorham, Post 62 Chaplain Richard Galipeau, Immediate Past Post 62 Chaplain Phil LeClerc.



Photo by Ashley Collins, Pack 70 Cub Scout & Troop 84 Girl Scout Treasurer



GS Troop Helps: Girl Scout Troop 84 of Prides Corner Congregational Church, helps with flag retrieval. Left to right, Madelyn Murray, Grace Gurney, Abby Higgins, and Cub Scout Pack 70 Ethan Higgins.

Photo by Ashley Collins, Pack 70 Cub Scout & Troop 84 Girl Scout Treasurer

Edward Lopeman: 1895-1918
Our Proud Namesake From the Great War

Edward Lopeman was born in Bridgton, Maine on September 16, 1895, the third of nine children of William and Rose (Douglass) Lopeman. Edward's father William was born in St. John, New Brunswick, the son of Irish immigrants. His mother's side was deeply rooted in West Bridgton. Edward's Uncle, Samuel Douglass, served as a wagoner in Georgia during the Spanish American War. His maternal grandfather Daniel Hill Douglass fought in Company G, 11th Maine Infantry during the Civil War, during which time

he was wounded. As far back as the birth of our free nation, Edward Lopeman had ancestors who bore arms for the United States. His great, great grandfather John Douglass was a Revolutionary War veteran, serving in the 13th Massachusetts Infantry from 1779-1782. Edward himself continued his maternal family's tradition of military service. He enlisted at Norway, Maine to serve with Company D, Second Maine Infantry Regiment, on June 21, 1916. He served four months of active duty on the Mexican border at Laredo, Texas,

and was mustered out of active service at Augusta in October of the same year. He remained with his National Guard outfit long enough to be ordered again to active duty, once the United States entered World War One on April 6, 1917. The company first served at Saco, shortly after it joined the 103rd Infantry Regiment. On May 4, he was promoted to private first class. After a few months stateside, Edward proceeded "Over There" to France on September 25. He was a part of the 26th "Yankee" Division, which were some of the first American soldiers to reach the frontlines. Edward served gallantly during the next nine months. While fighting near Champagne-Marne, he was gassed near Saint Agnant. He was sent to the hospital, and recovered in time to join his unit for the Battle of Aisne-Marne. Unfortunately, on July 20, 1918, Private First Class Lopeman was killed in action, and made the ultimate sacrifice for his country. He was initially buried in France, but in 1921 his remains were brought back to his native Maine. Now, Edward Lopeman is buried with his parents and siblings in Forest Hill Cemetery, Bridgton, Maine. Based on his service record, Edward Lopeman was eligible for two awards of

the Purple Heart, the Mexican Border Service Medal, and the World War One Victory Medal with the Champagne-Marne and Aisne-Marne battle clasps. Over 100 years later, Bridgton's American Legion Post 67 is proud to know that Edward Lopeman's name, in addition to our World War Two Marine casualty, William Potts, still proudly remains on our sign, and in the memory of our post members. His portrait remains on our central wall, overseeing our post progress and pushes, over a century later. Sources: The Bridgton News online archives, 1916-1921. Accessed from <http://bridgton.advantage-preservation.com/> Maine Birth Records, 1715-1922. Augusta, Maine: Maine State Archives. Roster of Maine in the Military Service of the U.S. and Allies in World War 1917-1919. Vol. I-II. Augusta, ME, USA: n.p., 1929. *Additional information on Edward Lopeman's service, life story, and genealogy can be requested from the Post 67 Vice Commander and Historian, Liam Opie. *

Article by Liam Opie
Post 67 1st Vice Commander & Historian
June 9, 2022



PLAY BALL!!!: Opening day, Apr. 30, on a very windy Windham Little League, Windham Rec. Field on Falmouth Road, East Windham, American Legion Field-Allen Post 148 Honor Guard presents colors during the National Anthem. Left to right, Dick Graves, Roger Timmons, Dick Drapeau, David Rendall, and HG OIC, Craig Pride.

Field-Allen Post 148
Spring Fishing Collaboration

What a GREAT Day to be Alive, and A GREAT Day to be on Sebago Lake, FISHING!!!!Just back from the Sebago Lake Anglers Association Spring Veterans Fishing event and have lots of photos to share. Super Day! Over two dozen veterans from around Southern Maine participated this year with almost half coming from "Operation Ray of Light", Jim Doc Martel's group out of Sanford. Eight from the American Legion Field-Allen Post 148 Windham (a co-sponsor of the event), Many caught

fish for fun and returned them to Sebago, some were keepers that will generate "big fish" stories that will be spun for years. The largest was a 29 in., 8.11 lb salmon that took top trophy. A special thanks to the boat captains for the donation of their time and equipment for this most worthwhile event, The Sebago Lake Anglers Association for their great work to support vets, Jim Doc Martel and Operation Ray of Light for his extraordinary work and support for Veterans.



Top Prizes At Spring Fishing Veterans Event: Operation Ray of Light Member Tom, left photo, takes top prize, with Post 148 member and boat captain Dan Smart on May 11. Middle photo, Post 148 Chaplain Gerald Beaulieu, left, receives 2nd Place for pulling in a lake trout weighing in at 4.1 lbs., from Post 148 Finance Officer and Sebago Lake Angler's Assoc. President Bob Chapin, right. Right photo, Post 148 2nd Vice Commander Alola Morrison, left, receives 3rd Place for her 3 lb salmon, from Post 148 Finance Officer Bob Chapin, right.

Photos by Windham Post 148 Adjutant David Tanguay

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 3

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

**Lisbon Post 158 Ribbon Cutting:**

Post 158 held a ribbon cutting for their new pole building which was built by legionnaires, SAL's, and friends of Post 158. The flag sign was made by Awkward Art Studio and donated by Bills Roofing and Siding, who did the metal roof. All were treated with a BBQ steak dinner for all their work and dedication to this project. Thank you to 2nd Vice Commander Joe St. Amant and his crew for all the terrific food. Left to right, Legion supporter Randy Ingerson, SAL member Ken Whithers, SAL member Rusty Pomerleau, Post 158 Commander Larry Hall, and Legionnaire Armand Marcouillier, Legionnaire Mike Labbe, Legionnaire Trustee Paul Burnelle, SAL Commander Dennis Pratt, Legionnaire Richard Everette Legionnaire. Not pictured, Legionnaire Trustee Jack Lachance.

Legion supporter Randy Ingerson, SAL member Ken Whithers, SAL member Rusty Pomerleau, Post 158 Commander Larry Hall, and Legionnaire Armand Marcouillier, Legionnaire Mike Labbe, Legionnaire Trustee Paul Burnelle, SAL Commander Dennis Pratt, Legionnaire Richard Everette Legionnaire. Not pictured, Legionnaire Trustee Jack Lachance.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 4

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

**Post 28 Car Wash Fundraiser:**

Farmington Post 28 held a fundraising car wash on June 18, raising over

\$1200. Pictured, SAL Squadron 28 Commander Steve Cutler.

**Farmington Post 28 Parade:**

Post 28 Color Guard members prepare to lead the

Farmington July 4 Parade. Left to right, Post 28 Horace LaBree and Post 28 Commander Stephan Bunker.

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

District 5 at Brewer

District 5 Oxford County Posts marshalled a representative delegation at the Department Annual Convention in Brewer to witness two of their own being installed as Department of Maine Commander and 2nd Vice Commander. We have witnessed, in the Thurstons' American Legion careers, a commitment of service to their comrades and the community in which they reside, that is expressed in one word: "Outstanding".

Though, those of us who live in Oxford County, aka "The Western Province of Maine", style ourselves to be inhabiting the wilderness; our year-round natural intact resources enable our tourist demographics to rival those of Coastal Maine. It may be rural, but it's not backward, and

it's a very busy place. Perhaps that is why the county has contributed, in the past 103 years of the American Legion Department of Maine, nearly 8% of its State Commanders, beginning with Albert Beliveau in 1924, who like the Thurston's, was also from Rumford.

In the history of Maine, what became Oxford County had begun to be settled before the Revolution as Massachusetts secured the Western Border by settling along the line of Fryeburg, Waterford, Sudbury Canada (Bethel), and Rumford.

It had been the hope of the District 5 delegation to stand for a group photo of all its Legion Family (Posts, Units, and SALs) with the Thurston's, but the full schedule precluded the opportunity.

Attendees: Left to right, District 5 & Post 58 Commander Jim Lowell, Post 151 Chaplain Randall Jack, District 5 1st Vice/Americanism Officer/Post 58 Adjutant Gloria Hall, District 5 Adjutant/Historian/Post 68 Commander/Service Officer Harry G. Orcutt, Post 24 Adjutant Bill Hobson. Not shown: Post 24 Historian Louis Marin.



Bethel Maine Remembers

Whenever a people, no matter their social organization, or a Nation, whether great or small, finds it necessary to wage war, for whatever reason, it invariably entails the expenditure through sacrifice of that element of its future hopes, i.e. youths, usually between the ages of 18 through 25. Whatever the outcome of the conflict, whether in victory or defeat, those that perished in the name of their fellow citizens are in some token reverently remembered. Such remembrance may be expressed by a simple pillar, tablet, effigy of a leading commander or outstanding noble warrior, or some object like an arch or obelisk. In the history of mankind, it has been most unusual to remember participating martial individuals styled the common man or woman. Such a group commemorative may have begun in Scotland when clans fielded their fighting contingents. Each combatant as he sallied forth from his Clan territory, picked up a stone and placed it in his haversack. Those returning from the fight deposited their stones in a pile. Knowing how many had left to confront the enemy, and how many stones were counted when they returned, the Clan knew how many they had lost in the fight, and the pile remained to remind them of their sacrifice.

Fast forward to June 17, 1775, at Charlestown, opposite Boston, at a place later called Bunker Hill, although the actual battle fought there was on Breed's Hill. A new people on the Earth, who called themselves Americans, mostly of European stock, though not all, adhering to the tenets of the Church of England, though not all, agreed on one principle for which they fought: that all individuals among them had worth, and that each possessed rights that not even a monarch could abridge. On the one side, the monarch's hosts of well equipped, trained, and disciplined soldiers, considered to be the best in the world, attacked citizen soldiers, whom they considered a worthless rabble.

Crossing the Inner Harbor, the British line formed up at the base of the hill, and they advanced, confident that they would inflict a decisive victory in short order. Twice their line was repelled with heavy casualties. Taking off their back packs, in the hot afternoon they attacked for a third time. The Americans, in the redoubt they had dug the night before, possessed cartridge boxes that could hold up to 26 rounds. Each man, however, had been issued only 15 rounds, as that was all that was available at the time. By the third British assault, the valiant defenders were down to two or three rounds. It was then that their commander, Colonel William Prescott issued the order, "Don't fire until you see the whites of their eyes."

Finally, the Americans were pushed out of their fortified position. It was then that they suffered the majority of their casu-

alties as they fell back on the true Bunker Hill. The Rebel rabble host suffered about 400 casualties, killed and wounded. The victorious British had over 1,000 such casualties inflicted upon them.

Returning to the point -- when each side reported what the cost of the battle was to themselves, the Americans reported every man affected, from private to Major General Joseph Warren. The British listed every officer killed and wounded, noting which noble or otherwise elite family had spawned them, and ended with: "and also killed or wounded were 905 sergeants and other ranks." The American tradition of recognizing that every life sacrificed has value was thus born.

In that tradition, eleven years ago, in the mountain village of Bethel Maine, a small group of veterans, all members of the American Legion Family, of the local Mundt-Allen Post 81, and neighboring Jackson-Silver Post 68 in Locke Mills, with other interested parties, met to discuss the concept of creating a veterans monument listing the names of all from Bethel Village, Albany, Grafton and Mason Townships, and Riley Plantation, who had served in conflicts beginning with the American Revolution up to the present.

Starting with nothing but a concept, it seemed an insurmountable task. According to the present Secretary/Treasurer of the Veterans Honor Roll Park Committee, Jane Ryerson, in the ensuing years, the Village of Bethel purchased the land adjacent to that of their Civil War Commemorative Statue, contractors donated labor and materials, ordinary citizens contributed funds, and the Collette Monument Company created the uniquely original concept that came to be adopted.

**Memorial Day**

Dedication: Unit 81 Member and Veterans Honor Roll Park Committee Secretary/

Treasurer Jane Ryerson opened ceremonies and later presented the dedication narrative.

Ryerson articulated in her dedication speech the magnitude of the project: *September 27, 2011, we received our first \$100.00 donation. It was a start. After we had a new design from Collette's we had a new cost of the project. We would need a quarter of a million dollars. Imagine, \$250,000 to fund this. Sounds staggering? It did to us too. We had to be prepared to raise the full amount to pay for everything as you see it here today. What we did not know at that time is how much the local contractor donations would do for our fundraising goal. We were lucky, incredibly lucky because when a con-*

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 5 continued

"BETHEL"

(Continued from Page 18)

tractor received a request to say deliver materials to the site i.e., loam, sand, rock etc., when they knew it was for this project, they donated the materials without question. This helped immensely on our fundraising figures for items that needed to be purchased.

And then there was the research of authenticating the names inscribed on the monument walls. Ryerson continued: Countless time and energy went into this project. Over 40,000 + hours by committee members alone. So much research was done. Acquisition of names itself was the largest time consumer. Not an easy task. Numerous trips to the Maine Archives in Augusta, trips to every cemetery in the five towns and others, Civil war books, research American Legion Rosters, find a grave website, old newspapers my grandmother kept, DD214's, picking local historians' brains; hours and hours and hours was spent looking up sites on the computer; any and every resource we found we used to acquire the names and verified them as we could.

The site chosen had formerly erected on it a WWII monument that Ryerson described: Once there was a wooden honor roll on this spot that held the names of local soldiers of WW II. At some point that honor roll was removed. The committee wanted to make sure that all of those veterans on that original roll of honor would be on this honor roll here today, as well as all of those who served prior and after WW II.

What you see here today is not a memorial. This is an honor roll. The difference is: A memorial pays tribute to those who have died in the service of their country. An honor roll honors all service members who have served, whether they may be living or deceased. The names engraved into this honor roll are men & women who resided in the towns of Albany, Bethel, Grafton, Mason, and Riley and were so when they either went in from these towns or were honorably discharged back to these towns upon the end of their service requirement. These veterans from these towns, made it possible for others to be able to live here in freedom.

Not to be forgotten are the members of the Veterans Honor Roll Park Committee: Post 81 Richard Grover, Post 81 Craig Ryerson, Post 81 David Brown, Unit 81 Ramona Grover, Unit 81 Jane Ryerson, Post 81 Arlan Jodrey, Pat Carter (Community member with veteran family history), Post 81 Robert Chadbourne, Post 68 Ivory Currier, Post 68 Albert Lake, Post 81 John Kimball, Michael Stowell (Community member with veteran family history), Post 81 Scott Cole, Post 81 George Angevine, and Unit 81 & Maine State Representative Fran Head.

The following is a photo record of the Honor Roll Park and Veterans Monument dedication on Memorial Day 2022, in the little mountain village that dreamed they could, and after arduous effort, finally did.

Submitted by Locke Mills Post 68
Commander Harry Orcutt



Veterans Honor Roll Park In Bethel: An Honor Roll Monument suitable for the ages. The monument includes the names of 1350 service members who have served, whether they may be living or deceased, and who resided in the towns of Albany, Bethel, Grafton, Mason, and Riley.



Bethel Memorial Day Ceremony: Mundt-Allen Post 81 Commander Scott Cole, left photo. While outfitted in a traditional period uniform, Jackson-Silver Post 68 Commander Harry G. Orcutt, middle photo, delivered a historical sketch of Bethel's place in the Revolutionary War. The Honorable Jarrod Crockett, Post 68 Member, Judge of Probate Oxford County and Major US Army Ret., right photo, delivered the Keynote Address at Bethel's Memorial Day ceremony and Veterans Honor Roll Park dedication on May 30.



Memorial Day Wreath Placement:

Post Commanders Cole and Orcutt lay the memorial wreath before the obelisk.



Posts 68 and 81 Firing Detail: with Revolutionary War assistance render a Musketry Salute.



Bethel Honor Roll Park Dedication: Unit 68 members and Poppy Girls, left photo, participate in the Memorial Day ceremonies. Left to right, Unit 81 Poppy Girl Jocelyn Crockett, Unit 81 Vice President Eliza Barnes, Unit 68 President Hazel Cole, and Unit 68 Poppy Girls, Lily and Madeline Lewis. In attendance for the Memorial Day ceremonies, right photo, left to right, former Committee Treasurer & Unit 81 Member Mona Grover, Department 1st Vice Commander Kirk Thurston, and former Committee Chairman & Post 81 Past Commander Richard Grover.



Memorial Day Ceremonies: The Mahoosuc Community Band, left photo, performed a Musical Prelude, the National Anthem, and Armed Forces Medley. Legionnaires and reenactors, middle photo, at Bethel's Memorial Day ceremony and park dedication. Legionnaire Brothers, right photo, left to right, Andy Smith, Post 81 – served '88 to '95; Larry Smith, NH Post – served '69 to '70; and Dennis Smith, NH Post – served '78 to '81.

Bethel's Memorial Day Speech

It is an immeasurable honor for me to partake in the dedication of this monument on this solemn day. First, it is only fitting and proper to extend a heartfelt "thanks" to the committee members (past and present), as well as the many donors (like Mr. George Dunn who previously owned the land), the citizens and officials of the Town for providing support to this colossal effort which has spanned decades.

Those who appreciate history can find symmetry in this occasion. We stand in the shadow of the civil war monument dedicated over a century ago to commemorate a bloody war that was fought to preserve a nation governed by the natural freedom granted by our Creator and defended by those who were willing to sacrifice all.

The granite slabs to my rear bear the names of this community's sons and daughters who served not only that war, but in all American conflicts since the beginning of the world's greatest republic. The selfless service of these individuals is worthy of remembrance based on their willingness TO

serve a purpose greater than themselves, TO risk all they had or would ever have, and TO suffer the scars of war on both body and soul. We gather to remember them, and, to recognize the contribution they made on behalf of this small mountain village to the great events of the world's history.

Said events range from musket fire by a rag tag group of freedom loving farmers founding a nation against one of the world's farthest-reaching empires, TO a bayonet charge on a small rocky hill

called Little Round Top that marked a decisive point in a battle that changed the tide of a war which ended the evil enterprise of slavery,

TO the modern machine gun fire in places like the Argonne, Anzio, Guadalcanal, Burma, Normandy, Iwo Jim, Pusan, Chosin, Kha San, Mekong Delta, Pleiku, Grenada, Panama, Kuwait, Mogadishu, Bosnia, Kosovo, Helmand, Bagdad, Mo-

sul, Kabul, and countless other locations over the last century. The names you see show our town's contributions and efforts to shape the world. Even if the efforts were not always cloaked in glory, they

[More on "SPEECH", Page 20](#)



Jarrod Crockett

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 5 continued

■ "SPEECH"

(Continued from Page 19)

have undeniably resulted in those of us here today enjoying the peaceful prosperity of our little corner of the world where we congregate this very moment, while others halfway around the globe combat invading armies and struggle to endure.

Since the war of 1812 the United States has never suffered a sustained occupation by a foreign army because of the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines whose names are chiseled on this wall, as well as those on a thousand others across the nation from Deluth, Minnesota to Corpus Christi, Texas and from Honolulu to Holton, Maine. The visits of many to this hallowed place will reveal ancestral names and, like me, they will nostalgically reminisce of several generations of family, including our own siblings. Perhaps their minds, like my own, will drift to the back side of the monument. There are places for hundreds of additional names to be engraved. To sustain the peace and freedom to which we have become accustomed these spaces will be filled with names of Bethel's sons and daughters in the decades to come.

As a father having viewed the ills of battle and the sad conditions of war-torn regions, I pray no others will ever have to share in that knowledge. But with the events of Kabul less than a year behind us, none can deny the cold realities of the world. Unfortunately, tyrants exist, and the injustices of the world must be vanquished, as the courageous people of Ukraine can attest. And so, more names will inevitably be added to this monument so long as we are to live in this peaceful mountain hamlet, enjoying the fruits of freedom.

In addition to dedicating this monu-

ment, we also gather to observe Memorial Day, the appointed day for honoring our war dead. Many will visit cemeteries across the country on this day. Even my family will find its way to the East Bethel Cemetery and as I have for years, will briefly attend the grave of Sergeant Isaac W. Estes, a member of the famed 20th Maine Regiment, wounded on July 4, 1863 at the Battle of Gettysburg. Despite the victory earned on the battlefield he later succumbed to his wounds. Tragedy was compounded for his family for within a year both his wife, Nancy, and his only child, Emma, also perished. These remarks today fulfill a personal vow to Sergeant Estes, as well as my conscience, to keep his families' story of sacrifice alive a little longer.

I know that as I leave here today, heading out to enjoy time with family and friends, Sergeant Estes played a small role in giving me that opportunity, as have all the others on this honor roll. So I beseech thee to remember the sacrifice, and sometimes sadness, that gave us need for this monument, but also to ask that we take time to indulge in the joys afforded to us by so many who came before. I always had the feeling that if Sergeant Estes knew that I remembered him, he would appreciate it, but would also want me to enjoy life and not wallow in the darkness of his losses.

May we go forward in a spirit of gratitude for the bounty bequeathed to us by the sacrifices of others, when opportunity presents honor those who gave the last full measure of devotion, and pray for tranquil times for those who will one day stand their watch on the wall of freedom earning their place on these stones.

Thank you for coming today and God Bless.

By Jarrod Crockett, Major US Army Ret.,
District 5 & Post 68 Judge Advocate,
Oxford County Judge of Probate



The Shot Heard 'Round Buckfield: No, it was not in celebration of Patriots Day, but rather Independence Day. Taken down from its honored display at the Zadoc Long Free Library in Buckfield, their acclaimed Model 2 Brown Bess .75 caliber Revolutionary War musket

was carefully loaded (no shot included) with black powder by John D. Long Post 58 Commander Jim Lowell. The musket, which is annually used for notable patriotic occasions, was then handed to Department Commander Kirk Thurston, who proceeded to demonstrate his "no flash in the pan" acumen. In other words, it was a blast. Below, for posterity, the event is recorded. Following the event, Post members traveled with the Department Commander to Turner, where they marched with Phillip S. Bryant Memorial Post 111 in their Independence Day Parade. Left to right, Post 58 Commander Jim Lowell, Department Commander Kirk Thurston, Post 58 members Dave Strout, Ralph Hart, Conrad Conant, Merton Jones, behind Merton is Post 58 Adjutant Gloria Hall, and then Harry Gotham.

Photo by Everett Tilton

District 5 Installation of Officers

The Installation of Post Officers, held on April 20, was preceded by a generous buffet of finger sandwiches, salads, and desserts provided by the Post/Unit 24 Legion Family. The entrée of finger sandwiches was a choice of egg, ham, and I'm told, chicken. Whenever I

have a choice of ham & eggs, I invariably choose them, scooping out half of one, and half of the other, transposing the scooped-out portions, and creating two wonderful ham and egg sandwiches. (Just a culinary comment.)

By Post 68 Adjutant & Historian Harry G. Orcutt



Installation: Left photo, front row, left to right, Executive Committee Lynn McAloney, Unit 24 President Rose Dyke, Treasurer Rena Nichols, Chaplain Leslie Skibitski, Historian Kim Sequoia. Back row, left to right, Sgt-at-Arms Judy Sanborn, Installing officer and Executive Committee Tricia Thurston, Secretary Carol Roach, Vice President Brenda James. Middle photo, front row, left to right, Sgt-at-Arms Michael Malak, Post 24 Commander Edward Perry, Historian Louie Morin, Chaplain William McAloney. Back row, left to right, Adjutant Bill Hobson, Finance Officer Tricia Thurston, Americanism Officer Mitzi Sequoia, Executive Committee Nick Kelley. Right photo, front row, left to right, 1st Vice & Americanism Officer Gloria Hall, Adjutant & Historian Harry G. Orcutt, District 5 Commander James Lowell, 2nd Vice Harold Wilbur. Back row, left to right, Dept 2nd Vice Alfred and Installing Sgt.-at-Arms McKay, Finance Officer George Angevine, Dept 1st Vice and Installing Officer Kirk Thurston.

Atwood Young – A Memorial at Last

Pvt. Atwood Young, of South Paris, Maine, was at last remembered 159 years after he gave the last full measure of devotion on Morris Island, South Carolina. He served in the 9th Maine Infantry Regiment, X Corps, in the fighting that continued in the weeks following the Civil War Battle of Fort Wagner, immortalized by the 54th Massachusetts Infantry. Young suffered a head wound on August 11, 1863, which was subsequently documented by Darius Shepard, a member of his unit. Buried in a mass grave on a nearby beach, his remains, along with all the others buried on the beach, was disinterred and reburied at the Beaufort National Cemetery in South Carolina. It is believed that many of the bodies buried in Beaufort were later washed away in coastal storms. In any case, if any remained, they could not be identified.

With no body to bring back home, his great-great grandson Jamison McAlister, a member of John D. Long Post 58, and his brother, Philip, Jr., applied to and received a gravestone that they could place in the family farm cemetery plot in North Buckfield. Young's marker is situated near that of great granddaughter Wilma

Young McAlister, who passed in 2000.

The dedication of Atwood's marker on April 30, 2022, by Posts 58 and 68, was something of a media event. A full-page article appeared in the Sun Journal newspapers on May 12th, and in other area publications. ABC affiliate WMTW, Channel 8, devoted a detailed segment in their weekly Sunday Total Maine program.

Atwood's marker records a detail of his life that he himself fabricated -- his birth year. He enlisted on September 21, 1861, claiming to have been born in 1825, when in fact, his birth year was 1812. He told a fib about his age because he felt he would be rejected from serving were he to be truthful. He had previously served in the Maine State Militia in 1840 during the Aroostook War as the border between Canada and the United States was resolved diplomatically. This was the best war the US never fought, as not a shot was fired, and no one was injured.

Purportedly Atwood decided to enlist in the Noble Cause, when he and his wife Esther Thurlow (1822 – 1880) became estranged. He was in advanced middle

[More on "YOUNG", Page 21](#)



Dedication: Buckfield Post 58 and Locke Mills Post 68 members and officers, above left photo, in attendance for the dedication of Atwood's marker on April 30. Left to right, Buckfield Post 58 member Ralph Hart, Conrad Conant, Post 68 Commander Harry G. Orcutt, Post 58 Commander Jim Lowell, Post 58 Jamison McAlister, and Post 58 Adjutant Gloria Hall. Above middle photo, Loren Turner plays taps. Photo right, Atwood's marker in the McAlister family plot.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 5 continued

“YOUNG”
(Continued from Page 20)

age, being nearly 50 years old when he enlisted. If WikiTree is correct, he was not the first of McAlister's forebears to have served two enlistments, the latter being at more than fifty years of age. Esther Thurlow's great grandparents were Davis Thurlow (1751 -1830) and Abigail (Manchester) Thurlow (1753 – 1830). Abigail's father, Stephen Manchester (1717 – 1807) served as a scout in the French and Indian War with two enlistments -- May 1746 to January 1747

and March to December 1748. He then enlisted again in the Massachusetts Militia in the Revolution. He had to be a minimum of 58 years old when he served in the Revolution. His DAR number is: A073297.

Atwood's Young family ancestry still needs to be documented. If it is finally resolved, we are likely to see many more Revolutionary War connections, as is so often the case in the history of Maine families who have resided in the state four or more generations.

By Buckfield John D. Long Post 58

Unit 68 Poppy Girls' Memorable Endeavor

The Poppy Girls of Jackson-Silver Unit 68 gave a stellar performance in the execution of their duties leading up to and during Memorial Day 2022. Generations of their immediate family assisted them in their efforts and informed them of the importance of "Duty, Honor, Country" and "Service, Not Self." Undoubtedly their participation in remembering those who have served will leave a lasting impression on them through the rest of the lives.

Their father John, who served in the Marine Corps, their grandfather, Post 68 member Paul Hebert, and their grand-

uncle, Post 68 Sgt.-at-Arms Al Lake, all demonstrated to the young ladies the meaning of duty to the nation. Likewise, Jocelyn Crockett, whose father Jarrod is Post 68 Judge Advocate, and whose grandfather Gordon "Butch" Crockett is a 50+ year member of Post 68, delivered the poem "In Flanders Fields" at the Bethel Veterans Honor Roll Park and Monument dedication reported elsewhere in this issue of the Legionnaire.

For Lily and Madeline, the week leading up to Memorial Day included:



Dedication: Poppy girls receive bouquets at the Bethel Monument Dedication on Memorial Day.



Unit 68 Poppy Girls Placing Flags on Memorial Day, above left photo, Grandfather Paul Hebert assists Lily in decorating veteran's graves in Locke Mills. Above middle photo, Madeline

and Lily become proficient in flag placement. Above right photo, in honor of those lost at sea, casting flowers upon the waters as part of the Memorial Day ceremonies, left to right, Locke Mills Unit 68 President Hazel Cole, Poppy Girls Lily and Madeline Lewis, and Unit 68 Secretary Susan Vacca.



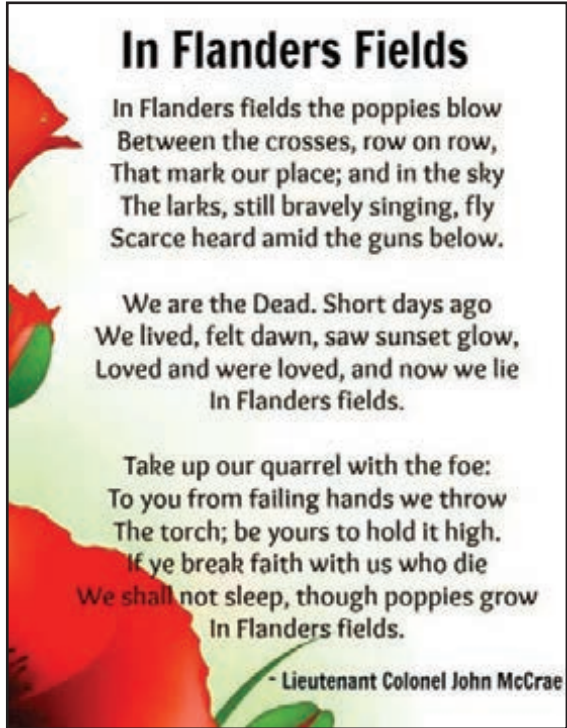
Unit 68 Poppy Girls Activities: Lily and Madeline, left photo, accept Poppy donations at Post 68 Friday night bingo. By week's end, the donation jar had a hefty weight. Right photo, Lily and Madeline visit Greenwood Town Manager Kim Sparks.



Locke Mills Poppy Girl Introductions: Following monument dedication, ceremonies continue at Post 68 where the Poppy Girls are introduced by Unit 68 President Hazel Cole.



Unit 68 Poppy Girl: Locke Mills Unit 68 Poppy Girl, Jocelyn, above left photo, with father, Jarrod, pledging Allegiance. Above middle photo, Jocelyn with mother, Paige Crockett, collecting Poppy donations for Veterans at Bethel Shop'n-Save (aka locally, the "IGA"). Above right photo, Jocelyn with Bethel Town Manager Loretta Powers and Unit 81 President Barbara Dion.



Unit 68 Poppy Girl Reads Poem: Jocelyn, above, recites the poem, "In Flanders Fields", at Dedication after an introduction by Committee Secretary/Treasurer Jane Ryerson. Photo left, "In Flanders Fields" Poem.

Combined Post & Unit Installation Ceremony
For Posts 58, 68, 81 and Units 68, 81, 151

A medley of pizzas was supplied by Jackson-Silver Post 68 for the Installation Fellowship Supper, with choices for both meat lovers and vegetarians alike. Members and guests also provided their favorite entrée, or salads and desserts. It was an abundance of enjoyable culinary flavors. One of the desserts, a most delicious treat for the Legion Family, was prepared by Unit 68 member and professional baker Sally Smith.

Adhering to American Legion protocol, Commander Orcutt opened the meeting with the Posting of the Colors, followed by Chaplain's Benediction, POW/MIA Resolution and Chair Draping, Pledge of Alle-

giance, Preamble to Legion Constitution. Commander Orcutt then introduced Unit 151 President & Auxiliary Installing Officer Dorene Wilbur to the podium to begin the Installations of the evening.

Installing Chaplain Jack conducted the Closing Prayer Memorial. The POW/MIA flag being retired, and the National Banner saluted, the Commander read the closing Legion Obligation. The Colors were retired.

A Special Treat prepared by Unit 68 member and professional baker Sally Smith.



Post 58 Installation: Left to right, Department 1st Vice & Installing Officer Kirk Thurston, District 5 Chaplain & Installing Chaplain Randall Jack, Post 58 Chaplain Robert Perry, Post 58 Adjutant Gloria Hart, Post 58 Commander James Lowell, Post 58 Finance Officer Conrad Conant, Department 2nd Vice Al McKay.



Post 68 Installation: Left to right, Department 1st Vice Kirk Thurston, District 5 Chaplain Randall Jack, Post 68 Chaplain Dan Grover, Post 68 Sgt.-at-Arms Al Lake, Post 68 Commander Harry G. Orcutt, Post 68 Americanism Officer Don Pruyne, Post 68 Historian Tim Twitchell, Post 68 Adjutant Kelly Bickford, Department 2nd Vice Al McKay.

More on "INSTALLATION" Page 22

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 5 continued

"INSTALLATION"

(Continued from Page 21)

Bethel Post 81 Installation:

Left to right, Department 1st Vice Kirk Thurston, District 5 Chaplain Randall Jack, Post 81 1st Vice/Financial Officer George Angevine, Post 81 Past Commander Richard Grover, Post 81 Adjutant Bob Everett Chaplain, Department 2nd Vice Al McKay.



Units 68 & 151 Installation: Left to right, Installing & Unit 151 Sgt-at-Arms Pam DeCoteau, Installing Chaplain & Unit 151 Secretary Linda Jack, Unit 68 Chaplain Marleen Twitchell, Unit 68 President Hazel Cole, Unit 68 Secretary Susan Vacca, Installing Officer & Unit 151 President Dorene Wilbur.

Unit 81 Installation:

Left to right, Installing Sgt-at-Arms Pam DeCoteau, Installing Chaplain Linda Jack, Unit 81 Sgt-at-Arms Jeri Greenwell, Unit 81 Chaplain Joyce Smith, Unit 81 Secretary Carol Everett, Unit 81 Treasurer Michelle Varuolo Cole, Installing Officer Dorene Wilbur.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 6

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



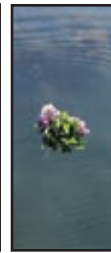
Post 34 Presents 60 Year Membership Certificate: Joe Kirk celebrates 60 years of American Legion membership and is presented a certificate by members of Kinney-Melquist Post 34 in Tenants Harbor. Group photo, left to right, Steve Pomakis, Joe Kirk, and Jan Gaudio.

**Tenants Harbor Unit 34 National Poppy Day Celebration:**

First year of celebrating National Poppy Day by Auxiliary Unit of Kinney-Melquist Post 34 of Tenants Harbor. Members in group photo, left to right, President Loa Blake, Secretary/Treasurer Beverly Emerson, Chaplain Debie Green, and Historian Donna Cline.

2022 Tenants Harbor Post 34

Memorial Day Ceremony

**Post 34 Memorial Day Ceremony:**

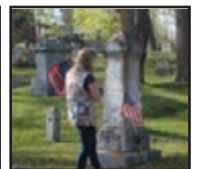
In attendance were Post 34 members: Steve Pomakis, Robert Sorg, Randy Deutsch, Dale Griffin, Raymond Emerson, Jan Gaudio, and David Percival.

Auxiliary members: Loa Blake, Debi Green, and Beverly Emerson. Odd Fellows members: Chris Stickney, Mark Bartholomew, Chris Caffrey; Selectmen: Richard Bates, Van Thompson, Steve Cartwright; State Representative Ann Matlack.

Photos By Dawn Gauthier



Cemetery Flag Placement: The St. George Girl Scout Troop 1831 placed flags on veterans graves in the Seaside Cemetery and the Wiley's Corner/North Parish cemeteries. Group photo, left to right, Addie McPhail, Lydia Myers, Natalie Vanorse, Winter Adams, and Kayleigh Young. Below individual photos, same order left to right.



Williams-Brazier Post 37 Makes a Rousing Return for the Thomaston 4th of July Celebration

In early 2022 the Town of Thomaston announced that the annual 4th of July celebration, with fireworks, would once again be held, after a two-year hiatus. The members of the American Legion Williams-Brazier Post 37 immediately began planning their contribution to the celebration. In addition to bringing back the successful hot dog stand from 2019, Post 37 decided to add recruitment stands for the Auxiliary Unit 37 and Post 37 Legionnaires, a display of Thomaston Emergency First Responder Services and a military exhibit, within the Post 37 Hall, of uniforms, equipment, and personal items of soldiers from the Civil War to the Viet Nam War.

Members arrived at Post 37 bright and early on the 4th of July. The hot dog stand support wagon had been brought in prior to the 4th and was quickly unloaded and set up for the day.

Tables and canopies were set up for Post 37 Legionnaire and Auxiliary recruitment as well as for the local Girl Scout troop. Vehicles, the women and men of the local Fire Department, Police Department, and Emergency Medical Services set up in front of Post 37.

Inside the hall, Post Historian George Robinson, Jr. had set up an exhibit over the prior four days. The Civil War exhibit was dedicated to Company B, of the 4th Maine Regiment. The regiment was recruited from Rockland and the surrounding area, as far away as Bangor. The World War 1 exhibit was dedicated to Howard C. Moody, the first Post 37 Commander and Harald F. Dana. Photos from Moody's photo album were displayed on the wall and the uniform and other items could be viewed in a glass case.

The World War 2 exhibit displayed US and German uniforms, field gear and personal items as well as wall displays of War Bond Posters, newspaper articles and photos of past Post 37 members. Soldier photos also included 1LT Herbert L. Libby, a USMC pilot and listed MIA until 1957, and James Woodrow Carleton, the father of Auxiliary Unit 37's president, Beth Ames.

The exhibit ended with a few uniform items, field gear, and personal items from the Korean and Vietnam wars. The Korean War is well represented by Post 37 with several posters about the war on display.

[More on "CELEBRATION" Page 23](#)

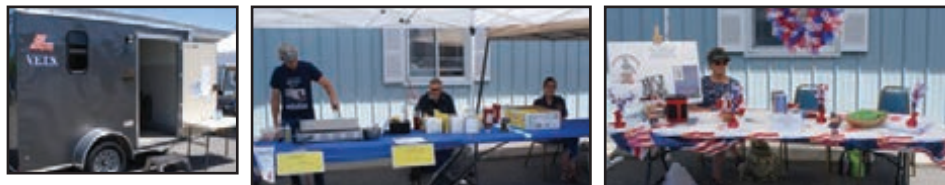
“CELEBRATION” (Continued from Page 22)

The Vietnam display included photos and short bios about Lieutenant Commander Arthur J. Elliott and Major Sayward N. Hall. Both were killed in action in Vietnam. LTC Elliott had a destroyer named after him, the DD-967 Elliott. All items in the exhibit are privately owned but are part of the current online museum, Veterans Memorial Museum. This museum had two building locations in Germany, through the generosity of former commanders, and staff, of the United States Army Garrison-Darmstadt, with buildings in Babenhausen and at the Army Airfield

in Griesheim.

Overall, the Post 37 4th of July contribution to the Thomaston celebration was a huge success. Of the 500 hot dogs bought for the stand, only three were left at the end of the day. Though not a crowd, many visitors came through the exhibit. Several asked to see it displayed again. Post 37 will be back next year, if conditions allow it, and will bring the same, if not better, dedication and support to the supporters of the Williams-Brazier Post 37 family and community. You will always be welcome as our guest to Post 37.

Historian and SAC Chairperson
George Robinson, Jr.
Thomaston Post 37



Thomaston Post 37 July 4th Celebration: Outside the Hall, top left, the Hot Dog Stand Support Wagon; top middle, Post 37 Officers, left to right, Jeffrey Wright, Kent Woodard, and Dawn Wright working the hot dog stand; top right, Post 37 Information Stand; and bottom right photo, Unit 37 President Beth Ames at the Auxiliary Unit 37 Recruitment Stand.



Post 37 July 4th Exhibits: Inside the Hall at Post 37 were displays of artifacts from the Civil War, WWI, and WWII such as photos, uniforms, field gear, posters, and newspaper articles. Left photo, 4th Maine Regiment Civil War items; middle photo, World War II German items; and right photo, World War II US items.

Photos By George Robinson, Jr, Thomaston Post 37 Department Historian, Media and Communications Committee

Williams-Brazier Post 37 Flag Drop Box Open for Business

In September 2020, Scott Murry, of Rockland, donated a used, and unserviceable, United States Postal Service mailbox to the American Legion Williams-Brazier Post 37 to be converted into a drop box for old and unserviceable American flags. The mailbox was then turned over to John Conway who, along with brothers Joseph and Robert Dinapoli, proceeded to restore the old mailbox.

On November 11, at the annual Post 37 Veterans Day celebration, the vibrantly colored, and patriotic, was dedicated by Post 37. It was announced that the Drop Box was to be installed and honor past Post Commander, William Demmons, for

his many years of service to Post 37. In addition, it was announced that the Drop Box would be installed in the spring of 2021, but an uptick in the Covid situation delayed the installation until the spring of 2022.

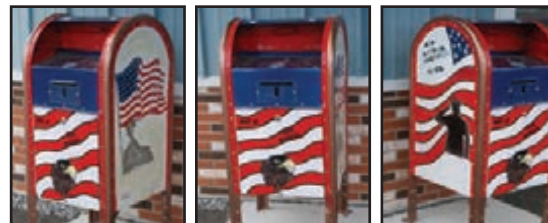
During April 2022, Post Commander Jeremy Miller and Post Service Officer Jeffrey Wright installed the cement slab for the Drop Box to stand on and on June 5, the Drop Box began its service to the veterans, their family members, and the local community. Since then, through word of mouth, a few dozen flags have been dropped into the Drop Box. Several of these flags were to be properly retired for the 2022 Flag Day Ceremony but unforeseen circumstances prevented this from happening. Many of the gathered will be retired in a private manner and the ceremony for Post 37 members and guests will be held once again on June 14, 2023.

Do you have a flag that has become tattered and torn, dirty or defunct? Then the Williams-Brazier Post 37 invites you to

take advantage of our Drop Box, located at the Post Hall on 10 Watts Lane. It is convenient and easy to drop. If you have a special flag that you would like to include in our annual Retirement Ceremony, please contact Post 2nd Vice-Command-

er William Demmons at (207) 319-3400 or Post Historian George Robinson, Jr., by email robmainer@outlook.com.

Historian and SAC Chairperson
George Robinson, Jr.
Thomaston Post 37



Thomaston Post 37 Drop Box, June 18, 2022

Photos by Historian and SAC Chairperson
George Robinson, Jr.
Thomaston Post 37

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 7

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

Boothbay Harbor Memorial Day 6 Parades Over Four Hours

Charles E Sherman, Jr. Post 36 traditionally leads the annual Boothbay Region Memorial Day parades and this year was no exception. Boothbay Region has 6 memorials located across the region. On Southport Island there are 2; Boothbay, E. Boothbay and Edgecomb each have one. Boothbay Harbor has one memorial at the downtown library and our veterans who died at sea are remembered at a waterfront ceremony. 6 Parades over four hours. The Boothbay Harbor US Coast Guard provided the Colors and the Marines from the Brunswick USMC Reserve Center provided the Rifle Squad, as they have done for the past 35 years. Our marches include young veterans who served in the Global War on Terror to our oldest Veteran, a 96-year-old retired Navy, Vietnam veteran. Our Grand Marshal was Commander Kelley Craft, Commanding Officer of the

newest ship being built at BIW, the DDG 120, Carl Levin. Leading the parade with the Grand Marshal was our current Post Commander David Patch and our incoming Commander Robin Ford. At each memorial, a different person provided the remarks, including clergy from our Catholic, Methodist, Congregational, and Christian Fellowship churches. Gerry Gamage, Southport's longtime fire chief and selectman (and unofficial military historian), provided remarks on Southport. The local community band provides hymns and played TAPS. Our local vocal artist, Doug Gimbel, sang the National Anthem. Following the parade, the Charles E Sherman, Jr. Unit 36 Auxiliary provided a terrific lunch for all the parade participants and their families. The weather was perfect, and the town came out to support our fallen and honor our veterans.



Marching to the waterfront to place the flowers in the water, Commander Craft and our incoming Commander Robin Ford.



The Veteran Group marching to the Waterfront. Drill master is Vietnam veteran Barry Sherman and our 96-year-old veteran Captain Barclay Sheppard, USN/Retired.



Post 37 Flag Drop Box: Nov 11, 2020, Post 37 Service Officer Jeffrey Wright introduces Post 37 Drop Box.



Guest Speaker & Marine Rifle Squad: Reverend Todd Wier (left photo) was our speaker at the Boothby Harbor memorial with the Marine Rifle Squad (right photo) ready to fire their volley.

All Photos by Kevin Burnham



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 7 continued



Maintaining Flags In Wiscasset: American Legion Post 54 puts up an American flag in Wiscasset May 26. The post spends \$2000 a year maintaining the flags, Commander William Cossett Jr. has said. From left are Cossette, Sgt-at-Arms John Kennedy on the ladder, and first Vice Commander Mike Barnes.

Photo Courtesy of Cliff Hendricks & Lincoln County Newspaper

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 8

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



Brunswick Post 20 Flag Retirement Ceremony A Flag Retirement Ceremony that Brunswick Post 20 conducted at the Kate Furbish Elementary School in Brunswick was held on March 25. Their old Flag was badly discolored and torn. The school reached out to

Post 20 to see if they were able to replace the Flag. Post 20 did so. From that idea, the school administration and Post 20 formed a Retirement Ceremony for classes at the school. Front, Kate Furbish Elementary School children. Back, left to right, Brunswick Post 20 Adjutant Marty Diller, Post 20 Americanism Officer Joe Donohue, and Post 20 Commander David Watson.



Brunswick Post 20 Holds 2nd Annual VA Golden Age Games: The VA Golden Age Games were hosted by Brunswick Post 20 on June 17. This is a regional shoot for pellet rifle and pistols. (Approved by local VA Hospital) This was the 2nd annual competition and is open to Veterans 55 and up.

Harpswell Memorial Day 2022



Remembering Those Lost At Sea: Prior to the Parade, Commander Doyle tossed a wreath into Ewing Narrows to remember those lost at sea. Left to right, John Ott, Bill Allen, Matt Maurer, Bill O'Connell, Chuck Collins, Chris Collins, Bob Webber, Commander Mike Doyle, Steve Broughall.

Photo by Lili Ott



Leading The Parade: Harpswell Post 171 led the parade from Lookout Point Rd to Harpswell Center. Commander Mike Doyle at far right. 2nd row, left to right, Chris Collins, Bob Webber, Chuck Collins. 3rd row: left to right, Steve Broughall, Bill O'Connell (hidden behind Chris Collins) carrying the US flag, Amy Ferrell, Howard Yanik. Driving the ATV (at far left) behind the marchers is Gary Anderson, with Bill Allen riding shotgun.

Photo by JW Oliver/Harpswell Anchor



Ceremony at Harpswell Center: Commander Doyle at the lectern. Seated behind him are, left to right, Dan McMahon, Gayle Doyle, Dorie Barnes, parade coordinator Tracy Williams. Color Guard (3rd row): left to right, Howard Yanik, Bill O'Connell, Amy Ferrell, Steve Broughall and Chaplain Matt Maurer. Keynote Speaker Michael Field and Kellogg Church Pastor John Carson at far left.

Photo by Lili Ott



Memorial Day Observance: Keynote Speaker Michael Field, a Harpswell resident and Army veteran of the Gulf War. At far right in the photo are Post 171 members Bill Sabrowski (standing) and Gary Anderson (seated). The Parade and Memorial Day Observance were dedicated to Shirley Thompson, who organized the event for over 20 years. She joined Post Everlasting last March.

Photo by Harpswell Anchor



Post 171 Arriving At Harpswell Center: Bill O'Connell (carrying the US flag) now fully visible. The ATV on the far right was driven by Gary Anderson, with Bill Allen riding shotgun. Members Anderson and Allen found an elegant way

to arrive at the ceremony as both now have difficulty walking. To watch the parade (in case you missed it), go to harpswelltv.org. It's one of the Vimeo offerings.

Photo by HCTV



Ewing Narrows Bridge Ceremony was held prior to the parade. Proceeding to the center of the bridge, Commander Doyle, at far right in the photo, is holding the wreath he will toss into the Narrows to commemorate those lost at sea. The right photo (by Lili Ott) shows the Color Guard leaving the bridge after the ceremony. Bill Allen, who has difficulty walking, carried the US flag.

Photo by JW Oliver/Harpswell Anchor



Harpswell Post 171 Flag Day 2022: In attendance, left photo, left to right, Amy Ferrell, Commander Mike Doyle, and Bill O'Connell. Right photo, Bill O'Connell overseeing the dignified disposal of unserviceable flags.

Photos by Amy Ferrell

Phippsburg Post 216 Happenings & Events

Phippsburg American Legion Memorial Post 216 had a very busy spring which started with participation in the Town's roadside cleanup on April 30.

On May14, the Post conducted their annual yard cleanup fundraiser at a local business and the next day they spent the morning at the Town's Veterans Park cleaning up the gardens and mowing in preparation for Memorial Day.

As Memorial Day approached the Post members divided up into five groups and placed over 230 US Flags on veteran

graves in 42 public and private cemeteries. The Post also participated in the City of Bath's Memorial Parade sponsored by Bath Post 21.

In June, the Post conducted a full graveside service for Comrade Robert Morse USN; who had been a very active post member since 2015. Due to the fact that his two sons lived outside the State, they asked if Post 216 could help them organize the graveside service and memorial gathering afterwards. The graveside ser-

[More on "EVENTS" Page 25](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 8 continued

■ "EVENTS"

(Continued from Page 24)

vice was conducted by Post 216 members, Harpswell Post 171 Rifle Team, and the U.S. Navy. Post Adjutant Young, dressed in his Coast Guard Dress Uniform, was the officiant with Chaplain Spear, Commander Kellogg, and Financial Officer Reddinger participating in the program. Judge Advocate Libby and Comrade Swizdor

were Color Guard. The Harpswell Post 171 Rifle Team consisting of Comrades Doyle, Maurer, O'Connell and Webber as well as representatives from the U.S. Navy participated in the military honors. The memorial gathering took place at the Phippsburg Sportsmen's Association which is home to Post 216 and VFW Post 7738.

Submitted by Phippsburg Post 216 Adjutant & PO Officer Mike Young

Phippsburg Veteran's Memorial Park Cleanup



Memorial Site Cleanup Group: Post members clean up the Phippsburg Veteran's Memorial Park in preparation for the Memorial Day celebration. Front, left to right, Comrade Tiffany Brown, daughter Kiara, FO Debra Reddinger. Back, left to right, Comrade Bill Nicholson, Comrade Larry Swizdor, CDR Ken Kellogg, JA Fred Libby.

Photos by Phippsburg Post 216 Adjutant & PO Officer Mike Young



Memorial Site Cleanup Tasks: Comrade Bill Nicholson (left photo) power blows leaves at the Phippsburg Veteran's Memorial Park in preparation for Memorial Day celebration, while Finance Officer Debra Reddinger (middle photo) cleans up flower beds and (right photo) Comrade Tiffany Brown, left, and daughter Kiara, right, weed the flower beds.

Bath Memorial Day Parade:

Post members participate in the Bath Memorial Day parade. Front, left to right, Comrade Tiffany Brown and FVC Scott Miller. Back, left to right, Finance Officer Debra Reddinger and Commander Ken Kellogg.

Photo by Phippsburg Police Officer Kehl Chadwick



Memorial Day Parade Police: Post members meet with Phippsburg Police Officer Kehl Chadwick to get ready for the Bath Memorial Day parade. Left to right, Finance Officer Debra Reddinger, Officer Kehl Chadwick, Commander Ken Kellogg.

Photo by Comrade Tiffany Brown



Veteran Flags: Commander Ken Kellogg places a U. S. Flag on a veteran's grave in an ancient cemetery.

Photo by Phippsburg Post 216 Adjutant & PO Officer Mike Young



Comrad Morse's Graveside Service and Memorial Gathering



Flag Retirement: Comrade Bob Morse at the Post 216 Flag Retirement Ceremony in 2018. Bob was transferred to Post Everlasting and Military Services were held on June 4.

Photo by Mike Young



Reflection: Finance Officer Debra Reddinger, left, and Chilloa Young, right, reflect at Comrade Bob Morse's graveside service.

Photo by Sue Mainville



Memorial Gathering: Comrade Morse's two sons with Comrade Swizdor at the memorial gathering following the graveside service. Left to right, Comrade Swizdor, Army Colonel Daryl Morse and Retired Navy MM1 Scott Morse.

Photo by Chilloa Young



Graveside Service: Post 216 members, Harpswell 171 rifle team, U.S. Navy, and Comrade Morse's two sons, Army Colonel Daryl Morse and Retired Navy MM1 Scott Morse, right, at Comrade Bob Morse's graveside service.

Photo by Maria Morse



Harpswell Post 171 Rifle Team at Comrade Bob Morse's graveside service. Left to right, Comrades Mike Doyle, Matt Maurer, Bill O'Connell, and Bob Webber.

Photo by Maria Morse

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



District 9 Installation Of Officers: District 9, Kennebec County installed their new slate of officers on May 11 at the Fitzgerald-Cummings Post 2, Augusta. Left to right, District 9 Officers: Finance Officer Debra Couture, Sgt-at-Arms Ronald Dixon, 1st Vice Alan Hitt, Adjutant Donald Chase, Commander Maureen Malley, Service Officer

Catharine Audette, Judge Advocate Richard Braunfels, and Department Finance Officer Greg Couture. Installing Officers were Department Commander Debra Couture and Department Finance Officer Greg Couture. Missing from the photo is District 9 Chaplain Barbara Kasiola. Thank you to Augusta Post 2 for hosting this event. Congratulations to all those elected and have a successful new year.

Augusta Post 2 Helps Military Family

The Fitzgerald-Cummings Post 2 in Augusta held a fundraising project benefiting the Tunnel to Towers Foundation. In total the Post raised \$2505. The purpose of the Foundation is to provide support to military members and first responders and families suffering from loss or injury caused by their service. The Foundation pays for the mortgages of injured service members and first responders or their fam-

ilies if the veteran or first responder is lost.

A ceremonial presentation of the T2T check was made on April 24 after the officer installation. Department Commander Debra Couture assisted with the presentation. The presentation was made to T2T representative Jennie Taylor. It was done by zoom call. Jennie's husband, Brent, was a major in the Army and was killed

[More on "MILITARY FAMILY" Page 26](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 9 continued

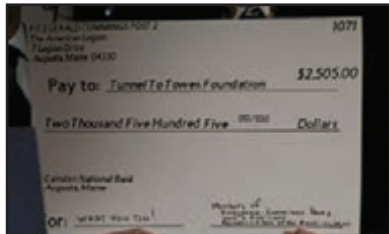
“MILITARY FAMILY” (Continued from Page 25)

in Afghanistan on his last deployment. Jennie gave a very inspirational talk to the members in attendance. Very moving. The T2T Foundation paid off the mortgage on her home. Incredible and a most worthwhile project.

“The Tunnel to Towers Foundation is dedicated to honoring and supporting our nation’s military and first responders who continue to risk life and limb to

keep us safe at home and abroad. Tunnel to Towers provides mortgage-free smart homes to our nation’s catastrophically injured veterans and first responders, and mortgage payoffs to Gold Star and fallen first responder families with young children. In 2021, the Foundation provided these heroes and their families with over 200 mortgage-free homes. This is only possible with our supporters. Thank you to Fitzgerald-Cummings Post 2 American Legion!” - The T2T Team

Article by Augusta Post 2
Commander Fred Umphrey



Augusta Post 2 Check Presentation: Post 2 held fundraisers benefiting the Tunnel to Towers Foundation. They collected and presented a check for \$2505 to the Taylor family on April 24. Through a zoom call at Post 2, Department Commander Debra Couture and Post 2 Officers, (right photo), present a check to the Taylor family.

Photos by Augusta Post 2 Commander Fred Umphrey



Taylor, above left photo. Her husband, Brent, was killed during his last deployment in Afghanistan. The Taylor Family, above right, Jennie and Brent Taylor, a major in the Army, and children.

Photos by Augusta Post 2 Commander Fred Umphrey

Augusta SAL Squadron 2 Flag Day Ceremony

On June 12, Post 2 Sons of the American Legion Squadron 2 conducted a Flag Ceremony as part of Flag Day. Post 2 and Unit 2 Auxiliary members assisted the SAL with the presentations. The ceremony consisted of readings by Legion and SAL

members and the posting of flags symbolizing the history of the United States flags. The flags used were loaned by the Augusta Elks Club. There were over 50 people in attendance at the event.

Article by Augusta Post 2
Commander Fred Umphrey



Flag Day Ceremony: Participants, top photos, left to right, SAL Chairman Robert Driscove, SAL Commander Timothy Leet, Post 2 member Charles McGillicuddy, and Unit 2 Auxiliary members waiting to place flags. Bottom left photo, flags that were placed by the Unit 2 Auxiliary.

Photos by Augusta Post 2 Commander Fred Umphrey



Waterville Post 5 Installation: Post 5 installed new officers June 8. Left to right, Exec. Committee Dave Butler, 1st Vice Cmdr. Charlie Shoudy, 2nd Vice Cmdr. Val Bard, Commander Craig Bailey, Adjutant Ernie Paradis, Finance Officer Butch Berard, Chaplain Pearley

Lachance, Sgt-at-Arms Mike Hanley. Officers not in photo, Judge Advocate Don Marden and Service Officer James Ware.

Photo Courtesy of The Town Line Newspaper, June 16, 2022



Hallowell Post 6 Installation: New officers of Goodrich-Caldwell Post 6 Hallowell for 2022-2023 were installed on May 23 by Past Dept. Commander Brenda Dearborn. Left to right, Commander Phil Wiiseman, 2nd Vice Lewis Gipson, Historian Mike Madden, Adjutant Maureen Malley, Sgt-at-Arms Tim McGuire, and Chaplain Gerald Stuart.

Photo submitted by Hallowell Post 6 Historian Mike Madden



Congratulations Received From Hall-Dale HS Band: Members of the Hall-Dale High School band congratulate Veterans of Goodrich-Caldwell Post 6 at Legion Park during Memorial Day activities in Hallowell, May 30.

Photo by Hallowell Post 6 Historian Mike Madden



Litchfield Post 181 Installs 2022-2023 Officers: Post 181 installed their 2022-2023 officers on May 25 at the Post in Litchfield. Left to right, Finance Officer Debra Couture, Chaplain Carlton Tripp, Executive Committee Roger Line, Service Officer Ron Dixon, Judge Advocate Richard Braunfels, 1st Vice Commander Denise Emery, Commander Glenn Bowman, Adjutant Greg Couture. Americanism Officer Elton Wade, 2nd Vice Commander Scott Bailey and Sergeant-at-Arms Richard Wardwell were absent. Officers were installed by 2021-2022 Department Commander Debra Couture and Department Finance Officer Greg Couture.

Photo submitted by Department Commander Debra Couture



Educator Of The Year: 2022 American Legion, Department of Maine, Educator of the Year Award was presented to Ms. Amanda Boyce, left, by 2021-2022 Department Commander Debra Couture, right. Ms. Boyce, who lives in West Gardiner, has been teaching math and science at Winthrop High School for 17 years. She was nominated by Post 181, Litchfield, Maine.

Photo submitted by Department Commander Debra Couture

Special Thanks For Contribution: The Monmouth American Legion Post 204 donated a check for \$100 to the Monmouth National Society for the help in placing grave flags in Monmouth Center.

Special thanks to the following members, left to right, Megan Ham, Averi Beaudoin, Allyson Lewis, Natalie Aube, Alexa Allen and Holly Hunt.

Photo by Monmouth Post 204 Adjutant Don Morin



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 10

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

POW/MIA Canaan WWII Airman Brought Home to Rest

United States Army Air Forces Staff Sgt. Richard G. Salsbury, 19 years old, of Canaan, Maine, was killed during World War II. He had enlisted in the service the day after his 18th birthday.

Richard was born January 4, 1924, son of Sewall B. Salsbury and Harriet Fowl-

er Salsbury. Stepson of Maude Gower Salsbury. Brother of Walter Salisbury and brother-in-law of Golden Fitzgerald Salisbury. Uncle to the children of Walter and Golden Salisbury: Gale Salisbury Staples, Darrell Salisbury, Kimbley

[More on "AIRMAN" Page 27](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 10 continued

“AIRMAN”
(Continued from Page 26)

Salisbury DeGruchy, Cheryl Salisbury Pratt and Ann Salisbury Walker.

On August 1, 1943, the B-24 Liberator aircraft which Richard was serving as gunner, crashed as a result of enemy aircraft fire during operation TIDAL WAVE, which was the largest bombing mission targeting the oil refineries at Ploiesti, North of Bucharest, Romania.

Richard G. Salisbury was awarded the Purple Heart Medal, Air Medal, Distinguished Flying Cross and other additional Army awards.

Recently, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced that they

had been able to identify the remains of Richard G. Salisbury. Richard will be returned to his hometown of Canaan, where he will be laid to rest with family at The Fairview Cemetery (located on Canaan Road/Route 23) on May 14th at 1 pm. Followed by a post-service gathering at the Canaan Fire Station (265 Main St. Canaan).

The American Legion, Department of Maine has added a star to Ssgt. Salisbury's name on the POW/MIA Memorial located at headquarters at 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME.



Richard G. Salisbury, WWII US Army Air Force Staff Sgt



Salsbury Receives Proper Burial: WWII Veteran SSGT Richard G. Salsbury was finally laid to rest, after missing in action for 79 years, for the family to get closure. Family, Post & Legion Officers paid their respects to the MIA Veteran at his funeral held at Fairview Cemetery in Canaan on May 15. Top photo, front row, left to right, Department 2nd Vice Commander Alfred McKay, Department Commander Debra Couture, Skowhegan Post 16 member Tina Richard, Americanism Officer Patricia “Tricia” Thurston, and Hallowell Post 6 Commander Maureen Malley. Back row, left to right, Department 1st Vice Commander Kirk Thurston, and Department Finance Officer Gregory Couture.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 13

Bangor Post 12; E Millinocket Post 13; Corinna Post 73; Old Town Post 75; Lincoln Post 77; Millinocket Post 80; Orono Post 84; Howland Post 97; Brewer Post 98; Newport Post 105; Etna-Carmel Post 107; Corinth Post 115; Lee Post 160; Herman Post 200; Dixmont Post 201; Glenburn Post 211; Hampden Post 213

Old Town Post 75 Sponsor Chair Program: Post 75 in Old Town started a "Sponsor a chair" program. A member pays \$50 for a chair to be donated to the Post. That person (or someone they chose) then gets to have their military or American Legion emblem with the words "Donated by" or "In Memory of" on the chair. So far, Post 75 has had 18 chairs purchased for the Post this way. Here are a few pics of the chairs.



Photos by Old Town Post 75 Adjutant Kevin McGarry



Lincoln Post 77 WWII Veteran Receives Recognition For His Service: 2021-2022 Department Commander, Debra Couture, left, presents National Commander Paul Dillard's pin and coin and the State of Maine WWII Recognition Certificate signed by Governor Mills with WWII commemorative medal to 102-year-old WWII Veteran Lester Delano, right, on June 2nd in Lee, Maine. Mr. Delano flew 55 combat missions with the US Army Air Corps during WWII. On his 54th mission, anti-aircraft fire shot through his seat in the plane he was flying. He had just moved from his seat before it was hit. That saved his life. The plane landed safely. Lester, thank you for your service. Lester is a member of Post 77, Lincoln, Maine.

Photo submitted by Department Commander Debra Couture



Howland Post 97 Installation Of Officers: American Legion Post 97 in Howland recently held its installation of Post Officers for 2022/2023. Front row, left to right, Department of Maine Commander Debra Couture, 1st Vice Commander Ed Spencer Jr., Adjutant Henry Carey, Commander Joseph Briggs. Back row, left to right, Americanism Officer James Hatch, Sergeant-at-Arms Royce Smith, Service Officer Raymond Rancourt, Finance Officer John Neel.

Photo submitted by Howland Post 97 Finance Officer John Neel

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 14

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

14th District Commander Statement

I have been to the following Posts this summer:

Post #29, Dover-Foxcroft, with a new Post Commander and new officers, making steps to revitalize their post. They have committed to attending the District meeting on September 17th at the Guilford Post. I'm looking forward to that positive sign.

Post #53, Dexter, has committed to keep their Post going for at least three more months.

Post #92, Brownville, is under new leadership, Commander Chris Crockett and with a younger membership showing signs of being a vibrant post. They have BINGO, running with an energetic kitchen crew serving prior to game time and a good size clientele; they have a strong kitchen crew which puts on a Saturday breakfast once a month. I see good things happening at this post.

Post #41, Milo, is under new leadership, Commander Ryan Moore and Eve Lyn Powell as Assistant Adjutant. 1st Vice, Wally Sinclair is also our Post reporter and newsletter editor. He is doing a fine job.

Second Vice, Glen McManus who stepped into the position. We feel that he will do a great job. Richard Quirk has been gone most of the summer, I'm hoping he'll stay on as Service Officer and Adjutant as he did a great job last year in both positions. Acting Finance Officer Mike McGary says he only wanted to hold the office for a short time, but he does a fantastic job and we are hoping that he will stay on full time.

The Post has Baked Bean Suppers on the second Saturday of every month and a fish fry on the third Friday. They plan on starting BINGO on Monday nights and open mic on Saturdays. They have been working with the town for Milo's Bi-Centennial celebration next summer and they have already started a fund for this purpose.

Guilford, Greenville and Monson have not had post meetings this summer. I will visit them in September.

All of you, please work on your membership. Let's get the District 14 over 100%!!

District 14 Commander Willard Leeman

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

District 15 Meeting & Legion Cap Winner: Calais Post 15 Commander Mike McLean holds up an American Legion Cap he won during the District 15 meeting at Baileyville Post 23 on May 15. Left to right, Lubec Post 65 Commander George Eaton, District 15 Adjutant and Pembroke Post 59 Adjutant Dale Shannon, and Calais Post 15 Commander Mike McLean.

Photo by Calais Post 15 Commander Mike McLean



Calais Post 3 Donation: Downeast Credit Union presents a check for \$1000 to the American Legion Post 3 in Calais. Left to right, Director of Consumer Lending Joanne Cushing, Customer Lending Randy Bowen, Post 3 Commander Jim Myers, Past Post 3 Commander Mike McLean.

Photo by Past Calais Post 15 Commander Mike McLean

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 15 continued

Cherryfield Post 8 Commander Welcomes New Soldier:

Commander Jon Gay, left, carried the Flag for the 5k Salmon Run during the annual Cherryfield Days celebration and recruits fellow runner Jordan Perry. Perry is a new enlisted soldier with the MeANG, bringing his wife and two daughters into the military family.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 17

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



Van Buren Post 49 Taps Across America: Taps Across America at Legion Post 49 in Van Buren on May 30. Left to right, Bob Roy, Harvey Beaulieu, Bob Rossignol, Reynold Pelletier and Roy Doucette.

Submitted by
Van Buren Post 49 Adjutant Roy Doucette

Frenchville Unit 145 Continuous Membership Meeting

At our June Unit 145 American Legion Auxiliary Meeting, we gave out several Continuous Membership Certificates. Certificates were given out for 25, 35, 45, 50, and 60 years of Continuous Membership to the American Legion Auxiliary. We have three Auxiliary members who each received their 70 years of Continuous Membership with the American Legion Auxiliary. Now

that is just amazing! We don't see this very often, someone being a member of an organization for 70 years! We thank these ladies for all their years of dedicated service to our organization and our Veterans! These ladies are Charter Members of the Cyr-Plourde American Legion Auxiliary Unit 145 of Frenchville, Maine.

Article by Unit 145 Secretary Denise Sinclair



Continuous Membership Certificates: Mrs. Odette Ouellette, left, and Mrs. Lucille Daigle, right receive their certificates from our Membership Chairperson, Claudette Thibeault, center. Another Charter member, Rena Chamberland who was unable to attend the meeting will receive her 70 years Continuous Membership Certificate.

Photo by Unit 145 Secretary Denise Sinclair

Maine Department Auxiliary of the Year for 2021

We have a very special Auxiliary in our Unit 145 of Frenchville. Mrs. Stella Ouellette and her family have a combined 168 years of membership to the American Legion Auxiliary Organization. This is not something that you see very often.

Stella has been an Auxiliary for 67

years; her daughter, Glenna Guerrette, has been an Auxiliary for 33 years; her granddaughter, Danielle Pelletier, has been an Auxiliary for 33 years; her granddaughter, Julie Dumond, has been an Auxiliary for 26 years; her great-granddaughter, Makena Pelletier, has been a Junior Auxiliary for 6 years;

and great-granddaughter, Mylee Pelletier, has been a Junior Auxiliary for 3 years.

Stella received a very special award – Maine Department Auxiliary of the Year for 2021.

This award is so well deserved because Stella has volunteered her time helping Veterans and their families, and her community for so many years! She was always volunteering at the Frenchville American Legion with any fund raiser or activity that the Legionnaires or Auxiliaries would be having. She could always be found at the Frenchville Communi-

ty Center helping out with activities or meals, etc. She has volunteered for years at the St. Joseph Memory Care Nursing Home. She has been knitting and crocheting mittens, bonnets, and scarves, for the children at school who need them and the Special Olympics participants, for so many years! She has picked up and delivered mail for an elderly who was not been able to go to the Post Office for years. There is no limit as to what this very kind, caring, and giving lady does.

Article by Unit 145 Secretary Denise Sinclair

Frenchville Unit 145 Special Award: Holding her award is Stella Ouellette, her daughter, Glenna Guerrette, granddaughter, Danielle Pelletier and great-granddaughters, Makena and Mylee Pelletier. Missing in the photo is granddaughter Julie Dumond.

Photo by family member



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN...

CANADA

St. John's, Newfoundland Fort Pepperrell Post CN09



Fort Pepperrell Post CN-09 Member Attendees: Members of Fort Pepperrell Post CN09 in St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada in attendance at the June 27 meeting. Back row, left to right, Service Officer George Walter, Terry Clower, Commander John Walther, Anne MacFarlane, and Adjutant Harlow Snippen. Front, left to right, Finance Officer Ray Reiser & Charlie Pierce.

A Message to Canada Post CN-09 From The State Adjutant

As your Department Adjutant, I receive many emails and photos from Posts all over the State of Maine. But today, I received one that is special for this office and the Department.

We have a Post in Canada that is attached to the Department of Maine and today you can meet them after their June 27 Post meeting was held. The

Post is in St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada.

Thank you, Finance Officer Ray Reiser, for sending this photo so that all your brothers and sisters in Maine can meet you all!

Sending our very best to all of you in the north!

State Adjutant Paul L'Heureux

Show Your Support to Veterans in the State of Maine by Donating Today!



To Donate, visit <http://www.mainelegion.org/pages/foundation.php> and select the DONATE TODAY! button, or simply click the image to the left if using the digital version of The Maine Legionnaire. If you choose to mail you your donation, checks should be made payable to American Legion Department of Maine Foundation and

mailed to: American Legion Department of Maine Foundation, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901-0727. Please make sure to provide your name and address so that we may send you a tax receipt. Thank you in advance for your generous contribution! The American Legion, Department of Maine Foundation is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization exclusively for charitable purposes including the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations described under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code. All donations to the foundation are tax-deductible under the United States Tax Code and Internal Revenue Service.



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

Your Letters



Honored To Accept Award

Dear Mr. L'Heureux,

First and foremost, thank you, and all Legionnaires, for your service to our great Nation, and your continued service to our veterans, families, and communities through the American Legion. As we approach Memorial May, I am most appreciative of the American Legion's work to remember our fallen brothers and sisters.

I was pleased to receive and read your letter regarding the selection of the U.S. Border Patrol, Houlton Sector for The American Legion, Department of Maine's 2022 National Security of the Year award. Thank you again!

I cordially accept your invitation for Saturday, June 11, 2022, and it will be my honor to represent the fine men and women of Houlton Sector and accept this award on their behalf.

I have attached a PDF copy of this response message on letterhead, and a hardcopy version will be sent via U.S. Mail.

Lastly, my contact information is provided below if you need to reach out for anything further.

Thank you once more, and I look forward to meeting you soon.

Very Respectfully,
William "Bill" Maddocks
Chief Patrol Agent
U.S. Border Patrol | Houlton Sector
Phone: 207-532-6521
William.j.maddocks@cbp.dhs.gov

Scholarship Appreciated! Helps Ease Financial Burden Toward Nursing School

Dear American Legion,

I am writing to thank you for selecting me to be a recipient of the Daniel E. Lambert Memorial Scholarship. I am really appreciative, and this scholarship will help make my first year at the University of Maine Nursing School a lot easier financially.

Again, thank you for your generosity.

Sincerely,
Tucker Gagnon

Generous Contribution Helps Achieve Goals

Dear Scholarship Committee,

Words cannot describe how thankful I am to have been chosen as the recipient of this scholarship. This money will go a long way in helping me achieve my goals with a lessened financial burden. Please accept my sincerest gratitude for your generous contribution to my education.

Sincerely,
Jack Cesario

Children & Youth Scholarship A Huge Blessing!

Dear Mr. L'Heureux,

Thank you so much for selecting me as a recipient of The American Legion, Department of Maine Children & Youth Scholarship. It is a huge blessing in easing the financial burden of college. I am excited for the future and the opportunity to attend Cedarville University. Thank you again!

Sincerely,
Rachael Haste



Houlton Sector Award: Chief Patrol Agent William "Bill" Maddocks, left, honorably accepts the 2022 American Legion Department of Maine National Security of the Year Award on behalf of U.S. Border Patrol, Houlton Sector by National Executive Committeeman Lloyd Woods, right during the Annual State Convention in Brewer on June 11.

CORRECTION: Robert E. Webber, Harpswell Post 171 was mistakenly listed in the Taps Column in the May 2022 edition of The Maine Legionnaire.



The American Legion, Department of Maine High School Oratorical Scholarship Program

Thomas College

180 West River Rd., Waterville, Maine 04901

February 11, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

(Snow Date: Feb. 18, 2023)

The American Legion, Department of Maine High School Oratorical Scholarship Contest will once again be held at Thomas College in Waterville on February 11, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. Snow Date: February 18, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.

The main purpose of The American Legion Oratorical Contest "A Constitutional Speech Contest" is to develop a deeper knowledge and appreciation for the U.S. Constitution among high school students. Other objectives of the contest include the development of leadership qualities, the ability to think and speak clearly and intelligently, and the preparation for acceptance of the duties, responsibilities, the rights and privileges of American citizenship.

Young orators will have the opportunity to earn some of the most generous scholarships. At the Post and District level, scholarships offered range from \$50 - \$100, and at the State level \$50 - \$1500. At the National level, each department (state) winner who is certified and participates in the National Oratorical Contest's 1st round receives \$2,000 scholarship. Each first round winner who advances to and participates in the second round, but does not advance to the final round, will receive an additional \$2,000 scholarship to pursue education beyond high school. The overall national contest winner gets

a \$25,000 scholarship. Second place takes home \$22,500, and third gets \$20,000. The members of the Oratorical Committee will be working with both Area and District Commanders to prepare Posts and Districts for their local contests. We hope to have all Post contests completed by Mid-December 2022 and all District contests completed by the end of January 2023.

The 2023 **National Finals is April 21-23** in Indianapolis, at the Wyndham Indianapolis West Hotel. Quarter-final and semifinal contests are scheduled for Saturday, April 22, with the finals scheduled for Sunday, April 23. **Certification of Department winners is due to National by March 13, 2023 by 5:00 p.m. EDT.** Failure to meet this deadline WILL result in disqualification of the contestant.

For additional questions and/or information pertaining to the Oratorical Contest in Maine, please contact Oratorical Chairperson Maureen Malley at maureenmalley.66@gmail.com. More information can also be obtained by visiting www.mainelegion.org, your local American Legion Post, or The American Legion, Department of Maine Headquarters at 207-873-3229. Please check out the State and Local Oratorical contests by visiting National's website at www.legion.org/oratorical.

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T a p s C o l u m n

POST	NAME	CONFLICT	POST	NAME	CONFLICT
Post 2 – Augusta	Al C Dowling	Korea	Post 54 – Wiscasset	Calvin A Cromwell	Korea
Post 2 – Augusta	Herman D Dyer	Korea	Post 55 – Limerick	Ralph L McCutcheon	Vietnam
Post 3 – Calais	Justin P Day	Vietnam	Post 57 – Old Orchard Beach	Robert Moody	Korea
Post 3 – Calais	Timothy M Kelley	Vietnam	Post 65 – Lubec	Carl W Hatch	Vietnam
Post 4 – Gardiner	Louis A Richard	Vietnam	Post 65 – Lubec	Oscar J Robinson	Vietnam
Post 6 – Hallowell	Ernest B Johnson	WWII	Post 66 – Lisbon Falls	Albert F Jordan	WWII
Post 8 – Cherryfield	Forrest F Bubar, Jr	Vietnam	Post 66 – Lisbon Falls	George Karkos	WWII
Post 8 – Cherryfield	Daniel R Handy	Vietnam	Post 72 – South Paris	George J Brown	Korea
Post 8 – Cherryfield	Philip E White	Vietnam	Post 73 – Corinna	David StPierre	Vietnam
Post 10 – Livermore Falls	Andrew Gerrier	Vietnam	Post 76 – Scarborough	Michael G Coughlin	Grenada/Lebanon
Post 10 – Livermore Falls	George E Jackman	Vietnam	Post 76 – Scarborough	Millard A Hanson	Korea
Post 10 – Livermore Falls	Daniel Labbe	Vietnam	Post 76 – Scarborough	William B Rose	Vietnam
Post 12 – Bangor	Herbert G Colson	Korea	Post 77 – Lincoln	Neal L Doane	Vietnam
Post 12 – Bangor	Robert K McGlauffin	Persian Gulf	Post 79 – Berwick	Walter B Mosness Jr	Korea
Post 13 – E.Millinocket	Frederick King	Korea	Post 81 – Bethel	Elmer H Bean Jr	Korea
Post 14 – Fairfield	Michael Coyne	Panama	Post 81 – Bethel	John C Laban	Vietnam
Post 15 – Caribou	William C Beil	Vietnam	Post 82 – Norway	James R Kroitzsh	Vietnam
Post 15 – Caribou	Robert P Huston	Vietnam	Post 83 – Freeport	John E Lane	Vietnam
Post 15 – Caribou	Chester H Milton	WWII	Post 84 – Orono	Dennis J Faucher	Vietnam
Post 15 – Caribou	Paul Watson	Grenada/Lebanon	Post 84 – Orono	Lawrence H Slauenwhite	Vietnam
Post 16 – Skowhegan	Roger Brown	Vietnam	Post 84 – Orono	Judson Stitham	Other
Post 16 – Skowhegan	Harold F Haskins	Vietnam	Post 86 – Gray	Ron J Drown	Vietnam
Post 16 – Skowhegan	Steven L Spaulding	Vietnam	Post 88 – Presque Isle	Norman J Bourgoin	Korea
Post 17 – Portland	Martin N Asdourian	WWII	Post 88 – Presque Isle	Burt F Brown	Korea
Post 17 – Portland	William E Bonnvie Sr	Korea	Post 88 – Presque Isle	Alden R Dicker Jr	Vietnam
Post 17 – Portland	Donald Cannell	Vietnam	Post 88 – Presque Isle	Carl R McGlauffin	Korea
Post 17 – Portland	Nancy M Dacar	Korea	Post 88 – Presque Isle	Ronald D Mullen	Korea
Post 17 – Portland	John C Meader	WWII	Post 91 – Yarmouth	David R MacKinnon	Vietnam
Post 18 – Vinalhaven	G K Hansen	Vietnam	Post 91 – Yarmouth	Frederick G Watts	WWII
Post 19 – Sanford	Franklyn K Corthell	Vietnam	Post 92 – Brownville Jct	Marvin W Lundin	Vietnam
Post 19 – Sanford	Norman L Edgerly	Korea	Post 93 – Bucksport	Carl W Bowden	Vietnam
Post 19 – Sanford	Bernard H Labrecque	Vietnam	Post 96 – Saco	Billy Collins	Vietnam
Post 19 – Sanford	Rodney D Lavigne	Vietnam	Post 98 – Brewer	Michael Eremita	Korea
Post 20 – Brunswick	Ronald J Mertz	Vietnam	Post 98 – Brewer	Edward S Hamm	Vietnam
Post 20 – Brunswick	James J Pepper	Vietnam	Post 98 – Brewer	John F Mackay	Korea/Vietnam
Post 24 – Rumford	Timothy W Chambers	Vietnam	Post 99 – Bingham	Leon V Hilton	Korea
Post 24 – Rumford	Richard J Haines	Korea	Post 103 – N E Harbor	Edgar N Walls	Korea
Post 24 – Rumford	Jospeh E Richard	Vietnam	Post 111 – Turner	Henry B Poisson	Korea
Post 27 – Ft Fairfield	Blair Adams	Vietnam	Post 118 – Mars Hill	Robert F Lovely	WWII
Post 27 – Ft Fairfield	Preston L Dumond	Vietnam	Post 119 – Guilford	James H Morrison	Vietnam
Post 27 – Ft Fairfield	Thurber A Lovely	Korea	Post 120 – Rangeley	James L Allan	Korea
Post 27 – Ft Fairfield	Roger A Sprague	Korea	Post 123 – Kezar Falls	Forest Day	Korea
Post 30 – Camden	William “Bill” Chapman	Vietnam	Post 123 – Kezar Falls	Robert R Jackson	Vietnam
Post 30 – Camden	Robert Ogier	Vietnam	Post 123 – Kezar Falls	Joe A Rankin	Vietnam
Post 31 – Auburn	Charles L Castonguay	Vietnam	Post 128 – Standish	Charles M Bartlett	Vietnam
Post 32 – Pittsfield	Robert J Kaelin	Vietnam/Gulf War	Post 128 – Standish	Wayne W Whitney	Vietnam
Post 34 – St. George	Rowland W Ames	Vietnam	Post 139 – Harrison	George R Wright	Vietnam
Post 36 – Boothbay Harbor	Leonard E Belanger	WWII	Post 145 – Frenchville	John M Lagasse	Vietnam
Post 36 – Boothbay Harbor	Leigh F Reinecke	Vietnam	Post 145 – Frenchville	Andrew McQuarrie	Vietnam
Post 41 – Milo	Robert L Bailey	Vietnam	Post 149 – Waldoboro	Earl W Gammon	WWII
Post 41 – Milo	Ronald R Baker	Korea	Post 149 – Waldoboro	Harvey L Staples	Vietnam
Post 41 – Milo	Joseph B Barry	Korea	Post 150 – Mechanic Falls	William L Vandewater	Vietnam
Post 41 – Milo	Jerry Cole	Vietnam	Post 151 – West Paris	Veikko Piirainen	WWII
Post 41 – Milo	Walter Cookson	Vietnam	Post 153 – Auburn	Dana F Brooks	Korea
Post 41 – Milo	Richard L Graves Sr	Vietnam	Post 153 – Auburn	Paul A Lauziere	Vietnam
Post 41 – Milo	Lester Knapp	Korea	Post 153 – Auburn	Normand G StPierre	Vietnam
Post 41 – Milo	Robert D Robinson	Korea	Post 157 – Stockton Springs	Charles S Kneeland	WWII
Post 41 – Milo	Andrew J Ackley	Vietnam	Post 164 – Falmouth	Allen Mazerolle	Vietnam
Post 41 – Milo	Glenn W Sanborn	Grenada/Lebanon	Post 171 – Harpswell	David G Bradbury	Korea
Post 43 – Belfast	John D Carr	Korea	Post 171 – Harpswell	Robert E Waddle	Korea
Post 43 – Belfast	Frank J Harvey	Vietnam	Post 178 – Winslow	Staunton E Allen	Korea
Post 43 – Belfast	Peter J Kerrigan	Korea	Post 178 – Winslow	Raymond A Comeau	Vietnam
Post 45 – Danforth	Chester N Dyer, Jr	Korea	Post 178 – Winslow	Mark Gross	Vietnam
Post 45 – Danforth	James H Golding	Vietnam	Post 178 – Winslow	Richard Jennings	WWII
Post 47 – Houlton	Dana J Austin	Vietnam	Post 178 – Winslow	Charles L Maggiani	WWII
Post 47 – Houlton	Maurice A Brewer	Vietnam	Post 178 – Winslow	Herman E Merchant	Korea
Post 47 – Houlton	Leland J Cyr	Vietnam	Post 178 – Winslow	Norman P. Sawyer	Vietnam
Post 47 – Houlton	Anthony C DeLucca	Korea	Post 178 – Winslow	Eliot Spalding	Korea
Post 47 – Houlton	Paul E MacDonald	Korea	Post 179 – South China	Norman E Bragg	
Post 47 – Houlton	Kenneth McAfee	Vietnam	Post 179 – South China	Wendell A Ricker	Vietnam
Post 47 – Houlton	Lynn E York	Vietnam	Post 192 – Athens	Laurel G Williams	Korea
Post 49 – Van Buren	Robert Beaulieu	Vietnam	Post 197 – Westbrook	Robert F Godin I	
Post 52 – Oakfield	Lawrence R Greenlaw	Vietnam	Post 197 – Westbrook	James H Morrison	Vietnam
Post 53 – Dexter	Robert P Cote	Korea	Post 207 – Trenton	David W Pierce Sr	Korea
Post 53 – Dexter	Mark E Kaufmann	Vietnam	Post 213 – Hampden	Roland J Deschene	WWII

Attention: Next Deadline is October 21

The deadline for material, stories and/or pictures to be submitted for consideration for use in the **November 2022** issue of The Maine Legionnaire will be **October 21, 2022**.

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

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

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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.



Finance Officer Award: Department Commander Debra Couture, left, presents Department Finance Officer Gregory Couture of West Gardiner, right, with the Maine American Legion Finance Officer Award in recognition for his meritorious service to the Department of Maine, American Legion by becoming an integral part of the management team of the Department of Maine and the American Legion Department of Maine Foundation. The award was presented at the Annual State Convention in Brewer on June 11.

Get Your Centennial Coin Today While Supplies Last!

Coins can be purchased online by visiting www.mainelegion.org, or by check/money order in the amount of \$10/coin, plus \$5 S/H. Make check payable to The Ameri-

can 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.



A few of the many special awards presented at our Annual State Convention in Brewer June 10-11. [See page 12 for more presentation awards and page 13](#) for a complete listing of all awards.



Legionnaire Of The Year:

Windham Post 148 Adjutant David Tanguay receives the Department of Maine Legionnaire of the Year recognition award by Department of Maine Commander Debra Couture at the Annual State Convention in Brewer June 10th. David also was awarded Recruiter of the Year 2021-22.



Silver Brigade Membership Award: Auburn Post 153 Adjutant Lori Simard, right, is presented with the Silver Brigade Membership Award by Department of Maine Commander Debra Couture, left. Lori also received the 2021-22 Adjutant of the Year award. Looking on is Department Adjutant Paul L'Heureux.



Tony's Tiger Award: Westbrook Post 197 Commander Steve Girard, right, is awarded The American Legion Tony's Tiger Award for most outstanding Post Commander from Past National Commander Tony Jordan, left.



Roger's Rangers: Past National Commander Tony Jordan, left, presents District 17 Commander Leroy McKenzie, right, with The American Legion Department of Maine Roger's Rangers Award for Outstanding District Commander.

DISCLAIMER

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

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