

# THE MAINE Legionnaire



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Vol. 37, Issue 2

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

AMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF MAINE

40 Pages

## AMERICAN LEGION

### New Legion Brand Mark

A new era of American Legion identity has begun.

The American Legion brand mark is now available for a variety of promotional uses – from social media channels to membership drives – and can be downloaded by visiting <https://www.legion.org/brand>.

The logo does not replace the 1919-patented official emblem of the organization, which remains in use for official documents, memorial observances, uniforms and post signage.

“The American Legion brand mark was created to modernize our image to appeal to a new generation of veterans,” American Legion Chief Mar-

keting Officer Dean Kessel said. “We launched this vivid new design on the American Legion-sponsored 48 car during the 2021 NTT INDYCAR Racing Series, and millions of fans got to see it every race. It’s clear, sharp and effective, even at 225 mph. The design has gotten rave reviews, and now we are ready to advance it to all levels of The American Legion.”

The American Legion Marketing Division has established guidance to help departments and posts choose when to use the brand mark and when the official emblem is more appropriate.

The brand mark is to be displayed in

[More on “BRAND”, Page 5](#)

## 2022 State Oratorical Contest Successful Despite COVID Challenges

Despite the challenges of the pandemic that schools face across the state, The American Legion, Department of Maine with hard work and dedication from posts and districts around the state and volunteers who took time out of their busy schedule, pulled off yet another successful State Oratorical Contest Feb. 12 at Thomas College in Waterville.

Congratulations to this year's winner, Shawn Jiminez of West Gardiner, who represented District 9 and Litchfield Post 181 at the state competition winning

\$1500.

Shawn, a junior at West Gardiner Area HS will represent Maine at the National Oratorical Contest in Indianapolis on April 22-24 for a chance to win up to \$25K in scholarships.

Congratulations also goes out to Joshua Werner--2nd pl., rep. District 1 and Sanford Post 19 - \$500; Mateus Campos--3rd pl., rep. District 2, and So. Portland Post 35 - \$300; and Tristan Darwin--4th pl., rep. District 8 and Brunswick Post 20 - \$125.

**State Oratorical Awards Presented:** State Commander Debra Couture, right, and Oratorical Co-chairman Dale Midgley, left, awards this year's American Legion, Department of Maine HS Oratorical winner Shawn Jiminez of West Gardiner with a 1st Place Patrick Henry Oratory medal, Certificate of Achievement, and a check in the amount of \$1500.



## Diplomacy, Sanctions Before Deployment

Dear American Legion Family Members and Friends,

The multi-nation North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was formed after World War II to establish a “security architecture” that would provide assurances against aggression on the European continent. The deadly conquests of Nazi Germany were fresh on the minds of those nations that agreed to defend one another should attack come from an external force, as Hitler’s Third Reich had been, leading up to and during WWII. The purpose of NATO has become painfully clear in recent days following Russia’s military invasion of Ukraine, a democratic, sovereign nation that is not a member of NATO but has aspired to be.

Last Thursday’s unprovoked attack – the likes of which has not been seen in Europe since World War II – has been agonizing. Infuriating as it was – and is – the United States “should exhaust all diplomatic and economic tools at its disposal before utilizing military force” to confront it. That was one key position established last weekend after I called an urgent meeting of The American Legion National Security Commission, composed of veterans who understand war and why it must be avoided, if at all possible, through non-deadly means.

A resolution originating from The American Legion’s Department of North Carolina and advanced by the National



NATIONAL COMMANDER  
PAUL E. DILLARD

Security Commission—“Resolution 1: Statement on Ukraine” – was approved by the National Executive Committee on Monday. The resolution

addressed the situation at hand and expressed values worth remembering as the war there continues:

- The American Legion believes in a “rules-based international order where the territorial boundaries of any sovereign nation should not be changed by force.”

- NATO is an essential element of global and U.S. security “in an increasingly multi-polar world where rising powers have become increasingly adversarial...”

- Russia has no role in the “security architecture” of NATO.

- The Article 5 “mutual defense clause” does not extend to non-NATO countries.

- The U.S. Constitution grants Congress the sole power to declare war.

[More on "DIPLOMACY" Page 8](#)

## National Commander Visits Maine Veterans' Homes

**Facility:** American Legion National Commander Paul Dillard visited the new Maine Veterans' Homes facility on Heroes Way in Augusta during his official visit to Maine in October 2021. The new Veterans home is scheduled to open in March 2022. Left to right, State Commander Debra Couture, American Legion National Commander Paul Dillard, Maine Veterans' Homes CEO Kelley Kash, and National Executive Committeeman Lloyd Woods.



## Commander's Comments

Follow Legionnaires, I hope that all is going well for you as we begin 2022. We had a great Mid-Winter Conference in Brewer on January 15th and it was good to see so many Legionnaires attend. Unlike previous years, there was no snow (just cold) and we were able to complete all the agenda items and the DEC.



**DEBRA  
COUTURE**

I want to thank all of you who are doing such a great job with membership renewals. The Department has been in the top 25% of the country for most of this year. As the year progresses, keeping those numbers up will become more difficult. Please keep forging forward. The most important request that I ask of all Legionnaires is to do buddy checks on all your members, other veterans, and anyone you believe may need a call. For members, it doesn't matter if they have paid their dues or not, just give them a call and make sure they are OK.

I want to explain the Commander's Project for this year. You may have read about it in the Leadership Ledger. My project is the American Legion, Department of Maine Foundation. It is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization exclusively for charitable purposes and all donations to the foundation are tax deductible. The Mission of the Foundation is to provide financial assistance, promote Americanism, Youth Programs, National Security, and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation that will enhance the lives of our veterans, their families, children and communities in the State of Maine today and for future generations.

My focus for the Commander's Project is to focus on American Legion Americanism Programs. Examples include Dirigo (Boys) State, Legion Baseball, Boy Scouts, and the Oratorical Scholarship program. I believe that America's future lies in our children. All of these programs help to train and shape our youth into outstanding citizens. Many may become our future leaders in the military and the private sector, politics, and/or the American Legion.

I am asking all Legionnaires, Legion Posts, and Districts to please contribute to this endowment fund. It will help so many for many years to come and may help to keep the costs down for the Posts, community, and students who attend programs like Dirigo State and baseball. Any amount will help. Some Posts have asked for suggested donations. The suggested amounts would be \$100 for Posts without canteens, \$250 for those with canteens, and \$200 for Districts. For individuals, any amount you can contribute will help these programs.

To donate, please visit <http://www.mainelegion.org/pages/foundation/donate.php>; click on the "DONATE TODAY" button and choose Fund 001 AL DOM Foundation – Endowment Fund and choose Donate with a Debit or Credit Card.

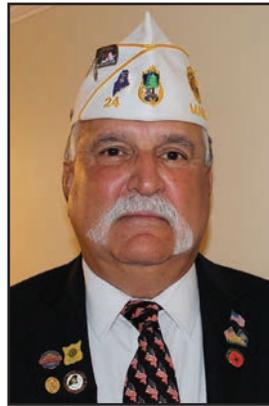
Checks should be made payable to American Legion Department of Maine Foundation and mailed to: American Legion Department of Maine Foundation, 5 Verti Drive Winslow, Maine 04901-0727. Please make sure to provide your name and address so that we may send you a tax receipt.

Thank you for all that you do for the Legion and your community, state, and nation. Stay warm. Stay well. Blessing to all and may spring arrive soon!

For God and Country,  
Deb Couture, Commander  
The American Legion, Department of Maine

## A 'First' Look

We just finished our Annual Mid-Winter Conference (MWC) held once again at Jeff's Catering in Brewer. It was a fast-paced event with valuable information presented by an array of speakers. We had good attendance, but there were a few Districts not represented at the conference or



**KIRK  
THURSTON**

at the Department Executive Committee meeting. This is detrimental to the flow of information from Department to Posts. If you are a member of a Post in one of those Districts, ask your District Officers for an explanation. In the future, I hope the District Officers plan accordingly.

It was good to be able to have face-to-face conversation with many of you. There were many new faces, some new to the American Legion family and some old hands to the organization. There were a few things I noticed at MWC in regard to Legion Cap Etiquette. This information can be found in the Officer's Guide on pages 4 and 37 and in the American Legion Flag & Emblem catalog on page 80c. The two we most forget (including me) are as follows; the left side (emblem side) of the cap is reserved only for the Legion emblem, city, county, district, or state lettering. That means wearing hatpins on that side is discouraged. The other one is "A member is considered to be in uniform if wearing an official Legion Uniform Cap". Therefore, it is not proper to wear a cap while eating at an official Legion or civic luncheon or dinner. I am just as guilty as most; it is something we all must try and do better at. Now that I have said that, I know some will ask about female legionnaires. Female members of the Legion should wear their caps in the manner prescribed for female personnel of the armed service. By American Legion tradition, a female legionnaire may leave her cap on during the Pledge of Allegiance, the National Anthem, prayer and meal. No national authority has been found that mandates the removal of the cap by female Legionnaires during such occasions. Basically, it is their choice.

Enough of the ranting and raving. We, The American Legion Department of Maine are a family, and as such, we must take care of each other. That is what comradeship is all about. No one wants this to happen on their watch, so

let us be the family that we are and take care of each other.

I must send a big THANK YOU to all for your hard work on membership this year. I asked at the beginning of the year that you try to make the Target Date percentage of membership. I am happy to say that to date you have accomplished this. The 85 and 90% target dates will have been our toughest challenge and I hope that once you read this article, we indeed made those percentage target dates of February 9 and March 9, 2022, respectfully.

As I mentioned at MWC, I will be working on the Department Committee assignments over the next few months. If you are currently a Committee Chair, please let me know your intentions, if you want to stay or move on. If any Legionnaire would like to be on a particular committee or be removed from one, send me an e-mail at [fuzzyt3@roadrunner.com](mailto:fuzzyt3@roadrunner.com). As mentioned, Buddy Checks are one of the most important membership tools we have to use at the Post level. I hope the handouts will be helpful for you to conduct a successful Buddy Check program. These handouts can be obtained from the [legion.org](http://legion.org) website. Doing these, go hand in hand with National Commander Dillard's "No Veteran Left Behind" theme. It is a deeply rooted core value that is part of the brotherhood of being a soldier. Remember when conducting a Buddy Check to treat the person on the other end of the phone as a friend or family member. You may be the only link to the outside world to this person. Also, keep in mind that you may be the one to talk them off the ledge. At the Post level start a Pay it Forward program amongst your membership. Have a list of members willing to offer assistance to a fellow legionnaire who needs a hand up with their dues. You will be pleasantly surprised at the response you will receive.

The Membership Team Training Guide on the [mainelegion.org](http://mainelegion.org) website under the tab Forms/Applications is a good guide for a Post membership team. Some information in the manual may be outdated, but it is a good guide for a successful membership year.

I have gone on long enough. I know first-hand how repetitive membership is throughout the year. It seems as soon as we are done, the renewal notices come from National. Remember, Membership is the Lifeblood of any organization. Without membership, we cannot survive and be around for the next 100 years for the next generations of veterans. Stay positive! Thank you for taking time from your busy schedule, to read 'The Maine Legionnaire' and I hope to see you in my travels through this wonderful state we all call home.

## National & State Commanders At Maine State HQ: National Commander Paul Dillard, left, and State Commander Debra Couture, right, lay a wreath at the American Legion POW/MIA Memorial located at the Maine American Legion Headquarters in Winslow Oct. 22, 2021 during National Commander Dillard's official visit to the Department of Maine.



## NEC Update

Well, here we are again starting a new year. I do hope this new year is a better one than the one we just completed and better than the last two. We have faced many roadblocks and various unknown situations and here we are still here and moving forward. It is with that thought that I want to thank you all for everything you do for The American Legion, Department of Maine and for everything you have done and will do in the future. Thank You.



**LLOYD WOODS**

In my last article, I stated that I would let you all know about what the National Executive Committee accomplished at the 2021 Fall Meetings October 6-7, regarding the resolutions that were presented and discussed. The following are the numbers and titles of the twenty-two (22) resolutions.

Res. #1 and #2 from the Internal Affairs Commission titled Creation of "Sons of The American Legion Oversight Committee".

Res. #3 from the Department Executive Committee (IA) titled Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention and Awareness that The American Legion strongly endorses development and implementation of procedures that prevent and expose the horrific conditions of human trafficking and that we encourage government funding of research & development to address gaps in knowledge.

Res. #4 from the National Security Commission titled Support Department of Defense Directive 1344.10 and The Hatch Act of 1939 would ensure military forces remain nonpartisan, including leaders at all levels of the armed forces.

Res. #5 from the National Security Commission rescinding obsolete resolutions dealing with National Security.

Res. #6 from the Internal Affairs Commission titled Appreciation to Host City Phoenix, Arizona.

Res. #7 from Department Convention (NY) to transfer London Post EG01 to the Department of France.

Res. #8 from Internal Affairs Commission titled National Global War on Terrorism Memorial Location on the National Mall.

Res. #9 from 2021 National Convention (CA) titled USS Telesforo Trinidad. The American Legion request the Secretary of the Navy to name the next

guided-missile destroyer in honor of this World War I and World War II Medal of Honor recipient.

Res. #10 from the Veterans Employment & Education Commission titled support for employment navigator and partnership pilot for the Department of Labor to continue with this program.

Res. #11 from the Veterans Employment & Education Commission that the VA promptly adopt and deploy nationally a risk-based survey model to protect our veterans and integrity of the GI Bill.

Res. #12 from the Veterans Employment & Education Commission titled Cybersecurity Protections for Veteran-Owned Small Businesses in that we support legislative policies that allocate funding for small business cybersecurity protection.

Res. #13 from the Veterans Employment & Education Commission titled Mandatory Use of the Veterans First Contracting Program by the Department of Defense. Requiring mandatory use of the program on all DOD contract actions.

Res. #14 from the Veterans Employment & Education Commission titled Enhancing the Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) for Veterans Workers in that The American Legion supports boosting the WOTC to 50% of the first \$10,000 of wages through 12/31/2023 for All Hiring Groups for the first two years of employment.

Res. #15 from the Veterans Employment & Education Commission titled DOD issuance for military credentialing programs in that the DOD eliminate obstacles of service members seeking to transfer military credential to civilian certification by consistency and uniformity by publishing a DO baseline requirements for all branches.

Res. #16 from the Veterans Employment & Education Commission titled Veteran and Service Member Financial Protection in supporting the Federal Trade Commission authority to recover monies for victims of fraud as service members, veterans, and their families.

Res. #17 from the Veterans Employment & Education Commission titled Women Veterans Homelessness Resource Provision and Protections in that the VA provides additional resources for women veterans and their families to prevent and end homelessness after completing military service.

Res. #18 from Department Convention (OK) titled Quality of U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs Supplied Casket Flags that The American Legion petition VA to provide quality manufactured casket flag that the laws and regulations specify, and honorable veterans deserve.

[More on "NEC" Page 6](#)

## On the Agenda

### MARCH MEETINGS

District 3 – Androscoggin: Mar. 13, Sabattus Post 135, 2 PM  
 District 5 – Oxford: Mar. 16, Norway Post 82, 7 PM - Meeting and Election of Officers, refreshments.  
 District 7 – Lincoln: Mar. 3, Waldoboro Post 149, 6:30 PM  
 District 9 – Kennebec: Mar. 9, N. Vassalboro Post 126, 7 PM  
 District 12 – Hancock: Mar 8, District Mtg. Governor's Restaurant, Ellsworth, Dinner at 6:00 PM, Mtg at 7:30 PM  
 District 13 – Penobscot: Mar. 6, Hermon Post 200, Rescue Squad Bldg. 2 PM  
 District 14 – Piscataquis: Mar. 19, Brownville Junction Post 92, 12 Noon Lunch w/ Business Meeting at 1 PM

### APRIL MEETINGS

District 2 – Cumberland: Apr. 12, Gray Post 86, Past Commander Dinner/Election of Officers, 5 PM  
 District 3 – Androscoggin: Apr. 10, Lewiston Post 22, 2 PM  
 District 5 – Oxford: Apr. 20, Rumford Post 24, light supper at 6 PM, Installation of Officers at 7 PM  
 District 9 – Kennebec: Apr. 13, Richmond Post 132 - Nomination of Officers, 7 PM  
 District 12 - Hancock: Apr. 12, Southwest Harbor Post 69, dinner at 6 PM, meeting at 7:30 PM. Nominations.

### MAY MEETINGS

District 7 – Lincoln: May 4, Damariscotta Post 42, 5:30 PM  
 District 12 - Hancock: May 9, Ellsworth Post 63, dinner at 6 PM, meeting at 7:30 PM, Present Slate of Officers and Vote.

## A 'Second' Look

Thank you to all who attended Mid-Winter Conference; I hope you found it very informative!

Education is the key to our future! We need to encourage all members to attend the Department Legion College, and take the Service Officers Training Course, as well as any other training that may be offered. This is a great way to impart knowledge of both the Legion and Post into younger and newer Legionnaires. We need to mentor them so they will be able to take over leadership roles. In other words, train your replacements now, while there is time!

The time for submitting awards for presentation at our Annual State Conven-



**ALFRED MCKAY**

tion in June is starting to get near. Most awards submissions need to be at Headquarters no later than May 15th. Please submit a nomination package supporting your candidate, not just a cover sheet.

The Post will soon be receiving the Annual Post Data Report, Consolidated Post Report (CPR), Post Officers Form, and Notification of Post/Squadron Commanders and Adjutants Report. The Annual Post Data Report is due to Department no later than April 15. Officer's reports should be sent as soon as possible after installation. All other reports are due by July 1. Please note, that even if your Post does not have an SAL Squadron, the Notification of Post/Squadron Commanders/Adjutants form still needs to be submitted. These reports are all available on the Department's website at [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org) and are fillable on-line as well as printable.

I look forward to meeting you at the Annual Convention in June.

Thank you for allowing me to be your Department 2nd Vice this year. Stay safe and well!



**Award Presentation:** American Legion National Commander Paul Dillard, left, presents the State of Maine Vietnam War Coin and certificate to NEC Lloyd Woods, Thomas O. Cyr American Legion Post 147, Madawaska during the National Commander's visit to Maine in October 2021.

**THE MAINE Legionnaire**

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## Americanism Report

I hope this finds you staying safe and healthy. The following is a definition from the Maine Legion College for the meaning of Americanism: "Americanism is the love of America; loyalty to her institutions as the best yet devised by man to secure life, liberty, individual dignity, and happiness; and the willingness to defend our country and flag against all enemies, foreign and domestic".



**PATRICIA THURSTON**

what they do to make the Constitution of the United States a familiar text to hundreds of thousands of boys and girls in our oratorical contest ... A full account of these deeds would be a definition of Americanism so huge it would fill an unabridged dictionary all by itself. It is a definition that is modern, progressive and alive."

Sound familiar? Time has passed since 1963, but we continue to strive to make our Americanism programs the best we can. Unfortunately, because of COVID we have found all of this to be extremely hard. Do not give up hope! Continue to reach out to schools to promote our programs. If you are finding it hard to get into the schools in person, do it by mail, email, virtual meetings, etc. The new trend in all we do is "virtual". If that is what is expected, it is up to us to make it happen. I know you will all do so to the best of your ability.

When we think about Vets in the Classroom or Flag Education we think of doing it in person. Yes, we all know that doing this in person is the ideal way to do this. Again, we are finding it hard to make this happen. Create a partnership with your local school. Find out what works for them and how you can get this information into the classrooms. This could possibly be done virtually. Provide flag education materials if your Post is able to do so. Have virtual meetings with teachers and students for the Vets in the Classroom program. Doing anything at this point is better than not trying and doing nothing.

My recent experience was that I was able to visit an after-school program. I

[More on "AMERICANISM" Page 7](#)

## The Adjutant Speaks

We started the new year by having our Winter Conference and hoping for the best. We were surprised at the turnout and the involvement of those who attended.



**PAUL L'HEUREUX**

After checking with the Auxiliary and the Son of the Legion, they were pleasantly surprised as well. The common factor with everyone in attendance was the opportunity to see friends and to share the common goals of each organization. As each speaker shared the information of some of our Legion programs; Oratorical, Baseball, and a new Dirigo State youth program, the attendees started to engage each speaker and some of that pre-Covid attitude started to energize the members present. This kept everyone focused as we enjoyed a well-prepared meal and continued into the afternoon which ended with our Department Executive Committee meeting.

The American Legion, Department of Maine recently held their HS Oratorical Scholarship Competition at Thomas College in Waterville. The contest

was a success and all contestants competing did a great job. The American Legion, Department of Maine wishes to thank all volunteers who helped make this successful, as well as Thomas College for its continued support.

The next subject is one that all of you can play a major role in helping the Department of Maine. Our membership Chair, Dept. 1st Vice Commander Kirk Thurston and his "sidekick" 2nd Vice Commander Al McKay have been busy at Dept. HQ at least one day every week for the last 4 months working on our membership goal. Because of them, they have moved Maine into the top 5 positions nationwide in competing with 4 other Departments. We are currently in third place in the nation, and we need your support. By staying ahead, the Department can now compete for a financial gift to upgrade some of our computer equipment. This obviously would keep our Finance Officer, Greg Couture, happy while he continues to keep our budget under control.

The other reason is the Department currently needs 200 members to make a 90% goal and compete for that prize and to possibly put Maine in 1st place in the nation. That is something that we all could be very proud of as "Team Maine" and its 16,000 members. Let's make it happen during these challeng-

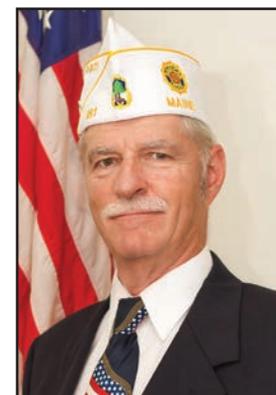
[More on "ADJUTANT SPEAKS" Page 6](#)

## Money Matters

We are now past the end of the calendar year and Posts are into their new fiscal (Financial) year. It is time to remember to finalize the 2021 finances and submit the 990-N (e-Postcard) if your gross revenues are less than \$50,000 for the year or if the average gross revenue for the last three (3) years is less than \$50,000. You must file a 990-EZ form if your gross revenue is between \$50,000 and \$200,000 and you own property valued at less than \$500,000 or the 990 if your gross revenue is more than \$200,000 and you own property valued at more than \$500,000. These must be filed to the IRS by the 15th of the 5th month past the closing of your financial year. The State income tax report also needs to be submitted.

Another important thing to get done soon is to submit your Post's Maine Non-Profit Corporation Annual Report (MNPCA-13) with the Secretary of State, Bureau of Corporations, Elections and Commissions to maintain your non-profit status.

If you have a Post with a Canteen, pull tabs and any other significant source of



**GREGORY COUTURE**

revenue, you should always consider having an outside entity perform an audit to ensure that you are following proper Generally Accepted Accounting Practices (GAAP) in tracking income and expenses. An audit is not required in most Post Constitutions or By-Laws, but in a Post with significant revenues it is recommended.

If you have received a letter from the IRS stating that you owe money from a previous period, even if you do not agree with them, pay the amount stated and then file to contest the letter. They will be charging you a penalty as well as interest if you do not pay by the date stated in the letter.

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

## Judge Advocate

### TURN IT AROUND

Today's article will stray from my usual insight as the Judge Advocate. My focus will be on curbing declining membership at your Post.

I see a lot of Maine news articles citing how Posts are struggling. The reasons are a decline in membership ("dwindling numbers" in one article), inability to function during Covid, or unable to get younger members. The truth is, not all Posts are having this challenge.

Here are a few ideas that may inspire you to try different techniques for success.

First, have a Post that people want to be a part of. Offer programs, volunteer opportunities, VA assistance, comradeship, be welcoming, and be reputable in the community. People want to be part of something positive or something that makes a positive difference in their community. The American Legion is a natural fit, an organization that can better a community and strengthen our State and Nation.

We have strayed from being family oriented. Offer community programs that enrich family lives. You are looking for younger members and they are right in your neighborhood raising their families and attending colleges. If you do not offer something for their age group or events that they can include spouses and kids...you are missing out on recruiting and retaining veterans.

Speaking of membership. In the courses taught at Maine Legion College, a common question asked to students is: "how many in the room have a Member-



**JASON HALL**

ship Chair?" Out of 23-25 students representing Posts across the state.... only three raise their hands. One of the first steps at your Post is to have a resolute person, knowledgeable of your Post history and programs, someone who is good at dealing with the public. This person should be able to answer questions and welcome potential members.

Many Posts have the Membership Chair and Adjutant working together on information packets. The packet welcomes new members and includes:

- A letter from the Post Commander welcoming and inviting members in for a personal tour.
- A list of upcoming events, patriotic holiday dates, and dinners.
- Post Constitution and Bylaws.
- List of volunteer opportunities helping at events or committee openings.

Another powerful move is a personal call from the Post Commander introducing them self and welcoming them to the Post. It works, it leaves an impression too.

Have a mentoring program and assign a reputable member to "walk with them" and engage them in what happens at the

Post. If you get the member involved, they take ownership of the programs and events at the Post.

**BE VISIBLE-** The American Legion continues to be the best kept secret in Maine. We all need to attend community events with our Legion Caps on, take advantage of social media and "toot the horn" of your Post, and put stories in your local paper or radio broadcasts. Make our logo visible for another 100+ years.

This next one is a tough one, not many want to hear it. Understand when it is time to step aside as an Officer. There are Posts with the same Officers for decades, new members will not join or renew until the Post changes how they operate. If the leadership never changes, neither does the Post operations. Learn to accept new Post Officers, be flexible and be open to innovative ideas and know that your goal is mentor and educate your replacement. Those are traits of a good Officer. I know your concerns; I know you feel like all of your hard work will be for nothing. That is why the mentoring and educating part is so important. No one said you cannot attend meetings or continue volunteering; it just may be time for your Post to have fresh ideas and energy. "There was a Legion before us, there will be one after us."

On a final note, we are only as good as our members. Make yourself the best member you can. The National Headquarters and the Department of Maine offer many educational opportunities online, in the classroom, and at State Conferences.

- Basic Training- An online education platform for members and officers of The American Legion. <https://www.legion.org/alei>

- Training Tuesdays - The last Tuesday of each month American Legion National Headquarters staff will present 60 to 90-minute sessions on topics aimed at post commanders and adjutants. Each session will be recorded and made available for later viewing. <https://www.legion.org/training/trainingtuesdays>

- Virtual Membership Workshops- Sessions were focused on American Legion programs and initiatives that support the workshop's theme of "Growing and Retaining Membership." <https://www.legion.org/training/membership>

- Training In a Box- Downloadable training modules. <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/9pm9a1mcxo0kvzd/AADV15w-MYQD7tGGftEYKdsa?dl=0>

- Training Newsletter- Subscribe to a variety. <https://www.legion.org/training/newsletters>

- Maine American Legion College- Classes 3 times per year at State HQ Winslow. Email: [jason@mainelegion.org](mailto:jason@mainelegion.org) for more information.

- Post Service Officer Training- Next class is in Winslow on February 12. Email: [jason@mainelegion.org](mailto:jason@mainelegion.org) for more information.

- Bi-monthly newsletter: The Leadership Ledger- [mainelegion.org](http://mainelegion.org)

- Maine American Legion Website offering resources, program information, forms and applications, the directory, and news & events - [mainelegion.org](http://mainelegion.org).

### "BRAND"

(Continued from Page 1)

all marketing communications, such as:

- Advertising; Lifestyle apparel (such as polo shirts and ball caps); Community service activities; Fundraising; Sponsorships; Membership recruitment materials; Digital media; Social media; Updated post signage; Event announcements; E-mail signature lines.

The American Legion emblem is reserved for official organization communications, such as: Legal documents; Policy statements; Official reports; Press releases; Business cards; Traditional post signage; Financial documents; Official letterhead.

Kessel explained that brand marks are often successfully used to promote organizations and institutions that similarly have, and keep, time-honored seals, including all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces. The American Legion Marketing Division studied the effectiveness of those brand

marks during a three-month design-development process that involved focus group input earlier in 2021.

"When it comes to communications for events, recruitment and other marketing functions, the brand marks of the military branches are most familiar and positively recognized by the public, the official seals less so," Kessel said. "This is fast proving true for The American Legion brand mark, which now appears on the national American Legion website, social media, e-newsletters and a growing number of promotional materials."

Like the emblem, the brand mark is legally protected property of The American Legion National Headquarters. Any use outside of the organization – such as merchandising, marketing by groups unaffiliated with The American Legion or at political events – is legally restricted and requires authorization from the national adjutant.

The same rules of permission to use the official emblem apply to the brand mark. Those rules, along with an on-

line application form, can be found at [www.legion.org/emblem/request](http://www.legion.org/emblem/request) on the national American Legion website.

"Just like the emblem, the new brand mark should never be used in political rallies for candidates or to promote organizations and events unassociated with The American Legion, without prior written authorization," Kessel said.

In the months ahead, new apparel, flags, signs and other materials adorned with the new brand mark will be available and promoted through Emblem Sales. The national portfolio of membership-recruitment media is also now being refreshed to display the new mark.

---Digital Dispatch | Dec. 3, 2021

<https://www.legion.org/dispatch/254413/new-american-branch-mark>

**AMERICAN LEGION**



*Patriots*  
DAY

**Monday**  
**April 18**

## President's Message

It was so good to see everyone again at Mid-Winter Conference on January 15th in Brewer. The temperature outside was frightful, but the friendship inside... delightful!



**AUDREY L'HEUREUX**

It was especially heartwarming to announce that we have currently raised almost \$11,000 for our Sensory Garden Project. Thank you to all who are helping make this meaningful project a success so far!

In the spirit of teamwork, I'd like to tell you how our American Legion Auxiliary has been working our mission just since our Fall Conference in September.

We have worked together with our American Legion family across the state to provide spaghetti, lobster, chicken, pork, ham, and bean suppers, hunter's breakfasts, and pancake breakfasts—served curbside or in safe distances from each other. We held blood drives, bottle drives, coat drives, meat raffles, vendor and craft fairs and festivals of wreaths. We've knitted, crocheted, quilted, and tied bows of remembrance.

We held Halloween Trunk or Treats for children, collected food and supplies for school pantry and backpack projects, and helped our Legionnaires

teach about our flag in our schools. We held Christmas celebrations to give comfort and cheer to children in need.

We held holiday meals for veterans in our communities, and we planned, shopped, wrapped, and gave hundreds of dollars of monetary support for our Maine Veterans Home's Christmas Gift Shops. We made candy, cookies, and stuffed gifts in stockings for our Maine National Guard troops protecting our borders. We helped with women veterans' luncheons, and within our American Legion Riders, we provided comfort items and monetary donations to the Betsy Ann Ross Home of Hope.

We attended the dedication of monuments, marched, rode, and provided color guard duties alongside our Legionnaires in community parades and observances on Veterans Day. We wore red on Fridays to remember everyone deployed, and distributed poppies to help rehabilitating veterans. We joined Wreaths Across America to lay wreaths on the graves of our fallen heroes. We stood in honor alongside our American Legion and members of the military and guard as they brought a WWII pilot home to Maine who was lost for 77 years.

Our American Legion family does make an impact and a difference...AND we continue to do so even when...especially when...times are challenging. #TogetherWeServe are not just words in the Department of Maine. It's what we do! We are TEAM MAINE and we will ALWAYS remember...

Proud to serve our organization,  
Audrey L'Heureux, President  
American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of Maine



**Photo Pose:** Auxiliary President Audrey L'Heureux, right, and National Commander Paul Dillard, left, pose for photo taken at the American Legion POW/MIA Memorial in Winslow Oct. 22 during National Commander Dillard's official visit to the Department of Maine.



### "NEC" (Continued from Page 3)

Res. #19 from Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission titled Improving Telehealth Access urges Congress to permanently allow VA providers to practice across stateliness and veterans in underserved communities.

Res. #20 from the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission titled Home and Community-Based Services and Veterans Choice to Age in Place. The American Legion supports the veterans' choice on where to age in place.

Res. #21 from the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission titled Expanding Civilian Health and Medical Program of the VA pertains to the surviv-

ing widows and dependents of veterans regarding CHAMPVA with TRICARE. Res. #22 from Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission titled Classified Incidents for Department of Veterans Affairs Claims Purposes urging the DOD to confirm incidents to the VA disability claims.

As can be seen, these twenty-two (22) resolutions cover a vast range of information pertaining to the veterans, both serving and those who have served, to be able to live a better life as well as their surviving families. Again, thank you for being a member of the world's largest veteran's service organization and for caring for veterans. If you desire, go to [legion.org/archive](http://legion.org/archive) and you will be able to call up the full resolution as approved.

### "ADJUTANT SPEAKS" (Continued from Page 4)

ing times and show the other Departments that Maine makes a difference. If you currently have not paid your 2022 dues (an average of \$.76 cents a week),

please take the time to pay your post the amount that they charge so they can forward them to HQ. Also, remember that your dues help care for our Veterans and support the programs for the youth in Maine. Be a part of TEAM MAINE.

Remember to stay focused and keep moving forward.



**Squadron Member Photo Op With National Commander:** National Commander Paul Dillard and squadron members gather for a photo opportunity at Belfast Post 43 meet and greet during Commander Dillard's official visit to the Department of Maine Oct. 22. Left to right, Squadron 43 1st Vice Commander Harold Drinkwater, Squadron 43 member Dan Armstrong, Sons of The American Legion NVC-East and Squadron 65 member Richard Huntley, Sons of The American Legion State Commander and Squadron 43 member Mike Hustus, American Legion National Commander Paul Dillard, Squadron 43 Commander Joe Prescott, and Squadron 43 member Richard Pomeroy.



**Damariscotta Check Presentation:** Millinocket Chapter 80 Legion Riders Director Rick Cyr Jr., left, receives a check in the amount of \$1450 from Damariscotta Chapter 42 Legion Riders Director Ryan Coffin on Nov. 21, 2021, at Millinocket Post 80. Ryan drove from Damariscotta to Millinocket to present the check to support Post 80 during these challenging times. Money was raised from all members of the Legion Family of Damariscotta.

## Historian's Bunker

### New Writing Guidelines Are Now in Place - Additional Writing & Media Contests Are in the Future

Yes, I know, many of you will read through this and think, "What is this? We have read it all before." That is true. I have said most of this in past issues of The Maine Legionnaire. There is a difference, however. Information has been updated, new information has been added, and this will be the last change for 2022. This does not mean that I will not continue to improve what is written here. I will continue to add, improve, and change what is new today, for tomorrow, as long as I am the Department Historian. Let me begin with the changes to the writing contests.



**GEORGE  
ROBINSON JR**

Writing Contests

There will be four contests in 2022. These are:

- Post Yearbook Contest
- Post Narrative Contest
- Newsletter Contest
- Article Contests

Post size categories have been developed for the contests. These are:

- Small Post – 1 to 100 members
- Medium Post – 101 to 200 members
- Large Post – 201 and higher members
- District

Post Narrative and Yearbook Contests: The two Post History contests will consist of a Narrative and a Yearbook. A description of what these are can be found in the 2021/2022 National Officer Guidelines. Each contest has its own Submission Form for entry in the contest. Each Submission Form must be filled out completely and signed by the Post Commander or Adjutant and must accompany the submission for either contest. Failure to provide the Submission Form will result in the disqualification of the submission.

All Submissions, and their Submission Form, must be sent directly to the Department of Maine.

Each contest will be judged at two levels. The first will be at the Post level. Each Post size will have its own contest. Each will be graded stricter than at the next level, looking for spelling, grammar, photographic captions,

etc.

Score-sheets have been developed for this judging. The winner of each Post size will then be judged according to the National judging score-sheets. The winner of this judging will be forwarded to National to represent Department of Maine for the contest at that level. Districts will not be judged for National Contests. If Districts desire, they can create histories for the Yearbook and Narrative contests at their level and be recognized at the Department level. Guidelines have been created for each contest and are to be followed when writing your histories. All guidelines can be found on the Department of Maine website.

Newsletter Contest: This contest will be at the Department of Maine level only and the same post size requirements will be used. A Newsletter can be created in any format that an author may desire. Guidelines have been written to cover first page requirements as well as many of the requirements for spelling, grammar, photographic captions, etc. Districts are included in this contest and there will be two competitions for this contest at both the Post Level and District Level. Score-sheets have been developed for this judging.

This contest has its own Submission Form for entry in the contest. Each Submission Form must be filled out completely and signed by the Post Commander or Adjutant and must accompany the submission for either contest. Failure to provide the Submission Form will result in the disqualification of the submission.

Article Contest: This contest will be at the Department of Maine level only. An article is a story about your post that is published in one of the following sources.

- Post Newsletter
- Local Newspaper
- Local magazine
- The Maine Legionnaire

Same post size requirements will be followed. An article can be created in any format that an author may desire. However, it must conform with typical requirements for publication by sources mentioned above. A first-person story is acceptable. Guidelines have been written to cover page requirements as well as many of the requirements for spelling, grammar, photographic captions, etc. Districts are included in this contest. There will be two competitions for this contest, at the Post Level and District Level. Guidelines and score-sheets have been developed for this judging.

This contest has its own Submission Form for entry in the contest. Each Submission

Form must be filled out completely and signed by the Post Commander or Adjutant and must accompany the submission for either contest. Failure to provide the Submission Form will result in the disqualification of the submission.

Media Contests: These contests will be developed during 2022 for implementation in 2023. Two areas will be developed at the present time, a Facebook (Meta) page and a website. Contest will be at the Department of Maine level only. Stated post size requirements will be followed.

A Meta page or website can be created in any format that an author may desire. Guidelines will be written to cover requirements as well as many of the requirements for spelling, grammar, photographic captions, etc. There will be two competitions for this contest, also the Post Level and District Level. Guidelines and score-sheets will be developed for judging.

This contest will its own Submission Form for entry in the contest. Each Submission Form must be filled out completely and signed by the Post Commander or Adjutant and must accompany the submission for either contest. Failure to provide the Submission Form will result in the disqualification of the submission.

Historian Duties: As I began reading, and exploring, what I needed to do for my position I read the Officer's Guide much closer as well as the requirements laid out by NAHDAL, the guiding organization for we historians. Many posts do have a Historian that is doing an excellent job. I have found that there are areas that most of us do not have a great grasp of, and we should.

I am one of these Historians. I do not have much interaction with my Adjutant, and I have only just begun accounting for Post-property and artifacts. These are the areas we need to be better at:

- Working closely with the Post Adjutant
- Providing accountability for historical artifacts that are on display, or filed, at each post
- Being the primary source of responsibility for any document produced at a post
  - Ensuring that it is kept as the historical document it is
  - Do not discard documents at the end of the Post operating year
    - Turn these documents over to the Department Historian for filing at Headquarters
- Accounting for Post-property
- Providing an annual report to the Post Commander that goes forward to National as part of each Consolidated Post Report (CPR)

Post Property: As posts are finding out, if a Post has reached a point where they can no longer function, that Post must make a decision, find a way to keep going or close the post. If the Post desires to close, the officers must contact the Department of Maine to find out what procedures are to be followed.

There are procedures to be followed.

Property inventory forms have been created and are to be used for the accountability of all post property. Completed forms are to be kept on file at the post. Property, from the largest to the smallest item on hand at the post, must be accounted for.

Post Artifacts: The same rules for accountability apply to historical post artifacts. Forms have been created for artifact accountability, beginning with a form to accept a historical artifact being donated to a post. There will also be forms to accept an artifact on loan to the post or a loan from the post for use in a community event.

Historian Training Class: Beginning in March training classes will be held for Post and District Historians. There will be three two-day classes per year. The inaugural class is tentatively scheduled for March 26-27, 2022 and will be held at Post 37, in Thomaston. This will be a test bed and will be open to local Post Historians. Additional training classes will be held in June/July and October.

This training will be open to all District 6 Historians, probably only 4 or 5 participants. Nearby Posts are encouraged to send their Historians. There will be 5-6 seats available. Each participant must fill out a class registration form, which will be found on the Department of Maine website. The training will be part of the Department of Maine University training.

Future classes will probably be held at Department of Maine Headquarters. At the present time, there will be a limit of 10 trainees per class during the current Covid situation. Classes will begin at 10:00 am and end by 4:00 pm. The first day of training will cover all media contests currently active at the Department of Maine. Training on the second day will go over Historian duties, accountability, and the newly created forms.

Historian of the Year: A Historian of the Year Award is being established in 2022, as part of the requirement to reinstate the Department for Post Historian Annual Report to the Post Commander. This requirement can be found in the Officers Guide, under Historian guidelines. The Annual Report will go forward to the Department of Maine as part

[More on "HISTORIAN'S BUNKER" Page 9](#)

## "AMERICANISM"

(Continued from Page 4)

went in with no expectations other than I thought I would be done in a few minutes. I ended up staying for almost an hour sharing my experiences with these young students. They were intrigued to find that I had copied Morse code and served in the Navy. They had some amazing questions and we began a lasting relationship. The plan is to continue the visitations.

By the time you read this, the Oratorical program has been completed at the state level and we will be sending someone to

National to compete. Dirigo State continues to be planned for June; of course, more information will follow, so stay tuned. Along with Dirigo and Oratorical, the Junior Shooting Program, Scouts, and Legion Baseball were also discussed at Mid-Winter Conference. The chairpersons for these programs are working hard and plan to go forward to be successful. Please reach out if you have questions or concerns about any of these programs.

My guidance is, do NOT give up. You will however have to be creative until this gets easier. I have faith in all of you that we can do this.

Take Care and thank you for reading.



## Vets In The Classroom:

Department Americanism Officer Tricia Thurston was able to visit the Western Foothills Kids Association (WFKA) Rumford to share her experiences as a Navy Veteran. The children learned of her ability to copy Morse Code, asked many questions, learned about her uniform both Navy and Legion, and were

amazed to learn there was a Space Force!! These young children created thank you cards for the Women Veterans Luncheon that was held at the Rumford Post 24. Tricia created a letter in Morse code for the group to decipher the following week and will visit a different group in the near future. Thank you, Shannon Glover, and Shaunna Lamontagne for an amazing visit and for supporting your after-school program learning about veterans.

Photos by Shaunna Lamontagne



## Celebrating a New State-of-the-Art Health Care Facility Serving Maine Veterans

February 11th marks a great step forward for veterans in the greater Portland area with the ceremonial ribbon-cutting for a new Community-Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC), followed by the official opening three days later. This state-of-the-art facility in Portland will significantly enhance VA outpatient services for the men and women of the region who defended our nation and our freedom.

CBOCs provide an essential service to our veterans by allowing them to receive outpatient care without the stress and difficulty of traveling to larger VA medical centers. The new clinic, at 141 West Commercial Street, replaces and consolidates the CBOCs in Saco and Portland. It allows VA Maine to expand services to veterans in a larger, modern, and energy-efficient facility. In addition to a core set of services, such as primary care, mental health, and blood work, it will increase vet-



SENATOR  
SUSAN COLLINS

erans' access to specialty services that were not offered at the previous locations. Among the new services are podiatry, surgical consultation, dental, optometry, radiology, and prosthetics.

The planned full deployment of tele-medicine technologies in the new clinic will further improve veterans' access to care in rural locations throughout Maine. In addition, the new outpatient clinic will serve as a teaching site with space dedicated to

strengthening existing partnerships with the Tufts Medical School and Maine Medical Center.

As a member of the Appropriations Subcommittee that funds the VA, I strongly supported the establishment of a new Portland CBOC and its enhanced services. In 2019, when this facility in Portland, along with more than two dozen other CBOCs across the county, was delayed by budgetary technicalities, I helped lead a bipartisan push to allow these vital additions to veterans' health care to move forward.

Maine is home to one of the highest percentages of veterans in the country. We are proud of our State's dedication to protecting our nation.

Mainers should also be proud of our state's leading role in caring for our veterans. In a large rural state such as Maine, it is essential that veterans have access to high-quality health care

that they earned through their service. In 2016, we celebrated the 150th anniversary of Togus, our nation's first hospital for veterans. This year is the 35th anniversary of the VA's first CBOC, established in Caribou. That pioneering work has had a profound impact on America's 3.5 million rural veterans who now receive care at more than 800 CBOCs and outpatient clinics throughout the country. Today, 8 CBOCs and 3 smaller facilities provide that access to veterans throughout Maine. These clinics bring the care into the community, greatly reducing the travel burden on our veterans.

When the men and women of our armed forces return home from war, we have an obligation to care for them and welcome them all the way home. As a Senator and the grateful daughter of a veteran, I am committed to ensuring that the government keeps that sacred obligation.

## Your Letters

### Retired, but Not Gone

Dear Red Hats and All the White Hats,  
Thank you for the beautiful plaque and the gift card. I wasn't expecting either. Thank you Carl for your acknowledgment and all those who congratulated me. Retired, but not gone.

Maureen Malley,  
Past Assistant Dept. Service Officer

### Thanks From a Grad

I can not thank this foundation enough for the generosity in giving this scholarship. As seen attached is my fall term transcript. This transcript demon-

strates my dedication to a bright future made possible by this scholarship.

Nathan Plummer

### New Favorite Word Is "Retirement"

Paul, Rachael, and Greg,  
Good day all:

Just wanted to thank you for the card and the beautiful Legion piece. It means a lot to me coming from you all. By the way.....my new favorite word is "retirement"!!

Mark L. Boucher, CPA  
Felch & Company, LLC

### "DIPLOMACY" (Continued from Page 1)

Such were the points The American Legion National Security Commission considered in the resolution, which calls for:

- "Peaceful conflict resolution in Ukraine, in conjunction with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the Russian Federation;"

- A European "security architecture that takes into account the national security interests of all parties;"

- Non-support for "the deployment of troops for combat operations in defense of non-NATO member countries in connection with the ongoing Ukraine-Russia conflict;"

- Urging "the administration to continue the supply of lethal and non-lethal aid to Ukrainian forces;"

- The "administration and U.S. Congress maintain a strong stance and resist any agreement that could undermine the strategic rationale for the normalization of agreements between NATO, Russia, and Ukraine;"

If the administration demands troop

deployment, the resolution sets four conditions:

U.S. servicemembers should not be deployed in support of combat operations in any theater unless four conditions have been fulfilled:

1. That there will be a clear statement by the president of why it is in our vital national interest to be engaged in a particular operation

2. Guidelines will be established for the mission, including a clear exit strategy

3. That Congress is consulted and authorizes the use of military force

4. That it be made clear U.S. forces will be commanded only by U.S. officers

It has been said before and is worth saying again. No one hates war more than a veteran who has been in one. We believe in a strong defense capable at any time of protecting Americans and citizens of allied nations. We also know its costs and don't take lightly any decisions to enter combat – as some nations clearly do – without the right reasons or authority.

For God and country,  
Paul E. Dillard, National Commander  
The American Legion

<https://www.legion.org/commander/255071/diplomacy-sanctions-deployment>

March 1, 2022



### DIRIGO STATE PROGRAM

Thomas College, Waterville  
June 19-24, 2022  
Cost per student is \$400

[2022 Dirigo State Applications Now Available!](#)

Please visit [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org) for more information.  
or contact Jason Hall at 207-873-3229  
Email: [jason@mainelegion.org](mailto:jason@mainelegion.org)




# Service Office Update

Hello from the Service Office, I hope you are all doing well. The office has had a major change.

Maureen has retired from her role as Assistant Department Service Officer. She is still active in the Legion so you will see her around. After a good discussion with the State Adjutant, we are holding off in the search for a replacement to fill that position. We want to make the right choice the first time. In the meantime, we have adjusted the way things are done around here. You may not see the difference because we made these adjustments long before now. We have been able to keep the wait time low for appointments. We are continuing to look for ways to reduce wait times without losing the quality of service we are known for. If you have any questions or concerns, please call us.

There have been three conditions that have been added to the presumptive condition list for agent orange exposure. They are Bladder Cancer, Hypothyroidism, and Parkinson's - like symptoms. The VA has also added three conditions related to toxic exposure in Afghanistan, Djibouti, Syria, and Uzbekistan during the Persian Gulf War from Sept. 19, 2001, to present as well as the southwest Asia theater of operations from Aug. 2, 1990, to present. Those conditions are Asthma, rhinitis, and sinusitis. Please help get the word out to our younger veterans. Showing we care can go a long way to getting them into our posts as members.

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

The work of post historian is cumulative. It is wise to leave the responsibility to one person if handled well. There should be close cooperation between the post adjutant and the historian. The former works with records on matters of current interest, the latter on mat-



**SERVICE OFFICER  
CARL CURTIS**

If you would like the Department Service Officer to attend your district meeting or a post open house to attract new members, please give us a call or reach out on our Facebook page.

## 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.** There is a class on the 12th of February at Department Headquarters. The next seminar will be in April.

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 resubmitting the same claim as it will most likely be denied.

## NEW WAYS TO APPLY FOR VA HEALTHCARE

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

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

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

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

**TOGUS VA WOMEN'S CLINIC.** If you haven't already heard, there is a Women Veterans Clinic here at Togus. It specializes in women's health issues. Please keep in mind that there are medical conditions that may be claimable for the children of women veterans who served in certain areas and/or on certain

ships that are presumptive for Agent Orange. If you are a woman veteran, it is a good idea to give us a call or look for more information on [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov).

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

**DSO CONTACT INFORMATION.** We are located at Togus VA Medical Center, Building 205, Room 318. You can contact us by telephone at 207-623-5726, Fax at 207-621-4821, or by email at [carl.curtis2@va.gov](mailto:carl.curtis2@va.gov), or [julie.kern@va.gov](mailto: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.



**Award Recognition: Department Commander Debra Couture, left, and Department Service Officer Carl Curtis, right, present former Assistant Department Service Officer (ADSO) Maureen Malley, center, with a plaque in recognition of her outstanding performance and dedication to the veterans of Maine. Maureen worked as the ADSO for The American Legion, Department of Maine from 2016-2021. Congratulations Maureen and good luck in all your endeavors!**

## "HISTORIAN'S BUNKER" (Continued from Page 7)

of the Post Commanders annual CPR, which will then be forwarded to National. The Historian of the Year will be presented at the June 2022 Department of Maine Convention and presented annually thereafter. The Historian Requirement can be found on pages 17-18, Officer's Guide, and stated below.

### "Historian"

The work of post historian is cumulative. It is wise to leave the responsibility to one person if handled well. There should be close cooperation between the post adjutant and the historian. The former works with records on matters of current interest, the latter on mat-

ters of historical interest. The post historian should also keep in touch with the department historian and be prompt in answering inquiries. An annual report should be made to the department historian prior to the department convention.

Copies of printed material regarding the post should be deposited in local and state libraries, as well as in the post and department archives. This will prevent complete loss of records through fire or other catastrophe, as well as provide source material for those looking for information about The American Legion. An outline for a one-year post narrative history and yearbook is provided in the appendix (see pages 139-149)."

Judging, and scoring, will be based on the Annual Historian Report and will follow the

format for other contests at the Department of Maine.

- a. Post size and District
- b. Each Post and District awards will be for top three places
- c. Each overall winner will be judged for an overall Department of Maine winner

A submission form will not be required for the Historian of the Year contest. Instead, an automatic entry will be made for each post when the Historian Annual Report is submitted with Post Commander's CPR. Posts that do not have a Historian Annual Report submitted with the CPR will not have their Post Historian evaluated for Historian of the Year.

The primary goal of the Department of Maine Historian is to create something so that all of us Post Historians can highlight

our posts and receive the proper recognition for our hard work and efforts. These changes may seem like a lot of work and a pain in the butt. Maybe they are, but these changes that are being implemented now can be great steps to bringing more local knowledge and recognition of what a Post Historian does every day.

Correction to an Article from District 15 in the Last Issue of The Maine Legionnaire

In the last issue of The Maine Legionnaire, the article Cobscook Post 59 Donut Meeting, the name Colleen Condon was provided by me as the author. The name was wrong, and it should have been Colleen Conrad. I apologize for the mistake.

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

## Rumford Post 24 Holds 8th Annual Women Veterans Luncheon

The Rumford American Legion Post 24 held its 8th Annual Women Veterans Luncheon on Saturday, November 6th, 2021. Approximately 28 women veterans attended. They were treated to a morning of a paint-n-take, crafts, and visiting with others. Resources were available for everyone to take with them

as needed. We had to take a year off, but everyone picked up where we left off. A sit-down lunch of lasagna, salad, garlic bread, and dessert was served by our amazing Auxiliary members. It was a great day for everyone involved. We look forward to next year.



**Army Veterans:** Front, left to right, Barbara Kasiola, DJ Brady, Dani Begert, Gloria Hall, Alola Morrison, Bernice Deblois, Madeline Littlefield. Back, left to right, Lindsay Leblanc, Lisa Sinclair, Nancy Laffin, Joyce Fleming, Mitzi Sequoia.

**Navy Veterans:** Front row, left to right, Caroline Yarmala, Phyllis Page, Deb Couture, Deb Lyons. Back row, left to right, Tricia Thurston, Barbara Rogers, Kristina Nelson, Judy Otis.



**Air Force:** Left to right, Maureen Malley, LaRhonda Harris, and Candy Lucore.



**Marines:** Left to right, Melissa Hepburn, Kirsten Swanson-Hoyt, and Tricia Quinn.



**Coast Guard:** Left to right, Tracur Rancourt and Laura-Lee Reynolds.



Officer and Chair of the Women's Advisory/Veterans Action Committee Tricia Thurston.

**Quilt Donation:** American Legion Department of Maine Auxiliary Chaplain Pat Grant, right, donates a quilt during Fall Conference Sept. 15 for the Women Veteran's Luncheon held Nov. 6 at Rumford Post 24. All proceeds will go to next year's luncheon. At left is the American Legion Department of Maine Americanism

**WOMEN VETERANS EVENT GUIDELINES:** If you're thinking about putting together a Women Veterans Event sponsored by The American Legion, Department of Maine, please visit [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org) and click on the Women Vets Event Guidelines and Attachment located under Forms/Applications. For more information, please contact Department HQ at 207-873-3229.

## MILITARY DISCOUNT BENEFIT

10% OFF EVERY DAY TO SALUTE YOUR SERVICE



ENJOY YOUR ANNUAL MILITARY BENEFIT RECEIVE 10% OFF eligible\*

purchases every day, year round—if you are active military, retired military or a veteran (spouses, too). Sign up for a Virtual ID, then use it to get your discount, however you like to shop:

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2. Verify your military status
3. Get your Virtual ID and start shopping!



AMERICAN LEGION

## Portland Sea Dogs American Legion Day Saturday, May 21, 2022

Gates: 11:30 am | First Pitch 100 pm

On Saturday, May 21st, the Portland Sea Dogs are teaming up with The American Legion for a fun afternoon at the ballpark when the Sea Dogs take on the Harrisburg Senators (AA Affiliate of the Washington Nationals). The game is at 1:00 PM and the gates open at 11:30 AM.

Purchase your game tickets by visiting [https://seadogs.formstack.com/forms/legion5\\_21](https://seadogs.formstack.com/forms/legion5_21) and you will receive a ticket at a special group price of \$11.00 (\$1.00 off the standard price). Additionally, \$2.00 per ticket will be donated to The American Legion. You will also be invited onto the field prepgame for a group photo in front of the

Maine Monster.\*

\*Everyone will meet in the left field grandstand before 12:15 PM and escorted onto the field shortly thereafter for the photo. We will have our Fan Photographer take the photo, which will be posted on our Facebook page in the May 21st Game Day Photo Album.

There is a \$2.00 processing fee per order. For orders of 10 or more tickets, please call the ticket office at 207-879-9500 and ask for Alan.

If you have any questions, please email [Abarker@seadogs.com](mailto:Abarker@seadogs.com) for more information.



## Military Women's Grove Dedication:

Wreaths Across America (WAA) dedicates the Military Women's Grove as part of its Veterans Remembrance Tree Program

in Columbia Falls, Maine. Women from across the state hung personalized dog tags and those of other veterans on the balsam trees. Many Legionnaires attended this wonderful event. Left to right, Myra Broadway; Barbara Kasiola of Gardiner Post 4, PDC Brenda Dearborn of Richmond Post 132, Maureen Malley of Hallowell Post 6, Karen Worcester of the WAA, Denise Emery and State Commander Debra Couture of Litchfield Post 181, and Deanne Harrison and Darla Phillips of Unity Post 50.

## Governor Mills Inducts Veterans into Aides-de-Camp Program During Inaugural Meeting

Augusta, Maine (October 13, 2021) – Earlier this week, Governor Janet Mills held her first meeting of the recently reinvigorated Aides-de-Camp program, an advisory council of military veterans who advise the Governor on policies impacting Maine veterans.

On October 6th, eleven veterans representing all branches of military services, as well as two members of Governor Mills cabinet who are veterans – Public Safety Commissioner Mike Sauschuck and Corrections Commissioner Randy Liberty – were inducted into the Aides-de-Camp program at Camp Chamberlain by Governor Mills and Major General Douglas Farnham, the Commissioner of the Maine Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management.

Governor Mills delivered welcoming remarks and, along with Major General Farnham, awarded the newly appointed veterans with certificates. Bureau of Veterans Services (BVS) Director David Richmond and Director of Strategic Partnerships Sarah

Sherman provided a briefing about ongoing veterans programs and advocacy efforts in the state, including the Mobile Homeless Veterans Stand Down program, veterans' suicide prevention efforts, the Maine Veterans' Dental Program, and other veteran related issues. The Aides-de-Camp also received up to date status reports on several of the Bureau's other ongoing operations and engaged in a question and answer session.

"As someone who comes from a military family, I deeply appreciate the service and sacrifice of Maine veterans and their loved ones," said Governor Janet Mills. "Maine has the largest percentage of veterans per capita in the nation, and these Aides-de-Camp positions will create an important line of communication between them and state government. I am grateful for the work of my Aides-de-Camp and look forward to continuing our efforts to improve services and opportunities for veterans across Maine."

"The Aides-de-Camp program will assist the Bureau greatly in its efforts to advocate

for Maine's veterans," said David Richmond, BVS Director. "It was evident by the enthusiasm in the room that we have just gained a remarkable level of experienced veterans that want to work together to help Maine's veterans on a multitude of levels including homelessness, Substance Abuse Disorder, transition from the military to civilian work and life, female veterans' health issues, and veteran students."

The Aides-de-Camp will meet quarterly at Camp Chamberlain and the inductees will strive to improve the lives of Maine's veterans while serving as liaisons between their own communities and Governor Mills. The Aides-de-Camp inductees included:

- MAJ David Hassen, Augusta
- SGT Jessica Brennan, Farmington
- CSM Gretchen Evans, Brunswick
- COL Lori Sussman, Windham
- MAJ Brenda Pennels, Scarborough
- SFC Jerry DeWitt, New Gloucester
- LT Scott Hanson, Yarmouth
- PO3 James Bachelder, Acton
- SGT Craig Florey, Kenduskeag

CPL Gary Bies, Lincoln  
LT Whitney McKay, Eliot

About Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services: The Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services was established in 1947 by the State of Maine and is part of the Maine Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management. Our mission is to help Mainers who served, and their loved ones, understand and navigate the benefits, services, and programs available to them. The Bureau does this by being a responsive, experienced, and dedicated advocate. The Bureau is headquartered at Camp Keyes and has seven field service offices located throughout the state and a claims office located at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Togus, Maine. The Bureau also operates the Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery System which includes four veterans' cemeteries. For more information about the Bureau or to request assistance, please visit our website at [www.maine.gov/veterans](http://www.maine.gov/veterans).

By Sarah A. Sherman  
Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services  
207-430-5916, [sarah.sherman@maine.gov](mailto:sarah.sherman@maine.gov)



**Major General Douglas Farnham, Corrections Commissioner Randy Liberty, Governor Janet Mills, and Public Safety Commissioner Mike Sauschuck.**



**SGT Jessica Brennan of Farmington.**



**CSM Gretchen Evans of Brunswick & Brunswick Post 20.**



**COL Lori Sussman of Windham & Windham Post 148.**



**MAJ Brenda Pennels of Scarborough & Windham Post 148.**



**SFC Jerry DeWitt of New Gloucester & Lewiston Post 22.**



**LT Scott Hanson of Yarmouth.**



**PO3 James Bachelder of Acton & Sanford Post 19.**



**SGT Craig Florey of Kenduskeag.**



**CPL Gary Bies of Lincoln & Lincoln Post 77.**



**LT Whitney McKay of Eliot.**



**MAJ David Hassen of Augusta & Augusta Post 2.**



**The Aides-de-Camp Inductees** were photographed with Major General Douglas Farnham, left, and Governor Janet Mills, right.



**Rumford VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic Groundbreaking:** The clinic is scheduled to open in early summer, 2022. Left to right, VA Togus Public Affairs Jonathan Barczyk, American Legion, Department of Maine State Commander Debra Couture, and American Legion, Department of Maine 1st Vice Commander Kirk Thurston.



**CBOC Clinic:** New Rumford Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC), a drug rehab clinic being built in Rumford, Me.



**Two State Commanders Attend CBOC Groundbreaking Ceremony:** Maine State Commander of The American Legion Debra Couture, left, and State Commander of the VFW Herman L. Littlefield, right, attend the Groundbreaking Ceremony Sept. 20, 2021, for the new Community-Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) being built on Railroad Street in Rumford.



## 2022 American Legion Baseball "REACH OUT & FIND OUT"



Play ball! That's the refrain we are waiting for as spring and baseball season approaches. I am writing today to put the word out to you that playing ball is what a lot of our youth are going to be doing in the near future and a lot of them will be playing on teams under the auspices of the American Legion of Maine.

In 2021 there were 13 Junior League Teams made up of players 13-16 years of age and 16 Senior League Teams made up of players 16 to 19 years of age, playing under the umbrella of American Legion Baseball. Now in saying this I only know of two posts who actually sponsored a team; War Memorial Post 30/Camden and Corey Edwin Garver Post 202 in Topsham. If there were more I am

interested in knowing who you are!

Full sponsorship of a Legion Baseball team is a costly endeavor and it is realized a lot of Maine Posts might not be able to fully sponsor a team. However, any post can reach out to their local team and offer support in differing ways. Any financial donation would be greatly appreciated, but, you can also assist them by offering to help with on field preparation work, maybe running a concession stand where proceeds might be split between the team and post or perhaps if your post is so equipped hold a fund raising spaghetti or baked bean dinner as these



events are normally well attended for the benefit of youth sporting teams.

Every post in Maine should be looking for ways to be involved and to help. Why? Because assisting the young men and women playing baseball fits squarely into our Fourth Pillar of supporting Children and Youth.

If your post is actively involved with a local team right now, good on ya! If your post is not but feel this is something you can get behind in some manner, reach out to your local baseball community. Some communities draw from surrounding schools within their area to field teams,

so most likely a local high school coach would know if there will be a Legion team playing in 2022.

If you are still not sure if your local community has a team associated with American Legion baseball, no problem, call or email me and I will get you in touch with the coach for the local Legion Team.

This is an opportunity that should not go unfulfilled by Maine American Legion posts. It cannot be easier just; REACH OUT locally to your team and FIND OUT what your post can do to help. Work to support our Fourth Pillar!

To reach me, please call 691-2270; email [jandc79@myfairpoint.net](mailto:jandc79@myfairpoint.net).

Jeff Sukeforth  
Maine American Legion Baseball Director

### Full Registration Open for 2022 American Legion Baseball Season

Registration for the 2022 American Legion Baseball season is open at [baseball.legion.org](http://baseball.legion.org).

The early deadline for registration is May 15. Teams registered after May 15 may be subject to a department \$200 late fee through the final deadline of June 1. Please note that each American Legion department may set an earlier deadline for registration.

Registration fees for senior teams are \$50 for national registration and \$35 for administrative fees; for junior teams, fees are \$25 for national registration and \$35 for administrative fees. Insurance premiums for senior teams are \$133 for general liability, \$123 for personal accident seasonal and \$190 for personal accident annual; for junior teams, \$91 for general liability, \$104 for personal accident seasonal and \$160 for personal accident annual.

State fees, if applicable, will vary by state.

To learn more about your specific department's state fees and deadlines, contact your department chairmen.

As part of the education and training requirements of Public Law 115-126, the Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017, all coaches, managers and volunteer staff members must complete the Abuse Awareness course either through Protect Youth Sports or USA Baseball. All coaches, managers and volunteer staff members must also have a completed and passed background check. To download the American Legion Baseball Management Guidebook visit <https://www.legion.org/publications/212564/risk-management-guide-baseball>.

Feb. 15, 2022

<https://www.legion.org/baseball/254945/full-registration-open-2022-american-legion-baseball-season>

### The American Legion Baseball Scholarship

The American Legion awards between \$22,000 and \$25,000 in scholarships to deserving baseball players each year. Each Department Baseball Committee may select a player from its department to receive this scholarship. The American Legion will award several scholarships each year depending on the number of applicants and interest earned from the trust fund.

#### Award Amounts

Department Baseball Scholarship Winners receive \$500.

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

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

additional \$2,500 scholarship.

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

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

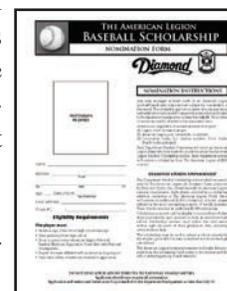
Scholarship recipients will be eligible to receive their scholarships immediately upon graduation from an accredited high school. Scholarship winners must utilize the total award within eight (8) years of their graduation

date, excluding active military time.

Print the application by visiting [https://www.legion.org/documents/baseball/baseball\\_scholarship.pdf](https://www.legion.org/documents/baseball/baseball_scholarship.pdf)

Learn more about American Legion Baseball - visit <https://www.legion.org/baseball>

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



### History of American Legion Baseball



American Legion Baseball is a national institution, having thrived through a world war, several national tragedies, and times of great prosperity as well as great despair.

The league still stands behind the traditional values upon which it was founded in 1925. American Legion Baseball has

taught hundreds of thousands of young Americans the importance of sportsmanship, good health and active citizenship. The program is also a promoter of equality, making teammates out of young athletes regardless of their income levels or social standings. American Legion Baseball has been, and continues to be, a stepping stone to manhood for millions of young men who have gone on to serve their country or community, raise families or play the sport at the highest level.

To read more about the History of American Legion Baseball visit <https://www.legion.org/baseball/history>

<https://www.legion.org/baseball/history>

### Get Your Centennial Coin Today While Supplies Last!

Coins can be purchased online by visiting [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org), or by check/money order in the amount of \$10/coin, plus \$5 S/H. Make check payable to The American Legion, De-

partment of Maine and mail to 5 Ver-ti 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.



# THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MAINE

## OFFICIAL CALL FOR

### ONE HUNDRED & THIRD ANNUAL CONVENTION

In accordance with Article IV of the Constitution and By-laws of the Department of Maine, The American Legion, the One Hundred and Third Annual State Convention is hereby called to convene in Brewer, Maine, June 10-11, 2022.

The first business session will be called to order at 12:00 p.m. daylight savings time, on the afternoon of Friday, June 10, 2022, with the final business session scheduled for Saturday morning, June 11, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. All general business sessions of the convention will be held at Jeff's Catering & Event Center, Brewer, Maine.

#### PURPOSE

The convention is called for the purpose of electing department officers for the ensuing year; to elect delegates and alternates to the 2022 National Convention to be held in Milwaukee, WI; to receive reports of all department officers and standing committees; to consider the resolutions and actions of subordinate bodies and to transact any other business properly brought before the convention.

#### REPRESENTATION

Each post is entitled to one delegate and one alternate, and one additional delegate and alternate for each one hundred members or fractional part thereof paid up to May 11, 2022. A post with less than 15 members is not entitled to any delegates. All department officers, district commanders, area commanders, and past department commanders, in good standing, shall be entitled to vote and have all the rights of delegates in the convention. These officers and past department commanders are delegates-at-large and must not be named as post delegates.

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

#### RULES OF ORDER

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

#### MEETINGS

The Resolutions Committee shall hold a public hearing on all resolutions submitted in accordance with the Constitution and By-laws at Jeff's Catering &

Event Center on Friday, June 10, 2022, at 9 a.m. All delegates and alternates and members of The American Legion are invited to attend the session. Following this public hearing, the Committee on Resolutions will go into an executive session to vote on resolutions to be brought before the body.

The Department Executive Committee will hold the first meeting at Jeff's Catering & Event Center on Sunday, June 12, 2022. All department officers, district commanders, area commanders, and past department commanders are requested to attend.

#### CREDENTIALS

Each post will fill out the credential

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

#### NOMINATION AND ELECTIONS

At the first session of the Department Convention on Friday, June 10, 2022, nominations shall be made for the offices of Department Commander; Department First Vice Commander; Department Second Vice Commander; Department Finance Officer, Department Historian; Department Americanism Officer; and Department Sergeant-at-Arms,

Nomination of officers shall be made by registered delegates elected to represent the posts of the Department or by delegates-at-large attending the conven-

your 2022 membership card must be displayed during voting.

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

#### UNIFORM OF THE DAY

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

#### MEMORIAL SERVICE

The department chaplain of The American Legion will conduct a Memorial Service to be held just prior to the conclusion of the Saturday session, June 11, 2022. Posts wishing to have deceased members included in the Post Everlasting Ceremony are requested to submit a list of the honored dead to Department Headquarters. Lists must include the name of deceased comrades and conflicts served. If your post files a Post Everlasting list for The Maine Legionnaire and said list is up to date, a second list is not necessary.

#### LAW AND ORDER

Order will be maintained at all times in the convention hall under the direction of the department sergeant-at-arms and his/her assistants. Delegates, alternates, and members attending the convention are requested to be courteous to all speakers and visitors to the convention.

#### PRESS

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

#### INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

A formal installation ceremony will be held Saturday, June 11, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. All department officers and district commanders will be sworn into office at that time and will automatically become members of the Department Executive Committee.

#### RAFFLES OR SALES ITEMS

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

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

**THE AMERICAN LEGION**  
**103RD ANNUAL**  
**STATE CONVENTION**  
**June 10 - 11, 2022**  
**Jeff's Catering and Event Center, Brewer**  
**PLAN NOW TO ATTEND!**

blank submitted by the department adjutant and return same to the Department Headquarters listing the delegates and alternates elected to represent the Post. All delegates' registration must be prepaid.

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

The department adjutant shall issue to each post, 30 days prior to the convention, a statement of the number of 2022 membership cards, accompanied by state and national dues, received at Department Headquarters on May 11, 2022. Listed with the membership report will appear the number of delegates allowed for each post.

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

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

tion. Nominating speeches are limited to three minutes. There will be no seconds to nominations authorized (DEC Mandate Jan. 20, 1991)

All candidates for elective department office must file with the department adjutant, prior to May 11, 2022, a letter of intent to seek office and furnish a copy of discharge papers, which makes them eligible for membership in The American Legion. The ballots for the Department Convention will be preprinted indicating those candidates who have filed for office. Any candidate declaring after May 11, 2022 or nominated from the floor of the convention, will be a write-in candidate. Blank spaces will be left for write-in candidates. (DEC Mandate Jan. 27, 1985).

#### VOTING

Delegates may get ballots from the Credentials Committee at Jeff's Catering & Event Center on Saturday, June 11 2022. The Credentials Committee will be in session for two hours on Saturday morning, June 11, 2022, from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Each delegate will go to the convention hall during the hours specified and secure ballots. No ballots will be issued after 10 a.m. Delegates will cast ballots immediately. Delegate's card, badge, convention registration, and

## Resolutions to Be Presented by May 1st

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

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

## Candidates Deadline: May 11

Anyone wishing to run for a Department Office must submit a letter of intent and a copy of his or her discharge papers making them eligible for The American Legion to the Department Adjutant's office on or before May 11, 2022 to be included on the official ballot at convention in June. If you wish to be included in The Maine Legionnaire, the above information, plus a photo of you must be at Department Headquarters by April 22, 2022.

Also be advised that the Department Constitution and By-Laws state: All current and future Department Officers elected at the Annual State Convention will within forty-five (45) days following the conclusion of the Annual Department Convention, take the "American Legion Extension Institute Course" and successfully complete said course. Previous graduates of the course upon providing confirmation would be exempted.

## What a Delegate Should Bring to the Annual State Convention

This is a short reminder to all legionnaires attending the 103rd Annual State Convention in Brewer, June 10th and 11th. If you are a delegate or alternate to this year's convention, please remember to bring your current American Legion membership card or PUFL card. Attendees

should go to the registration table immediately upon arrival and pick up your delegate or alternate package. Only registered delegates are allowed to vote or address the convention. The official uniform of The American Legion is the Legion cap.



## WINTER SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS

Congratulations to the Following  
Sweepstakes Winners!

**Winners of the Winter Sweepstakes Raffle drawn January 15 Jeff's Catering & Event Center, Brewer.**

Grand Prize winner of \$1500 was awarded to Clifton Little-

field, Boothbay Harbor Post 36; \$500 to Richard Disney, Topsham Post 202; \$300 to James Macos, Alfred Post 134 and \$200 to Ellen Barney, Unit 205.

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

## Humanitarian Sought

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

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

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

If an individual was previously submitted and not selected, please submit it again. We will consider anyone who has not received the award previously. Nominations should be received by May 1, 2022. Nomination forms can be obtained by contacting The American Legion, Department of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0727; Tel: (207) 873-3229; e-mail: [legionme@mainelegion.org](mailto:legionme@mainelegion.org) or on the web at [www.mainelegion.org\\_underForms/Applications](http://www.mainelegion.org_underForms/Applications).

## Legionnaire of the Year Sought

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

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

Maybe your Post has previously sent a candidate for this award who was not chosen. Why not submit the name again? There are no rules stating how many times you can apply. Your candidate could be this year's winner. Remember, everything in life is a gamble. The deadline for applications is May 1, 2022. Applications can be obtained through Department Headquarters or on-line at [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org)

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

## American Legion Family Testimonial

A joint testimonial to honor our 2022 American Legion Family Leaders, American Legion Department Commander Debra Couture, American Legion Auxiliary President Audrey L'Heureux, and Sons of The American Legion Commander Mike Hustus, will be held May 7, 2022 at Fitzgerald-Cummings Post 2 in Augusta.

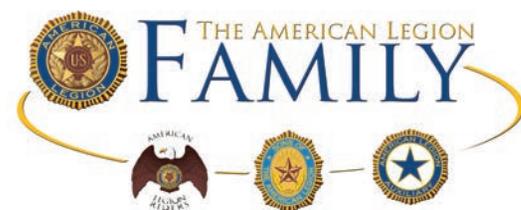
Social Hour will be from 3-4 p.m.

Menu includes appetizers, choice of Chicken Cordon Bleu or Baked Haddock, served with mashed potatoes, gravy, sweet peas, garden salad, dinner

roll, and dessert. Gluten Free meal option available (fish).

Cost for the meal will be \$25.00 per person. Make checks payable to: American Legion Auxiliary Unit 2. Please write the number of chicken or fish dinners on check, or enclose note with your name. Gluten Free Option (fish) - Please state "GF" on the check.

Mail to: American Legion Auxiliary Unit 2, Joyce Thurlow, 1 Meadowrue Drive, Augusta, ME 02330. Deadline for reservations is May 3. All tickets to be picked up at the door.



## 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

## Sanford Post 19 Oratorical Contest

On December 11, 2021, the Thomas W. Cole Post 19 in Sanford held the High School Oratorical Contest to determine the representative for the Post in the District 1 Regional Contest on January 9, 2022.

There were two representatives competing in the contest, one from the Sanford Christian Academy and one from Sanford High School. The Contest started at 2:00 pm with Post Commander Dan Hathaway welcoming all to the Raymond Fortier Legion Hall.

The contestants presented their Prepared Oratory first and then the Assigned Topic Oratory was presented; both contestants made excellent presentations. The Judges then convened with the Tabulator to determine the winner.

The contestants were introduced by the Post Commander to the audience: Josh Werner from Sanford High School and Lehana Petelo from the Sanford Christian

Academy. Dan Hathaway then announced the winner Josh Werner with second Place to Lehana Petelo. Both contestants were awarded Scholarships and Certificates of Achievement. Josh will represent the Post in the January 9, 2022 District 1 contest and Lehana will be the alternate, if Josh is unable to compete.

Special thanks to the Judges for the contest: Post 19 Auxiliary Marge Lewis, District 1 Commander John Bshara, Air Force National Guard Lt. Colonel Rick Bach, Post 19 First Vice Commander Bill Cameron, and Army National Guard 1st Lt Kristine Stanley. Advisors to contestants: Sanford High School Mentor Michael Kane and Sanford Christian Academy Mentor Cherith Bell. All in attendance appreciated the oratories of each contestant. Refreshments were served after the contest and photos taken of both contestants.

By Post 19 Adjutant Dale Midgley

## A Legionnaire for All Seasons

Ray Fortier was a member of the American Legion Thomas W. Cole Post 19 for 77 years. He recently passed away on December 11, 2021. The following article was originally printed in the October 2016 Maine Legionnaire. It has been updated and is reedited as a tribute to a man who truly was a "Legionnaire for All Seasons".

Ray Fortier was born in Sanford in 1923 on March 4th. His parents moved from Canada in 1895 and settled in Sanford.

They made the move to the U.S. to find work which they found in the Sanford textile mills. The family moved a few years later to Woonsocket, R.I. where his mother and father started working the Woonsocket Woolen Mills. After six years in R.I., the family moved back to Sanford and both parents returned to work in the Goodall Mills.

In the meantime, Ray started school at the Holy Family School and continued his education at the Emerson School until the eighth grade. Like many families during the 30's, times were hard and money was scarce. Ray joined the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1938 and worked on a public work project until 1939. He then went to work in the Goodall Mill for a year before getting a job building Liberty Ships at the Portland Shipyard for two years. In October 1942, he enlisted in the Navy and was sent to Newport Rhode Island for Boot Camp. Upon finishing Boot Camp, he was sent to Little



R. Fortier, 1945

Creek, Virginia for Gunnery Training. He was trained on 20 mm, 3.50 inch cannon and 5.38 inch anti-aircraft guns. After gunnery training, he was sent to the Brooklyn Navy Armed Guard for three weeks and given orders to report to the S.S. Slotvedyck, a transport and cargo ship, manning the gunnery station in the Atlantic during the height of Nazi Submarine Warfare in the Atlantic.

Ray's first crossing ended in Oran, Algeria shortly after the invasion of North Africa, November 1943. The ship was then ordered to report to Glasgow, Scotland to pick up assorted supplies for allied troops with a destination of Durban, South Africa. Scuttlebutt has it that sailing to the South Atlantic would attract the enemy's attention; it did, and for the better part of a week we sailed south toward the Antarctic Circle and most on board thought we had bought the farm; the seas were so rough. We then we sailed back to North Africa arriving in Casablanca. There, the U.S. troops started building barricades and bunks on the decks below the main deck. One morning 1200 German and Italian P.O.W.'s were escorted aboard with the next stop Hoboken N.J. where they were put on trains with the windows shuttered and closed. I was then given a 30 day leave which lasted 16 days – they need bodies for another ship. After arriving at the Armed Guard Center in Brooklyn I was ordered to report to the S.S. Cushing Eells, an "Ugly

Duckling" per FDR, Liberty Ship, going to every port in North Africa from Oran, Algeria to Alexandria, Egypt following the allied troops going east against General Rommel "The Desert Fox". We then returned to the U.S. to load up with every explosive made for war from aviation fuel, 500 lb bombs, 55 gallon drums of alcohol, and everything else that could blow up. We sailed out of the Chesapeake Bay; never setting foot on solid ground for 63 days before arriving at Basra, Iraq. The shipments were off loaded on to a railroad for shipment to Russia. I couldn't wait to leave that Hell Hole. We came back through the Suez Canal with orders to go to Taranto, Italy for refueling, water, and take on Army supplies and troops in Bari, Italy. As we left Bari, one of the convoy ships struck a mine, at the anchor compartment and #1 cargo hold, exploding the cargo and lifting the ship's stern and propellers out of the water leaving the ship at the mercy of the Adriatic Sea currents. No ships were allowed to help due to the mines. We proceeded to Naples to pick up troops and their equipment. Repeating the process on the Island of Corsica then dropping anchor off the coast of Nice in Southern France for the Invasion of Southern France supposedly by General Patton's 3rd Army. Returning to the states and the A.G. Center and ordered to the West Coast to be reassigned. A Physical and Medical Survey found me no longer fit for duty. They put me on a train with returning casualties from Iwo Jima destined for the Great Lakes Navy Base where on May 25, 1945 I received a 30% disability rating on Honorable Discharge and \$71.00 for transportation home. It took a few days to get back to civilian life. Loafing around was not my style, so I found work driving a taxi, wholesaling fruit and produce, and sales at a local Chevrolet Dealer selling cars and finally stopped working permanently in 1991.

Ray had 3 adult children; 2 boys and 1 girl. After his wife passed in 1992, he married his present wife, Aline, in 1995. He met her at the St. Ignatius Fair and married shortly thereafter. Ray joined American Legion Post 19 in 1945 and was elected Post Commander in 1947, the year that literally half of York County burned. He was, at that time, the youngest Post Commander in Maine and may well have been the youngest in the entire United States. Ray was a very active member of Legion Post 19 and has, through the years, held many positions including an extensive tour as Post Chaplain. He currently serves on the executive board and is a life member of the Legion as well as VFW and DAV.

If you have ever read Winston Churchill's Books on World War II and the campaigns in the Mediterranean, you will immediately realize that Ray was at every one of those places riding on a ship filled with High Octane Fuel and High Explosives. Ray jokingly comments that if the ship had been hit by a torpedo or bomb it would not have sunk, but would have probably gone into orbit.

The following is the obituary information from the Black Funeral Home, Springvale, Maine. Raymond G. Fortier, 98, of Springvale, died on Saturday, December 11, 2021 at the Maine Veterans

Home in Scarborough. Raymond was born on March 4, 1923 to Joseph and Eva (Camire) Fortier in Sanford where he grew up and attended local schools. He proudly served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. During his working life he was employed for 21 years at WT Grant's in Sanford. He went on to work and Cantin and Tucker Chevrolet where he stayed for 24



R. Fortier, Fall 2021

years until his retirement in 1985.

Raymond was a devout Catholic and had been a communicant of St. Therese of Lisieux Parish, Notre Dame Church. He had been a member of the Disabled American Veterans and 77-year member and past commander of the American Legion in Sanford. He was their youngest commander ever when he was elected to the post in 1947. He also served for 19 years on the Veterans Cemetery Committee and was very involved in helping to get the Southern Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery established in Springvale. Raymond always liked to keep himself busy. Whenever he was at home, he always found something to do and enjoyed putting on things around the house. He also enjoyed traveling, listening to music, reading and going fishing. He was a hard worker all his life and took great pride in providing for his family. He was a devoted husband, father and grandfather and will be dearly missed by his family and friends.

Raymond was predeceased by his wife, Irene M. (Bourque) Fortier in 1992 and by his second wife, Aline (Fontaine Ouellette) Fortier in 2020 and by his brother, Richard Fortier.

Surviving are three children, James Fortier of Sanford, Carol Sewell of Lebanon and Robert Fortier of Sanford and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at 11:00 am on Friday, December 17th at St. Therese of Lisieux Parish, Holy Family Church, located on North Avenue in Sanford. Interment with military honors will be in the spring at St. Ignatius in Sanford.

Raymond's family would like to express their gratitude to the staff at the Maine Veterans Home in Scarborough for the care and compassion shown to Raymond and his family during his stay there.

Those planning an expression of sympathy are asked to consider sending a memorial contribution to the American Legion, TW Cole Post 19, PO Box 801, Sanford, Maine, 04073 or the Maine Veterans Homes-Scarborough, 290 US Route 1, Scarborough, Maine 04074.

Ray was a treasure to know, and he will be greatly missed. He epitomized the words, Respect, Duty, Valor and Honor and was, without question, truly an "American Legionnaire for All Seasons".

Sanford Post 19 Adjutant Dale Midgley

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 1 continued

### Kennebunk Post 74

**Dollhouse Raffle:** For the second year in a row, John Dulude, a member of American Legion Webber-Lefebvre Post 74, Kennebunk, has donated a beautiful dollhouse to be raffled off to benefit the Post's Kennebunk High School Scholarship Fund. The Post, in conjunction with Kennebunkport Post 159 and a donation in the name of Melanie Hilton, provides a \$1500 scholarship to a worthy Kennebunk High School senior to further their education. The Post sells tickets at \$10 each to the public at craft fairs and farmers' markets and limits the sale to no more than 100 tickets. This year's winner of the dollhouse is Ed Karytko, left, and his wife, Susan, far right, of Kennebunk, with John Delude, center. The couple were very happy to be the winners of the dollhouse dubbed "The Painted Lady" since they have eight grandchildren and there is a likely recipient among them! The beautifully constructed dollhouse has 6 rooms and a tower room.



### Berwick Guard of Honor Sets New Record

Under the leadership of Honor Guard Captain Forrest Davis, the Charles S. Hatch Post 79 Honor Guard had a record year in 2021. The nine current Honor Guard members are Army, Navy and Air Force veterans who served tours in Korea and Vietnam, several of whom have been active Legionnaires for 45+ years.

During the past 12 months, Post 79 Honor Guard members completed 319.5 person-hours of public service at 28 separate events, traveling to the New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery in Boscawen, the Southern Maine Veterans Cemetery in Springvale, and multiple locations in York County, Maine and Strafford County, New Hampshire.

While the vast majority of their work was done in support of military honors funerals, Honor Guard members stood tall at Post 79's National Vietnam War Veterans Day observance, at Berwick's Memorial Day Parade and most recently in Eliot, Maine at the Wreaths Across America celebration and kick-off.

All of them, without exception, would say that being part of the post honor guard is an honor in itself. To pay a final, respectful tribute to the service and sacrifice of our departed veterans and show the thanks of a grateful nation. For the members of this post's Honor Guard, there is no higher honor.

Berwick Post 79  
Public Relations Officer R. Martin

### "We Truly Will Never Forget"

## Kennebunkport Memorial Honors 11 Veterans Killed In Action

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine — There is a veterans' memorial in just about every town center in America, Col. Ron Russell told everyone who gathered Thursday morning in front of American Legion Post 159.

In fact, all across the land, there are schools, roads, bridges and more that are dedicated to veterans of the U.S. military, Russell said.

"Is it all too much?" he asked. "I don't think so. Younger generations ... can't help but be positively influenced by all these memorials. They will learn that we truly will never forget the sacrifices of our veterans."

Russell, a member of the American Legion post, was the guest speaker during a Veterans Day ceremony that included the dedication of a new memorial paying tribute to 11 local servicemen who were killed in action throughout the wars and conflicts of the 20th century.

These servicemen are now forever memorialized in front of the post, on a plaque affixed to stone, facing Main Street: Sgt. Robert Benson; Sgt. Terry Drown; Capt. Albert Fletcher; Pvt. Byron Hoff; Lt. Donald Huff; Cpl. Jack McLean; Sgt. Richard Merrill; Cpl. Kenneth Perkins; Sgt. Charles Rouleau; Sgt. Richman Simmons; and Lt. Robert Warner.

**Kennebunkport Post 159 Veterans Day Ceremony:** As guest speaker, Col. Ron Russell chronicles the history of the occasion during the Veterans Day ceremony at American Legion Post 159 in Kennebunkport, Nov. 11, 2021. Seated behind him are Pastor Joe Everett, left, and Post Commander Chris Meyer.



Photo by Shawn P. Sullivan

After Russell spoke, members of the post read biographies of each serviceman to the large crowd seated underneath the morning's warm and bright sky. Once finished, donors and others gathered at the memorial, while bugler Gerald Gilfoy played Taps and bagpiper George Pulkkinen performed "Amazing Grace."

Post Commander Chris Meyer led the



**Bagpiper: George Pulkkinen begins playing his bagpipe to signal the start of the Veterans Day ceremony at American Legion Post 159 Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021.**

ceremony, which included an invocation by pastor Joe Everett, of the Village Baptist Church in Kennebunkport, and the raising of the American flag by the 133rd Engineer Battalion of the Maine Army National Guard in Brunswick.

A battlefield cross, comprised of a soldier's rifle, boots, helmet and dog tag, was installed in front of the new memorial for the ceremony. During his opening remarks, Meyer thanked all the many donors who had made the memorial possible.

"This day would have never happened if it were not for the generosity of the Kennebunkport people," Meyer said.

Shawn P. Sullivan,  
Portsmouth Herald & York County Coast Star  
Published 1:04 PM, November 11, 2021  
[Kennebunkport ME memorial honors 11 local veterans killed in action \(seacoastonline.com\)](https://www.seacoastonline.com)



**Kennebunkport Post 159 New Memorial:** Donors gather around the new memorial they made possible at the American Legion Post on Main Street in Kennebunkport, Maine, on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2021. The memorial pays tribute to 11 local servicemen who were killed in action while serving in the U.S. military.



**Battlefield Cross:** A statue of a Battlefield Cross is installed in front of the new memorial at American Legion Post 159 in Kennebunkport, Maine. The new memorial is shown on Veterans Day 2021.



**Raising The Flag:** Members of the Maine National Guard raise the American flag during a Veterans Day ceremony held in Kennebunkport, Maine, on Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021.

All photos by Shawn P. Sullivan

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

## Orono House of Pizza Owner Supports Veteran Appreciation Certificate Presented on Behalf of The American Legion

One afternoon in the summer of 2020, my son met a friend at Orono House of Pizza just off campus from the University of Maine. In their time there, they had the pleasure of meeting a Vietnam War veteran who introduced himself to them under his nickname "Buddy." Buddy and my son, Alex, spoke back and forth for several minutes about my son's respect for veterans having grown up as the son of a Vietnam war veteran himself. Towards the end of their interaction together, Alex wished to pay for Buddy's lunch, but was happily surprised to learn that Buddy's lunch has been free each day for a few years now, basically ever since he first went into the restaurant

which sits next to American Legion Post 84. The owner of Orono House of Pizza, Kostas Bazmpas, had grown a liking for Buddy since the first time he entered the establishment many moons ago and shared an appreciation for the hardships that Buddy and many other veterans such as he faced during their service in Vietnam and in day-to-day life post-tours. Because of this appreciation for Buddy, Kostas offered to him a comped lunch whenever he decides to come to OHOP, which Buddy graciously accepted. Buddy has now been getting free lunches from OHOP for over 2 years now and is a locally famous regular. Because of

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

**"OHOP"***(Continued from Page 16)*

this, I asked my son to organize a day for which I might go meet Kostas and be able to present him this certificate of appreciation on behalf of the American Legion. At first Kostas was very skeptical to accept this award as he didn't feel it was right to accept an award or certificate of appreciation for something that he just wanted to do for this man, regardless of praise or thanks. After chatting with Kostas back and forth

for a short while I was able to get him to accept the award and take a picture with me outside his restaurant (shown above). On behalf of The American Legion, I am proud to have met someone so genuine and appreciative of our armed forces and service members and am thrilled to be able to present our appreciation for people like Kostas and the way he and others like him show their respect for the sacrifices we have made and continue to make for our great nation.

By Gene Connolly, District 2 Service Officer and member of Post 17



**Appreciation Certificate Presented To OHOP Owner:** District 2 Service Officer Gene Connolly, right, presents Orono House of Pizza owner Kostas Bazmpas, left, with a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of The American Legion. The event was organized by Gene's son, Alex, who has much respect for veterans, having grown up as the son of a Vietnam War Veteran himself.

**Portland Post 17 TAPS**

The following is a list of deceased veterans, from the American Legion Harold T. Andrews Post 17 in Portland that had not been listed in The Maine Legionnaire TAPS. Most of the deceased are from the years 2009 to 2020.

William Vuskin Amergian – WWII; Donald R Andrews – Korea; Curtis J Ballantine - Grenada/Lebanon; Richard Ballantine Sr – Vietnam; Edward Baker – Vietnam; Henry Baker – WWII; John C Barry – Vietnam; William Berry – WWII; Thomas B Brown – Korea; Joseph Bruni – WWII; Simmie Butts – WWII; Peter J Charron – Grenada/Lebanon; James B Dixon – Vietnam; Garth Devoe – Vietnam; Francis Donohue – WWII; Cornelius J Donovan – Korea,

Vietnam; Michael A Desimon – Vietnam; Robert E Earles – Korea; James T Foley – Vietnam; John Ford – WWII; Timothy Flaherty – Vietnam; William M Hogan – Vietnam; Donald R Jensen – WWII; William J McDonough – Vietnam; Douglas McLean – Vietnam; Donald K Murdoch – Vietnam; Terry Murphy – Vietnam; Robert Bruce Norwood – WWII; Peter D O'Malley – Vietnam; Raymond Porter – Korea; Theodore Pelletier – Vietnam; Richard A Rolfe II – Vietnam; Nelson Richardson – Vietnam; Richard Sterling – Vietnam; Finn Wilhemesen – Vietnam; Donald Walker – Vietnam; Frederick Wardwell – WWII; Francis Walsh – WWII.

Portland Post 17 Adjutant Owen F Woods



**Post 35 Recognition:** District 2 meeting at South Portland Post 35. South Portland Post 35 Adjutant Mike Pock was recognized for his support for Veterans with a Commendation for designing and constructing two wheelchair ramps for needy Vets: one in South Portland and one in Windham, Maine. Left to right, Mike Pock, District 2 Commander Phil Ceaser, and District 2 Adjutant Dave Tanguay. Veterans Serving Veterans!

**So. Portland Post 35 Veterans Day 2021**

The 11th Hour of the 11th Day of the 11th Month of 1919 marked the first anniversary of the "War to End All Wars", and the founding day of the American Legion. In 1926, Congress recognized this day for annual observation and in 1938 it became a National Holiday. In 1954, President Eisenhower officially changed the name of the holiday from Armistice Day to Veterans Day. Veterans Day recognizes all service members who

have served in the Service of Our Country. This year marks the 103rd anniversary of the end of WWI and the 102nd anniversary of the American Legion.

Post 35 in South Portland, in conjunction with the South Portland War Veterans Memorial Association, celebrated the day with a parade and a wreath laying ceremony at the South Portland War Memorial in Mill Creek Park in South Portland. The



**Wreath Laying Ceremony:** VFW Veteran Ted "Cookie" Cook, left, and American Legion South Portland Post 35 Veteran Ken Marston, right, lay a wreath at the South Portland War Memorial in Mill Creek in South Portland during the Wreath Laying Ceremony celebrated by South Portland Post 35 in conjunction with the South Portland War Veterans Memorial Association for Veterans Day.

Photo by So. Portland Post 35 Adjutant Mike Pock

ceremony was directed by Commander Guy Linscott from Post 35 and attended by the local Coast Guard Base Commander as well as the Mayor of South Portland. A wreath was placed by Ted "Cookie" Cook, a VFW representative and Ken Marston, a American Legion Representative.

After the ceremony, a small lunch was prepared by the members of Post 35. Ted Cook, age 92, walked the 1.3 miles of the parade and stated he didn't get tired until he hit the 1-mile mark, which was basically at Post 35.

South Portland Post 35 Adjutant Michael R. Pock

**South Portland Post 35 Thanksgiving Baskets for Veterans**

Each year Post 35 gathers groceries and puts together Thanksgiving baskets for veterans in our community. This year we had a team of nine people to organize and pack the "baskets" that are actually banana boxes. Included in the boxes are enough food supplies to provide a small family or a veteran and his or her spouse with a hardy Thanksgiving meal. The entire "meal in a box" includes everything a typical family or couple would have on a Thanksgiving

table. On top of each box, that is brim full, we also include a 10-to-12-pound frozen turkey. This year we delivered on Monday the 22nd, twelve boxes to the local Coast Guard Base and the balance of eight boxes to the Portland Veterans Center in Portland.

Post 35 has been gathering supplies and boxes for the past month and plans to repeat this process with twenty boxes around the first of Christmas week.

So. Portland Post 35 Adjutant Michael R. Pock



**Thanksgiving Baskets To Veterans:** Left to right, So. Portland Post 35 Commander Guy Linscott, CPO Alex Skunda, CPO Ryan O'Hare and Post 35 1st Vice Commander Wes Spletstoesser.



**Post 35 Oratorical Contest:** Stewart P. Morrill Post 35 in So. Portland held their first round of 2022 Oratorical Contests Wed. Dec. 15, 2021. Three contestants applied for the privilege to compete for the honor and prize money of the contest. For reasons explained to Post Americanism Committee, one contestant asked to be excused and the second contestant was a "no-show". The final contestant Mateus Campos, from Brunswick and a Sea Cadet, gave a very

good presentation, and as the only contestant won the \$100 first prize by default. Mateus advanced to the district level contest that will be held at So. Portland Post 35 on Jan. 12. Left to right, Post 35 Commander Guy Linscott, Mateus Campos, Keite Mahar, and Post 35 1st Vice Commander, Americanism Officer, and Membership Chairman Wes Spletstoesser.

By So. Portland Post 35 Adjutant Michael R. Pock – Post Americanism Committee

**December 18th – Wreaths Across America Day**

Earlier, I met with Ralph and Michele Trynor from the Independent Order of Odd Fellows who have their building next to the Brown's Hill Cemetery. The I.O.O.F. purchased the Brown's Hill Methodist Church when the Methodist Church sold their building because of a dwindling congregation. With the church came the cemetery, however, the maintenance of the cemetery was too much for the Odd Fellows. The City of South Portland maintains the cemetery.

Michele Trynor took it upon herself to do research on the graves. Although the cemetery was "flagged" by American Legion Post 35, not all the graves were marked. 50 graves were found belonging to veterans, but only 29 were marked, mostly from the

Civil War. Michele contacted Adjutant Pock at Post 35 and was furnished with additional markers and flags.

On December 18th, a short ceremony was held with a Coast Guard Color Guard, a short speech from Michele Trynor and South Portland Mayor Deqa Dhalac, and the laying of wreaths on newly marked graves. Post 35 was represented by 2nd Vice Commander Tony Bachelor and Adjutant Michael Pock. The background flag in the ceremony photo was made by Adjutant Pock in August of 2020. The Wreaths were provided by the Worcester Wreath Company of Harrington, Maine. Plans for an annual wreath laying ceremony were discussed.

By So. Portland Post 35 Adjutant Michael R. Pock



**Local Coast Guard CPO & Color Guard at Wreaths Across America Day Dec. 18, 2021.** So. Portland Post 35 supplied the backdrop and Post 35 Adjutant Mike Pock actively attempted to recruit Coast Guard personnel for The American Legion.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 2 continued



**Guardrails & Cookouts:** The “Before” and the “After” concerning the removal of a beat-up section of guardrail in the front of the flag and flagpole, with a brand-new pressure treated trio of 6" x 8" wood posts bolted to a 3" x 10" beam now protecting the flag and flagpole. Our last cookout for the Tuesday Concerts in the Park was Aug. 31, 2021. The first concert was on Tues., June 29, 2021. The city of Westbrook's Riverbank Park along the Presumpscot River is a really nice and well-maintained public park, adjacent to our Stephen W. Manchester Post 62 Hall. This was the first series of concerts and our fund-raising cookouts since the Summer of 2019. We welcomed the Westbrook Lions Club to assist us this Summer.

Photos by Westbrook Post 62 Dennis Marrotte

## Westbrook Posts 62 & 197 Happenings & Events September to December 2021

**September:** Everyone worked together to host the State Fall Conference, Friday Sept. 24 to Monday morning, Sept. 26. We had breakfast Saturday morning for the participating Post Officers's Morning Education presentations. Memorial Post 197 prepared noontime boxed lunches which were quickly transported to Post 62 via a new rental van covered by Westbrook's Rowe Ford, and chauffeured by Post 62's Dennis Marrotte. In the afternoon, State Auxiliary Officers and members, after a busy morning at Post 197 discussions, were chauffeured to Post 62 for afternoon hors d' oeuvres and entertainment by guitarist Jim Gallant. Post 197 hosted a buffet barbeque in the evening for everyone. State Auxiliary VP Debra Rumery surprised Post 62 Commander Roger Barr with a “Certificate of Appreciation” for the hosting of the Autumn State Conference.

**October:** Post 62 Commander Roger Barr, Post Adjutant Gary York and 1st Vice Cmdr. Dennis Marrotte attended the District 2 Conference October 10th, at the Stewart P. Morrill Post 35 in South Portland. Roger presented a Report of Positives: hosting the Fall State Conference, performing 10 Post 62 outdoor fundraising cookouts and 50/50 raffles at the Summer Concerts held in Riverbank Park. These were the first cookouts since 2019. Westbrook's Lions Club members were a wonderful help operating our new grille. We worked with Post 197 planning the Veterans Day Ceremonies at Riverbank Park. We welcomed 4 new members.

**November:** Manchester Post 62 hosted a beautiful Veterans Day Ceremony, No-

vember 11th, with equally clear weather, for the second year in a row. Westbrook's Public Services Crew set up new EZY Up Tent Shelters, chairs for speakers with podium and flags from Post 62. WFD and WPD presented the Colors. We had a very nice public turnout. Posts 62 and 197 officers joined with Westbrook's Mayor Michael Foley in presenting Westbrook's own Junie Dugas with a surprise – a framed color print of her singing “God Bless America” at the 2020 Veterans Day Ceremony in thanks for her years of wonderful and stirring singing at Memorial and Veterans Day ceremonies.

Jim Gallant, Singer / Guitarist, sang the “Star Spangled Banner” and the “National Anthem”.

In advance of this year's Veterans Day, Post 62 Commander Roger Barr and 1st Vice Dennis Marrotte suggested to Bob Lowell, journalist for the American Journal that he interview Blanche Kelley, Post 62's longtime member for his annual Veterans Day published interview of a local veteran. “Kelley” is a “young at heart” 93. Her portrait with her ribbons and medals appeared in the American Journal and all 3 of the Forecaster papers. During her service career that started in 1950, she was selected as the National Women's Recruiter 3 times. In an especially unique career, she served as the official chauffeur for Generals Eisenhower and MacArthur and French President DeGaulle!

Before the 11:00 AM ceremonies, Post 62 Commander Roger Barr and 1st Vice Dennis Marrotte were invited to an "On Air" Live Radio Interview held at the nearby Roots Cafe. Emcee Ray Richardson provided a relaxed atmosphere for his guests to discuss their military careers and their work at the Stephen W. Manchester American Legion Post 62.

Post 62 had its building's roof inspected by G & E Roofing from Augusta. At their suggestion, we asked Westbrook's Public Services to safely remove the wood flagpole from its front roof-



### Westbrook Fire Dept. Honor Guard

top stanchion to remove an unstable hazard before winter. That was accomplished on December 7th, Pearl Harbor Day. Indoor work included the installation of a new hallway floor by Post 62's Richard Galipeau, with help from Harry Gorham and Dennis Marrotte.

**December:** At our December Board Meeting, we conducted a dual "Draping of Our Charter" Ceremony for two longtime



**God Bless America:** Junie Dugas, Who Sang “God Bless America” is presented with a photo of her singing “God Bless America”

during a previous year's Veteran's Day. Presenting her with the photo, left to right, Post 62 Commander Roger Barr, Post 62 Board Chair Dennis Marrotte, Mayor Michael Foley, Junie Dugas and Post 197 Commander Steve Girard.



**Singer & Guitarist, Jim Gallant,** sings the “National Anthem” and “Star Spangled Banner”.

Post 62 members: Philip Lucien Joseph Mailhot, 96, and Robert Elwin Meggison, 90, a Korean War Veteran. Bob participated in a November 2018 Maine Veterans Honor Flight to Washington, D.C.

On a brighter note, new Post 62 member, Michael Thomas, US Coast Guard, Ret., was installed as our newest member. He is a Westbrook resident and decided to join on Veterans Day. Welcome Michael!

Saturday, December 18th, Posts 62 and 197 Commanders, Roger Barr and Steve Girard, together with Post 62 Chaplain Phil LeClerc and 1st Vice Dennis Marrotte attended a Wreaths Across America ceremony in Westbrook's Woodlawn Cemetery at the Veterans Rest Memorial and Flagpole. The wreaths placed on Shepherd's Hooks included: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, Merchant Marines, Space Command, MIA – POWs. Wreaths were placed by Chapter 2 Rolling Thunder members and several grandchildren of veterans. An additional number of wreaths were placed at each of the graves at the Veterans Rest Memorial and at Veterans Circle Memorials in Riverbank Park.

Post 62 Americanism Officer Phil Spiller, Jr., thru contacts with Windham Post 148 member,

Daniel Wirtz, and assistance by Post 62's Richard Galipeau and Dennis Marrotte, is having our 7 World War 1 vintage bolt action rifles cleaned and serviced.

The month of December was a busy, productive year. 2021 closed with the District 2 meeting hosted by Post 197. Post 62's Commander Roger Barr and 1st Vice Dennis

Marrotte participated in a first time Christmas Toys Project proposed by Post 197. Our Board approved the purchasing of \$100 worth of toys delivered to Post 197 plus a donation of a warm pair of hand knit mittens for a boy or girl from Carter's Green Store in Gorham!

We wish everyone a safe and healthy, happy, productive New Year in 2022!

Westbrook Post 62 1st Vice Cmdr. Dennis Marrotte



**Greetings:** (Left Photo) Post 62 Commander Roger Barr presents a greeting and reads "If these boots could talk". (Right Photo) Post 197 Commander Steve Girard presents a greeting and the Pledge of Allegiance.



**Emcee Greetings/Invocation:** (Left Photo) Westbrook Post 197 Arty Ledoux, Veterans Service Officer and ceremony emcee, gives greetings. (Right photo) Post 62 Chaplain Phil LeClerc gives the Invocation.



**Proclamation/Poem:** (Left Photo) Westbrook Mayor Michael Foley gives the Mayor's Proclamation. (Right Photo) Mike Sanphy of Post 62 reads "Veteran's Day" poem written by Cheryl Dyson.

All photos by Gerry Doyon



**Appreciation:** Maine American Legion Auxiliary Vice President Debra Rumery, right, presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Stephen W. Manchester Post 62 Commander Roger Barr for Post 62 hosting the Fall Conference.

Photo by Post 62 Dennis Marrotte



**Flagpole Removal:** Cody and Dan from the Westbrook Public Services crew carefully remove the wooden flagpole from its roof stanchion so roof repairs can be made.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

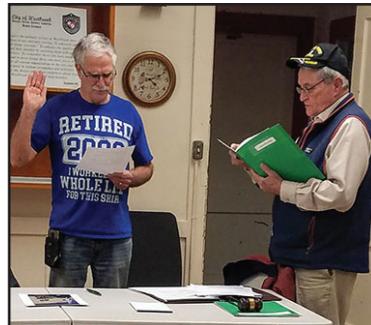
## District 2 continued



**New Floor Installation:** Post 62 Treasurer and longtime member Richard Galipeau installs a brand-new floor in the 1st Floor Hallway, with help from Harry Gorham and Dennis Marrotte.

### Westbrook Post 62 Initiation Ceremony: Michael Thomas, USCG, Ret., left, is installed as Post 62's newest member at the December 2021 Board meeting by Post Commander Roger Barr, right.

Photo by Westbrook Post 62 Dennis Marrotte



## Decorated Veteran, 93, Has Fond Memories of Her Service

Blanche Kelley of Westbrook was a chauffeur stationed at the Pentagon who went on to become the nation's top female Army recruiter.

Decorated retired Army Master Sgt. Blanche Kelley, 93, of Westbrook, marks each Veterans Day — Nov. 11 — with many memories.

In her 23-year Army career, Kelley was a chauffeur for some of the top Army brass and a witness to history. She also was the top female recruiter in the country three times and 10 times for the 1st Army headquartered in New York.

Three years after she graduated from high school in her hometown of Elwood, Indiana, Kelley hitched up with the Women's Army Corps in 1950, intending to join its medical unit. But at a time when male soldiers were shipping out for the Korean War, she was assigned to the Pentagon as a replacement driver instead.

She received top-secret security clearance.

Driving five-star Gen. Dwight Eisenhower ranks high on her list of experiences, she said. He was "very nice" and personally presented her with an autographed photo, she said. She also drove on several occasions for his wife, Mamie.

Besides Eisenhower, she also twice drove five-star Gen. Douglas MacArthur and also French World War II hero Charles DeGaulle in "a NATO detail," she said.

The famous military leaders often were surrounded by aides, and "you don't talk unless you're spoken to," Kelley said.

Kelley wasn't their chauffeur, but she

did drive President Harry Truman. She was "around the corner" from the Blair House where Truman was living when shooting erupted in a 1950 assassination attempt.

Later, she met President John F. Kennedy.

Kelley eventually became a top recruiter, and won the Army Commendation medal, along with the right to wear a white uniform.

That medal is not standard issue, according to Dennis Marrotte, 1st Vice Commander of American Legion Post 62 in Westbrook, where Kelley has been a member for the past 50 years.

"The recipient must be nominated by higher authority," Marrotte said.

She was the center of attention when she rode in a white convertible in a 1958 Armed Forces Day parade in Manhattan. She met TV star Jack Benny while filming an Army recruiting spot.

Recruiting assignments took her to Fairbanks, Alaska; Boston; Fort Williams in Cape Elizabeth; Bangor and Portland. She was stationed for 15 years in New England. She settled permanently in Westbrook.

Asked how she became such a recruiting success, she said, "Tell 'em the truth and the kids are happy. When they come home, they do the recruiting for you."

After retiring in 1973, she traveled extensively.

Kelley, who is single, is the last living of her siblings. Her fiancé, a high school classmate, was killed in the Korean War.

Kelley doesn't look back with any regrets.

"None whatsoever," she said.

Article by Robert Lowell, American Journal November 9, 2021



**Top Recruiter:** Blanche Kelley earned the right to wear a white uniform after being honored as a top recruiter for the U.S. Army.



**Medals:** Blanche Kelley displays her medals. The Army Commendation is second from left, medal row.

Photo by Robert Lowell American Journal

## Westbrook Posts 62 & 197 Wreaths Across America Day Ceremony

Westbrook Posts 62 and 197 held a Wreaths Across America (WAA) Day Ceremony at Westbrook's Woodlawn Cemetery on Dec. 18, 2021. Members from Post 62 and 197 attended the ceremony and was organized by Chapter 2 Maine Rolling Thunder. Chapter 2 Maine R / T members, family members,

and grandchildren of veterans placed wreaths on Shepherd's Hooks, representing the US Army, US Navy, USAF, USCG, USMC, US Merchant Mariners, Space Command, MIA / POW. Family members and relatives laid wreaths on grave-stones around the Veterans Rest Memorial.

By Westbrook Post 62 Dennis Marrotte



**Chapter 2 RT Andrew Rediker places wreath on a Shepherd's Hook.**



**Invocation:** Rev. Scott Linscott, Westbrook First Baptist Church, delivers the Invocation. The man on his right is Chapter 2 RT Bill Clark and on his left is Chapter 2 RT Jim Bourke.



**The granddaughter of a Veteran, Clair Tinker places a wreath on a Shepherd's Hook.**



**Flag Folding Ceremony:** Left to right, Chapter 2 RT Bill Clark, Westbrook Post 197 Commander Steve Girard and Chapter 2 RT Shawn Coelho.



**Wreath/Flag Placement:** Wreaths & Flags placed on Veterans Rest Graves by family and friends.



**Veteran Honored By Grandson:** Chapter 2 RT Tom Dyke places wreath for his Grandfather, US Army Veteran.



**WAA Wreath Placing:** Stella Allen, left, and her brother Eddie Allen, right, places wreaths on Shepherd's Hooks at the WAA Ceremony in Westbrook.



**Taps:** Gracie Gauvin performs "TAPS" on her Trumpet.

All by Westbrook Post 62 Dennis Marrotte

## Ramp for a Veteran

Last month, Elliot "Bud" Billings approached the Field-Allen Post 148 Post Service officer (PSO), Jane Fisher, about the prospect of having a wheelchair ramp built at his house to help him get up the stairs to his home on Highland Cliff Road in Windham; Bud could not climb the stairs and carry bags of groceries at the same time.

The following is a summary of a great collaboration between two posts in District 2 that allowed Bud and his wife, who both use walkers and/or canes, to get into their home safely and with ease.

After a brief discussion with Bud and the PSO, a decision was made to construct the ramp with the assistance of a Department

of Maine Veterans Emergency Financial Assistance Program (VEFAP) grant.

Step one was to find a contractor who would oversee the project and be receptive to the grant requirements. Enter, South Portland Legion Post 35 Adjutant Mike Pock (Pock Carpentry) who had just completed a similar project for a veteran in So. Portland. Mike was willing to work with Post 148 Windham to be the contractor of record, draw up the plans and the materials list, which were priced out by Post 148 Adjutant Dave Tanguay, at Lowe's North Windham and submitted to the Department of Maine along with Bud's financials for the VEFAP grant. In the interim, the next

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 2 continued

### “RAMP”

(Continued from Page 19)

step was to receive permitting approval from the Town of Windham which was also coordinated by Mike Pock and Dave Tanguay.

With Town permit in hand (two weeks later) and grant processed and approved by the Department of Maine, funds were sent to the contractor for the materials to build the ramp. That materials list was presented to Lowe's North Windham and picked up by Post 148 members, David Rendall, Dave Tanguay, David Horne, and Dick Graves and delivered to the Highland Cliff address.

Field-Allen PSO Jane Fisher and Commander Eric Bickford then coordinated work parties with South Portland Post Ad-

jutant Mike Pock for the week of Aug 16th through the 20th.

Prep work was completed on Monday the 16th by Mike Pock, Eric Bickford, and Jane Fisher to reinforce the current porch and steps in preparation for the ramp installation.

Tuesday saw the team of Mike Pock, Eric Bickford, Dick Graves, David Rendall, Jane Fisher and Larry DeHof complete approx. 90% of the ramp with final completion due to a rain delay moved to Friday. On the 20th, the remaining work was done to install handrails and Bud Billings took the first stroll down his new ramp.

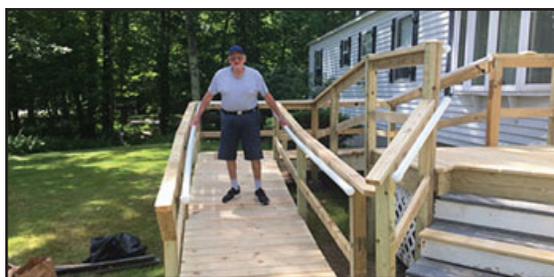
This was a great example of Veterans Serving Veterans and a great collaboration between two District 2 Posts to get the job done!!!

By Windham Post 148 Adjutant David Tanguay



**Ramp Construction:** Veteran Bud Billings of Windham supervises while, left to right, Post 148 member David Rendall, Post 148 Post Service Officer Jane Fisher, Post 35 Adjutant Mike Pock, Post 148 member Dick Graves and Post 148 Commander Eric Bickford, work on constructing the ramp.

Photo by Larry DeHof



### New Ramp Meets

**Approval:** Windham Post 148-member, Bud Billings, trying out his new ramp.

Photo by Larry DeHof



**Past Commander Legion Cap:** Windham Field-Allen Post 148 Past Commander David Tanguay, left, presents a "PAST COMMANDER" Legion cap to Carroll McDonald at the Aug 25th Vet Coffee gathering. Commander McDonald was Post 148 Commander 60 years ago and continues to be active with the Post at the age of 96 and is a frequent attendee at the Vet Coffees. Commander McDonald, a WWII vet and P-51 pilot, is often called upon to participate in Legion ceremonies. He will now be able to do so in appropriate uniform.

## Field Allen Post 148 Awards Night

Over 50 members and their guest attended the 8th annual awards night and dinner for the American Legion Field Allen Post 148 on Dec. 1. Following are some of the photos by Larry DeHof of the events from Opening to Chaplain's Prayer, POW/MIA Ceremony, to Longevity awards, to certificates of appreciation, to Red Cross blood drive team; followed by Meritorious Awards and the Annual Past Commander's

Service Award recognizing the service this last year on Americanism Officer David Horne. Honored Female Post members were given a Challenge Coin by Department of Maine Commander Debra Couture. Final Presentation was the Post 100% membership award from the Department of Maine presented to the Post Commander Eric Bickford. A wonderful evening for all!



**Don Rogers Service Award:** Post Americanism Officer David Horne receives the Past Commander Don Rogers Service Award for 2021. Left to right, Department Commander Debra Couture, David Horne, and Post 148 Commander Eric Bickford.



**Membership Recognition:** Department Commander Debra Couture presents the 2021 100% membership recognition to Windham Post 148 Commander Eric Bickford, left, and Windham Post 148 Adjutant Dave Tanguay, right.



**National Commander's Pin:** Department Commander Debra Couture presents the National Commander's pin to Post 148-member, Past Post Commander, and WWII Veteran, Carroll McDonald, during Post 148 Awards night, Dec. 1. Left to right, Post 148 Commander Eric Bickford, Past Post Commander Carroll McDonald and Department Commander Debra Couture.



**Challenge Coins Received:** One of several female Post members receive challenge coins from Department Commander Debra Couture, left, MOAA President, Aides-de-Camp to Governor Mills and Post 148 Member Brenda Pennels, and Post 148 Commander Eric Bickford.

## 9/11 Remembrance in Windham

Good morning, I am David Tanguay, American Legion District Two Adjutant and Field-Allen Post 148 Adjutant. This has been a somewhat impromptu gathering, so I am pleased to see the response from all of you today. I would like to recognize the following for their support: Town Manager Barry Tibbets, Police Chief Schofield, Fire Chief Libby, and the membership from Post 148 and VFW Post 10643 for their response as well. Thank You. I mentioned the fact that this was somewhat of a short notice event. Several weeks ago, I started hearing comments in the media about playing down the 9/11 event and of not mentioning Terrorist, or Islamic Extremist, or even comments about American Greatness. All of this is contrary to what The American Legion stands for. In our Preamble, we pledge to support "100% Americanism" and to "Remember ALL Wars." As Teddy Roosevelt said, Americanism is not a 50-50 proposition, it is 100%.

On the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attack on the United States we pause in these moments to render honors to those who were lost in those tragic moments when the Twin Towers fell, and the Pentagon was struck by hijacked commercial aircraft. We are also here to honor those of Flight 93 who prevented another attack and selflessly

gave up their lives so others might live. We are here also to honor those first responders who did not run from the tragic events but ran forward to save lives. Tragically, 72 police officers and almost 5 dozen fire fighters, all first responders, lost their lives when they entered the Twin Towers and more than 300, maybe double that number, have perished as a result of lingering health issues from that day.

The cry at the time was "We shall never forget". Unfortunately, after only 20 years, many have forgotten the common grief and resolve of a united national cause. I pray that on this 20th anniversary of the attacks, the nation will again come together as you have done so here today.

Each day we should be thanking our first responders for your sacrifice and protecting our community; to hold that blue line. Thank you all for your service to your community. We can all continue that recognition by saying "Thank you" to a law enforcement officer or fireman when you see them.

I also would like to take this moment to reflect on the 13 service members lost on the last days of the drawdown of troops in the protracted War in Afghanistan. Our flag line today is in place to remember their service as well as to honor all service members lost in that 20-year war as well. The most recent 13 fallen included: a Navy medic, an Army Sargeant, and eleven USMC service members. Let us not forget their sacrifice and let us pray for their families in their time of grief.

Our flag line will stand in silence for the next 15 minutes as a time of prayer, reflection, and remembrance. Thank You!

Windham Post 148 Adjutant David Tanguay



### Windham Post 148 Remembers

**9/11:** On Sat. Sept 11, 2021, District Adjutant David Tanguay with 13-member flag line on Rt 202, Windham in memory of 9/11 and the 13 fallen in Afghanistan.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 2 continued

### Everlasting Gratitude Wreath Program

Since 2013, the Local VFW Post 10643, Legion Post 148 and Junior Cadets at Windham High School have teamed up with Sebago Gardens to purchase and place wreaths on the graves of 950 of our fallen Veterans. Once the wreaths are purchased, bows produced by the Legion Auxiliary Unit 148 are attached to the wreaths and then the finished wreaths disseminated to twenty-one cemeteries in Windham with Veterans buried there.

This year, the bows were attached to the hundreds of wreaths in the relative warmth of the Sebago Gardens warehouse on Architectural Drive prior to being sent out in lots with the VFW, Jr Cadets and Legion teams. This year's volunteers also includ-

ed members of the Windham High School Interact Club and Youth Health Committee who helped with the bows and then assisted the placement of the wreaths at Arlington Cemetery. Thank you to all the veterans organization members, Legion Auxiliary, community members, and Windham High School students that played a role in this year's Everlasting Gratitude Wreath Program.

We also took the opportunity to recognize one of our Post members, Dick McKeen who comes down from "up country" each year to place the wreath. Dick was presented with his 20-year lapel pin and a citation of appreciation. Thank You Dick!!



**Citation/Longevity Award:** Dick McKeen, right, receives his Citation and Longevity Award from Windham Post 148 Commander Eric Bickford, left.



**Decorating Wreaths:** Lin Tanquay and Linwood Bailey attach bows to wreaths.



**Windham Post 148 Pearl Harbor Day Recognition:** American Legion Field-Allen Post 148 Windham Honor Guard recognizes the 80th Anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor with a Wreath Placement Ceremony at the Windham High School Veteran's Memorial and at the Windham Veterans Center Memorial Garden Memorial Stone. Left photo: At the WHS ceremony, retired Sergeant Major Robert Clarke placed the wreath with the Honor Guard consisting of Dick Graves, Dick Drapeau, Bob Clarke, Craig Pride, Keri Karsten and David Rendall. Right photo: At the Memorial Garden, the Honor Guard was joined by Past Post Commander and WWII Veteran Carroll McDonald placing the wreath with Bob Clarke.



**WWII Veteran Presentation During Coffee/Teatime At Windham Post 148:** State Commander Debra Couture stopped by for coffee/tea at Windham Post 148 one morning in December 2021 and presented WWII Veteran and Past Post Commander Carroll McDonald, left, with a National Commander's pin.



**Falmouth Post 164 Flag Placement:** Lifetime member and co-founder of Falmouth Post 164, Ralph T. Bonville places an American flag on veterans' graves in Falmouth, something he has done for the last 74 years; last count being over 1500 flags and markers. He also carried an American flag in parades for over 60 years. Ralph sadly passed away on April 25, 2021, at the age of 102.

Ralph Bonville | Obituary | Bangor Daily News



**Ralph T Bonville, Memorial Day 2019**

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



**Wreaths Across America At Ricker Farm:** District 5 Commander James Lowell joined Turner Post 111 at Ricker Farm Orchard in Turner Sept. 19, to kick off the 2021 Wreaths Across America Program. Ricker Farm is famed for its apple products, among which is a reasonably priced spirited beverage suitable for any festive occasion. Top photo: members of Turner Post 111 - District 5 Commander James Lowell stands at the "O" of "GOP", the Grand Old Party at Ricker Farm Orchard. Bottom photo: Wreaths Across America Visitors Trailer.



### Veterans Recognition During WAA Event:

**Top photo:** A WWII and Vietnam Veteran First Sergeant Pecorelli, left, was one of the Vietnam Vets recognized during a Wreaths Across America event held in Turner and hosted by Ricker Hill Orchard. To the right of Pecorelli is District 3 Commander Dani Bergert. **Bottom photo:** Other Vietnam Veterans recognized, left to right, Turner Post 11 members Ronny Morin, John Arsenault, and District Vice Commander Dale Bryant.



**Korean War Coin & Certificate Presentation** American Legion National Commander Paul Dillard, left, presents the State of Maine Korean War Coin and Certificate to William Henshaw, member of Harry J. Conway American Legion Post 135, Sabattus and the father-in-law of Amedeo Lauria, on October 23 at Litchfield Post 181.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 3 continued



### Auburn Post 153 Scholarship

**Award:** American Legion William J. Rogers Post 153 Scholarship Award was presented to Samantha Claire Poirier for "Outstanding Performance" during her first semester in college. Samantha was presented a framed award certificate and a check in the amount of \$500. Left to right, Post 153 Finance Officer Levite "Tibby" Dupuis, Grandmother and Post 153

Americanism Officer Claire Poirier, Samantha, Samantha's Father Phil Poirier, and Post 153 Adjutant Lori Simard. Auburn Post 153 Commander Steve Simard was not present due to illness; however, he passes his best wishes for great success to Samantha during her quest of higher education and beyond.

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 Everlasting Ceremony:** On Aug 10, 2021, family and friends gather at Sunnyside Cemetery in Kingfield for the burial and celebration of life for Mauno Ensio Kankainen, pictured right, a Veteran and 50-year member of Kingfield Post 61. Left photo: Left to right, Post 61 Commander Terrance Wyman, Chaplain Fulton Ryan, Finance Officer Jim Williamson, Adjutant Victoria Parker, Historian David Holmes, and Tom O'Hara.



**Presentation of the Flag to the family of Mauno Ensio Kankainen.** Left to right, sons Mike and Eric Kankainen, Post 61 Commander Terrance Wyman.



**Folding Of The Colors:** Left to right, Post 61 Commander Terrance Wyman, Jim Williamson, Victoria Parker, Tom O'Hara, and David Holmes.

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

### Coin/Certificate

**Presentation:** American Legion National Commander Paul Dillard, left, presents the State of Maine Global War on Terrorism Coin and Certificate to Department of Maine 1st Vice Commander and Rumford Post 24 member Kirk Thurston, Oct. 23rd at Litchfield Post 181.



## Eternal Freedom

### Freedom

The haunting skirl of bagpipes playing Amazing Grace coming from hissing, popping speakers gave way to the narrator's voice. "For those who gave the ultimate price today we raise a toast." The ballroom lamps were turned low except the spotlight shining upon a small table. "You may have noticed the table before you.

It is set for our prisoners of war and those missing in action.

They are not with us today.

The chairs are empty.

We pray for their return

in their absence."

My Chief,

a gruff bear of a man

wept openly.

"A white tablecloth shows purity, the purity of their desire to respond to their nation's call, a call to preserve freedom for their children."

The slow, precise movements of the Wing's Heritage Team added power to the words and tears to the eyes of American Patriots gathered for the ceremony.

"The single rose reminds us of loved ones and families who keep the faith and await their return.

A slice of lemon reminds us of the bitter fate of POW's and MIA's if we do not bring them home.

Let us remember them."

My tears flowed free

as I solemnly thought

what freedom meant to me.

"Looking upon the empty table do not remember ghosts dead and gone, but our comrades in arms one and all.

Those we depended on in battle now depend upon us to bring them home."

The Heritage team prescribed

a slow, uniform salute,

white gloved hands

slowly coming to brow

in honor of lost fighting men.

"Remember these friends, POW or MIA.

They are loved ones to cherish

as they loved the lives and freedoms

they gave up for us."

As taps slowly sounded

the end of the ceremony

I silently talked to God,

asking Him to bless one and all.

Let it never be in vain

that some give all.

Freedom.

By Rumford Post 24 Historian Louie Marin

**Table For One:** Department 1st Vice Commander Kirk Thurston, left, and Post 24 Americanism Officer Mitzi Sequoia, right, present the Table For One (POW/MIA Table) at the Veterans Day Ceremony held at Rumford Post 24.

Photo by Bruce Farrin



## Rumford American Legion Honors Those Lost During The 9/11 Attacks

**RUMFORD** — American Legion Post 24 held a brief ceremony Saturday morning at the Memorial Bridge in Rumford to honor all those lives lost during the 9/11 attacks.

Starting at the Legion post, members — led by three Rumford fire engines — walked the short distance to the bridge, where several bystanders gathered for the observance.

Post 24's Tricia Thurston, Americanism Officer for the state American Legion, said, "A new generation has arrived. The infants, toddlers and young children of 9/11 are now adults. Some lost parents on that day. Others lost siblings and friends. Some have served in the military or became first responders as a tribute to those who were lost."

She said that much like those who came of age as bombs were dropped at Pearl Harbor, the 9/11 generation did not seek to grow up during war. "Evil came to America and Americans responded."

Thurston said, "Never again should Americans underestimate the depravity of militant terrorist organizations. Never again should we allow transportation and other infrastructures be so easily exploited by those who wish us harm. And never again should other nations question whether such an attack on this country would be met with an overwhelming response."

As the song "Amazing Grace" was played, Post 24 Commander Ed Perry tossed a wreath of remembrance off Memorial Bridge into the low-lying Androscoggin River to honor the deaths and heroes of this day 20 years ago. The natural-flower wreath landed on the ledge just at the water's edge, but the impact sent three roses into the river.

Perry suggested the three roses symbolized the three sites of 9/11: New York City, the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and the Pennsylvania field where one of the airplanes crashed.

[More on "RUMFORD HONORS", Page 23](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 5 continued

### “RUMFORD HONORS” (Continued from Page 22)

Jack Blanchard, vice commander for Post 24, said, “What occurred on 9/11 was indeed tragic, but the legacy of those lost on that day need not be so. The nearly 3,000 men, women and children who died that day were targeted for being American.”

He said Richard Santos was the national commander of the American Legion on Sept. 11, 2001. Shortly after the attacks, he penned a message that still resonates two decades later.

“America continues to heal and it is our responsibility as veterans to tend to the

wounds,” Santos wrote. “Some will panic about the future; we must reassure them. Some will weep over a lost family member or friend; we must hold their hands. Some will be angry; we must temper their rage.”

Blanchard said Santos’ vision is a legacy Americans can create for those lost on 9/11. “Healing, reassurance and comfort. These qualities run counter to the inhumanity exhibited by a small group of terrorists that day. Combine these traits with a steadfast commitment to prepare and prevent future attacks, and we will truly be honoring all who were lost.”

“We must never forget,” he said.

By Bruce Farrin/Rumford Falls Times



### Rumford Post 24 9/11

**Ceremony:** American Legion Post 24’s Tricia Thurston, left, Americanism Officer for the State American Legion, talks about the coming of age of the 9/11 generation during a brief ceremony Saturday morning to honor the lives lost during the 9/11 attacks. Beside her is Post 24 Commander Ed Perry, holding a wreath of remembrance, which he later tossed off Memorial Bridge. Also pictured is Bill Scott and Valerie Scott.



**Wreath Of Remembrance:** During a brief ceremony Saturday morning in Rumford, American Legion Post 24 Commander Ed Perry tosses a wreath of remembrance off Memorial Bridge to honor the deaths and heroes of the 9/11 attacks 20 years ago. Also pictured are Tricia Thurston and Jack Blanchard.



**Rumford Post 24 Honor Guard:** Department 2nd Vice Commander Kirk Thurston, left, and Post 24 Adjutant Bill Hobson, right.

Photos by Bruce Farrin/Rumford Falls Times

### Buckfield Members Help Man Beverage Concessions At Great Maine Air Show:

Buckfield Post 58 was invited by the organizers of the Great Maine Air Show, held in Brunswick, Sept. 5, 2021, to man two of the beverage concessions. The US Navy Blue Angel Flight Demonstration Squadron, formed in 1946, the second oldest such group in the

world, was featured. Members of Post 58 were probably too busy to enjoy the show as they quenched the thirst of Air Show visitors. From tips and 10% per drink recompense, the Post coffers were substantially augmented. Left to right, Bill Lowell, Post 58 Commander Jim Lowell, Don Douglas, Elwood Lowell, Post Adjutant Gloria Hall, and Jonathan Hall. Not shown are Post members: Finance Officer Conrad Conant, Richard Nuesslein, Mike Wiley, Jerry Wiley – Mike’s dad, and in the Saturday VIP Booth: Post member Tony Bruno with community volunteers Greg Foster, Henry Mahuex, and Davis Saar.



## NEVER FORGET

### CPL. Harold A. Lurvey

### WWI Visual Memories of a Soldier of Maine

Unit 68 member, Beverly Lurvey Melville, donated, on the Centennial of the Armistice in 2018, her uncle, Cpl. Harold A. Lurvey’s, scrapbook documenting the memory of his service in WWI. His scrapbook contained the entire history of the conflict on the Western European Front, from before the entry of the United States into the War on April 6, 1917, to the end of the U.S. Occupation of Germany in September 1919. Many of the images in that scrapbook were post card sized, and some were 6.5 by 4.75-inch photos that appear to be officially rendered. Each was scanned, and then expanded to a uniform 8 x 10 format, framed, divided by subject, and identified in sequence on information placards.

The exhibit debuted on Veterans Day 2021, at Jackson Silver Post 68. It was conceived in support of National’s commemoration of the Centennial of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, which they also titled “Never Forget.” Attendees at Post 68’s Veterans Day Ceremony, stated that the exhibit opened their eyes to the horrors of WWI’s Western Front. They never realized it was that brutal, and they found it hard to understand how their great grandfathers kept their sanity under the circumstances in which they fought.

Cpl. Lurvey began his US ARMY NG career serving in the Mexican Border Service, with Company B, 2nd Maine Regiment National Guard, (WWI redesignated 103rd Infantry Regiment). Promoted to Corporal on August 4, 1917, the regiment forming an element of the 26th New England Yan-

kee Division, they were the first to reach France as a divisional unit. The Big Red One, whose distinction was being the First to Arrive, having been formed of units that arrived separately.

On October 30, 1918, thirteen days before the Armistice that ended hostilities, Cpl. Lurvey was transferred from the 26th into the 1st Division. He returned home in September 1919 with the 1st, it having occupied Germany; thereby claiming “1st to Arrive, Last to Come Home.” Upon being honorably discharged, Cpl. Lurvey was a Charter Member of Jackson-Silver Post 68. Much later, in 1950, he transferred to Mundt-Allen Post 81, in Bethel, where he is also listed as a Charter Member. In between, he must have transferred to Lewiston Post 22, as a Department Convention Medal (DATED), was included in his collection, being inscribed with his name, and proclaiming him as a Past Commander of that Post. Another item in the collection is an original patch of the Big Red One, which we who possess it deem to be a national treasure. Only an image of the patch is displayed in the exhibit.

The entire exhibit breaks down into four plastic boxes, three containing the images, and the fourth containing the metal easels, tablecloths, and guides to the exhibit. It is hoped that other Posts within District 5 will want to display the exhibit, and then perhaps Lewiston Post and Department Headquarters, before it is returned to Post 68 where it will be permanently displayed above the wainscoting of the Great Hall.



**Mementos Presented:** Unit 68 Member Beverly Melville and husband, Navy Veteran Richard, presented with exhibit mementos by Post 68 Commander Orcutt.

**Veterans Day Exhibit:** Some of the 100 items displayed at Post 68, including a picture of the patch of the Big Red One.

## 2021 Veterans Day Speech WWI in the West - The German War

The Western Front may well be termed the Great Germanic War, for, before the entry of the diverse peoples of the United States into the conflict, the various European powers that fought each other were, by descent, Germanic Peoples.

The Germans were racially not descended from the Huns, who invaded the Roman Empire in the 5th and 6th Centuries, but many Germanic tribes had in fact been allied with the Huns at that time. In the context of the Germans being referred to as Huns in WWI, it was the savagery, rapine, and destruction they wrought during their invasion of Bel-

gium, and Northern France that deservedly earned them that epithet.

When I say the Western Front was a Germanic War, I mean by that that not only were the Germans and Austrians involved in the conflict; but also their kin, the Germanic Franks who had conquered Roman Gaul in the 6th century, and converted their conquest into France, and the Jutes, Angles, and Saxons, who conquered the southernmost territory of the Isle of ancient Albion, also called Briton, in the 4th and 5th centuries,

[More on "Vet Day Speech" Page 24](#)

**“VET DAY SPEECH”**  
(Continued from Page 23)

and eventually expanded their dominance over most of the Island, and lent their Angle name to that of England.

The war was largely static after the Germans were stopped from taking Paris in 1914, with trench warfare developing from the coast to the Swiss border, with almost all resulting fighting taking place from near the Belgian border, through central France, to near the eastern border of France. In that area, attacks initiated by either side seldom resulted in the trench line’s being breached by more than a few hundred yards, with casualties on both sides in the thousands and tens of thousands, and with very little to show for the sacrifice.

Though the British and French both simultaneously invented the tank, with the British first using them on September 15, 1916, in the Battle of the Somme with moderate success, it was not until the Battle of Amiens, where 600 tanks were employed on August 8, 1918, that they attained a stunning victory. By that time, a real game changer had occurred. The Yanks had come over, and they weren’t going back until it was Over, Over There.

U.S. troops were initially trained by both the British and French in trench warfare, and then exposed to combat, usually attached to French troops. After they got the hang of what it was all about, their Commander, General Pershing, insisted that the Americans would fight as a distinct Army, rather than be used as replacements for French and British units.

The Germans quickly learned that the Americans didn’t fight like Europeans. For starters, they didn’t much like the “over the top” massed charge that had resulted in so many being killed and wounded on both

sides. When the Americans went forward, they usually advanced from shell hole to shell hole, or utilized any other cover available. Also, as they advanced, riflemen picked their targets, and hit what they shot at. Again, unlike Europeans, where for the most part, only the nobility and aristocracy enjoyed shooting sports, even shopkeepers, factory hands, and a whole lot of American rural folk regularly hunted and provided for their families with honed skills.

At first slowly, but then gaining momentum, US soldiers and Marines drove the Germans back to their own frontier. And when the Germans reached their own border, rather than suffer the devastation they had wrought on Belgium and France, they sought and accepted an Armistice, which resulted in Germany’s being occupied for about ten months after hostilities ceased.

WWI caused the deaths of 20 million people, both civilian and armed forces, with another 21 million other casualties, wounded and through disease. A German Captain, stationed in Belgium, informed an American Officer that German Officers would study why they had not succeeded in defeating and occupying France and Britain. When they had it all figured out, they would come back and gain victory the second time around. They tried about twenty years later. Again, they were defeated, along with their allies Italy and Japan. In WWII the price paid was four times greater: 50 to 56 million civilian and armed forces dead, another 19 to 28 million dead from wartime disease and famine.

As Tom Lehrer, a Harvard mathematician, whose avocation in the 1960’s was musical satire sang with regard to the Germans: “We taught them a lesson in 1918, and they’ve hardly bothered us since then.”

So much for the war to end all wars.

By Post 68 Commander Harry G. Orcutt



**National Certificate Presented:** Lee Christianson, left, receives his National Initiation Certificate from Post 68 Commander Harry Orcutt.



**Firing Squad Salute:** Photo above, left to right, Post 81 Richard Grover, Post 68 Firing Squad Commander Bill Bickford, members Don Pruyne, Tim Twitchell, Leroy Patten, and Roger Tibbetts salute during Taps.



**Taps,** photos left, rendered by Brian Dunham, left, and Vance Jordan, right.

**South Paris Post 72 Veteran’s Day Event**

Foster-Carroll Post #72 Legion Hall in So. Paris hosted a small gathering for those who wished to venture out and join us to celebrate Veterans Day. Post 72 Commander Sarah Glynn started out by welcoming all those in attendance followed by Ladies Auxiliary Chaplain Julie Dean who gave the blessings on our gathering. After the blessing, Salute to the Colors followed, along with the National Anthem, Pledge of Allegiance by Scout Troop #130k and

Invocation by Oxford Hills Chamber of Commerce John Williams. VFW Post 9787 Commander Teresa Drag then led the Veterans Day Address, followed by “A Patriotic Salute” by all, Benediction by Oxford Hills Chamber Commerce John Williams, “Eternal Father”, and closing. After the services all were invited to VFW Post 9787 for an Ice Cream Social.

Submitted by South Paris Post 72 Vera Angell

**Veterans Day 2021  
Post 68 and 81 Joint Ceremony**

In the Great Hall, on the Gore Road, in Lockes Mill, Posts 68 and 81, with community guests, commemorated Veterans Day 2021. The theme of the program was “NEVER FORGET”, which included an exhibit of Cpl. Harold A. Lurvey’s images of WWI on the Western Front (detailed in a separate article, page 23). Cpl. Lurvey was a charter member of both Posts, first in 1919 at Post 68, then in 1950 at Post

81. In between, he found time to transfer to Post 22 Lewiston, where he served as a Post Commander. The display of the Lurvey exhibit was a means by which Post 68 joined National in their commemoration of the Centennial of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, a commemoration they too titled “NEVER FORGET.”

Following are scenes of this memorable occasion.



**Welcome:** Locke Mills Post 68 Commander Harry Orcutt welcomes guests at the start of the commemoration. Post Chaplain Dan Grover, seated left, then gave the opening Benediction.



**Awards Presented:** Post 68 Adjutant Kelly Bickford awards the National Initiation Certificate to Don Pruyne and awarded Certificates of Appreciation to Post Historian Tim Twitchell, far left, and Post 1st Vice Bill Bickford standing at center for outstanding services rendered to the Post.



**Boy Scout Troop #130k performs the Pledge of Allegiance.**



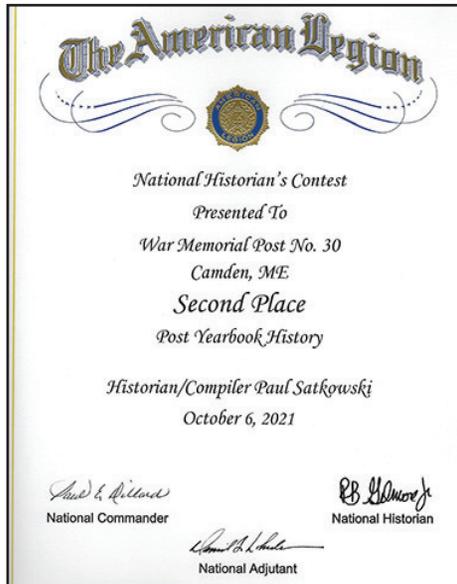
**Veteran's Day Event at Post 72:** Photos, left to right, South Paris Post 72 Commander Sarah Glynn welcomes those in attendance; Ladies Auxiliary Chaplain Julie Dean gives blessings on our gathering; the Invocation and Benediction was directed by Oxford Hills Chamber of Commerce John Williams; the Veterans Day Address was led by VFW Post 9787 Commander Theresa Drag.



## 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



### Camden Post 30 Historian National 2nd Place Winner:

Camden Post 30 Adjutant Jeff Sukeforth, center, accepts the National Historian Award on behalf of Camden Post 30 Historian Paul Satkowski from State Commander Debra Couture, left, and District 6 Commander Ray Lewis, right. Paul placed 2nd at the National level for Post Yearbook History. I am pleased and proud to announce that our very own Paul Satkowski was named the 2nd place winner at the National level for his submission of our one-year History Yearbook for Post 30. This is no small achievement as his report was scrutinized by many historians at our National Headquarters on the National level.

Jeff Sukeforth, Camden Post 30 Adjutant, District 6 Adjutant, Area 3 Commander



### St. George Post 34 Honor Guard for the Quilts of Valor Ceremony held at the Thomaston Municipal Building Sept. 18, 2021. Left to right, Steve Pomakis, Thornton Batty, and Ray Emerson.

### Local Veteran Enlists Aid From Thomaston Post 37 & Unit 37 to Donate Camper to Family in Devastated Kentucky

Local Vietnam veteran Ronald (Ron) L. Cousins, of Rockland, Maine, was moved by the horrible devastation he saw on the news down in Kentucky. He had just moved out of his 32 ft camper into an apartment where he and his companion, a gray parrot named "Chowder Bird" would be warmer as the late fall and early winter weather began to become colder. Cousins decided that this was a permanent move so he contacted his friend, local lobsterman Barry Ames, to ask if he knew someone that might help him donate the camper to a veteran, or someone in need, in Kentucky. Ames' wife, Beth, President of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 37, Thomaston, contacted past Post 37 Commander, William "Bill" Demmons. Mrs. Ames spoke with Demmons on December 14th explaining the situation and Cousins' wishes.

Demmons contacted Cousins and the two began the ball rolling to have the camper delivered to a relief center in Kentucky. Demmons, who is also an active member of the Elks Lodge in Rockland, reached out to an

Elks Lodge in Bowling Green, Kentucky, who welcomed the gift. The Bowling Green Elks Lodge knew of a young family who was homeless due to the devastation there. Plans were made, and the Elks Lodge sent a truck, with driver, to Maine to pick up the camper.

On December 17th, prior to the scheduled pick-up on December 18th, Ames and Cousins prepared the camper for the road trip. Cousins made sure everything was secure, purchased new bed pillows and a new comforter for the bed. He also sent along a flat screen TV and other incidentals. Demmons was notified that the camper was ready to roll so he and his brother and fellow veteran, Leslie "Les" Demmons, picked up the camper from Buttermilk Lane on Saturday the 18th and took it to the Williams-Brazier Post 37, in Thomaston. The camper was parked in the parking lot, ready with easy access for the driver to hook up to it.

On Sunday, December 19th at 6:00 am, the driver hooked up the camper and was on his way back to Kentucky. Just prior to the holidays on Wednesday the 22nd, the camp-

er arrived at its destination, to provide shelter for a young family in need.

It's all about "Service Not Self" and thanks to Ron Cousins, with his giving heart, and to Post and Unit 37 of Thomaston, Maine, the Elks Lodge of Rockland, Elks Lodge

Bowling Green, Kentucky, and to all those who helped bring this endeavor to fruition; a family will have comfort and shelter in such a difficult time.

Blessings to everyone.

By Unit 37 President Beth Ames



### Veteran and Trailer: Photos, left to right, Ronald L. Cousins with trailer, bed with new comforter donated by Ronald L. Cousins and the donated trailer, Dec. 17, 2021, Buttermilk Lane – Thomaston.

Photos by Barry Ames

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

## District 7

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

### Legion Holds Flag Disposal Ceremony On Veterans Day

Nearly 50 people gathered at the American Legion Post 36 hall in Boothbay for short ceremonies honoring veterans, proper folding of the flag and a traditional flag disposal on Veterans Day Nov. 11. Post Commander David Patch opened the ceremony by leading the Pledge of Allegiance and Doug Gimbel followed with a rendition of the national anthem.

Sergeant-at-Arms Chris Armstead led Boy Scout Troop 213 in the flag disposal procession. The first of the flags were collected by Armstead from the Scouts and brought before 1st and 2nd vice commanders, chaplain and post commander. Once the first flag was disposed of, Armstead proceeded to collect the rest from the Scouts and burn those flags.

Patch, Phyllis Curtis, Joe Morley, Robin Ford, Ron Edwards, Chaplain Al Sirois and Armstead, also Americanism officer, spoke on the importance of veterans, the sacrifices they made and their families made in their absence. Said Patch, "We remember how men and women set aside their civilian pursuits to serve their nation's cause defending the freedom of mankind and preserving our precious American heritage ... Out of blood and sweat we learned of purpose, sacrifice,

tolerance, bravery and discipline. These are solid foundation stones upon which a great nation is built. In our continuing quest for an honorable world peace we must cultivate these virtues."

Curtis, wife of veteran Robert Curtis, spoke on the challenges those on the home front faced. "We have lived with a terrifying loneliness created to answer an aggressive challenge. In waging war, we have moved forward with a unity of purpose which made us strong forgetting pettiness, nepotism and pride. Our hearts beat in tune with those in other nations fighting for freedom and the dignity and opportunity of mankind. In our constant quest for an honorable world peace, there is need for unity and purpose if we truly are to move toward a brighter tomorrow."

Patch and Armstead led the flag-folding ceremony with the help of four Boy Scouts of Troop 213. Patch announced the meaning of each of the 13 folds of the flag which, in itself, stands for the original 13 colonies: Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Virginia.

The first fold is a symbol of life and the second a symbol of belief in eternal life. The third fold is in honor and remembrance of veterans departed; the fourth represents man's weaker nature; the fifth, a tribute to the nation; the sixth, the Pledge; the seventh, a tribute to armed forces; the eighth, a tribute to "the one who entered the valley of the shadow of death"; the ninth, to womanhood; the tenth, to fatherhood; the eleventh represents the lower part of Kings David and Solomon's seal; the twelfth represents the holy trinity.

Patch recited, "The 13th and last fold, when the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost, reminding us of our national motto, 'In God We Trust.'"

By Joseph Charpentier/Boothbay Register, 11/12/2021



### Americanism Officer Chris Armstead leads Boy Scout Troop 213 in a procession to dispose of retired American flags by burning at the Nov. 11 ceremony at American Legion Post 36 in Boothbay.

Photo by Joseph Charpentier/Boothbay Register

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 7 continued

### American Legion Charles E. Sherman Jr. Post 36 Boothbay Hosted Maine Scouts on Forty Meters

Thanks to Al Sirois, N1MHC, some Maine scouts in Lincoln County were introduced to amateur radio while they worked on their radio merit badges on December 18.

N1MHC, and friends, setup a schedule on 40 meters phone and four scouts and Scoutmaster Mike Lomas were able to chat with Phil Duggan N1EP in Maine, Ralph Churchill, W3FME in Pennsylvania, and Skip Newell, K1WMN, in Massachusetts

on 7.262 MHz.

Scout Elijah Smith shared with N1EP that he was 11 years old and was working on his radio merit badge.

Elijah also volunteered that he liked anything related to nature.

Scouts Dylan Lomas, Phil Smith and Eddie Seiders chatted with W3FME and K1WMN about radio and scouting. Skip, K1WMN is an eagle scout. Ralph, W3FME, earned his radio merit badge and ham radio license in the 1950s.



**Ham Radio Contact:** Scoutmaster Mike Lomas makes contact with Phil Duggan, N1EP on 7.262 MHz from the American Legion Hall, Post 36, in Boothbay, ME.



**Scouts Get Educated About Ham Radio:** Scouts Dylan Lomas, Eddie Seiders, Phil Smith, and Elijah Smith (accompanied by Scoutmaster Mike Lomas and parent John Seiders, and Al Marin K1CJY) learned about ham radio as they talked with hams on the forty-meter band.



Photos by Al Sirois, N1MHC

### Wiscasset American Legion Remembers and Honors The Fallen

Members of the Bradford-Sortwell-Wright American Legion Post No. 54 held a barbecue, Saturday, Sept. 11, for all veterans and their families to come together in a day of remembrance honoring the victims of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, fallen comrades, and the 13 servicemen and women who lost their lives in the terrorist attack at the Kabul Airport in Afghanistan in August.

Legionnaire Neil Page manned the grill outside, taking special orders for grilled or steamed hot dogs, or hamburgers, rare, medium or well done. Other legionnaires made sure their guests were aware of other goodies inside the post home, including home baked beans, several salads and desserts. Some guests decided to stay inside while eating and others sat under an umbrella outside.

Guests were also given a tour of the post grounds that included a viewing of the memorial garden, a display of 13 flags on the front lawn, and a silhouette of a fallen soldier tribute.

The memorial garden surrounded with flowers with a stone in the center honoring fallen comrades was designed by legionnaire Tom Stoner, with suggestions from his fellow legionnaires who contributed to the design. The memorial garden also includes cement emblems of five branches of the military service, Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, and the Coast Guard.

Work on the memorial garden is still in process, the five military emblems will be put on a kiosk with a bench for seating add-

ed at a later date.

The 13 flags displayed on the front lawn honor the 11 servicemen and two service-women whose lives were taken at the Kabul Airport while supporting the noncombatant evacuation operation, in Afghanistan last month.

Also on the front lawn is a silhouette of a battlefield cross, built and erected by the late Denis Hill.

Hill, a U. S. Air Force veteran, was a member of Post 54 for many years, serving as the post adjutant, finance officer, and honorary commander.

The battlefield cross, with a kneeling soldier, symbolizes the honor, service, and sacrifice of a soldier killed in action.

Sept. 11, 2001 is a day people remember, like Dec. 7, 1941, the day Pearl Harbor was bombed, and Nov. 22, 1963, the day John F. Kennedy was shot. They remember where they were and what they were doing on those days in our history.

Guests at the American Legion barbecue 20 years later remembered where they were on that day. Navy veteran and Wiscasset Selectman Dusty Jones said he was in college getting ready to go to school. He tuned into the "Today" show on NBC for his morning dose of Matt Lauer and Katie Couric. The first tower was hit and while trying to understand why a plane flew into one of the World Trade Center buildings, the second one was hit.

Jones said, "My oldest son was just about old enough to understand some of what was

going on as we watched the events unfold for a couple of hours. Later that day I was on campus getting updates from just about every person that passed by." Carolann Rines, wife of Navy veteran Larry Rines, said she was working in Bath for Senior Spectrum in a small office when one of the residents came in very concerned because her grandson worked at the Pentagon.

Carolann said her office was near the multipurpose room, used for special events, although most residents had televisions in their rooms. They came downstairs to be together and watch the events of the day in the multipurpose room.

"They did not want to be alone; they want-

ed to be together," Carolann said.

Post Commander William Cossette said he remembers the day well; he was at home doing paperwork when his wife called him and told him to put on the television. He said he turned on the television, and every time there was something to report he called his wife, because she was at work and unable to see what was being reported on television. Cossette said he did not get much work done that day.

"It's a day we will never forget" Cassette said.

By Charlotte Boynton, Lincoln County News, Damariscotta, Maine, September 16, 2021



**Wiscasset Post 54 Hosts BBQ:** American Legion Post 54 members hosted a Sept. 11 barbecue at the post home in Wiscasset. Left to right, Wally Pitcher, Neil Page, Larry Rines, Mike Barnes, Cliff Hendricks, and John Kennedy.



**Guests & Friends:** At the Sept. 11 barbecue, guests enjoy the afternoon while meeting new friends. Navy veteran and Wiscasset Selectman Dusty Jones (left), Unit 54 Auxiliary member and Navy Veteran retired Carolann Rines, and a member of the American Legion Post 54 and Unit 54 Auxiliary member Beatrice Vazquez.



**Battlefield Tribute:** The battlefield tribute stands at the front of the Wiscasset American Legion Post home. It was built by the late Dennis Hill as a symbol of service and sacrifice of the men and women who died in battle.



**Guests Visit Memorial Garden:** John and Edna Kennedy review the Memorial Garden at the American Legion Barbecue Sept. 11. The Kennedy's recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. After John completed 40 years of service in the U.S. Army, they decided to come home to Maine.

All photos by Charlotte Boynton, LCN

**Flags Of Remembrance:** The 13 flags displayed on the lawn of the Wiscasset Legion Post are in remembrance of the 13 service men and women who lost their lives at the Kabul Airport while supporting the non-combatant evacuation operation in Afghanistan last month.



### Wiscasset American Legion Auxiliary Holds Appreciation Tea

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 54 held a special ceremony Saturday, Sept. 18, in appreciation for its members' dedication to the organization. Tea was served in bone china cups by Unit Vice President Janice Fogg, and her daughter Sheila Miller.

Unit 54 was established in May 1931, according to the history of American Legion Post. The post was formed in 1919, although the auxiliary was not established until 12 years later. The wives, mothers, and sisters of the legionnaires provided food at post events and assisted in various ways in promoting the programs of the American Legion.

The Auxiliary's role today is no different, it shares the values of the American Legion,

and its membership is the spouses, mothers, daughters, granddaughters, and sisters of American veterans. After enjoying snacks, and several flavors of tea, Wiscasset Auxiliary members were presented Certificates of Appreciation for their continued membership in the unit, by Unit President Sandra Winters, and Unit Secretary Diane Munsey.

The following members were honored: Janice Fogg, 72 years; Hazel McIntire, 71 year; Mary Lou Peasley, 71 years; Patricia Bridgham, 64 years; Cindy Hill, 62 years; Janet Thayer, 60 years; Pearl Skillin, 60 years; Elaine Grover, 58 years; Carolyn Soule, 57

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

**District 7 continued**

**"TEA"**

*(Continued from Page 26)*

years; Cynthia Chadwick, 57 years; Sandra Winters, 56 years; Jeri Kent, 53 years; Linda Haggett, 53 years; Lori Crook, 50 years; Elizabeth Johnson, 50 years; Patricia Connors, 49 years; Wendy Goud, 48 years; Mary Seigars, 48 years; Shelly Schmal, 45 years; Samantha Hill, 44 years; Nancy Atkins, 40 years; Judy Greenleaf 40 years, Sally Duray, 40 years, Melissa Cossette, 32 years; Louis Foy, 23 years; Deborah Langdon, 17 years; Diane Munsey, 14 years; Leona Gage, 14 years.

Members with 10 years or less include Claudette Gordon; Sheila Miller; Carolann

Rines; Debbie Harrison; Jane Lebordais; Jessica Reed; Linda Sprague; Janet Bickford; Deborah Churchill; Beatrice Vasquez. Several members were present to accept their Certificates of Appreciation. Members that were unable to attend will be mailed their certificates.

Other events being planned by the auxiliary include hosting a presentation on suicide prevention with special speaker Shameri Simpson from the American Foundation for Suicide Presentation at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 29, at the post, 353 Bath Road.

The auxiliary is also holding a craft show from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 9, at the post home.

By Charlotte Boynton, Lincoln County News, Damariscotta, Maine, September 23, 2021



**Wiscasset Unit 54 Appreciation Tea: American Legion Auxiliary President Sandra Winters welcomes members to the unit's Appreciation Tea, held Sat., Sept. 18.**



**Tea Brings Smiles: Auxiliary member Janice Fogg, a member for 72 years of the Wiscasset Unit, brings a smile to the faces of Unit President Sandra Winters and Diane Munsey during a Members' Appreciation Tea.**



**Tea Served: American Legion Auxiliary member Beatrice Vasquez (left) is served tea by member Janice Fogg, and her daughter Sheila Miller, at the Appreciation Tea, hosted by the unit officers.**



**Memories Shared: Bradford-Sortwell-Wright American Legion Auxiliary members share memories of earlier days in the auxiliary at the Members' Appreciation Tea.**



**Serving Tea To Widow of Past Post Commander: American Legion Auxiliary Unit President Sandra Winters serves a cup of tea to member Mary Seigars, the widow of the late James Seigars, a past commander of the Wiscasset Post.**

All photos by Charlotte Boynton, LCN

**Honor and Remember Heroes on Veterans Day**

For over the past 100 years, men and women have fought in wars and many conflicts to protect the freedoms we enjoy. Each year, two days are set aside to honor those men and women; Memorial Day to

honor those who gave the supreme sacrifice, observed on the last Monday in May, and Veterans Day to honor those who made it home to continue their service in other ways.

U.S. Army Ret. Sgt. Major Michael Barnes (E9) is one of those veterans, after 30 years in active duty, and two years in the reserves, he continued to serve. While serving in the



**U.S. Army Private Michael Barnes, age 18, home on leave after boot camp, in 1976, heads for Korea for his first duty station.**

Photo courtesy of Michael Barnes

reserves, he attended nursing school becoming a registered nurse working in the burn ICU unit at the University of North Carolina Medical Center in Chapel Hill.

Barnes, a 1975 graduate of Wiscasset High School, was not interested in going to college at the age of 18. He decided to join the Army in March 1976, and now nearly 46 years later said, he has never once regretted that decision.

"I did not consider service in the military as a job; it was a way of life I enjoyed. If asked I would do it all over again," he said.

Barnes is the son of Roy Barnes of Wiscasset and Blanch Johnson, also of Wiscasset. Barnes comes from a large family; his dad was one of 10 children and his mother is one of four.

"We had good models and mentors growing up," he said. "Veterans all. Judge Allan Pease, Roy Farmer, George Jones, World War II veterans, and Chuck Shea a Wiscasset teacher and coach for over 20 years at Wiscasset. They all had a sense of purpose, they became important people in the community and people listened when they had something to say and we looked up to them as community leaders."

Barnes served in the infantry for the first 14 years in the Army. After boot camp and Infantry AIT, in July of 1976 he was sent to Korea for his first duty station.

This was followed by assignments to the 1/75 Rangers, the 82nd Airborne Division, the Old Guard (the Army's ceremonial unit in Arlington National Cemetery) and the 25th Infantry Division in Hawaii.

In 1990, Barnes applied and was accepted to Special Forces. He trained for the first two

years to become a medic, along with Russian language training, before being assigned to a 12-man team in Germany. He was promoted to team sergeant and later sergeant major, retiring in 2008.

Barnes moved back to Maine just over two years ago, joined the Wiscasset American Legion Post No. 54 to continue his service to veterans and their families.

When asked why he decided to move back to Maine after all these years being away, he said, "I come back to my roots, there is no other place I would rather be, my mom and dad are still here. This is home."

He is the father of three children, one son and two daughters who are also providing a service to their community. His son served four years in the U.S. Marines, now serving in Alaska, as an Army National Guardsman. One daughter is a social worker working on teenage programs in her community; the other daughter is serving as an emergency medical technician in the community she is living in.

Barnes said in celebrating Veterans Day, we must also remember the sacrifices the families of veterans make.

"They give up a lot more than most people take for granted," he said; "The family serves along with the veteran they are also heroes."

Wiscasset American Legion Post No. 54 is hosting the Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Veterans Memorial on Veterans Day.

Barnes, wearing his American Legion uniform, will be there to honor veterans of all wars as a member of a three-man firing party.

Charlotte Boynton/The Lincoln County News November 11, 2021 at 8:28 am

**Sergeant Major Retired Michael Barnes, discharged in 2008 after nearly 33 years of military service, returned to Maine and continues to serve Veterans and their families through the programs of the American Legion.**

Photo by Charlotte Boynton



**Surprise Visit For Recognition:**

The American Legion Department of Maine 2nd Vice Commander Alfred McKay, right, recently made a surprise visit to the Waldoboro American Legion Charles C. Lilly Post 149. He presented them with a Recognition of Post Excellence Award for the year 2020/2021 on behalf of the National Commander, James Oxford. The award recognizes "devotion to mutual helpfulness" stating that "their allegiance to helping veterans is exemplary and they should be commended for their efforts towards Post Excellence".

Commander Donna Wallace, left, received the award on behalf of all the men and women of Charles C. Lilly Post 149.



**Post Excellence Award:**

Waldoboro Post 149 has now proudly received the Post Excellence Award for three consecutive years having been awarded it in 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 as well. Shown here with all three awards are, left to right, Adjutant Ralph Turner, Dana Rolerson, Historian

Jan Griesenbrock, 1st Vice Commander John Flaherty, Bryan Hodgkins, Sergeant at Arms Kenneth Lucas, Finance Officer Carol Brazier, and Chaplain Al O'Donnell. As the award states, "their unselfish duty, devotion and compassion towards their fellow men and women" reflect great pride on The American Legion.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

# District 8

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

## Patriotism is Alive and Well in America Wreaths Across America 2021

In my 75 plus years on planet Earth, I have been involved with many organizations, from scouting to hunting/fishing, parades with various units, veterans' units (Brunswick Post 20), the list goes on, but this latest quest I have been involved with is over the top. Twelve years ago, I was reading an article about an outfit that was going to cover veterans gravesites with wreaths during the holiday season. I thought, let's check this out. Wreaths Across America is the organization and what a ride this has been so far. I am currently State House Coordinator for State of Maine Wreaths Across America State House Day here in Maine. This event is the Monday of Wreaths Across America week and takes place in many of our 50 states. I also have personally placed wreaths on Wreaths Across America Day (always the third Saturday in December) every year for the past 12 years, all to make sure we Remember, Honor and Teach (the motto of Wreaths Across America). Cemeteries here, include Augusta Togus and Mt Vernon, all in Maine, then to Arlington (our nation's cemetery) three years there and counting. The latest event this past year was being selected by Wreaths Across America to host a couple individuals that are going to participate

in the annual trek to Arlington; they are a veteran and Blue Star family members. Our (me and ma) passengers were Ed and Diana Crumpler from Olive Branch Mississippi. Ed is an Army veteran and Diana is a retired professional photographer. We started out at Columbia Falls, Maine on Saturday (the 11th) with the final destination Arlington, the following Saturday. Many patriotic stops along the way for sure.

Here are some of the numbers from the 2021 Wreaths Across America event. Staggering to say the least. Keep in mind these are made from Maine balsam fir trees from Washington County, Maine.

- Nationwide: 3,136 locations, 525 truckloads, 390 different carriers, 2.4 million veterans' wreaths.

- Arlington National Cemetery: 66 truckloads, 250,000 veterans' wreaths plus placed, 38,000 volunteers.

Our takeaway from that week, patriotism is alive and well in America. Thank you to Chevrolet, which provided a great ride to get us to our destination and back. Here's to next year December 17, 2022.

By Richard Barter, Post 20 Brunswick Member, Army/Army National Guard Veteran, Volunteer with the State of Maine, State House Coordinator for WAA.



**Starting Point:** The trek starts at West Quoddy Head Lighthouse, Saturday morning, sunrise, Dec 11, 2021.



**WAA Volunteers, Hosts, & Wrapped Rides:** Left photo, Cindy and Brunswick Post 20 member Richard Barter volunteer for Wreaths Across America and host for the annual trek to Arlington National Cemetery. Right photo, Cindy and Richard Barter hosted this wonderful couple, left to right, Ed (US Army veteran) and Dianna Crumpler of Olive Branch, Mississippi. Couples pictured with the wrapped vehicles used for the WAA 2021, provided by Chevrolet.



**WAA Day At ANC:** Wreaths Across America Day ends its long trek at Arlington National Cemetery. Pictures of graves before and after wreath placement.

## Topsham Post 202 Hout House Fundraiser

On May 7th, 2021, friends at the Topsham American Legion were sitting around one of our famous Post 202 bonfires when Legionnaire Nicolas Hamlin overheard Auxiliary member Denise Goupil proclaim she would never wear a dress. She hadn't worn a dress in 35 years, not even to her own wedding. Nicolas viewed this as a fundraising opportunity and as a Legion Family the decision was made that \$5000 would have Denise in a dress, \$8000 would have Nicolas in a dress, and at \$10,000, Nicolas would have to shave his beard. All funds raised will be donated to Volunteers of America's Hout House program. The Hout House supports veterans, those that are homeless and/or with substance abuse

issues, with transitional housing and supportive respite care. The goal of the Hout House is to effectively treat the veteran, secure permanent housing, and increase the veteran's income through employment and/or entitlements.

From early May and until the check was written on October 23rd, the Post 202 Legion Family held several fundraisers to include an SAL fish fry, Apple Battle cook-off, cornhole tournament, wagon of cheer raffle and our volunteer bartenders donated their tips. We also received donations from local businesses. This was truly a fundraiser that Legion, Auxiliary, and SAL came together as a team to raise over \$11,100 for the Hout House.



**Photo Op With National Commander:** Left photo, Topsham Unit 202 Auxiliary member Denise Goupil, National Commander Paul Dillard, and Post 202 Legionnaire Nicolas Hamlin during the National Commander's Visit to Maine on October 23.



**Shaving Begins:** Topsham Unit 202 Treasurer Julie Booty publicly shaves Nicolas.



**Early Bird Meal:** Denise Goupil and Nicolas Hamlin serve Steak tips and Seafood Lasagna for Early Bird members.



**Check Presentation:** Volunteers of America VP of External Relations Michael Coon and VoA CEO and President Richard Hooks Wayman received a check in the amount of \$11,100 from Topsham Unit 202 member Denise Goupil and Nicolas Hamlin.

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



**WAA Wreath Laying At Togus:** Many American Legion members from District 9 participated in the Wreaths Across America wreath laying at the National Cemetery at Togus on Dec. 18, 2021. Over 5700 wreaths were laid on all the graves at both the East and West cemeteries at Togus. Pictured saluting after laying wreaths on veteran's graves are Hallowell Post 6 Commander Maureen Malley and Litchfield Post 181 Judge Advocate Richard Braunfels, right, Districts 3 and 8 members also participated.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 9 continued

### Hallowell Post 6 Lawn Sale:

Legionnaires of Goodrich-Caldwell Post 6 in Hallowell review donated items during their Annual Lawn Sale on Sat., Oct 23, 2021 in Hallowell. All money received is to support the Legion Programs of Post 6.



**Post 6 Receives 100% Membership Award:** State Commander Debra Couture, right, presents the 2021 100% Membership Award for Goodrich-Caldwell American Legion Post 6, Hallowell, to Post Commander Maureen Malley on Dec. 8, 2021.



**Post 40 Receives 100% Membership Award:** State Commander Debra Couture, right, presents the 2021 100% membership award for the Alfred W. Maxwell, Jr. American Legion Post 40, Winthrop to Al Hitt, Area 4 Commander and Post 40 member on Dec. 8, 2021.

## WWII POW/MIA Veteran Remembered

On Saturday October 9th at 10:30 am, in Millinocket, the Nation and Maine laid to rest WWII POW/MIA Veteran U.S. Army Air Force 2nd Lt. Ernest N. Vienneau that had been lost to all since 1944.

Lt. Vienneau was a copilot attached to the 340th Bombardment Squadron, 97 Bombardment Group, 15th Air Force, stationed in Amendola, Italy. The B-17 Flying Fortress Bomber was on a mission over Maribor, Yugoslavia when it was hit by fire. Lt. Vienneau was killed instantly by shrapnel. The pilot was forced to down the plane off the coast of Vis Island, Croatia. All ten of the members of the crew survived this day. Lt. Vienneau's body was never recovered.

April 16, 2021, Lt Vienneau's remains were recovered. He will be buried with Full Military Honors with a flyover on October 9th. The American Legion Riders will escort Lt. Ernest Vienneau to his final resting place in Millinocket. American Legion Riders are asked to meet at American Legion Post 80 in Millinocket and then will go to the funeral home together for 9:45am.



The funeral will be at St. Martin's Catholic Church at 10:30am.

American Legion Post 80 will hold a luncheon at the post following the burial.

"This will be a honor that we may never see again in our life time, to welcome home a POW/MIA" said Rick Cyr Jr. ALR Chapter 80 Director.

If you would like to read more about the story of Lt. Vienneau follow the link below.

Lt. Vienneau and his family sacrifice will be remembered by all.

<https://wgme.com/news/local/remains-of-maine-pilot-killed-during-world-war-ii-recovered-off-coast-of-croatia>



**WWII POW/MIA Veteran U.S. Army Air Force 2nd Lt. Ernest N. Vienneau**



**Chapter 40 Honors WWII Veteran Killed In Action:** American Legion Riders from Winthrop Chapter 40 attend the funeral in Millinocket held Oct. 9 in honor of US Army for 2nd Lieutenant WWII Veteran Ernest Vienneau, whose remains have been returned to Maine. Ernest was killed in action in 1944 while serving in WWII. Riders, left to right, Director Colin Hewett, Secretary Jim Baker, Treasurer Dave Glidden, Road Captain J.D. Dyer, and Safety Officer Ed Bard.



### Vassalboro Post 126 Deliver 160 Christmas Stockings To Veterans:

Members of American Legion Post 126 in Vassalboro delivered 160 Christmas stockings that were filled with personal care products. The Christmas stockings were made and donated by the Sew for a Cause at St Bridget Center, Vassalboro to veterans at Togus on Dec. 9, 2021. Top photo, left to right, Vassalboro Post 126 Commander Thomas Richards, Adjutant James Kilbride, and Chief of Voluntary Services Kylie Higgins. Middle photo, left to right, Commander Thomas Richards, Michael Poulin, Youth Officer Doug Grasso, Adjutant James Kilbride, and Robert Whitehouse. Bottom photo, Commander Thomas Richard, Nicole Jordan, and Adjutant James Kilbride.



**Hanging Dog Tags In Memory Of A Vet:** State Commander Debra Couture hangs dog tags in memory of Litchfield Post 181 WWII Veteran Keith Estabrook in the Balsam Tip Lands, Columbia Falls, Maine. Keith served during WWII in the Battle of the Bulge.



**Litchfield Post 181 Member Normand Bernier, right, receives the Vietnam War Coin and certificate from American Legion National Commander Paul Dillard when he visited the William R. Bold American Legion Post 181, Litchfield during his official visit to Maine in October 2021.**

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 9 continued



**Litchfield Post 181 Annual Raffle:** William R. Bold American Legion Post 181's major fundraiser each year is their raffle. Pictured are Legion members who helped to sell over \$9000 in tickets this past year to raise money for a new Post building. Left to right, District 9 Commander Howard Betts and Post 181 members Denise Emery, Ernie Rowe, Ron Dixon, State Commander Debra Couture, Glenn Bowman, Richard Braunfels, Normand Bernier, and Greg Couture.



**Monmouth Post 204 Gets Help On Veteran's Day:** The Monmouth American Legion Post 204 had help in removing grave flags after Veteran's Day. Left photo: The National Honor Society from Monmouth Academy, left to right, Megan Ham, Alexa Allen, Holly Hunt, Natalie Aube, Mia Luce and Averi Beaudoin. Right photo: Monmouth Boy Scout Troup 654, front row, left to right, Chris Kirby, Maximus Gray; back row left to right, Post 204 Commander Tracy Gray, Nathan Lewis, Jacob Fernandez, Macgyver Blundon, Samuel Schultz, and Shawn Schultz.



**Monmouth Post 204 Supports Local Scout Troop:** The American Legion Post 204 donates a check in the amount of \$400 to the Monmouth Boy Scout Troup 654 for camping gear. Left to right, Boy Scout Leader Sean Schultz and Monmouth Post 204 Commander Tracy Gray.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 12

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

**Sharing The Knowledge:** Bar Harbor Post 25 Commander Barbara MacPik and District 12 Commander Paul Blackstone gives a presentation on The American Legion to the Rotary at the Atlantic Oceanside in Bar Harbor, Maine, Oct. 20. The presentation included the Four Pillars of The American Legion and information on Post 25, the Oratorical contest, and Dirigo State. Left to right, Post 25 Commander Barbara MacPike, President of Bar Harbor Rotary Lisa Horsch Clark, and District 12 Commander Dr. Paul Blackstone.



**Certificate Of Continuous Service:** District 12 held their American Legion meeting in Bar Harbor Oct. 12. During the meeting, the following members were presented with Continuous Service Certificates: Left to right, Southwest Harbor Post 69 Commander Robert Kramp, 30 years; Ellsworth Post 63 Adjutant Albert Scott, 43 years; Bucksport Post 93 Commander Richard Bowden, 46 years; Northeast Harbor Post 103 Adjutant Robert Moore, 47 years; District 12 Commander Dr. Paul Blackstone and District 12 & Post 25 Finance Officer Robert Broussard, 55 years.

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 Veterans Day Lunch:** Old Town Post 75 members pass out lunches to Penobscot Riverhouse veterans as well as Post veterans for Veterans Day 2021. Noelle Kohr, left, hands lunch to Commander Chuck Grant, right.



**Lincoln Post 77 Installation Ceremony:** Carl Burrill Post 77 held their Installation of Officers on Oct. 3, 2021. The Ladies Auxiliary prepared a delicious meal which was enjoyed by all. Special guest Dept. Finance Officer Gregory Couture performed the swearing in of each new officer. Left to right, Dept. Finance Officer Gregory Couture, Americanism Officer Arvid Good, Asst. Chaplain Jerry Moors, Service Officer John Nelson, Judge Advocate Ronald McComb Sr., Finance Officer/Sgt. at Arms Wendy Lawrence, Adjutant Patrick Ferris, 2nd Vice James Ewing, 1st Vice Stephen DeSmidt, and Commander Sheldon Hanington. Absent were Chaplain Robert Rhoades, and Historian John Richards.



**Certificate Of Initiation:** Department Finance Officer Gregory Couture, right, presents a Certificate of Initiation to Sheldon Hanington, left, for the installation of Lincoln Post 77 Commander Oct. 3, 2021. Mr. Hanington said, "I have been acting Commander since May and it is an honor to have taken the place of retired Commander Darrell Savage, who ran this post for 30 years." He also added "I am proud of the officers who are here to work with me in bringing this building back to life, encouraging more area veterans to join us and strive to keep this important Lincoln landmark here for many years to come."

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

**District 13 continued**



**Brewer Post 98 Share Coffee and donuts prior to the annual Veterans Day Parade.** Brewer Legionnaires supporting the event, left to right, Ray Curran, George Maxsimic, Kevin O'Connell, and Tom Kelly.



**Newport Post 105 Legion Rider Tribute:** Newport Post 105 Legion Riders were honored to host the families of Army Captain John 'Jay' Brainard III and Army Pfc Tyler Springmann along with the Bikers' members of Tribute to Fallen Soldiers Northwest. The families and friends gathered out in the park behind the Post home before the Tribute. Around 30 motorcycles arrived with a gentle roar along with a very large motor home towing a small trailer with a tribute flame that had been burning for the 28 days. They came across the United States from Oregon. The state of Maine was the 15th state they had been to with a final destination of Arlington National Cemetery. After a very touching and a heartfelt tribute to the families and their fallen loved ones, they sat down to a meal and got to know each other. What a wonderful group of people. Thank you for what you do!

By Newport Post 105 Kim Lander

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



**Flag Etiquette at Dover-Foxcroft Post 29:** Chadbourne-Merrill Post 29 hosted an informative and interactive meeting with one of the local Girl Scout Troops on Nov. 7th, where they learned all about Flag Etiquette. A short video was shared, after which two members of the Post demonstrated how to properly fold the flag. Following, the Girl Scouts paired up and took turns folding the flag. The meeting ended with a question-and-answer session followed by refreshments. Each Girl Scout received a Flag Etiquette booklet and a miniature flag to take home.



**Greenville Post 94 Receives Awards:** At the September District 14 meeting in Guilford, the 2019-2020 1st Place Post Scrapbook Award is presented to Greenville Post 94 Kendrick Billing. Post 94 also received the 2020 100% Streamer Member Award. Left to right, Past Area 5 Commander Willard Leeman, PDC & Post 94 Commander Pete Johnson, and 14th District Commander Daniel Nutter.

**Greenville Post 94 100% Membership:** State Commander Debra Couture presents the 2021 100% Membership Award for Cecil R. Cole American Legion Post 94, Greenville to Post Commander Pete Johnson, right, on Nov. 20, 2021, during the District 14 meeting held in Monson.



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



**Calais Dunkin Donuts "Tip A Veteran Day Nov. 10:** Left to right, Calais Post 3 Commander Mike McLean, Calais Dunkin Donuts Manager John Cowell, Chaplain Major David Sivret VFW Commander, and CWO Sherry Sivret. Those that patronized the store that day were greeted by Calais veterans. Donations received went towards supporting the veterans in the area.



**Project Back Packs & School Supplies:** (Left photo) Owner of the Calais IGA, Bob Craft, left, and Calais Post 3 Commander Mike McLean, right. (Right photo) Calais Post 3 Commander Mike McLean, left, with Calais Dunkin Donuts Manager John Cowell, right, donates back packs in support of the Calais American Legion "Project Back Packs and School Supplies" in Sept. 2021.



**Stuff The Bus:** Left to right, Calais Post 3 Commander Mike McLean, Kaitlyn Smith and Commander of US Border Patrol Todd Smith, Dec. 2021.



**Operation Home Front Holiday Toy Drive Prep:** Calais Post 3 Commander Mike McLean gets ready for the Operation Home Front Holiday Toy Drive at the Calais Dollar Tree.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 15 continued



**Calais Post 3 Donation:** Calais Post 3 Commander Mike McLean donates to the Schoodic Anah Shrine Club on Dec. 12, 2021. Left to right, Anah Shrine members Jim Meyers and Todd Smith, and Calais American Legion Commander Mike McLean.



**Support Your Local Scouts:** To all Maine Posts: Even if you don't sponsor a scouting unit, you can show your support in other ways. For example, during this important time of scout recruiting, your Post could provide lawn space for recruiting signs. Post 8 in

Cherryfield also provides space for a perpetual bottle drive that provides a steady stream of revenue to the local Cub Pack and 2 Scout Troops. The Post is located, as many are, in a central location with great exposure. The Scouts reciprocate by managing the Post's flag poles, placing flags on graves on Memorial Day and wreaths at Christmas. They also visit veterans in the nursing home (other than during COVID), serve as the Post's color guard and other community service events. The Scouts have even camped on the front lawn and decorated the building for the Town's Christmas Decoration competition.

Peter Duston, Dept. Scouting Chair

**Cherryfield Post 8 remembers POW/MIA Day** with a ceremony last September 17th. A reading of 23rd Psalm was done, followed by the remembrances for Vern Bickford, Oscar Look and Kenneth Sproul - WWII; Oscar Sprague, Robert Tait and Gerry Scott - Korea. Taps was sounded by Post 8 Adjutant Peter Duston.



**Cherryfield Post 8 Donates Patient Lift To Assisted Care Home:** Changing Tides assisted care home receives the generous donation of an Invacare lift from Cherryfield Post 8 to assist with patient care that includes widows of veterans. Administrator Cindy Strout is assisted in loading the lift by volunteer Bishmita Dahal, a student at University of Maine. Dahal is the niece of a Nepalese soldier retired from the famous British Gurkha Regiment.



**Cub Scout Pack 139 Organizes 9/11 Flag Ceremony:** Pack 139 gathered Cubs and new recruits to wave flags on Rt 1 in Jonesboro at the 9/11 Flag Lady Memorial to remember the tragic events of Sept. 11, 2001.



## AMERICAN LEGION COBSCOOK POST 59 Veterans Day Ceremony - November 11, 2021

I want to ask you some questions. Why do we keep the past alive? Why do we have VFW's, American Legions, AM-VETS, or historical associations? Why do we have decommissioned battleships open for tours and old aircraft carriers in New

York City that serve as military aviation museums? Why do we have people who recreate the great battlefield scenes of the Civil War in uniforms accurate down to the buttons? Why Memorial Day, Decoration Day, Veterans Day, or Armistice Day? Because of

three simple words:

LEST WE FORGET!

I'm sure you've all heard the quote of that little sentence written on the dirty surface of a box of "C" rations by an unknown Marine in Khe Sahn in 1968. It said, "For those who fight for it, life has a special flavor the protected will never know." I'm sure you would also agree that, if we had a national "hall of fame", among its inductees would be those whose only boast of fame was their service to this nation in the "profession of arms".

Let me take a moment, then, to tell you just how important the words on that box are and just how profound the role of the military has been.

According to an article that has appeared in the Canadian Army Journal, the US Naval Institute's Proceedings, Time magazine, and other sources, the president of the Norwegian Academy of Sciences (aided by historians from England, Egypt, Germany, and India) arrived at some startling figures:

In the last 5,600 years (going back to 3,600 BC) there have been over 14,591 wars in which at least 3,640,000,000 people have been killed. By examining everything from Egyptian hieroglyphs to Aztec carvings, and from Persian cuneiforms to Roman scrolls, a global history emerges that reveals the staggering impact of armed conflict.

More startling, since 1,500 BC, over 8,000 treaties of total peace have been signed, but each one was broken in less than two years. In other words, since the beginning of recorded history, this whole planet has only seen a total of less than 300 years of world-wide peace.

Apocryphal or accurate, it's a numbing consideration.

It also leads to this conclusion: people in uniform—past, present, and future—are an overwhelming part of this nation's history and fabric. But to what purpose? To glorify war?

I said that a lot of our service organizations exist in order that we don't forget. Okay. That we don't forget what? The names of Army buddies or shipmates? No, so that we don't forget the cost! Here's what I mean.

Our former forts, bases, posts, ships, subs, planes, and stations all served as tools of national policy, to defend the constitution, and to safeguard the interests of foreign democracies from governments bent on tyranny and despotism. And the cost has been high; in life, in suffering, and in destruction.

Is it right or is it wrong? I don't know if we can answer that. We need to leave that kind of debate for the great thinkers, phi-

losophers, and scholars of generations to come. What we do know is that the specter of war has always locked horns with cries for peace.

Daily around the globe, military supporters and military demonstrators shout back and forth at the top of their lungs about the proper use of the Armed Forces. "Balance of power," "first strike capability," "over the horizon targeting", and the "peace dividend" have been heated buzzwords for years, and it's the job of those who walk the great halls of power to wrestle with such implications. But today, our job is different.

Our job as veterans, family members, and a grateful community is not just to be thankful for service rendered (although we do that), or to remember the camaraderie of friendships living and lost (although we do that), or to work at preserving historical awareness (although we do that). Our job, particularly for the veterans of this Post, is to serve as an ongoing, living witness of the cost. The cost of hardship, of life, of resources, and of memories seared with the images of conflict.

You see, our nation needs this Post and other like-minded groups to not only demonstrate tremendous pride in military service, but to also temper that pride with the sobering reality of its great toll.

Our nation needs voices to tell the story of what we did right and what we did wrong.

Our nation needs veterans to stand as a collective, living oracle—matured by the passing of time—that doesn't rush headlong with the eagerness (or ignorance) of youth but with wisdom forged in hearts that have marched, and sailed, and flown to the gates of hell and back.

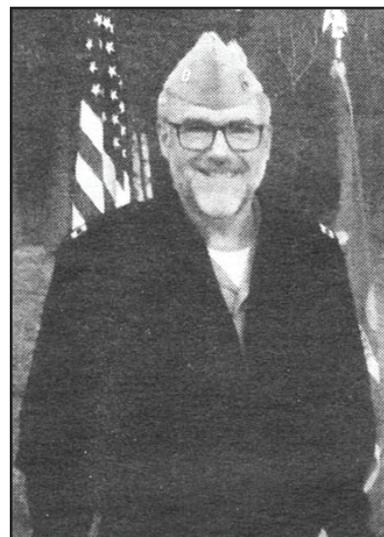
Veterans are the voice of strength and accomplishment. Veterans are also the voice of balance, caution, prudence, repentance, and even of the silent prayer that our grandchildren will never have to bear what we bore.

The job of Post 59 is a monumental one. It's not just a repository of the past, but the key to the future so long as we are faithful to tell the story—the whole story. And my prayer is that the final chapter of this story will be the day when our children see the swords of this world finally beaten into plowshares.

Join me in a prayer for those who served and continue to serve in the Armed Forces:

Eternal God, those called to the "profession of arms" have been woven into the fabric of our nation since its founding, and today they stand in ever-present vigil around

[More on "POST 59 VET DAY" Page 33](#)



## Cobscook Post 59 Veterans Day Speech:

Cobscook Post 59 Chaplain Alan L. Andraeas delivers the Veterans Day Speech at the American Legion Cobscook Post 59 in Pembroke, at the Veterans Monument on the grounds of the post, Nov. 11, 2021. The ceremony included the Pledge of Allegiance, flag honors and Taps, the speech, and inviting all the guests to sing together the military verses of the hymn Eternal Father for each branch of the Armed Forces. It was the first Veterans Day Ceremony the post was able to observe in many years.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 15 continued

### “POST 59 VET DAY” (Continued from Page 32)

the world. Our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen are knit together not for the joy of warfare but by their love of life and liberty; even for the right to worship You without fear or oppression.

Grant us Your Spirit as we honor and lift in prayer those who have chosen to stand in harm's way for their families and communities back home. They suffer daily in ways we can't even begin to imagine so that we might live in peace.

Defend them by day. Protect them by night. Anoint them at their waking and bless them at their laying down. Hold them close to You in the hollow of Your hand. Strengthen them in their trials, give them courage

to face the perils which constantly besiege them, and grant them a sense of Your abiding presence wherever they may be.

We thank You for that witness within us that yearns for peace and for freedom—for ourselves and for others. In Your sovereign grace, may a day come when war becomes unnecessary and oppression obsolete. Call all the nations of the world to that day when we can lay down our arms and more earnestly give our attention to doing justice, living in kindness, and walking humbly in Your sight. We lift this prayer to the Captain of our faith; to the throne of the King of Peace—the Son of God and Son of Man; not for us, but for His sake and glory. Amen.

Speech by The Very Rev. Dr. Alan L. Andraeas+,  
Chaplain Corps, United States Navy, Ret.,  
Post Chaplain American Legion Cobscook Post 59  
Pembroke, Maine, District 15



**Certificate Of Appreciation:** State Commander Debra Couture, left, and Smart-Soucie Post 176 Eagle Lake Commander Leroy McKenzie, right, present a Certificate of Appreciation to Mike Morneau, Presque Isle on Nov. 14, 2021, at Mars Hill Post 118. Mike discovered WWII medals belonging to Canadian War Veteran Lionel Legere. Mike, with the assistance of Leroy and NEC Lloyd Woods helped to get the medals returned to the veteran's family in Edmonton, NB, Canada.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 16

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

### Post 52 Veterans Day Wreath Laying

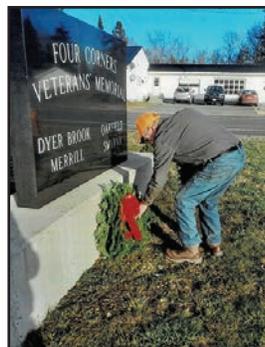
It seems the citizens in the surrounding communities are getting more involved with the new monument. On Nov. 11, 2021, Scotty Nevers & Candy Nevers had purchased a dozen wreaths and placed them in memory of those who

served from the communities of Dyer Brook, Oakfield, Merrill, and Smyrna. These individuals have no idea how many lives they have touched because of this act of kindness.

Oakfield Post 52 Adjutant James Burton



**Four Corners Veterans' Memorial at Oakfield Post 52 commemorates local veterans from the Civil War through to the Gulf Wars.**



**Community Helpers On Veterans Day:** Left photo, Scotty Nevers of Merrill places a wreath at the Veterans' Memorial in Oakfield. Right photo, Hannah McGary of Merrill has helped lay wreaths at the Oakfield memorial for the last 5 or 6 years.



**Park Dedication In Blaine:** Legionnaire Ronnie Gallop, William Cousins American Legion Post 118, Mars Hill, is pictured next to the American Flag and dedication plaque in Blaine. The plaque reads: "THE HIGH PRICE OF FREEDOM IS A COST PAID BY A BRAVE FEW" and "This park is dedicated to all veterans but most especially, those from the communities of Blaine and Robinson. Thank you all for your selfless service." Ronnie was instrumental in getting the park built and dedicated.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 17

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

### The American Legion, Department of Maine, District 17 Report

During 2021–2022, District 17 has been steadfast in our core values. While covid tried to keep our posts and communities occupied, here are some of the highlights from District 17 in Northern Aroostook County.

Stockholm Post 136 held our 1st District meeting that was attended by several Dept Officers. They teamed with the Auxiliary to provide a meal fit for a king. They also helped with providing an Honor Guard for a Knights of Columbus event honoring 9/11 and our Veterans.

Fort Kent Post 133 held its annual Muskie Derby meal including a tag sale at the Post that went on daily for several months. That displayed an amazing amount of dedication.

St Francis Post 180 held a packed house District meeting that Commander Couture was in attendance for. The Auxiliary and Post provided an amazing lasagna meal for everyone. St Francis continues to set the bar in their dedication to community involvement and Americanism in regard to flags.

Frenchville Post 145 and the community was devastated this year as the local school caught on fire and lost nearly everything. The Post and communities came together and held fund raisers and meals donating proceeds to the schools rebuilding account.

Eagle Lake Post 176 has been busy as well; doing meals, dances, and building a

new scholarship that now has the funds in it to last for 4 years. Constant Buddy Checks aided Post 176 in achieving over 100% membership prior to 12/31/21.

Madawaska Post 147's Honor Guard has been very busy with funeral services and has been donating funds to local charities like the Edgar J Paradis Cancer Fund and the Special Olympics.

Van Buren Post 49 will be holding the 4 Chaplains Ceremony. They have also been working in the community helping veterans every chance they get. They recently held a raffle that has been helping offset the losses from the pandemic.

While our Posts have stayed busy, our District has stayed focused on Membership and Americanism. District 17 put on flag folding and flag raising ceremonies for the Cub Scouts, Fort Kent Community High School, and the Valley Unified School children.



**Leroy McKenzie**

By District 17 Commander Leroy McKenzie

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 17 continued



**Eagle Lake Post 176 100% Membership:** State Commander Debra Couture, right, presents the 2021 100% Membership Award for Smart-Soucie American Legion Post 176, Eagle Lake to Post Commander Leroy McKenzie, left, on Nov. 7, 2021 at the District 17 meeting in St. Francis.



The Legion Riders of Madawaska Chapter 147 and Dixfield Chapter 100 hosted members of the Napalm Crew, Jarheads MC on Sat. Aug. 28. They came to see the stone that was at the Four Corners Park in Madawaska, in memory of the 7 Jarhead members that lost their lives on June 21, 2019. The stone was purchased by both Chapter 147 and Chapter 100. After a brief prayer and ringing of the bell for each of the seven members, lunch was served at Post 147 for all.

# Membership is Everybody's RESPONSIBILITY



**Madawaska Post 147 Flag Retirement Ceremony:** American Legion Post 147 and Scout Troop 190 of Madawaska participated in a Flag Retirement Ceremony on Sat., Sept. 25. (Top Left photo) Left to right, Blake Berube, Nathaniel Bouley, Alex and Jameson Desjardin, Lucas Bouley in front of them, Camden Michaud, Conner Michaud, and Phoenix Howes. (Top right photo) Left to right, Blake Berube, Josh Desjardins, Richard Michaud, and Conner Michaud placing a flag in the barrel. (Bottom photo) Left to right, Dylan Michaud holding the first US Flag for Troop 190, John Chasse holding second US Flag, Second Vice Commander Gateon Bourgoine, First Vice Commander Mike Pelletier, Commander Greg Morin, Boy Scout Leader Richard Michaud, and holding the American Legion Post 147 Flag is Noreen Violette, member of the Auxiliary Unit 147.

## Madawaska Chapter 147 Eagle Head Cane Presentations

**US Army Veteran Paul Brideau, left,** is presented with an Eagle Head Cane from Legion Rider Director Ed Ellis of Madawaska Chapter 147.



**Ronald Daigle, left,** accepts an Eagle Head Cane posthumously for his father Clovis Daigle from Chapter 147 Legion Rider Director Ed Ellis.

**Joanne Deschaine, right,** accepts an Eagle Head Cane posthumously for her father James Deschaine from Madawaska Chapter 147 Legion Rider Director Ed Ellis.



**Flag Raising/Lowering:** Dean of Students Kevin Anderson, right, assists Commander Leroy McKenzie, left, with raising, lowering, and folding of the flag during one of seven flag-raising ceremonies that took place at Fort Kent Elementary School in honor of Veterans Day.



**Dave Russell, left,** is presented with an Eagle Head Cane from Madawaska Post 147 Legion Rider Director Ed Ellis, right.



**Claude Albert, right,** is presented with an Eagle Head Cane in Sept of 2021 from Madawaska Chapter 147 Director Ed Ellis, left.



**Fun Facts Presented:** District 17 Commander Leroy McKenzie reads fun facts about the flag and military to Fort Kent Elementary School kids followed by a question-and-answer session.

## Eagle Lake Post 176 Flag Raising Ceremonies

In honor of Veterans Day this year, Eagle Lake Post 176 did 7 flag raising ceremonies throughout the day at the Fort Kent Elementary School. Grades ranged from 1st to 5th grade. The Dean of Students, Kevin Anderson, assisted District 17 Commander Leroy McKenzie with raising and lowering

the flag and folded it each time it was lowered. Commander McKenzie also read “fun facts” about the flag. This was followed by a chance for the kids to ask any questions about the flag or military which were answered by Commander McKenzie.



**Flag Salute:** District 17 Commander Leroy McKenzie gives his salute to the flag after it was raised.



**St. Francis Post 180 100% Membership:** State Commander Debra Couture, right, presents the 2021 100% Membership Award for Jandreau-Connors American Legion Post 180 in St. Francis to Post Commander Keith Jandreau, left, on Nov. 7, 2021 at the District 17 meeting in St. Francis.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN...

## CANADA

St. John's, Newfoundland Fort Pepperrell Post CN09



**CN-09 Meeting:** St. John's Fort Pepperrell Post CN-09 meeting was held Dec. 6, 2021. Standing, left to right, Post CN-09 Service Officer George Walter, Terry Clower, John Guelich, Bob Cobb, Post CN-09 Adjutant Harlow Snippen, Anne MacFarlane, and Millard Starr. Seated, left to right, Post CN-09 Commander John Walther, Post CN-09 Finance Officer Ray Reiser, and Richard Mease.



**50 Years Of Service:** St. John's Newfoundland Post CN09 Commander John Walther, left, presents a plaque to Post CN09 Finance Officer Raymond Reiser which says, "In Recognition of 50 years of Service with American Legion Post CN-09".



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## Civil War Soldier Comes Home After 158 Years Atwood Young of F Co 9th Maine Infantry

My brother (Philip Jr) and I were pretty excited that the VA approved a head stone, for our great, great, great grandfather, Atwood Young of F Co 9th Maine Infantry, who died in the Civil War and was buried in a mass grave in South Carolina, finally arrived. Ironically the head stone arrived on 7 December. My brother is the family historian and deserves all the credit for doing all the research to find this out. It sets deep in his soul that he finally found out what happened to him. I'm a Veteran and to bring a Soldier home to rest also sets deep in my soul. Not to mention that he is our great, great, great grandfather and another ironic twist is his birthday (month and day) is the same as mine, 9 May.

Most people have seen the movie "Glory" which depicts the African American 54th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment attacking Fort Wagner. You walk away thinking that it was the only unit that fought that day. In fact, there were five other infantry regiment's that also made the attack: 6th Connecticut, 48th New York, 3rd New Hampshire, 76th Pennsylvania and the 9th Maine. With another four regiments in reserve that fought also in the coming days.

As the story goes: after the battle roll call was called. When someone didn't answer the Non-Commissioned Officers (Sergeant) would ask did anyone see what happened to so and so. Our grandfather's name was called "Private Atwood Young" and he did not answer. Another PVT recalled seeing him get hit in the head with a musket ball and falling forward and didn't move, as indicated on his death certificate. Date of death was confirmed on 11 Aug 1863, 24 days later.

The Battle of Fort Wagner on July 18, 1863, at sunset, the 54th Massachusetts Infantry, and African American infantry, advanced on Fort Wagner for a frontal assault as the naval assault ceased. When the Federal forces were within 150 yards of the fort, the Confederate Commander Taliaferro instructed his soldiers to fire. As they crested the flaming parapet, 6th Connecticut joined the fray. Soldiers of the 48th New York succeeded in following the Connecticut troops up the slopes of the southeast bastion, but few of Strong's remaining units were able to

get that far. Three Confederate howitzers had come into action on the flanks of the attacking forces. The deadly hail of canister brought the 3rd New Hampshire, 76th Pennsylvania Zouaves, and 9th Maine to a bloody standstill atop a ridge of sand just beyond Wagner's moat.

As the 100th New York Regiment approached the fort, they mistakenly fired onto the ramparts, trapping several Federal regiments between two sides of gunfire. While several more Federal regiments were able to reach the fort, others were not forthcoming. With a lack of reinforcements, Major Lewis Butler began an evacuation of Federal forces. By 10:30 p.m., the desperate fight for Fort Wagner was over, and the Confederates still held the fort. The

Aftermath: UNION 1,515 (246 killed, 880 wounded and 389 missing & captured).

Union Commander sent an inquiry to the Confederate commander of Fort Wagner, asking about the disposition of the bodies. They replied that the union soldiers were buried in a common grave, a trench along the island's shore,

close to the fort. Indeed, this was where all the Union dead were buried on the tiny island.

By September, the decomposition of the bodies in the trench had begun to contaminate Fort Wagner's Confederate defenders' fresh water supply, and they abandoned the fort as a consequence. Union soldiers immediately moved in. Morris Island is smaller than 1,000 acres and is subject to extensive erosion by storm and sea. Much of the previous site of Fort Wagner has been eroded away, including the place where the Union soldiers had been buried. However, by the time this had happened, the soldiers' remains were no longer there because soon after the end of the Civil War, the Army disinterred and reburied all the remains at the Beaufort National Cemetery in Beaufort, South Carolina, where their grave-stones were marked as "unknown."

Atwood Young of F Co 9th Maine Infantry. Our grandfather's body still remains in one of those unknown graves but with this head stone, his spirit has come home after 158 years and will be buried in our family cemetery next to his great, great, great granddaughter.

Submitted by Jamison McAlister





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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.

## Department Finance Officer Job Opening

The primary mission of the Department Finance Officer is twofold.

First is the preservation of the assets of The American Legion, Department of Maine. This includes, but is not limited to, assuring that all assets are identified and secured and that they are updated in a timely and economic manner.

Second is to ensure that The American Legion, Department of Maine has the financial ability to complete its mission. That mission, in general, is embodied in the Four Founding Pillars of The American Legion. These Four Pillars are, briefly stated:

1. Support and advocate for all Veterans and their families and dependents,
2. Support and advocate for a strong and efficient National Defense,
3. Support a 100% Americanism,
4. Provide a safe environment and adequate education for all children and youth.

This requires the creation and monitoring of current budgets as well as the creation, with the aid of The American Legion, Department of Maine leadership, of long term financial and operational plans.

To accomplish these missions the Department Finance Officer should possess the following skills and abilities.

1. The ability to maintain and/or monitor an automated financial and operational record keeping system.
2. Ability to use QuickBooks and prepare a limited budget.

3. The ability to work and collaborate with the leadership team for The American Legion, Department of Maine to assure an efficient and effective economic environment for The American Legion, Department of Maine, both currently and for the future.

4. The ability to communicate to both the membership and the leadership of The American Legion, Department of Maine the financial and operational needs, both current and future, for The American Legion, Department of Maine as well as the current financial position for The American Legion, Department of Maine.

5. The ability to coordinate and facilitate the annual audit for the Department of Maine.

6. The ability to collaborate and facilitate relationships with outside financial organizations including banks, tax advisors and taxing authorities and others as necessary.

7. The ability to keep informed on financial and record keeping technology and issues and how they apply to The American Legion Department of Maine, and its subsidiaries.

8. Must be a Veteran.

9. Must be willing to work one day a week and three possible weekends per year.

Interested applicants should contact Department Adjutant Paul L'Heureux at 207-873-3229 or email paul@mainelegion.org.



### State Of Maine Capitol Wreath Laying Ceremony:

Wreaths Across America State of Maine Capitol Wreath Laying Ceremony, Dec. 13, 2021, State Capitol, Augusta, Maine. The Brunswick Police Department escorted the wreath to Augusta. The Kennebec County Honor Guard rendered honors and speakers included American Legion State Commander Debra Couture and Director of Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services David Richmond. Left to right, the George T. Files

American Legion Brunswick Post 20 Commander Dave Watson, the Brunswick Berean Baptist Church Pastor Mark Rockwood, State Commander Debra Couture, and David Richmond.

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## Taps Column

POST	NAME	CONFLICT
CN09 – Canada	Bernard J Agriesti	Korea
CN09 – Canada	James G Mannering	Vietnam
Post 1 – Rockland	Carleton A Murray	Vietnam
Post 2 – Augusta	Kenneth L Dimmick	Vietnam
Post 2 – Augusta	Leroy F Hussey Jr	WWII
Post 2 – Augusta	Alfred A Theibotot	WWII, Korea
Post 2 – Augusta	Donald F White	Vietnam
Post 3 – Calais	Victor Mahar	Vietnam
Post 4 – Gardiner	Richard L Chapman	Vietnam
Post 4 – Gardiner	Thomas Weiblen	Vietnam
Post 5 – Waterville	Charles L Boyd	Vietnam
Post 5 – Waterville	Robert F Cryan	Vietnam
Post 5 – Waterville	Wallace Emerson	Korea
Post 5 – Waterville	Ernest A. Gauer	Vietnam
Post 5 – Waterville	Gerald E. Gilbert	Vietnam
Post 5 – Waterville	Fernand E. Michaud	WWII
Post 5 – Waterville	Paul L Morrisette	Vietnam
Post 5 – Waterville	Kenneth Prentiss	WWII
Post 6 – Hallowell	William Lyons	Korea
Post 9 – Machias	Wilfred Doucette	Korea
Post 9 – Machias	Thomas O'Keefe	Vietnam
Post 9 – Machias	Bonifacio Ortega	Korea
Post 12 – Bangor	Gordon Reynolds	WWII
Post 12 – Bangor	MSGT Jerry T Sullivan, Jr	Korea
Post 13 – E Millinocket	Charles I Kennerson Jr	Vietnam
Post 13 – E Millinocket	James E Naaykens	Vietnam
Post 14 – Fairfield	Roger J Caron	Vietnam
Post 15 – Caribou	Jerry P Pelletier	Gulf War
Post 16 – Skowhegan	Alan B Burke	Korea
Post 16 – Skowhegan	Daniel Pratt	Lebanon/Grenada
Post 19 – Sanford	Herman Abbott	Vietnam
Post 19 – Sanford	Keith A Adams	Vietnam
Post 19 – Sanford	Douglas S Burton	Vietnam
Post 19 – Sanford	Bertrand Collin	WWII
Post 19 – Sanford	Forest G Dart	Vietnam
Post 19 – Sanford	Raymond G Fortier	WWII
Post 19 – Sanford	Margaret Gierie	WWII
Post 19 – Sanford	Catherine J. Glancy	Korea
Post 19 – Sanford	Biff Jackson	Korea
Post 19 – Sanford	William Meade	Vietnam
Post 19 – Sanford	William McCarthy	Vietnam
Post 19 – Sanford	Edgar Morin	Korea
Post 19 – Sanford	Roger L Morin	Korea
Post 19 – Sanford	James D Morrison	Vietnam
Post 19 – Sanford	Claire B Starnes	Vietnam
Post 19 – Sanford	George I Stone	Korea
Post 19 – Sanford	Daniel G Waters	Lebanon/Grenada
Post 20 – Brunswick	William Herzog	Vietnam
Post 20 – Brunswick	Paul C Jeffrey, Jr	Vietnam
Post 20 – Brunswick	H. Leonard Katz	WWII
Post 20 – Brunswick	Raymond E Murphy	Vietnam
Post 21 – Bath	Earl Haines	Korea
Post 21 – Bath	James Oliver	Vietnam
Post 21 – Bath	Michael Scanlon	Vietnam
Post 21 – Bath	Robert Stairs	Vietnam
Post 21 – Bath	Joseph Welsh	Vietnam
Post 22 – Lewiston	Richard F Moore	Korea
Post 23 – Baileyville	Ernest L Leighton	WWII
Post 23 – Baileyville	Jack Perkins	Korea
Post 24 – Rumford	Eugene W Archibald	Korea
Post 24 – Rumford	Leo P Arsenault	WWII
Post 24 – Rumford	Ralph L Arsenault	Vietnam
Post 24 – Rumford	Edgar J Bernard	Korea
Post 24 – Rumford	Joseph A Buccina	WWII
Post 24 – Rumford	Santi F Demascio	Korea
Post 24 – Rumford	Stephen E Gallant	Vietnam
Post 24 – Rumford	John E Freeman	WWII
Post 24 – Rumford	John R Hodgson	Korea
Post 24 – Rumford	John G Kezal	Korea
Post 24 – Rumford	N. Thomas Knauer	Korea
Post 24 – Rumford	Phil T Learned	WWII
Post 24 – Rumford	Gerald Litalien	Vietnam
Post 24 – Rumford	John Madigan	Vietnam
Post 24 – Rumford	William P Papsadora Sr	Vietnam
Post 24 – Rumford	Robert F Perry, Sr	WWII, Korea

# Taps Column

<u>POST</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>CONFLICT</u>	<u>POST</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>CONFLICT</u>
Post 24 – Rumford	Robert Prue	Korea	Post 105 – Newport	Robert Gipson	WWII
Post 24 – Rumford	James Pulsifer	Vietnam	Post 105 – Newport	George M Gray	Korea
Post 24 – Rumford	Patrice A Roy	Vietnam	Post 105 – Newport	Lawrence Savage	Vietnam
Post 24 – Rumford	Albert L Sargent	Vietnam	Post 107 – Etna-Carmel	Stanley E Powell	WWII
Post 24 – Rumford	Lawrence Shover	Vietnam	Post 116 – Monson	Milton Anderson	Korea
Post 24 – Rumford	Michael D Sylvester	Vietnam	Post 116 – Monson	John H Dunstan	Korea
Post 25 – Bar Harbor	Richard J Kelly	Vietnam	Post 116 – Monson	Robert L Pelletier	Korea
Post 25 – Bar Harbor	John Walls	Korea, Vietnam	Post 118 – Mars Hill	Milton S. Adelman	WWII
Post 27 – Ft. Fairfield	Floyd Belmain	Korea	Post 118 – Mars Hill	Delmar O Clark	Vietnam
Post 28 – Farmington	Henry Brimigion	WWII	Post 118 – Mars Hill	Roderick W. Collins	Vietnam
Post 28 – Farmington	William R McCormick	Korea	Post 118 – Mars Hill	Gilbert Kilcollins	Vietnam
Post 28 – Farmington	Gerald A Provencher, Sr	Vietnam	Post 118 – Mars Hill	Paul C. Kneeland	Korea
Post 28 – Farmington	Glenn E Stowe	Korea	Post 120 – Rangeley	Vernon G Bean	Korea
Post 30 – Camden	Stan Catell	WWII	Post 121 – Monticello	Steve Tucker	Vietnam
Post 30 – Camden	Robert Ogier	Vietnam	Post 123 – Kezar Falls	Harry Edwards	Korea
Post 30 – Camden	Charles Stevens	WWII	Post 123 – Kezar Falls	Jackson Hammond	Korea
Post 30 – Camden	Paul E Tibbetts	Korea	Post 123 – Kezar Falls	Paul L Poulin	Korea
Post 35 – So Portland	Robert J. Hawkins	Gulf War	Post 123 – Kezar Falls	Albert Springer Jr	Vietnam
Post 37 – Thomaston	Henry Carey	Korea	Post 126 – N Vassalboro	Roy Brackett	Korea
Post 37 – Thomaston	Douglas W. Crute	Korea	Post 126 – N Vassalboro	Mayo Morris	Vietnam
Post 37 – Thomaston	Elwyn F Henderson	Korea	Post 127 – Limestone	Gary L Fitzsimmons	Vietnam
Post 42 – Damariscotta	Richard S Dunphey	Vietnam	Post 127 – Limestone	Howard Glidden	Vietnam
Post 42 – Damariscotta	Harold Tibbetts	Gulf War	Post 127 – Limestone	Wayne Spink	Vietnam
Post 43 – Belfast	Herman Dyer	WWII	Post 127 – Limestone	Gordon Willette	Vietnam
Post 43 – Belfast	Frank Johnson II	Lebanon/Grenada	Post 128 – Standish	Charles M Bartlett	Vietnam
Post 43 – Belfast	Charles Knowlton Jr	Korea	Post 132 – Richmond	Leon E Allen Jr	Vietnam
Post 43 – Belfast	Richard K Robertson	Korea	Post 132 – Richmond	Arthur J Bonenfant Sr	Korea
Post 49 – Van Buren	William Estabrook	Vietnam	Post 132 – Richmond	Arthur I Boulay	Korea
Post 49 – Van Buren	John A Lajoie	Korea	Post 132 – Richmond	Patrick R Coughlin	Vietnam
Post 49 – Van Buren	Roger J Lajoie	Vietnam	Post 132 – Richmond	William B Holmes IV	Lebanon/Grenada
Post 56 – York	Richard Bach	Lebanon/Grenada	Post 133 – Fort Kent	Joseph R Despres Jr	Vietnam
Post 56 – York	Oliver P Doe, Jr	Vietnam	Post 133 – Fort Kent	Leo P Dionne, Sr	Korea
Post 57 – Old Orchard Beach	Roger E. Bellerose	Korea	Post 133 – Fort Kent	Ralph E Dow	Vietnam
Post 58 – Buckfield	Neal G Peaco	Korea	Post 133 – Fort Kent	Gilbert Dubois	WWII
Post 65 – Lubec	Craig B. Ashby	Vietnam	Post 133 – Fort Kent	Nelson Dubois	Korea
Post 65 – Lubec	Steven P Kenney	Vietnam	Post 133 – Fort Kent	Robert E Marquis	Korea
Post 65 – Lubec	Leonard H Ross	Korea	Post 135 – Sabattus	William H Stuart	Vietnam
Post 67 – Bridgton	Joseph Archambault	Korea	Post 136 – Stockholm	Armand Bourgoin	WWII
Post 72 – South Paris	Roger Hanscom	Vietnam	Post 139 – Harrison	Richard Schieferstein	Vietnam
Post 73 – Corinna	Michael Peirce	Vietnam	Post 142 – Peaks Island	Juliana E Thayer	East Asia
Post 74 – Kennebunk	James S Welch	Korea	Post 145 – Frenchville	Roland T Dumais	Vietnam
Post 76 – Scarborough	Herbert P Broy	Vietnam	Post 148 – Windham	Edward McAlinden	Vietnam
Post 76 – Scarborough	Samual C Flint	Vietnam	Post 149 – Waldoboro	Timothy D Crawford	Panama
Post 77 – Lincoln	Robert S Johnson	Korea	Post 153 – Auburn	Roland Brochu	Vietnam
Post 77 – Lincoln	Philip T Newbury	Korea	Post 153 – Auburn	Royce Fitzherbert	Vietnam
Post 77 – Lincoln	Roland B Shorey	Korea	Post 153 – Auburn	Vernon Tardif	Vietnam
Post 77 – Lincoln	Leo Wilson Jr	Vietnam	Post 155 – Naples	Michael Parker	Lebanon/Grenada
Post 78 – Strong	Clarence O Mitchell	Korea	Post 153 – Auburn	Richard Perron	WWII
Post 78 – Strong	Gilbert Taylor	Korea	Post 155 – Naples	Gary L Locke	Vietnam
Post 79 – Berwick	Earl Stone	Korea	Post 155 – Naples	David L. Pullis	Lebanon/Grenada
Post 79 – Berwick	Franklin West	WWII	Post 157 – Stockton Springs	Pamela J McCarley	Lebanon/Grenada
Post 81 – Bethel	Gary A Melville	WWII	Post 159 – Kennebunkport	Larry Allen	Gulf War
Post 82 – Norway	Stanton D Anderson	Korea	Post 164 – Falmouth	Ralph T Bonville	WWII
Post 82 – Norway	Gary B Beikirch	Vietnam	Post 164 – Falmouth	George F Leahy	WWII
Post 82 – Norway	David G Day	Vietnam	Post 171 – Harpswell	Stanley Johnson	Korea
Post 82 – Norway	Robert L. Henderson	Vietnam	Post 173 – New Portland	Harold B Emery	Korea
Post 83 – Freeport	Edward M. Bonney	Vietnam	Post 178 – Winslow	Richard Emery	Vietnam
Post 83 – Freeport	Merrill Fogg	Korea	Post 178 – Winslow	Edward G Mayer	Korea
Post 83 – Freeport	Robert Pfeiffer	Vietnam	Post 178 – Winslow	Wallace Trimpop	WWII
Post 83 – Freeport	Peter Richter	WWII	Post 179 – South China	John Demerchant	Vietnam
Post 86 – Gray	Garman Crump	Vietnam	Post 180 – St Francis	Keith I Hartt	Vietnam
Post 86 – Gray	Anthony Ganem	Lebanon/Grenada	Post 181 – Litchfield	Keith Estabrook	WWII, Korea
Post 88 – Presque Isle	Keith D Ferris	Vietnam	Post 181 – Litchfield	Stephen Goodwin	Vietnam
Post 92 – Brownville Jet	John F McCann Jr	Vietnam	Post 181 – Litchfield	Paul Pellegrini	Vietnam
Post 93 – Bucksport	Frank M Dunbar	Vietnam	Post 197 – Westbrook	Daniel H Bryant	Korea
Post 93 – Bucksport	Richard H Findlay	Vietnam	Post 197 – Westbrook	Joseph T Davio, Sr	Vietnam
Post 94 – Greenville	Ralph Gauthier	WWII	Post 197 – Westbrook	Thomas A Doyle	Vietnam
Post 94 – Greenville	Ronald Jones	Vietnam	Post 197 – Westbrook	Robert E Smith Jr	Vietnam
Post 94 – Greenville	Charles Lazore	Vietnam	Post 197 – Westbrook	Manning Theriault, Sr	Korea
Post 94 – Greenville	Theodore Marshall	Korea	Post 200 – Hermon	Florian R Duguay	WWII
Post 94 – Greenville	Marie A Ritchie	Vietnam	Post 200 – Hermon	Kenneth H Gray	Korea
Post 94 – Greenville	Lewis E Thornton	Korea	Post 202 – Topsham	John H Johnson	Vietnam
Post 94 – Greenville	Ivon G Turmel	Vietnam	Post 205 – Augusta	Robert W Cunningham	Korea
Post 99 – Bingham	Harley Orr	WWII	Post 205 – Augusta	Helen D Waldron	Vietnam
Post 105 – Newport	David Creswell	Vietnam	Post 210 – Lewiston	Alphonse R N Veilleux	Vietnam

## Attention: Next Deadline is April 15

The deadline for material, stories and/or pictures to be submitted for consideration for use in the May 2022 issue of The Maine Legionnaire will be April 15, 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](mailto:legionme@mainelegion.org) or [rachael@mainelegion.org](mailto:rachael@mainelegion.org)

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Remarks \_\_\_\_\_

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



**Maine Legion College Grads:** Congratulations to the newest graduates of National American Legion College (NALC) District 8 Commander Nancy Laffin, right, and District 17 Commander Leroy McKenzie, left! Great job to National Executive Committeeman Alternate Matthew Jabaut, center, for serving as a facilitator at NALC.



**State Commander's Conference, October, 2021 – Indianapolis, Indiana:** Left to right are the 6 women American Legion State Commanders for 2021-2022: Jean Wilson, Ohio; Marri Krupco, Kansas; Debra Couture, Maine; Catherine Tester, Vermont; Jinny Cash, Idaho; and Tina Bush, Alabama.

#### 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.

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