

THE MAINE Legionnaire



MAY 2022

Vol. 37, Issue 2

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

AMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF MAINE

32 Pages



**Korean War Veteran
Receives Challenge Coin
For His Service:** Department
Commander Debra Couture presents
Korean War Veteran Luther Choate,
left, with a National Commander
Challenge Coin in recognition for his
service on May 8 during the District
15 meeting held at Cherryfield Post
8. Luther is a member of Cherryfield
Post 8 with 35 continuous years.

**THANK YOU LUTHER
FOR YOUR SERVICE!**

Annual State Convention June 10-11, 2022 | Brewer, Me Pre-registration required!

Plan now to join us at our Annual State Convention at Jeff's Catering & Event Center in Brewer, June 10-11. The American Legion, Department of Maine Commander Debra Couture will call the convention to order promptly at noontime on Friday, June 10. Presentation awards to the 2021-22 award recipients will be formally acknowledged and special guests, including Maine's Congressional Delegation, the Leading Candidate for National Commander Vincent James "Jim" Triola of New York, and many more have been invited to address this year's convention on behalf of The American Legion. (See [page 13](#) for the tentative agenda).

The convention's main focus will be for the purpose of electing department officers for the ensuing year, to consider the resolutions and actions of subordinate

bodies and transact any other business properly brought before the convention.

Pre-registration is required for all delegates, alternates, members, and guests. The registration fee is \$10/person which covers both session to be held June 10-11. To pre-register, please visit <http://www.mainelegion.org/pages/news-events/state-convention.php>. **Please note, that special guests and award recipients DO NOT have to register.**

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

Please show your support to our Veterans and Legionnaires around the State of Maine by making every effort to attend.

Get Your Centennial Coin Today While Supplies Last!

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



Make check payable to The American Legion, Department of Maine and mail to 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901-0727. Please include an additional \$5 for every 5 coins purchased. Coins are also available for free pickup 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.

How Are You Supporting Disabled Veterans?

Dear American Legion Family and Friends,
The month of May, which is National Physical Fitness and Sports Month, is a perfect time to get outside, exercise and improve our wellbeing. It's also a perfect time to join or recommit to The American Legion's 100 Miles for Hope campaign, which runs through Labor Day.

Keep in mind that you don't have to actually run. You can walk, ride your bicycle or motorcycle, use an elliptical, canoe, kayak, swim or cover 100 miles any way you choose. Heck, you can even ride a mule like Trish Carlisle, an American Legion member from Arizona, for your 100 miles.

Just as important as keeping ourselves active is supporting the fundraising part of the challenge. All registration fees and donations go to The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation (V&CF), which funds programs for disabled veterans military families in financial crisis.

This year for the challenge we have added special monthly incentives to encourage more participants to support the V&CF through fundraising. Each month the top fundraiser will receive a special incentive for their efforts.

In March, the top fundraiser was American Legion member Chris Yates, a member of Alvin Myo Dunn Post 365 in Vista, Calif. Yates received an autographed Jimmie Johnson shirt. For April, the top fundraiser will receive their choice of a shirt, hat or die-cast replica American Legion INDYCAR, each signed by driver Tony Kanaan. The top fundraiser in May will get to choose from the two leftover items, and



**NATIONAL COMMANDER
PAUL E. DILLARD**

the top fundraiser in June will receive the other item signed by Kanaan.

The top fundraisers in July and August/September will receive

similar items. And for the overall top fundraiser, we have a special reward: the participant with the highest overall fundraising total will receive four tickets to the INDYCAR race of their choice during the 2023 season. Full details are spelled out on our FAQ page.

I understand some people are hesitant to ask family members and friends for donations. But keep in mind our brothers and sisters in arms who are counting on our support. If you are unsure where to start, Yates has outlined how he was able to achieve fundraising success with some useful tips in this story.

Also, there is a lot of great information on this web page about how to use our fundraising tool.

Get out, get active and get fundraising!

Your support truly demonstrates how The American Legion is ...

Veterans Strengthening America.
Paul E. Dillard, National Commander
The American Legion

[https://www.legion.org/commander/255641/
how-are-you-supporting-disabled-veterans](https://www.legion.org/commander/255641/how-are-you-supporting-disabled-veterans)

April 27, 2022

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

Collection for 2023 membership begins July 1, 2022.

Commander's Comments

This is my last "Commander's Comments" for the Maine Legionnaire as Department Commander for the State of Maine. It is my Thank You letter. First and



**DEBRA
COUTURE**

foremost, I want to thank all of you for the support and contributions that you have made as Legionnaires to the Commander's Project, to Maine's Veterans, your Posts, your Communities, the State of Maine, and our Nation. Every phone call, letter, buddy check, email, or other contacts that you make by reaching out and assisting others means a great deal. You are all volunteers and are service officers in your own way. As the warrant for service officer states: "...perform fundamental, unselfish work ... for those veterans particularly in need of your service....while your accomplishments will be deeply appreciated by those immediately concerned, the work itself will not be sufficiently conspicuous to catch the headlines in the newspapers...**there will come to you the heartfelt gratitude of each and every member**". You all have "the opportunity to serve so constructively and so unselfishly" and I thank you. National Commander Paul Dillard's theme states: "No Veteran Left Behind" and we all do our best to make sure that happens. We have been through many trials this past year (like the anticipated closure of 2 Maine Veteran's Homes) and you have stood up to the challenge of keeping our Veterans safe and their services intact.

I want to thank the wonderful staff at the Maine American Legion Department Headquarters in Winslow for all their hard work. Special thanks go to Rachael, Rebecca, Jeanette, and Kierra for their dedication to helping all Veterans in every possible way. There

are over 15,000 Legionnaires in Maine and they answer our questions, write and edit the Leadership Ledger and the Maine Legionnaire, make sure that membership is accurate, produce letters of appreciation, and many more behind-the-scenes tasks that ensure that our Department runs smoothly. Thank you to Paul and Jason. They are constantly on the go and take care of many problems and issues that the American Legion encounters on a daily basis.

Thank you to the Department of Maine officers. I have gone to many of you with questions and concerns and you have been there to help. Thank you to our Maine Legion family – the Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion. A special kudo to the SAL for hitting that 95% membership goal...even ahead of the Legion and the Auxiliary.

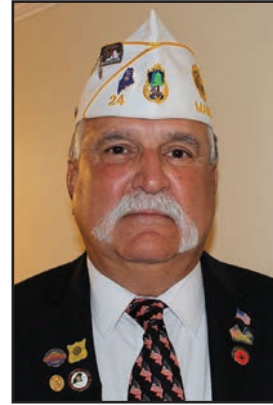
Last, but not least, thank you to my family...my immediate family, my Legion family, and my friends who are like family. My Post has been so supportive. My good friend and member of my Litchfield Post 181, Denise Emery, has been my "Commander's Aide" and has traveled many hundreds of miles with me when my husband, Greg, could not travel with me. For the other 20,000+ miles, my husband Greg, the Department Finance Officer, has been at my side. He has carried the heavy bag filled with all the Legion things that I did not think I could travel without. [Thank you to Mike Doyle's (Harpwell Post) wife for that beautiful bag that holds so much.] I have also missed many grandchildren's events and other family gatherings. I love you all. I am blessed to have you at my side.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve all of you as your Department Commander for this past year. Thank you for your patience, hospitality, support, and friendship. I hope to see many of you in the future. I want to continue to travel around this beautiful State and visit you. Stay well. Stay safe. God has Blessed me and may He Bless all of you.

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

A 'First' Look

WOW! It is hard to believe the year is almost over. I am sure some of you involved with membership this past year will be glad when my emails stop. I am proud of the accomplishments



**KIRK
THURSTON**

made this year in regard to membership. Team Maine met each target date goal until the 95% date. I believe we missed that by 89 members give or take a few. We were number one in the Nation for a day and held the number 2 spot for quite a few weeks. With that said, we failed on recruiting new members. Yes, I know, "younger veterans are not joiners". Well, if we do not ask them, we will never know for sure. If you have a member that is from that group of veterans, ask them to put on paper, what they would like to see the Post offer at meetings and other programs and events at the Post. The following is from the Membership Team Training Guide, which can be found on our Department website (mainelegion.org) under the drop down menu 'Forms/Application'. This manual is a little dated, but the message is still very helpful and important. In addition, this manual has a Post audit Self-Evaluation & Equating a Post's Performance, which relates to what I talked about earlier. Have Post Officers and regular Post members complete these audits and discuss them at a monthly meeting. Use this information to improve how your Post operates. The only thing you lose is the time it takes to conduct the audit. Try it, you will be surprised.

MEMBERSHIP

It seems we are always asked to increase our membership and no matter what programs you begin discussing, we always come back to membership. The reason for this is obvious -- "membership is the lifeblood of The American Legion." Without members, there would be no Legion programs. Without members, we would have no voice on Capitol Hill. Without members, there would be no accomplishment in assistance and support to veterans, their families, the community, state, and nation. However, The American Legion has recorded consistent accomplishments for veterans and their families since 1919. It is often emphasized, "It is not the price you pay to belong, but the price you paid to be eligible to belong." Often times your

members are hesitant to ask veterans to join The American Legion because we are asking the veteran for his money and his time. Do you not feel, as a Legionnaire, that time and money will be well spent in advancing the many and various programs of The American Legion? Do not be hesitant or apologetic, ask them to join, ask them to renew – NOW!

You must offer every eligible veteran the opportunity to be a Legionnaire. Many Legionnaires ask; "What do you talk about when you approach a prospective member?"

Because of the American Legion and its nearly three million members there is:

- A fair and equitable GI Bill of Rights for our veterans
- A Flag Code to direct the proper display and respect for "Old Glory"
- A viable VA Health Care system
- Courage to fight for a Constitutional Amendment against flag desecration
- Persistent efforts to secure recognition and treatment for illness caused by Agent Orange and unknown illnesses from the Persian Gulf War
- And many, many more

You can tell the prospective Legionnaire about:

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE, which contains updates on the status of legislation that directly affects all veterans...information on outfit reunions...monthly interviews with key government officials...debates on the "Big Issues" from two opposing points of view...occasional accounts of real-life experiences during the war years...and much, much more.

The American Legion Member Benefit Plan. Substantial travel discounts for both the member and family include motel and rental car discounts, eye care plan, and the discount prescription program. In addition, medical and dental insurance plans are available. (Go to www.legion.org for more information.)

American Legion Life Insurance Plan...available only to members...the largest, low-cost insurance plan of its kind in the country. Now offering exciting plans for all legion family members.

The American Legion Membership Card, which gives the member access to nearly 1.8 million members worldwide and guarantees that our members will always have a fellow veteran nearby. But more important are the intangible benefits of membership, the ones you can't put a dollar value to – the lifelong friendships that develop from being actively involved with others...the leadership qualities one gains by holding offices at the Post, District, Department,

[More on "A FIRST LOOK" Page 3](#)



Fisher House Opening Day Ceremony: Department Commander Debra Couture, and Department Finance Officer/husband Greg Couture attend the opening day ceremony of the Fisher House at Togus VA Medical Center in Augusta on Aug. 4, 2021. The home provides lodging for families of Veterans at no cost, allowing them to be with loved ones while they go through treatment at the VA Medical Center.

NEC Update

Over the years, I have submitted a number of different articles to The Maine Legionnaire for publishing for the membership to read and have some knowledge of the workings



**LLOYD
WOODS**

of this great organization we all belong to. I find it is an honor and privilege to be a member and an officer of this Department of Maine and to represent this department on the National Executive Committee as well as the NEC Resolutions Subcommittee and the Veterans Employment & Education Commission as the Chairman of the NEC Liaison Committee to VE&E.

We are now into one of the most important segments of the department's year and that is the local post and district officer position nominations and elections of officers for those positions. It is the duty of all members to participate in this process whether to seek an office or to vote for the candidates who have stepped up and are willing to do what is necessary to fulfill the needed job re-

quirements.

If you are one of the members who is willing to do what is necessary to do the job, then hopefully others will support your endeavors. Being an officer is not easy, and let me tell you, I think it is rewarding to know your effort has done some good for a number of our veterans and their families. Please do not seek an office just to wear the hat.

Each member should make their own decision as to whom they want to lead their post or district or even department in the upcoming American Legion year. Your support is necessary for those individuals who seek office to do their best in accomplishing their goals and ideas. To those who are seeking an office for the first time, please know that there are people who will assist you in what you need to make your time in office successful, and to those who seek an office again, all of the department officers will also assist you. As with the membership program, all you have to do is ask.

I wish everyone a great American Legion year and hope to see as many of you as possible at this year's Department of Maine Convention in a couple months. Always remember I am available for your assistance, just contact me either at my home phone (207) 896-5662 or cell (207) 557-4971. Thank you and may God bless you and yours.

A 'Second' Look

My fellow Legionnaires! It continues to be my pleasure as your 2nd Vice Commander. For the Department of Maine.



**ALFRED
MCKAY**

As this year is rapidly coming to

an end, soon we will be meeting at Jeff's Catering in Brewer for our annual convention.

Last winter and this spring, the Department has been busy assisting many Posts and Districts to revitalize their programs and membership numbers. Continue to do Buddy checks on our members that have not paid the 2022 dues. Please do not call and open with "you are behind on your dues". The member you called may be having medical problems with themselves or a family member. Have a conversation with them and find out what is going on in their life. A Legionnaire's health and well-being are worth a lot more than 35 or

40 dollars. Take them some groceries and their dues card or arrange for some oil to be delivered. This act will make your heart feel happy as well as the household receiving this selfless gesture.

As the Post/District election season is upon us remember to get the new Officers Form into Headquarters as soon as possible after the Post or District Installation is complete. Also, the Squadron/Adjutant form, and yes, you must send it in even though your Post does not have an SAL Squadron. Also very important, is the Consolidated Post Report (CPR); these must be in the Department office No Later than 01 July. Another form due in by 01 June is your Post Convention Delegate form.

Let's not forget Dirigo State; it will be held at Thomas College again this year from the 19th thru the 24th of June. The cost per student this year will be \$ 400 each.

I hope to see many of you at our Annual Convention this year. To those that have not attended in a while and those that have never attended, come for the information and comradeship of Legionnaires from across the state. With the COVID numbers decreasing I hope and pray all will be safe and healthy.

On the Agenda

JUNE MEETINGS

District 3 – Androscoggin: June 5, Auburn Post 153, 2 PM

District 12 – Hancock: June 14, Bucksport Post 93, Dinner at 6:00 PM, Meeting at 7:30 PM, Dinner will be at Post, 58 Elm St. (469-3295) Annual Meeting and Installation of Officers

JULY MEETINGS

AUGUST MEETINGS

District 1 – York: Aug. 23, Sanford Post 19, 2:00 PM

District 5 – Oxford: Aug. 19, Locke Mills Post 68, 7:00 PM

District 9 – Kennebec: Aug. 2, Hallowell Post 6 – 7 PM

"A FIRST LOOK" (Continued from Page 2)

or National echelons...the sense of accomplishment one feels after seeing a project through to successful completion...and most importantly, the self-satisfaction of knowing that just by being a member we are helping others less fortunate than ourselves.

All of the above-mentioned benefits of membership, both tangible and intangible, add up to one thing – opportunity. This opportunity is enhanced by additional benefits of membership available through your Department and your Post.

At your next Post meeting, emphasize to your Legionnaires that membership in The American Legion is an opportunity to be shared with those non-member, eligible veterans. The American Legion provides for our veterans and their families through the following programs:

Troop Support Services (TS2), Temporary Financial Assistance, Legion Riders, Heroes to Hometowns, Assistance to needy children and families, Missing Children Programs, College Scholarships to High School Students, Drug Abuse Programs, Veterans Administration Volunteer Services, Teenage

Suicide Prevention Programs, Blood Donor Program, Special Olympics, High School Oratorical Contest, The American Legion Auxiliary/Girls State and Nation, Boys State and Nation, The National Emergency Fund, American Legion Baseball, The Family Support Network, Job Assistance Programs, The Flag Honor Guard, Boy Scouts, Cub Packs, Explorer Units, Sons of The American Legion, Flag Education Programs, Department Service Officers.

Ask them where their interests lie and offer them the opportunity to serve. As The American Legion continues its intensive drive to protect and preserve veterans' benefits programs – especially in the area of medical care – the numerical strength of the organization is so important. Is your Post doing its' part in the nationwide drive to increase the Legion's growth? I hope so!

The Department and National websites are a great source of information and resources to assist Posts with daily operations and many training guides/videos. Check them out; they are constantly updating their contents. Stay safe, take care and I will see you at our Annual Convention in Brewer on June 10-12, 2022.



Wreath-Laying Ceremony: To honor the service of Maine's Vietnam veterans on National Vietnam War Veterans Day, a wreath-laying ceremony took place in Capitol Park in Augusta on March 29. Governor Janet Mills, left, participated in the ceremony and the American Legion Department of Maine Chaplain Joseph Michaud, right, presented the Invocation and the Benediction.

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Tel.: 207-873-3229 Fax: 207-872-0501

Email: rachael@mainelegion.org

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/maineamericanlegion>

Paul L'Heureux, Editorial Director
Rachael Currie, Managing/Layout Editor
Jeanette Glidden, Assistant Layout Editor

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Americanism Report

Flagpole of Freedom Launch - Greetings from our beautiful state of Maine,

I was fortunate to attend with Department Adjutant Paul L'Heureux and speak at the Flagpole of Freedom's launch and press release on March 29th in Augusta. The Worcester family is one of a kind and has pledged to see this project through to completion.

The Flagpole of Freedom's Facebook page shares "Flagpole of Freedom Park is an initiative of historic scale and scope, whose core goal is to help unite America. This apolitical destination is part national monument, part historical adventure, part immersive museum and part architectural wonder". What if you could be part of an idea to build something that would bring all of us closer together as quite simply, Americans. And, what if you could



**PATRICIA
THURSTON**

<https://www.flagpoleoffreedom.com/?fbclid=IwAR33hHSeSwshIdJnnK21-joZGXI-b8aoUR4HClyKUGReLiyKq8XEKYZqyCuQ>

It was Vietnam Veterans Day. This day is a special day that I hold very dearly in my heart. The Vietnam War happened during my childhood. At

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

help change the future by making history? You can. Become a Park Founder". Please visit the Flagpole of Freedom's website to gain more info at <https://www.flagpoleoffreedom.com/?fbclid=IwAR33hHSeSwshIdJnnK21-joZGXI-b8aoUR4HClyKUGReLiyKq8XEKYZqyCuQ>



Flagpole Of Freedom

Event: American Legion, Department of Maine Adjutant Paul L'Heureux, left, Americanism Officer Tricia Thurston, center, and General Daniel Allyn, Vice Chief of Staff, United States Army, right, attending the Flagpole of Freedom event at the Augusta Civic Center on March 29.

The Adjutant Speaks

The crucial time for all our programs has started. The Oratorical Contest went very well following the Winter Conference. Now we have been in the building stages of Legion Baseball with constant meetings at HQ with directors and coaches. The teams are coming together, and the schedules are being set. We are lining up playing fields and referees.



**PAUL
L'HEUREUX**

The new Dirigo program, formally Boys & Girls State, is coming together as we work out a few issues with logistics. We were not ready for the food cost, as you all are aware in your daily lives as well, but we have managed to reduce costs in other areas of the program and believe this will help. Speaking of helping, we are in need of more staff to assist with the students. If you are interested, please contact HQ at 207-873-3229 and ask for Jason. This would be a great time for couples to team up and actually help by reducing the cost of housing while being part of this program. You would also be helping to make history as we combine these two programs into one and guide

our youth to become the leaders of the future. Please consider joining us.

We are also working on the State Convention, and from the feedback that we have been receiving, it looks to be a very well-attended event. Even if you can only make one day, Saturday being the most active, please come and enjoy the event but also the comradery of all present! Who knows, that old friend from the past might be there. Information on our convention can be found in other sections of this paper.

The final section of my article is a little discouraging. Yes, this has been a very challenging time, and I understand totally that the safety of all takes preference as it should be. We seem to be moving forward and as you have read in my past articles, some of the 173 posts have been very proactive in getting things done, especially with their community and doing "Buddy Checks" but some have not. One of our new programs funded by the State of Maine provides financial help when we receive those requested calls at HQ. Working with one of our key staff members, we discuss what is needed, and many times we try to connect with a local post for personal contact as we (HQ) approve the financial help. When we team up, it is incredible what can be done. What I have seen makes me proud of what we do every day to help veterans and their families during these times. Food delivered, ramps built, sidewalks shoveled,

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

Money Matters

After three years, this is my last article as the Department Finance Officer. I have enjoyed the people I have met and worked with throughout the years. We continue to make improvements to Headquarters so that it is a place we are proud of showing off to National Commander's as well as anyone else from out of state that comes to visit.

I would like to thank the Ladies in the office, both current and past, for their professionalism in getting everything done.

To Tony Jordan, our Past National Commander, Lloyd Woods, our National Executive Committeeman, Our NECA's, Department Commander's and all of the Department Officers I have had the privilege of working with, thank you for all that you have done and will do for the Department and The American Legion.

To Jason, it has been a pleasure working with you at Headquarters this year.

I want to especially thank Paul for all the tough work you do, all for the betterment of the Department's operations.



**GREGORY
COUTURE**

The visits we made to those Posts to shock them into thinking about how they are doing business and what changes should be made to have the Post work better as well as those few Posts we visited or worked with where hard decisions had to be made to get them in line to follow the by-laws and work for the local Legionnaires. Yours will be tough shoes to fill.

Remember, membership, membership, membership.

Fair Winds and Following Seas.
(On the submarine we didn't have to worry about this.)
(Although there was that one time.)

Judge Advocate

POLITICAL ENDORSEMENTS AND DONATIONS

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

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

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



**JASON
HALL**

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

If your Post is housing candidates, ensure you remove or cover Legion emblems and

flags to avoid any impression of endorsements. Every candidate should be presented with an equal opportunity at the same time to use the Post facilities on the same terms and conditions.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Legion College Class Begins: Past National Commander Anthony "Tony" Jordan speaks to the 20 new Legion Class students on opening morning April 23 at the Maine State HQ training facility in Winslow about the importance of the program. In the back, Department Facilitators, left to right, Sgt.-At-Arms Ethan McKenney, NECA Matthew Jabaut, Department Judge Advocate Jason Hall, and District 17 Commander Leroy McKenzie.



Legion College Attendees: Department Adjutant Paul L'Heureux, front, gathers a few photo shots of Legion College attendees as they prepare for their Phase 1 two-day course April 23 at The American Legion State HQ in Winslow.

Historian's Bunker

END OF YEAR REPORT WHERE WE STAND

Hello All Legionnaires. I hope you are doing well. Before I go any further, I would like to write a few words to a group of Legionnaires that provided an amazing amount of help to this historian on May 7. My wife and I

had been in a minor traffic accident on May 5. Neither of us was hurt and there was no damage to our car. However, our right front tire was destroyed. While driving through Thomaston an ambulance came up behind us. I moved over to let it pass and struck a high curb hard enough to explode the tire.

I was left without transportation until I could get a new set of tires, (finally after 6 days) which meant that I was unable to attend the judging for this year's writing contest submissions or the Testimonial at Post 2, in Augusta. I personally wish to thank the following for aiding David Tanguay during the scoring process: Post 20 Commander Dave Watson; Post 20 Americanism Officer Joe Donahue; Post 35 Adjutant Mike Pock; and District 2 Service Officer Gene Connolly.



**GEORGE
ROBINSON JR**

I also wish to thank David and Department of Maine Adjutant, Paul L'Heureux for putting together a judging team on short notice. David did a great job bringing the above Legionnaires up to speed. All judging was accomplished, and the winners will be awarded at the Department of Maine Conference on June 10.

The past year was a hectic one and I was not able to accomplish all of the goals that had been set by the History and Media Committee. The primary reason for not accomplishing these goals was that I tried to introduce too much in too short of a time. The Committee will continue to pursue new goals in the coming year.

A lot was accomplished last year. These are as follows:

1. A new format was established for the Department of Maine writing contests, opening up more awards to be given and creating a path to the selection of the best submission to go forward to the National Contest in the Post Narrative and Post Yearbook categories.
2. The Newsletter Contest became an official Department of Maine writing contest.
3. The Scrapbook Contest was discontinued.
4. An Article Contest was introduced as an official Department of Maine writing contest.
5. The Media Contest Committee

[More on HISTORIAN'S BUNKER Page 10](#)

President's Message

Bring you greetings on behalf of your American Legion Auxiliary!

We have been busy in the ALA around the state—getting back to business and holding meetings, services, and installing new officers—all in person! We can get out and gather for the many activities and programs we missed during the pandemic. There are buds on the trees, bulbs are sprouting up from the long winter's sleep, and the many colors of spring are offering a sense of hope and renewal. Time to get growing!

That leads me right to my President's Project this year--The Sensory Garden for Caring and Sharing at the Community Living Center at Togus VA Building #207. The new community garden space is being designed, the new patio furniture will soon be delivered, a newly built pathway is complete, and grass seed is being planted to ensure a lush, green lawn in the months ahead. The



AUDREY
L'HEUREUX

grounds department is hiring a full-time gardener to help with the general maintenance of the Togus campus and upkeep of all garden areas. It's all coming together beautifully and the cooperation of the different departments at Togus has been amazing.

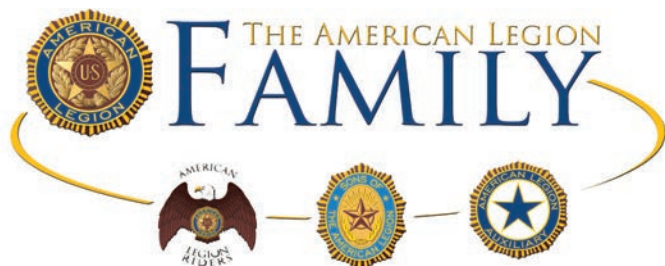
Thank you to all who donated to the Sensory Garden project! Those donations will purchase the wheelchair accessible picnic tables, weather-resistant metal musical instruments, glider chairs, materials to create the raised garden bed areas, and whimsical garden décor and features to create a pleasing sensory experience. Think of how much this will mean to our veterans, their families and friends who visit and care for them, the staff, volunteers, and anyone who passes through the area for that matter. It will be a beautiful reminder of the gratitude we feel for our country's heroes. Each one of our veterans represent our WHY...and we will never forget their service to our country.

I look forward to seeing you all at our state convention—we are TEAM MAINE, and we will ALWAYS remember!

For God and Country,
Audrey L'Heureux, President 2021-2022
American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Maine



National Auxiliary President Visits Maine State HQ: National Auxiliary President Kathy Daudistel made her official visit to the Department of Maine on April 7-10. Along with visiting various units around the state, Kathy was also given a tour of the American Legion State HQ facility in Winslow. Left to right, Auxiliary State Secretary Michelle McRae, Auxiliary President Audrey L'Heureux, National Auxiliary President Kathy Daudistel, and Auxiliary NEC Joan Caron.



"ADJUTANT SPEAKS"

(Continued from Page 4)

wood stacked and split, rides to medical appointments, and even follow-up visits with no questions asked. The list goes on and on and is still ongoing today.

So why am I discouraged--- We still have posts that have not opened since Covid-19 started. How do I know? Because of all the others that are doing these great things and are calling the office to give us updates on the results. I also know because many Auxiliary members have reached out wondering when their post was going to open or do something as they did in the past.

Some reading this article might be saying that they don't have younger members. Well, we transferred over 300 in many posts and notified you with the information so you could reach out and introduce yourself. I know this worked in many posts and they now have new officers because of it. Their attendance has grown and they're getting the help they needed. Remember, you have to ask.

If you need any help at your post, please contact us at HQ and we will send a team out to assist you.

One more thing I must touch on is the closing of the Maine Veterans Homes in Machias and Caribou. Post members from those areas began contacting us at HQ; therefore, we were able to start sending information to all our members statewide. Those post members were not only the early warning contacts, but they also organized at the local level and contacted their legislatures to start the wheel turning. From there, we had posts from all points calling us to let us know they were making calls as well.

Thank you, Machias and Caribou for standing watch. Remember, we are not done; we must watch to see if the issues have been dealt with properly and as we do, keep in mind those who cannot defend themselves in those homes. I ask all of you to please make contact with HQ if you should have any information to share.

Hope to see you at Convention and remember to stay FOCUSED and keep moving FORWARD at all times.



New State Legion Riders Officers for 2022-2023: American Legion Riders State Officers for 2022-2023, left to right, Bath Chapter 21 Director Mike Lallemand, Madawaska Chapter 147 Secretary Bridget Ellis, Dixfield Chapter 100 Chaplain Gloria Patneade, Dixfield Chapter 100 Road Captain Barry Breton, Brunswick Chapter 20 Sgt-At-Arms Carl Curtis, Millinocket Chapter 80 Historian Jon Williams. Absent from this photo is Bath Chapter 21 Asst. Director Ron Wing. Congratulations to all the officers for the coming year.



Squadron 39 Installation Of Officers: Installation of Squadron 39 officers took place at Madison Post 39 on April 1. Left to right, Installing Officer and Department Judge Advocate Jason Hall, Squadron Post 39 Finance Officer Paul Turek, Squadron Adjutant William Price, Squadron 2nd Vice Commander Jim Pinkham, Squadron Commander Pete Graves, and Installing Sgt-at-Arms and Department Adjutant Paul L'Heureux.

"AMERICANISM" (Continued from Page 4)

that time, I did not realize exactly what was going on or why a Vietnam Veteran living in my apartment complex had committed suicide after coming home. As I grew older it all began to make sense. These veterans hold a special place in my heart and to all you I say, Welcome Home. We seriously cannot welcome them home enough. Remember to thank a veteran. I am sure along with me that you never want to see any other groups of veterans treated like our veterans have been treated in the past.

We as Legionnaires, Auxiliary, and S.A.L support our veterans, our communities, and children and youth by offering support with Legion programs. In supporting children to understand at a young age starts with education at home and in classrooms and can be done so by inviting veterans into classrooms to demonstrate flag etiquette, share stories, etc. With that said, we are truly all in this together.

In the American Legion's preamble, we state "For God and Country" as well as "To foster and perpetuate a 100 percent Americanism". Americanism is one of our 4 pillars and is simply the love of America. To be loyal to its ideals, to pay allegiance to our flag,

the willingness to defend our country against all enemies, and a desire to pass on the blessing of liberty to our future generations.

As many of you know Maine is a Veteran rich state. Many Mainers made the same sacrifices you did. It means all that served left their families behind to protect our freedoms and serve our great country. Too often, that is an easy thing to forget and many of us have worked a lifetime to do our part by serving in our military as well as a Veteran's Organization.

With all that we have endured during the last few years and what is ahead of us now, this amazing project could not have come at a better time. We need this now more than ever. We need this as we needed our country to band together after 9/11. This project is incredibly impressive, so much so that it may seem impossible. But I have faith it will be completed, and it will guarantee that no one ever forgets the sacrifices made for the beautiful flag of our country. It is an opportunity to pay our veterans the respect that they deserve and we're so lucky this special place is being created in our backyard.

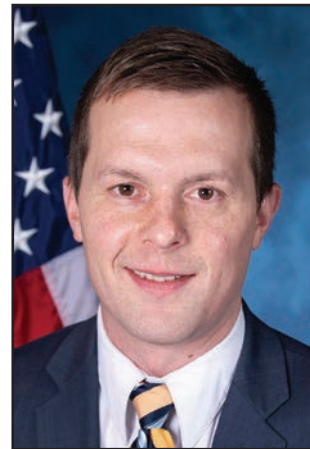
Thank you and may God Bless you and God bless America and may he keep those serving and those here at home safe from harm.



Flagpole Of Freedom Family: Rob Worcester, Morrill Worcester, General Allyn, and Mike Worcester.



Getting Veterans the VA Health Care They Need



**CONGRESSMAN
JARED GOLDEN**

of its Caribou and Machias facilities, the state house passed a bill that will allow the homes to stay open. It's a big relief for many of our fellow veterans and their families and I applaud our state legislators for getting this done. In Congress, I am continuing to work with my colleagues in the Maine delegation to find solutions to keep these homes open over the long term.

We also passed an important, bipartisan bill earlier this year in Congress that will help younger veterans get the care they need. It's called the EVEST Act. Like many veterans, I spent a lot of time and jumped through a lot of hoops to sign up for and then actually use the VA health care I earned through

As you have heard, it was recently announced that, weeks after the Maine Veterans Homes board announced closures

service. There are around 140,000 of us veterans in Maine; less than half of us are enrolled in VA care and many of those who aren't enrolled are eligible. It doesn't have to be this way. The EVEST Act auto-enrolls veterans in VA health care unless they opt-out. This bill will ensure that thousands of veterans across the state, and many more across the country, receive the physical and psychological health care they need as they transition out of the military. I've been working to improve health care for my fellow veterans since my time serving in the Maine State House and I'm proud to continue that work for my fellow vets by helping pass this bill through Congress.

In the meantime, please let me know if there are other issues you think need close attention. My office is here to solve problems for you. We can also work one-on-one with you to get your paperwork squared away to receive care from the VA, get you started on claiming the benefits you've earned, or help with other federal programs.

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

Shop "AmazonSmile" & Give While You Shop!

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

How to shop AmazonSmile:

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

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

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

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

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

Shop "AmazonSmile" and Make a Difference Today!



amazonsmile



Preserving Maine Veterans' Access to Long-Term Care

Earlier this year, Maine Veterans' Homes, which provides compassionate, quality long-term care to the brave men and women who served our country, announced that it planned to close its facilities in Caribou and Machias, two of the six homes it operates.

Shuttering the Caribou and Machias homes, which employ more than 120 people, would have had a devastating impact on more than 80 veterans and spouses of veterans who reside there. There is already a severe shortage of nursing home beds in rural Maine, which would have forced many Aroostook and Washington county veterans served by MVH to seek placement far away from their communities. The next-closest MVH home in Bangor is nearly two hours from Machias and nearly three hours from Caribou, and it could not have accommodated all of the residents.

We simply could not abandon veterans in rural Maine who have served our country and who now need nursing home care. I heard from numerous families who were worried that these



**SENATOR
SUSAN COLLINS**

had to be relocated from Caribou to Augusta or Bangor, there is no way that she could visit him as often as she does now to check on him, keep him company, and make sure that he is doing as well as possible. My own father, a World War II combat veteran, spent the last months of his life at the veterans home in Caribou, where he received excellent care. I know how much he liked being with other veterans. I also know how important it was for him to

be close to our family.

When MVH made its announcement in February, I immediately began working closely with the rest of Maine's Congressional Delegation, the Governor, and legislators from Aroostook and Washington counties to find a way to prevent these vital facilities from closing. We met repeatedly with the MVH Board's leadership to urge them to reverse their decision, and we pledged to provide whatever support was necessary. Following this united effort, MVH changed course and decided to keep both the Caribou and Machias veterans homes open.

I have long championed funding for MVH as a member of the Appropriations Subcommittee for Veterans Affairs. Over the years, I have worked with the MVH Board to increase the per diem that the VA pays to help offset the cost of caring for veterans. MVH also received nearly \$2 million in emergency funding from the CARES Act to address increased costs associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, with my support, MVH has received

numerous federal construction or renovation grants for its facilities, including \$50 million in 2018 for its new Augusta home.

At the state level, the Maine House and Senate voted unanimously to pass a bill, which Gov. Mills signed into law, to provide MVH with \$3.5 million through the next fiscal year. This new law also mandates a public hearing and legislative proposal to close a facility to prevent a surprise announcement in the future.

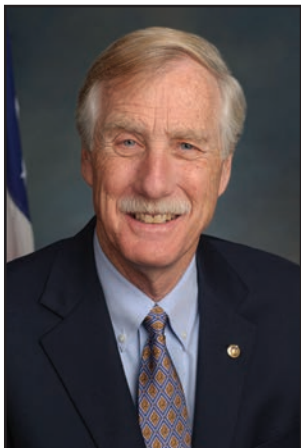
Our debt to our veterans is one we can never fully repay. As the veteran population ages, there is going to be an increasing need for long-term care. That is just one reason that I felt so strongly that this decision had to be reversed to prevent what would have been a truly traumatic outcome for these veterans and their families.

In the land of the free, there must always be a home for the brave. Working with Maine Veterans' Homes at the federal and state levels, we can continue to honor the courage and sacrifices of those who defend our freedom.

Protecting Maine Veterans' Homes Is Vital to Vets and Communities

Maine is fortunate to have one of the highest rates of veterans per capita in the nation – a distinct honor that contributes to our state's civic-minded nature.

These veterans – all of you – are living examples of the power of service, both during your time in the military and in your civilian lives. You are our friends, family, neighbors, first responders, upstanding community members – and our state is deeply enriched by your



**SENATOR
ANGUS KING**

immense contributions.

It is critical for us to honor the sacrifices of the men and women who put their lives on the line to defend our freedoms. Maine's veterans deserve the best possible care throughout their lives – including in their final years.

Maine Veterans' Homes (MVH) has met that commitment for more than four decades, allowing our servicemembers to age with high-quality care, close to their loved ones and the communities they helped build. That is why I was deeply worried when, earlier this year, MVH announced that it would close its locations in Caribou and Machias. The change would have had drastic impacts on the dozens of veterans and spouses of veterans who live in those facilities and the more than 120 staff members who work in the homes.

These closures would have weakened the Caribou and Machias com-

munities, taking away key jobs and forcing veterans in these regions to locations farther from their communities and loved ones. That is why I joined the rest of Maine's Congressional delegation in urging Maine Veterans' Homes to reevaluate their decision and explore all opportunities to keep the locations open.

I'm relieved to say they've done just that – thanks, in large part, to leadership from Governor Mills and swift bipartisan action by the State Legislature. The fact that political leaders from both sides of the aisle came together so quickly shows how our responsibility to veterans transcends any partisan disagreements. Now, we must continue to work together to secure the future of MVH, and ensure that Maine's veterans can age with the care and respect they've earned.



DIRIGO STATE PROGRAM

Thomas College
Waterville

June 19-24, 2022

Please visit www.mainelegion.org for more information. or contact Jason Hall at 207-873-3229 Ext. 7
Email: jason@mainelegion.org

Service Office Update

Hello from the Service Office. Since my last article, I attended 2 district meetings and gave several presentations. It is good to get out of the office and meet legionnaires from different parts of the state.



**SERVICE OFFICER
CARL CURTIS**

It is also a good way to see if word of the changes to VA and State of Maine benefits is getting out to the local legion posts. I was surprised at what I found. There is very little knowledge of the recent changes. So, I decided to list them here.

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

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

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

In the last article, I talked about the problem with the contracted companies that are handling most of the compensation and pension exams for the VA. As an update, I can tell you that the situation is improving. That does not mean that the system is running smoothly. It means that the delay is less than it was and that I am hearing less from veterans that they are told to leave the state of Maine for an exam. If you come across a veteran that was

told he must travel outside the state for an exam, please let me know.

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

PLEASE READ AND RESPOND TO YOUR MAIL FROM THE VA!

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

Contacting the DSO for Assistance by Telephone - Please just

leave your name, phone number, and who you are working with.

Financial Assistance. Keep in mind that requests for financial needs should be directed to your town/city for general assistance (GA), and either a local Legion post for a possible fundraiser or the American Legion Department Headquarters. In addition, we can make referrals to other service organizations, but we do not have the funds to pay rent, mortgage, credit card bills or other ongoing bills. If you have children, mention TFA to the Department Adjutant when you call to see if you are eligible to apply.

PSO Training Seminar. 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 re-submitting the same claim as it will most likely be denied.

NEW WAYS TO APPLY FOR VA HEALTHCARE

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

By adding this telephone application option to VA's regulations with this

amendment, VA will now offer three ways to enroll. This option provides Veterans a convenient third enrollment option.

1. Paper - VA Form 10-10 EZ.

2. Call 1-877-222-VETS (8387), Mon-Fri between 8 am and 8 pm, EST.

3. On-Line at www.vets.gov!

TOGUS VA WOMEN'S CLINIC.

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

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

DSO CONTACT INFORMATION. We are located at Togus VA Medical Center, Building 205, Room 318. You can contact us by telephone at 207-623-5726, Fax at 207-621-4821, or by email at carl.curtis2@va.gov, or julie.kern@va.gov. We are here to assist you Monday through Thursday, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm, on Friday the hours are from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. We are closed on Federal Holidays and Patriot's Day. Just a reminder, it is always a good idea to make an appointment rather than drop in as we may be seeing other veterans and would hate to miss you. That said, you are always welcome to stop in the DSO Office.

REQUESTING A DSO PRESENTATION AT YOUR AREA/DISTRICT OR SPECIAL EVENT. If you are interested in having us speak at your area, district meeting or event, just contact us to set up a time and date! Requests are handled on a first come first serve status, subject to the availability of travel funds. Please set aside at least **30 minutes** of your agenda for the presentation.



Bossov Ballet Theatre Presents

I'm Still Here

BBT Dancers Give Voice to Veterans

New York Times bestselling author and founding director of the Center for American War Letters, Andrew Carroll, will provide a pre-performance presentation at the Bossov Ballet Theatre (BBT) performance of their original ballet, *I'm Still Here*, at the Strider Theatre at Colby College, over Memorial Day weekend. Inspired by Carroll's book, *War Letters*, BBT Director, Natalya Getman's original creation is an imaginative response to the last letter written by 21-year-old Lt. Tommie Kennedy to his parents, knowing that he was not going to live to see them again. Kennedy had endured the Bataan Death March in the Pacific during World War II, and he was a prisoner of war for almost three years living often on "hellships" with little food or

water. The original letter was written on the back of a family photograph he had managed to conceal, and he gave the letter to a fellow POW before escaping to the ship's deck and jumping overboard to end his misery. The letter was passed along a chain of friends until it eventually made it home. Carroll will show the original letter as part of his presentation on Saturday, May 28th.

According to Getman, the extraordinary journey Kennedy's letter took illustrates not only the fragility of our connection with the past, but also the power of the individual story to bring it to life in the present: "When I read Tommie's letter, I couldn't stop hearing his 'voice.' I thought it was important to make it heard by others, especially by our younger generation."

At a time when the impact of war has come center stage for a new generation,

Getman feels exploring it through the medium of dance helps her students connect with an experience that might otherwise remain abstract and remote. BBT dancer and Maine Central Institute (MCI) graduating senior, Hector Bligh, son of Adrian and Eleanor Bligh of East Amherst, Nova Scotia, recognizes this opportunity and responsibility: "I am from a generation that has been unscathed by the cruelties of war, but that means that this ballet is exceedingly important for me to portray accurately and respectfully, in the hopes of touching someone who may have experienced the feelings I'm aiming to portray."

MCI graduating senior, Taylor Pronovost, daughter of Debra and Eric Pronovost of Cumberland Foreside, Maine, also values the experience: "It is a privilege to tell the stories of those we have lost and connect deeper to our history outside of the classroom."

"I'm very excited about this performance," says Andrew Carroll, "because I've seen these war letters used in books, films, and in readings, but never as an inspiration for a ballet. I think it demonstrates how evocative these letters are and how they resonate with so many people, even if they have no connection to the military. And if anyone who comes to the Saturday event has war letters or emails to share, we're always looking!"

Performances will take place on

Saturday, May 28th at 7:00 p.m., and Sunday, May 29th at 2:00 p.m. at the Strider Theatre on the campus of Colby College. Ticket reservations can be made in advance at www.mci-school.org/bbt-tickets. BBT welcomes donations to help defray production costs. BBT will dedicate a portion of the proceeds to support the American Legion Department of Maine.

Led by Artistic Director Natalya Getman, Bossov Ballet Theatre at Maine Central Institute is both a performing company and an international pre-professional ballet school. The program offers students a unique opportunity to study and perform classical ballet as part of the academic curriculum, allowing them to earn full academic credit for ballet training. For more information about Bossov Ballet Theatre, please visit www.mci-school.org/ballet.

Maine Central Institute (MCI) (www.MCI-school.org) is the secondary school for the towns of Pittsfield, Burnham, and Detroit. MCI enrollment includes day students from 14 Maine communities, and boarding students from six states and over 25 countries.

Strider Theatre at Colby College
4520 Mayflower Hill Drive, Waterville

Performances:

- May 28th at 7:00 PM
- May 29th at 2:00 PM

Tickets: www.MCI-School.org/bbt-tickets



BBA Bossov Ballet Theatre
at Maine Central Institute

Presents the Original Ballet

I'm Still Here

Inspired by the true stories of ordinary heroes

With a pre-performance presentation on May 28th by Andrew Carroll, New York Times bestselling author and founding director of the Center for American War Letters.

At the
Strider Theatre at Colby College
4520 Mayflower Hill Drive, Waterville

May 28th at 7:00 PM
May 29th at 2:00 PM

A portion of the proceeds will support the American Legion Department of Maine Foundation



Please support this production and the American Legion Department of Maine Foundation with your generous gift!

HISTORIAN'S BUNKER (Continued from Page 5)

was renamed the History and Media Committee. This was done to bring history and media under one committee and not one for each.

There are plans to introduce a few new additions to the Department of Maine Contest competitions for implementation in 2023. These are:

1. Two new Media contests will be developed for competition. Many of the Posts in Maine have one or another, and sometimes both, of these already. There are:

- a. Facebook Page

b. Website

2. Reading the Historian's description in the Officer's Guide you will see that an annual Historian's Report is supposed to be submitted to the Department with all of the other reports during the first quarter of the year. The report format is provided by National.

3. Based on the Annual Historian's Report, a Historian of the Year will be selected. Guidelines for this have not been written yet but will be ready by the end of the year.

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

2022 Resolution Index

Resolution 1 Changing Department Convention Voting

RESOLVED, By the Task Force of the Future Committee of The American Legion Department of Maine in regular meeting, That the Department bylaws be changed to reflect that the Department Convention elections not require a ballot vote be taken when candidates are running unopposed; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That any nominations, or self-declared candidates, notify Department Adjutant, no later than 10 days prior to Department Convention, of intentions to run for an office; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Department Adjutant simply declares that the nominee is elected, thus effect-

ing the election by unanimous consent or "acclamation". (Robert's Rules, 11th ed., p. 443.)

Submitted by Task Force for the Future

Resolution 2 Removing District Officers for Unexcused Absences

RESOLVED, By the Task Force of the Future Committee of The American Legion Department of Maine in regular meeting, That the Department bylaws be changed to reflect that if determined by a majority vote of the Department Executive Committee, a vacancy shall occur on the Department Executive Committee when a District Commander or delegate has three (3) or more unexcused absences from mandatory meetings or required functions; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Department Executive Committee can appoint a District Commander in the event of a vacancy.

Submitted by Task Force for the Future

Resolution 3 Removal of Area Commander

RESOLVED, That the American Legion, Department of Maine amend the Department of Maine's Constitution and By-Laws to eliminate all reference to the position of Area Commanders from within the Department of Maine's structures.

Submitted by Task Force for the Future

Resolution 4 Mass Media Public Relations

RESOLVED, That the Department Adjutant must approve all

communications with any Mass Media Entity.

Submitted by Task Force for the Future

Resolution 5 Automatic Increase in Department Per Capita Dues Based on National Per Capita Dues Increase

RESOLVED, That any future national per capita fixed increase will automatically initiate an additional department per capita increase of 50% of national increase added to annual dues, and be it finally

RESOLVED, That adjusted increase takes place for immediate, upcoming membership year.

Submitted by Task Force for the Future

Your Letters

Gratitude Extended For Homeless Veteran's Donation

Dear Maine Legion Riders,

On behalf of the Togus patients and staff, we would like to extend our appreciation to you for your recent donation of check #23749 in the amount of \$5,700. This donation will be placed in the Homeless Veteran Assistance Fund. Your thoughtfulness reflects the concern that you feel for our Veterans and for the service they provided to all of us while in service to our country.

This donation of \$5,700 has been deposited in the Homeless Veteran Assistance Fund, 8014. A receipt is enclosed.

Without your support, we could not provide a few of the necessities that make being in need more bearable. The commitment you have shown to our Veterans demonstrates your sense of patriotism toward our Veterans.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,
Kylie J. Higgins
Chief, VA Center for Development & Civic Engagement (Formerly Voluntary Services)

Gift To Legacy Scholarship Fund Greatly Appreciated

Dear Maine Legion Riders,

On behalf of The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund, thank you for your generous gift. Your donation received on April 25, 2022 for \$3,000 makes it possible for children of post-9/11 veterans who died on active duty, or those who have a combined VA disability rating of 50 percent or greater, to attend an institution of higher education. Because The American Legion generously takes care of all overhead expenses, every dollar donated is used to help veterans and their families.

As these children come of age, their need for educational assistance increases. To assist in meeting this

demand, The American Legion's Legacy Fund awards scholarships to these young men and women to provide them the opportunity to realize their dreams. Your generosity supports this effort and is greatly appreciated.

Thank you again for your donation. Should you have any questions related to your donation activity please feel free to contact our Customer Service Department at (800) 433-3318 or by email at cs@legion.org.

Sincerely,
Daniel S. Wheeler,
National Adjutant
The American Legion

Veterans Community Outreach Support

Dear Deo,

Thank you for your letter of support for Tri-County Mental Health services' request for federal funding for their Veterans Community Outreach programs. I am pleased to inform you that, at my request,

\$25,000.00 has been included for this project in the fiscal year 2022 appropriations package recently signed into law by President Biden.

As a senior member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I worked to secure the funding for the Veterans Community Outreach programs in the final appropriations bill. This bipartisan legislation will fund vital federal programs and several important investments in communities across Maine. I will continue to use my position on the Senate Appropriations Committee to advocate for Maine's communities, and I look forward to working to support additional Maine projects in next year's appropriations bill. I invite you to review the funding I secured for other Maine projects in this package, which can be found on my website at www.collins.senate.gov/appropriations-request.

Thank you again for your valuable input.

Sincerely,
Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Flag Day June 14

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.

Official:

Debra C. Couture, Department Commander
Paul L'Heureux, Department Adjutant

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 11, 2022.

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

THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MAINE

103rd Annual State Convention Program

June 10-11, 2022

Jeff's Catering & Event Center, Brewer

TENTATIVE AGENDA

Friday, June 10, 2022

Resolutions Committee (9 a.m.) Jeff's Catering & Event Center, Brewer - Open hearing
Committee Chairman, Lloyd Woods

First Session Friday, June 10, 2022

Call to Order (12:00 p.m. noon)	Department Commander, Debra Couture
Opening Ceremonies	Department Commander, Debra Couture
Presentation of the Colors	Department Sgt.-at-Arms, Ethan McKenney
Invocation	Department Chaplain, Joseph Michaud
Pledge of Allegiance	ALL
National Anthem	Honor Flight ME, Board Chairperson, Laurie Sidelinger
POW/MIA Table for One	Terry Knowles - Milo Post 41 & Skowhegan Post 16
Preamble	ALL
Report of the Committee on Permanent Rules and Organization	Department Judge Advocate, Jason Hall
Welcome	Past Nat'l Commander, Anthony G. Jordan
Greetings	Brewer City Mayor, Michele LaBree Daniels
NEC Report	NEC, Lloyd Woods
Post Excellence Awards	Department Commander, Debra Couture
Greetings	Secretary of State, Shenna Bellows
Maine Blind Camp Update	Chairman, Brian Knowlton
History Awards	Department Historian, George Robinson, Jr.
Martin's Point Health Care	Strategic Relations Manager, Brenda Pennells
Past Commander's Club (James V. Day Scholarships)	Department 1st Vice, Kirk Thurston
Oratorical Update	Co-Chairwoman, Maureen Malley
Introduction of Past Dept Commanders & Past Legionnaires of the Year	Past Dept. Commander, Matthew Jabaut
Legionnaire of the Year Award	Past Dept. Commander, Matthew Jabaut
Greetings	Director of Togus Regional Office, Veterans Benefits Admin. Jennifer Bover
Nomination of Department Officers	Selected Legionnaires
Announcements	Department Adjutant, Paul L'Heureux
3:00 p.m. Recess	
5:30 p.m. Member Apprec. Banquet	Jeff's Catering & Events Center, Brewer-
Greetings	U.S. Congressman the Hon. Jared Golden

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Lunch will be available for purchase on both days from Jeff's Catering.

Please note: There will be No

Ballot Voting. Voting will be conducted from the Convention floor on Saturday morning. Wearing a mask is optional.

Second Session

Saturday, June 11, 2022

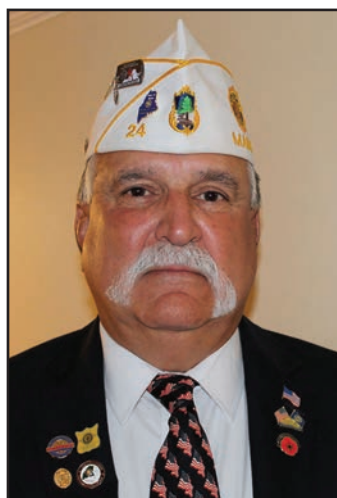
Call to Order (9:00 a.m.)	Department Commander, Debra Couture
Presentation of Colors	Department Sgt.-at-Arms, Ethan McKenney
Greetings	Governor Janet Mills
Greetings	US Senator Susan Collins
Greetings	US Senator Angus King
Public Service Awards	Law & Order Chairman, David Watson
Keynote Speaker	PNC Anthony "Tony" Jordan to introduce Lead Candidate for Nat'l Cmdr. Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola (NY)
Humanitarian/Humanitarian Citizen Awards	Committee Member, Ronald Caron
National Security Award	NEC Lloyd Woods/NECA Matthew Jabaut
Dirigo State Presentations	Dept Judge Advocate, Jason Hall
Service Office Update/Award	Dept. Service Officer, Carl Curtis
Junior Shooting Sports Program Update	Committee Member, Edward Stanhope
USAA	Lead Account Manager, Robert Warren
Greetings	US Congresswoman, Chellie Pingree
Americanism Awards / Educator OTY	Dept. Americanism Officer, Patricia Thurston
Women's Vet. Advisory Comm. Update	& Dept. Commander, Debra Couture
Operation Reboot Outdoors	Dept Americanism Officer, Patricia Thurston
Honor Flight Maine	President, Dan Waite
Adjutant of the Year Award	Board Chairperson, Laurie Sidelinger
Department Finance Update	Committee Chair David Tanguay & Members Jeff Sukeforth & Mike Pock
Greetings	Dept Finance Officer, Greg Couture
Auxiliary, SAL & Legion Riders (Awards)	Senator, Maine State District 18, Lisa Keim
Greetings	Department Commander, Debra Couture
Greetings	SAL Detachment Commander, Mike Hustus
Greetings	Legion Rider Director, Mike Lallemand
Legion Baseball Update	Auxiliary President, Audrey L'Heureux
4th Estate Awards	Director, Jeff Sukeforth & Field Director, Dennis Damon
Roger's Rangers & Tony's Tigers Awards	Public Relations Chair. Peter Johnson & Public Relations Member, Amedeo Lauria
Legislative Update	PNC Anthony "Tony" Jordan & Vice Cmdrs. Thurston & McKay
Membership Awards	Chairman, Amedeo Lauria
Department Awards	Dept. Vice Cmdrs. Kirk Thurston & Alfred McKay
Greetings	Department Commander, Debra Couture
Report of Committee Resolutions	ME Senate President, Senator Troy D. Jackson
SAL Award Presentations	Committee Chairman, Lloyd Woods
Ceremony Honoring Outgoing Dept. Cmdr.	SAL Detachment Commander Mike Hustus
Response	Department Adjutant, Paul L'Heureux
Report of Credentials Committee	Department Commander, Debra Couture
Drawing for Sweepstakes Raffle	Chairman, Brian Knowlton
Memorial Service – Post Everlasting	Department Sgt.-at-Arms, Ethan McKenney
Announcements	& Department Chaplain, Joseph Michaud
Benediction	Department Adjutant, Paul L'Heureux
Retirement of Colors	Department Chaplain, Joseph Michaud
Adjournment	Department Sgt.-at-Arms, Ethan McKenney
3:30 p.m. State Convention Installation for Legion, Auxiliary, and SAL Officers	(Sine Die)
4:00 p.m. Social	Jeff's Catering & Event Center, Brewer
	Jeff's Catering & Event Center, Brewer

Second Session Saturday, June 11, 2022

9:00 a.m. Department Executive Committee Jeff's Catering & Event Center, Brewer



Department Officer Candidates 2023



KIRK THURSTON
Commander
Rumford Post 24



ALFRED MCKAY
1st Vice Cmdr.
Damariscotta Post 42



PATRICIA THURSTON
2nd Vice Cmdr.
Rumford Post 24



EUGENE CONNOLLY
Finance Officer
Portland Post 17



JOSEPH MICHAUD
Americanism
Madawaska Post 147



GEORGE ROBINSON, JR.
Historian
Thomaston Post 37



LEROY MCKENZIE
Sergeant-At-Arms
Eagle Lake Post 176

What a Delegate Should Bring: 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.



102nd National Convention of The American Legion

This year's National Convention will be held in Milwaukee, Wis, Aug. 26 - Sept. 1, 2022. The hotel assigned for members from the Department of Maine will be the Hilton Milwaukee City Center, 509 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53203.

The hotel room rate is \$144 plus tax rate of 15.5% per room/night (subject to change) for one King or 2 Queen size beds. Additional Occupant in room per day - Flat Rate; Rollaway Rate per Day

- \$25.00; Parking Rate per Day - \$5.00 (self only).

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

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



American Legion Field-Allen Post 148 Honor Guard On Ice Salute To The Maine Mariners: Windham Post 148 Honor Guard provided the Color Guard for the Maine Mariners Hockey team at their last home game for the season. Post members, left to right, Larry DeHof, Doug Kennedy, Dick Graves, Kari Karsten and OIC Craig Pride.

Photo by C. Blake

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

“Where Heroes Live on Forever”

His name is Eddie and although he might not readily admit it, he was family oriented and loved spending time with his brother and six sisters when he was growing up. Most especially, he loved playing toy cars with his sister Suzanne, who adored him. The two things Eddie was most passionate about were his family and his country, so no one was surprised when he joined the military.

Edward Leonard Mann, Jr., was barely out of his teenage years when he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps on April 12th, 1966. After a brief assignment stateside, he was reassigned and arrived in Vietnam in November 1967.

On April 30th, 1968, under increasing enemy fire, Mann's team was ordered to retreat. Eddie stayed behind to provide cover for his fellow marines. Although everyone else on Mann's team survived the battle, his final communication was “This is Eddie, signing out”. The young, heroic 19-year old's actions saved countless lives that day.

On a recent Sunday under clearing skies, Eddie Mann's life and legacy was honored and celebrated with a special presentation to Eddie's sister Suzanne, courtesy of Ms. Kiana Goodwin and the Til Valhalla Project. After extensive research, Kiana applied for a plaque from the project, founded by Rhode Island

native and Marine Corps veteran Korey Shaffer. The event was hosted at the Berwick home of Chuck and Pam Bogdan, highlighted by a 21-gun salute by the Charles S. Hatch Post 79 Honor Guard, followed by the mournful sound of the bugle call “Taps”.

In addition to the plaque bearing a photo of her brother and details of his heroism, Suzanne was presented with a certificate signed by Korey Shaffer and three metal memorial bands bearing Eddie's name, rank and unit. Lance Corporal Mann's exploits have also been added to the Til Valhalla Project's Wall of Heroes where his face and name will be seen every day by someone new.

Through the Til Valhalla project, our nation's fallen heroes are forever honored with contributions also made to #Mission 22 to fight the war against veteran suicide. Kiana Goodwin's special gift to Suzanne ensures that her brother Eddie will never be forgotten and will live on forever. Semper Fi Eddie. Til Valhalla.

Originating from Norse mythology, Til Valhalla is abbreviated from “until Valhalla”. It is said among service members to mean “until we meet again in Valhalla”. More information can be found at: <https://tilvalhallaproject.com/>

Military Appreciation Day Scheduled

On Wednesday, July 6, 2022, the Sanford Mainers of the Northeast Collegiate Baseball League (NECBL) will host the veterans and military service members of York County at the annual Military Appreciation Day at Goodall Ballpark in Sanford. The American Legion Post 19, assisted by the Amvets & VFW, will organize and coordinate the event. The ceremony honoring military members is scheduled to start at 6:00 pm.

Veterans from WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan and the Cold War were honored on the ballfield prior to the ballgame. Pictured at last year's event, WWII Army Veteran and POW Leon Tanquay, Korean War Army Veteran Arthur Rocray, Vietnam Marine Veteran John Flagler, Iraq & Afghanistan Marine Veteran Becky Conley, and

Vietnam & Cold War Coast Guard Veteran Bill Harmon were recognized and received standing ovations from over 500 in attendance. All Veterans & Military service personnel were applauded as they stood when their Military Anthem was played. The Maine National Guard Unit in Sanford brought a Humvee into the stadium concession area for spectators to see and inspect. As a special note, those recognized on the field received a baseball signed by the Sanford Mainers.

This year's event will be sponsored by Marc Motors in Sanford. Jim Bachelder of the VFW Sanford, Maine will again be the MC. This is the 6th year that the event will be held, excluding 2020, due to covid cancellation. Everyone in attendance enjoyed last year's Veterans Ceremony and all the

Veterans & Military Service members look forward to this year's event. After the ceremony, the National Anthem will be played, and a member of Marc Motors will throw out the first pitch. At 6:30 pm the Sanford Mainers will take the field for a regular scheduled game.

All Veterans, Active Duty and National Guard members are invited to ATTEND, and they will enter the

ballpark with NO ADMISSION FEE charged for their attendance at the Military Appreciation Day Event.

A big thank you to the Sanford Mainers Ball Team for their willingness to hold Military Appreciation

Day at Goodall Park, Sanford again this year.

Sanford Post 19 Adjutant Dale Midgley



Veterans Shown Appreciation At Goodall

Park: Pictured at last year's Military Appreciation Day, left to right, WWII Army Veteran & POW Leon Tanguay, Korean War Army Veteran Arthur Rocray, Vietnam Marine Veteran John Flagler, Iraq & Afghanistan Marine Veteran Becky Conley, and Vietnam & Cold War Coast Guard Veteran Bill Harmon.

Photo By Jessica Ciminelli, Staff Photographer
Sanford Mainers

God Bless America

Ten years ago, Boy Scout Troop 324 in Sanford, Maine was looking for a fundraiser for summer scout camp. Scout Master Victor Van Gieson, originally from Wyoming and an engineer at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard got an idea from a scout troop out west.

It was to put up American Flags on the front lawns of homes and businesses on five National Holidays: Memorial Day, Flag Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day and Veterans Day. The scout troop liked this idea and the Boy Scouts approached families and businesses and soon had enough customers to place 75 flags.

As former Scoutmaster, Van Gieson observed recently, the benefit has been

more than fund raising; our community has also benefited. The streets of Sanford look great on these days. The youth leaders have special ways to start and end each of these special days and are able to honor our great flag and our nation that it represents.

The flags are put up at sunrise and retrieved at sundown. It has been 10 wonderful years and we look forward to many more years to come. The program has been continued by the Sanford Ward Youth Program of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints - Sanford, Maine.

GOD BLESS AMERICA!

Sanford Post 19 Adjutant Dale Midgley

Sanford Ward Youth Group:

Left to right, Owen Madsen, Mason Van Gieson, Will Huffacker and Jared Bartolome.



Berwick Post 79 Chaplain Receives Special Award: Charles S. Hatch Post 79 Chaplain Paul Lapierre, left, receives a special award and medal from Post Commander Bryan English, right, for his many years of service assisting Veterans by transporting them to their VA appointments.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 1 continued



West-Day Post 123 Letters Of Commendation: In a special ceremony and dinner at Kezar Falls Post 123 on March 26th, WWII Veterans Carroll Hanson and Adrian Durgin were presented with American Legion Letters of Commendation along with several other awards displayed in a photo on page 32 from Department Commander Debra Couture. Left to right, Kezar Falls West-Day Post 123 Carroll Wayne Hanson, Adrian Durgin, Department Commander Debra Couture, and Post 123 Commander Roger Berube.

Eliot Post 188 Revitalized

Eliot / Kittery Memorial Post 188 has been revitalized. Past Post Commander Dana Norton has accepted the charter from the Department of Maine and the post is active and growing. Now post commander, he has put together a new leadership team and post membership is up by about 20 percent.

In recent months, the post has sponsored a children's bike rodeo, veteran related displays at the Eliot town hall, participation in Eliot festival days, and is now sponsoring and hosting the Eliot Boy Scouts. Of course, the post has continued to serve veterans and the community with Memorial Day, Veteran's Day services; and decorating veteran's graves as it has done since the early 1950's.

The interior of the post has been re-organized, cleaned, repainted and the

kitchen is up and running. A section of the meeting hall has been dedicated to our services. Each of our military seals, including the newly formed U. S. Space Force, are honored. The wall is also adorned with our preamble and many pictures of Eliot citizens who have served.

The post is working on the design of an inexpensive uniform shirt for those who may desire it.

We look forward to the visit of our State Commander Debra Couture on May 11th this year. Other future events include an open house with bean supper, a spring dance with live band, a Chili contest, and free movies for our youth.

Feel free to join us as we meet on the second Wednesday of the month, 7:00 PM, at 455 Main St. in Eliot.

For God and Country,
Post 188 1st Vice Commander Donald G. Hands



A Refreshed & Re-energized Eliot Post 188: Post Commander Dana Norton raises our national ensign over the revitalized Eliot/Kittery Memorial Post 188.

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

The Southern Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery Needs Your Help

If you have been to the Southern Maine Veterans Cemetery and made it all the way down the hill, past the Administration Office and just before the POW/MIA Memorial, then you have seen our Committal Shelter. If you have been to a funeral ceremony or any other occasion, you may know about the issue with the wind.

The shelter has opens on all 4 sides. This allows the wind to be destructive. It has blown a family's heirloom vase, containing the remains, off the table and it broke when it hit the ground. The wind also blows the snow and rain into the shelter and on the benches. The only shelter the building supplies is from the sun.

By the rules of a state veterans cemetery, we are not allowed to completely enclose the shelter. We do know the enclosing 3 sides will resolve the problem because it has already been applied to the same shelter design in the Northern Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery.

At this time, we anticipate the cost for this upgrade will be around \$30,000. With today's inflation rate, the costs are expected to be higher.

Donations can be mailed to SM-VMCA, 83 Stanley Road, Springvale Maine. All checks should be made out to SMVMCA. We thank you for your support.

By James E. N. Bachelder



Local Chief Selectees Help Paint at So. Portland Post 35

On Thursday April 14, a small group of Chief Petty Officer Selectees from the Local Coast Guard Base and Cutter helped with a paint project at South Portland Post 35.

Post 35 recently had a small fire, and after the repairs were completed, Commander Linscott and Adjutant Pock struck up an agreement with the Chief Petty Officer Association for a paint-

ing party. The arrangement is part of a long-standing barter system between the two concerned parties, the CPOA and Post 35. Annually, the CPOA has a "New Chief Petty Officer Orientation" that is held at the Post. The Orientation starts with a breakfast and then some Coast Guard formalities throughout the day ending in the "selectees" becoming

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 2 continued

■ "PAINT"

(Continued from Page 16)

fully fledged Chief Petty Officers.

As part of their orientation, there is a "Community Service" requirement and it works out well for Post 35; who just so happened to need some paint-

ing at their Post. So we don't charge for the use of the Post and they don't charge for painting. This arrangement works out very well for both parties. Our walls have been repaired, and now painted, and we will continue to be a place to meet in South Portland.

So. Portland Post 35 Adjutant Michael R. Pock



Paint Project Assistance: Small group of Chief Petty Officer Selectees from the Local Coast Guard Base and Cutter help with the paint project at So. Portland Post 35 April 14.

So. Portland Post 35 Paint

Project: Left to right, CPO Jerry McGeeham, Damien Hur, Adam Gunter and So. Portland Post 35 Adjutant Michael Pock.



Bridgton Post 67 Coffee Social: Back row, left to right, Mike Ross, State Commander Deb Couture, Post Commander D.J. Brady, Bob Vaillancourt, Post Service Officer Ron Edson, and Dana Trumann. Sitting at the table, out-going Sgt-at-Arms Barry Bisco, left, and Brian Manchester, right.

Windham Lions Club Supports Field-Allen Post 148 Homeless Vet Program

The Windham Lions Club worked with The Windham Legion Post 148 to put together "Cleaning Baskets" for homeless veterans. Camille Swander noted, "While the Lions does many things for the community, we have

always had a strong interest/service in providing assistance to veterans. When the Lions heard of the need for supplies, the members were happy to help in providing the items and to also help make the community more aware

of veteran's needs"

The cleaning supplies will provide basic cleaning support for the homeless veteran as they move into new accommodations in the Portland area. The baskets will be sent to the Portland VETCENTER for further distribution to vets in need. This is another example of the collaboration between the Field-Allen Post 148, Lions Club and

other local non-profit organizations to support local needs. Thank You! In addition to cleaning supplies, the Legion Post has been receiving generous support from the community for the Homeless Vet Food Pantry Program. Donations can be made every Wednesday at the Windham Veterans Center (WVC) behind Hannaford's North Windham, from 9 to 11 am.



Cleaning Supplies For Homeless Vets: Windham Post 148 Sargent-of-Arms Richard Graves, President of the Windham Lions Club Evelyn Brissette, and Windham Lions Club member Camille Swander.

Veterans on the Ice: 2022

Veterans on Ice: open house on Long Lake off Kent's Landing, Sun., Feb. 6 from 9 to 3 PM. It was a brisk 20 degrees, tops for the day, with lots of visitors. The "Vets on the Ice" Program open house is a collaboration with Sebago Lake Anglers Association, Naples Recreation Department, and Field-Allen Post 148 Windham. This year's event saw a record crowd with several dozen families coming out with lots of kids to enjoy the day, some kid's (and adults) learned how to set an ice fishing line for the first time, others got free snowmobile rides. There was lots of food as well: local donuts from Raymond Donut to hot chowder and chili, to homemade cookies and snacks, to the immensely popular hot chocolate and coffee. The hot dogs and massive cake from Hannaford's were a big hit as well. This is the fourth year for the "Vets on the Ice" program on Long Lake and second year for the open house with support from Naples Rec

Department. The Ice Shed is open for use by all Veterans and is configured to support handicapped veterans with a wide door, 8 ft. ramp, dual-heating system (wood stove and propane heater) and two holes cut in the floor for inside fishing. Photos include a panorama of the day's events, Post members Chip Amergain and Bob Chapin providing a hot meal to an angler, three anglers in the ice shed, and the standards flown when the Ice Shed is open. For more information about the program, contact Post Finance Officer and Sebago Lake Anglers President Bob Chapin at 207-655-1028.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 2 continued



Veterans Coffee Turns Six: March 23 marked the sixth anniversary of the American Legion Field-Allen Post 148 Veteran's Coffee founded six years ago March 23, 2016, by then, Post Service Officer Henry "Chuck" Whynot as an opportunity for local veterans to meet weekly in a social atmosphere to share experiences and tell a few lies (fish stories, etc.). Except for a few weeks during the height of the pandemic, Vet Coffee has met continuously on Wednesdays from 9 to 11 am at the Windham Vet Center for coffee, donuts, and camaraderie. Cutting of the Ceremonial Cake (6th anniversary), left to right, American Legion Prospective National Commander (2022-2023) and Windham resident James Troiola, Past Service Officer Henry "Chuck" Whynot, Korean War Vet Walter Braley, and Past Post Commander and WWII Vet Carroll McDonald. Approximately 3 dozen were in attendance for the celebration. Veterans Serving Veterans.



Windham Post 148 New Member Initiation: Six of 16 new members receive their charge during Field-Allen Post 148 Initiation Ceremony held in February by Windham Post 148 Commander Eric Bickford. Left to right, "Chip" Amergian, Ken Murch, John Facella, Commander Eric Bickford, Demetrius Monk, Greg Beaulieu, and Tim Snyder. The Post continues to look for interested Veterans wanting to serve Veterans and their community. New members received a US Flag, Lapel Pin, Citation, and Legion Decal.



Windham Post 148 Celebrate St. Patrick's Day With Newest Members: Field-Allen

Post 148 newest members, Alfred and Whitney Taylor, and Department Commander Debra Couture, center, cut the American Legion 103rd Anniversary cake at Post 148's St. Patrick's Day dinner on March 19.

Flags For The Classroom: American Legion Field-Allen Post 148 member and School aide, David Langway presents school room flags to Windham Primary School Principal, Dr Kyle Rhoads. While working at the Primary School, David noted that several Primary classrooms did not have flags in the room. David, as an American Legion member, contacted the Post who purchased new flags for the classrooms.

Unfortunately, there was a four-month delay after ordering the flags due to supply problems. Flags were presented the first of February.

Windham Post 148 Adjutant David Tanguay



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 3

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

Message From District 3 Commander

Good afternoon. My name is Danielle (Dani) Begert. I am the Third District Commander. There are 9 Posts within my District. I was appointed Commander right around the beginning of the Covid virus, about 2 years ago now. As I believe deeply in The American Legion, I am proud to be elected as Commander. I have to say thank you for the Posts for their support; I am grateful for them. I try to get out and attend any of their activities, and Post meetings. And of course, behind every good commander is a good Adjutant. I am grateful for our Ad-

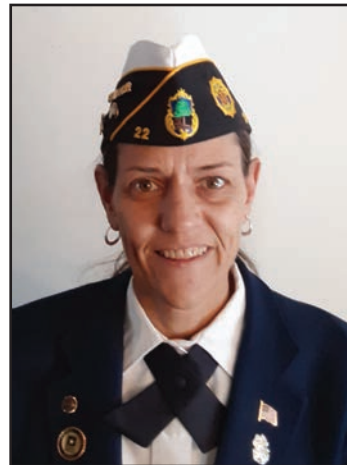
jutant/Finance Officer and all the work he does.

In the past, I have held the positions of Adjutant, Finance Officer, and Sergeant-At-Arms, all at the District level. Locally, I am part of Lewiston Post 22, and have been for several years.

Our District meetings are held the third Sunday of the month at 2pm. We meet all year round, with the exception of the summer months, and the month of December.

I look forward to committing to another year of being Third District Commander.

Thank you,
Danielle C. Begert



Turner Post 111 Receives 100% Membership: Congratulations to the Philip S. Bryant Memorial Post 111, Turner for receiving a 2021 100% Membership Award from Commander Debra Couture at the District 3 meeting in Turner on April 10. Left to right, Ron Hiscock, Dale Bryant, Commander Couture, Gary Brooks, and Harris Braden.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 3 continued

National Auxiliary President Visits Auburn Post 153:

Auburn Post 153 sign welcomes National Auxiliary President Kathy Daudistel, right photo. Photo below: Front row, left to right, Laura Woodman, Tracey Rioux, Suzanne Travers, Rena Farrington, Delores Leighton, Levite "Tibby" Dupuis. Back, left to right, SAL Commander Denis Dubois, Susan Bradley, Auxiliary Unit President Maria LaBonte, National Auxiliary President Kathy Daudistel, Maine State Auxiliary President Audrey L'Heureux, Auburn Post 153 Commander Steve Simard.



Auburn Post 153 Donates To Odyssey Of The Mind: American Legion William J. Rogers Post 153 held a Breakfast on Feb. 20 benefiting the Auburn Odyssey of the Mind Teams (Edward Little / Auburn Middle School). Proceeds from the breakfast resulted in the Legion donating \$788 to the organization. Part of that donation includes the 50/50 winnings, donated back by winner, Sylvia Tardif. American Legion Post 153 Commander, Steve Simard, right, presents Odyssey of the Mind Board of Directors member, Jim Rowe, left, the \$778 donation. Odyssey of the Mind is a creative problem-solving program

for students ranging in age from kindergarten through college. It allows students to work with others and provides them with the opportunity to learn creative problem solving, brainstorming, and teamwork.

Korean Reborn Book

Presentation: Department of Maine 1st Vice Commander Kirk Thurston, right, presents a Korean Reborn book to American Legion National President Kathy Daudistel, left, in memory of her father's service in the Korean War. The presentation took place at Rumford Post 24 on April 9 during the National President's visit to Maine.

Photo by Tricia Thurston



Rumford Post 24 Four Chaplains Ceremony: American Legion Post 24 Legion Family held a Four Chaplains Ceremony on Sunday, Feb. 6. Left to right, Unit Secretary Carol Roach, Unit Vice President Valerie Scott, 1st Vice Commander Kirk Thurston, Unit Sgt-at-Arms Judy Sanborn, Unit President Rosy Dyke, Unit Treasurer Rena Nichols, Americanism Officer & Post Finance Tricia Thurston, Commander Ed Perry, Exec Committee Don Roach, Post Americanism Officer Mitzi Sequoia. Back, left to right, Exec Committee Jack Blanchard, Post Historian Louie Marin, and Unit Chaplain Leslie Skibitsky.

Locke Mills Jackson-Silver Post 68 Fifth Candle in Four Chaplains Ceremony

On Sunday, Feb. 6, Post 68 conducted its annual Four Chaplains Ceremony at the Locke Mills Union Church. Integral to the ritual was the introduction of the recitation of the sacrifice of Charles W. David Jr., Coast Guard Steward's Mate First. David served on USCG Comanche, one of the escort Cutters accompanying the USAT Dorchester, on the night of Feb. 3, 1943, when the troop ship was torpedoed by a German submarine, resulting in the deaths of 672 of the 902 men aboard the vessel. For many decades the American Legion has honored the sacrifice of the Four Chaplains who gave up their own life jackets in order to save the lives of the young soldiers surrounding them, sacrificing themselves when the ship ultimately sank.

This year (2022), the American Legion made known in an online newsletter the sacrificial heroism of Coast Guardsman David. According to the published account "he was the fifth lowest-ranked man aboard (Coman-

che) the night Dorchester was sunk, and he had zero obligation to jump into the water and help anybody. Everyone above him should have been doing it, but a lot of people figuratively froze because they were afraid

of literally freezing, and they had a hard time jumping into the water. So (David) and a number of the officers jumped in. (He) easily could have said, "It's not my job. I'm going to go down below and heat up some coffee for people." In fact, he was in the water again and again trying to save people." Of the 227 survivors, Comanche saved 93. David later succumbed to pneumonia and was awarded the Navy and Marine



Charles W. David Jr.
U.S. Coast Guard
Steward's Mate First

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 5

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

Rumford Post 24
Receives Donation From

Squadron 24: The American Legion Squadron 24 presents a check in the amount of \$500 on March 6 to support the Post with winter oil costs. Posing with the check, left to right, Rumford Squadron 24 Finance Officer Dick Lovejoy, Rumford Post 24 Commander Ed Perry, and Rumford Squadron 24 Adjutant Larry Perry.

Photo By Louie Marin



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

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 5 continued

"CHAPLAINS"

(Continued from Page 19)

Corps Medals.

We who conducted the Four Chaplains ceremony -- the Reverend Sondra Withey (Unit 68 member), Susan Vacca (Unit 68 Secretary), Linda Stowell (Locke Mills Union Church keyboardist), and Harry G. Orcutt (Post 68 Commander) -- after discussing Steward's Mate First David's equally deserving commemoration for the sacrifice he made to save lives, all agreed to incorporate his story into the ceremony.



Four Chaplains Poster: Following the annual Four Chaplains Ceremony at Locke Mills Post 68, left to right, Unit 68 Secretary Susan Vacca, Unit 68-member Rev. Sondra Withey & Post 68 Commander Harry G. Orcutt presents the Locke Mills Union Church with a Four Chaplains poster to be hung in the Fellowship Hall.

Following the traditional rendering of the Four Chaplains ritual, the Rev. Withey read David's story, a fifth candle was lit, and the Post 68 portable bell was rung for a fifth time. It is our intention to make this inclusion a permanent part of the Jackson-Silver Post 68 Four Chaplains Ceremony.

Following the ceremony, Post 68 Commander Orcutt presented the Locke Mills Union Church a duplicate of the framed poster of the Four Chaplains story that hangs on the wall of honor in the Post Great Hall.

Dogs Nose Where to Find It at Post 68

The Canine Find It Mystery Object program, held in conjunction with the American Kennel Club, was a great success, despite a March 12th blast of heavy-wet snow and brisk winds. 23 contestants (including two cancellations) competed in novice, ("Oh I'd sure like to find the right-scented box for my handler"), intermediate, and advanced challenges. The advanced were a sight to see, as it came down to which super snooper could find three out of eight scented boxes in the least amount of time. The participants said that they enjoyed the spaciousness of the Great Hall in laying out the boxes, some with human scents, others with treats, and the "don't go after the two toys" or the bucket with treats that were scattered about. Also, the Unit 68 Can-

teen was another unexpected feature that the handlers had not previously enjoyed. Unit 68's Kitchen Manager Marleen Twitchell's home-style muffins, cookies, and brownies were much in demand. Marleen was ably assisted by Unit 68 member Betty Christenson and Unit 68 Secretary Susan Vacca. In the end, the organizer of the event, Post 68 IT/PR Chairman, Sara Pruyne (also the Dog Tracking Club of Maine Secretary), indicated that the Post might well be a place where future contests take place.

Don and Sara Pruyne, both Post 68 members, reside in Greenwood, and raise Dalmatians. Having joined the Post recently, both have rolled up their sleeves and helped to complete many projects that have needed to be done.



Locke Mills Post 68 Hosts Canine Find It Contest: Novice sniffer Lulu awaits the command to begin snooping from Post 68 member Sara Pruyne.

Locke Mills Post 68 Restroom Redo

In the course of assisting a Post 68 member with temporary financial assistance, Post Service Officer Kelly Bickford was informed by the member that he would like to attend Post 68 Friday Night Bingo, but could not, because the Men's restroom door was not wide enough for his mechanized wheelchair. Though the Post restroom doors met Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) width guidelines, those guidelines at the time the doors were first replaced, did not take into account the greater width of a mechanized wheelchair.

Brought as an item to be resolved by the Post Executive Committee, replacing the doors was put on the agenda of the next General meeting. In response to the email sent to the Post 68 email list, which includes the 2/3 of the membership who use email, two out of state

retired Air Force Officer brothers, Charlie and Jeffrey Perham, both members of the Post, said that they would pay for both doors' being replaced. You might say that Santa arrived right on time for Xmas.

Providing material assistance to the Post is apparently something they inherited from their father, Post member and former Air Force Sgt. David Perham, whose setting up the Post's Texas Hold'em Tournaments is commemorated on a plaque on the Post Honor Wall. Sgt. Perham entered the Post Everlasting in January 2017.

The next upgrade already in the works is pedestal sinks with a flip handle faucet control to make it possible for wheelchair users to get closer to the sinks and to facilitate using the faucets for those with hand disabilities.



Post 68 Restroom Renovations: Post Sgt.-at-Arms Al Lake, left photo, supervised the door installation. Providing interest for the Ladies door photo, Marcia Smith, right photo, a regular player at Texas Hold'em, posed beside it on her way into the Tournament.

New Service Patch Blanket For Great Hall at Locke Mills Post 68

Formerly, a Service Patch blanket, created by a Post 68 member, had hung on a wall in the Executive Committee Room because it contained a number of rare WWII unit patches. The family asked that it be returned, as they had expected the blanket would be enjoyed by the public. After that blanket was sent back to the family, Post 68 Commander Harry G. Orcutt determined that another would be created to replace it. After he purchased an Army blanket online, and Army, Navy, Marine, and Air Force patches from various suppliers, his wife, Unit 68 Secretary Susan Vacca, spent 35 hours sewing the patches onto the blanket after the Executive Committee had determined where they should be placed. On the right side of the blanket are patches of Her Majesty's 43rd Marine Commando, and further in, the shoulder Unit patches of the WWII Hampshire, 21st Dis-

trict, Home Guard, while at the bottom is a patch of the London Ambulance Service (though established in 1965, it existed under other names in both WWI and WWII). The British patches were gifts to Commander Orcutt from his Masonic Brother, Louis F. Courtney, of Waltham Abbey, England. Former Royal Marine Courtney also contributed to the purchase of the US Armed Forces patches; when informed of the project, as he sent over US



Former Royal Marine Commando Louis F. Courtney, Remembrance Day UK (US Veterans Day).

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 5 continued

■ **"BLANKET"**

(Continued from Page 20)

currency, remaining from a number of crossings of the pond. Sgt.-at-Arms Al Lake donated his 4th Division Patch.

At the bottom of the blanket are patches of various Veterans Service Organizations. It has been determined that this blanket will hang in the Post Great Hall.



Post 68 Service Patch Blanket: Left to right, Post 68 members Sara and Don Pruyne, Post 68 Commander Harry G. Orcutt, Tim Twitchell, Unit 68 Secretary Susan Vacca, and Post 68 member Kelly Bickford stand beside and behind the Post Service Patch Blanket.

Post 68 Flag Retirement Ceremony

Jackson-Silver Post 68 conducted a Flag Retirement Ceremony on Saturday, Feb. 12. Besides the numerous flags that were retired, it was discovered that about a dozen had been surrendered for honors in a virtually unused condition. These were taken out of the mix, and five of them were dry cleaned and pressed gratis by the Cleaning Center in the Cornwall Shopping Center, South Paris. It is the Post intention to present these flags to mem-

bers for home use as need, occasion, and opportunity warrants. The day was cold and snow was piled here and there; though much was accomplished, with a shed full of additional used flags, another occasion will be scheduled in the Spring. In addition to retiring the flags that day, the Post generator shed was cleaned out. Items that were once thought worthy of storage turned out, in fact, to be refuse!



Locke Mills Post 68 Flag Retirement: Left photo: Left to right, Post Historian Timothy Twitchell, Post 68 member Don Pruyne, Post 68 IT/PR Chair Sara Pruyne, Post 68 member Lee Christenson, and Post 68 Sgt.-at-Arms Al Lake. Right photo: Post 68 Commander Harry G. Orcutt; someone had to hold the camera when the group photo was taken.

M E M B E R S H I P I S



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's Post 30 Remembers the Fallen on Vietnam Veteran's Day

CAMDEN — On March 29, 1973, the last U.S. combat troops left South Vietnam as Hanoi freed the remaining American prisoners of war held in North Vietnam.

In 2012, President Obama signed a presidential proclamation, designating March 29 as the annual observance of Vietnam War Veterans Day. The signing of the proclamation marked the 50th anniversary of the departure of the last American troops from Vietnam.

The Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017 was signed into law by President Trump, designating every March 29, as National Vietnam War Veterans Day.

Jeff Sukeforth is the Adjutant at Post 30 in Camden. He explained that there was never a day to honor the country's Vietnam Veterans and that changed in 2017.



Camden Post 30 Adjutant Jeff Sukeforth

Photo by Chris Wolf

"Today is our day to honor our veterans from Vietnam," he said. "It's our day to gather and remember those who served and those who never came back serving their country. Today we read the names of those who were killed in action in both Knox and Waldo counties."

American Legion posts throughout

the United States and around the world took this day to honor those who served in that war's 20-year period.

A color guard was present, prayers for the fallen and those who returned were said, taps were played, and a wreath was placed at the war memorial on Camden's Village Green March 29. A small crowd of veterans and the

Camden Post 30 Rev. Dave Franclemont

Photo by Chris Wolf



public attended the ceremony to honor and remember every soldier, sailor, airman, marine, and coastguardsman who served faithfully and heroically in Vietnam.

Ever since its founding this National Day has continued to honor those who fought, those who returned, and those who paid the ultimate price in service to their country.

"We are very lucky here at Post 30 and we come together for things like this," said Sukeforth. "Whether it's a remembrance service like this or the one we do on Memorial Day or Veterans Day. If a veteran comes to us and needs help in any way we do what we can. Sometimes it's a little bit of monetary help, or they need a ride over to Togus or a doctor's appointment, all I have to do is put an email out to the folks and I'll have an answer in 10 minutes."

The post conducts a "coffee and chat" on the first and third Monday of every month.

"It starts at 9 a.m. and obviously you do not need to be a legion member," said Sukeforth. "Sometimes it's just about getting together with people with the same type of background. And it helps them. And I say that because we are down on a national average to 17 veterans committing suicide from 21. Sometimes that's all it takes is for someone to come in and open up a little bit."

"We've had events where we had a

State Commander Wreath Placement: State Commander Debra Couture holds the wreath that was placed at the war memorial on the Village Green.



Photo by Chris Wolf

[More on "Vietnam Vet Day" Page 22](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 6 continued

“VIETNAM VET DAY”

(Continued from Page 21)

table set up,” said Sukeforth. “We had more than one veteran and it wasn’t just Vietnam, but older, World War II veterans who say to us that this was the first time that they actually spoke to someone about what they went through.”

Sukeforth said it doesn’t stop there, but they hand out information to people who want to get help. Veterans rely on each other to get by, he said.

“In WWI, WWII we knew it as shell shock, but now we know it as PTSD,” he said. “All we can do is try to get them to open up a little bit about it and that’s a start.”

Post 30 is unique in that it includes members from Camden, Rockport, Lincolnville, Hope, and Appleton.

The post is self-sustaining with support from its members who Sukeforth said are very generous with financial help when a need arises. There is a bin located at the 91 Pearl Street address where people can donate their returnables to the post. Sukeforth said that has been a big help with finances and the post hosts a pancake breakfast twice a month for a nominal price that has met with good success.

“No one will go away hungry,” said Sukeforth, “that I can guarantee.”

The Medal of Honor was awarded 258 times. Three veterans from Maine received the highest military honor for



Veterans Salute as taps are played.

Photo by Chris Wolf

their sacrifice.

Buker, Brian L., Sgt, USArmy, Detachment B-55, 5th Special Forces Group, 1st Special Forces Ban- gor, Born: Benton, Maine; 3 November 1949, Entered Service: Bangor, Maine, Buried: Benton, Maine; Brown cemetery Penobscot Conflict: Vietnam, Place and date: Chau Doc Province, Republic of Vietnam, 5 April 1970. Citation Awarded posthumously.

McMahon, Thomas J., Specialist Fourth Class, USArmy, Co A, 2nd Battalion, 1st Inf, 196th Inf Brigade, 1st Division Lewiston, Born: Washington, D.C.; 24 June 1948, Entered Service: Portland, Maine, Buried: Lewiston, Maine; Mount Hope cemetery A n -

droscoggin Conflict: Vietnam Place and date: Quang Tin province, Republic of Vietnam, 19 March 1969. Citation Awarded posthumously.

Skidgel, Donald Sidney, Sgt, US-Army, Troop D, 1st Squadron, 9th Cav, 1st Cav Div, Bangor, Born: Caribou, Maine; 13 October 1948, Entered Service: Bangor, Maine, Buried: Plymouth, Maine; Sawyer cemetery Penobscot Conflict: Vietnam, Place and date: Near Song Be, Republic of Vietnam, 14 September 1969. Citation Awarded posthumously.

There are 341 souls from Maine who died for their country. In honor of them all, here are the names of those men from Knox and Waldo counties who made the ultimate sacrifice. (Name, Branch, Rank, Town & Country, Died)

Gardner John Brown, Pine Grove Cemetery, Appleton, USA, PFC, Union, Knox, August 26, 1969.

Clarence Lawrence Chase, Oak Hill Cemetery, Camden, USA, S P C 4, Camden, Knox, August 21, 1967.

Arthur Albert Crowell, Quaker Hill Cemetery, Unity, USMC, Corporal, Unity, Waldo, May 26, 1968.

Theodore Glenn Drew, Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Freedom, USA, PFC, Freedom, Waldo, May 12, 1970.

Arthur James Elliott II, Cremated scattered at sea, USN, Lt Cmdr. Thomaston, Knox, December 29, 1968.

Fred Milton Ellis, Mount Prospect Cemetery, Stockton Springs, USN, Seaman, Stockton Springs, Waldo, December 29, 1969.

Joh Roger Goderre, Lake View Cemetery, Union, USMC, PFC, Union, Knox, May 21, 1966.

Anthony John Gustin, St. James Cemetery, Thomaston, USA, SFC, Rockland, Knox, July 7, 1966.

Sayward Newton Hall Jr, Thomaston Village Cemetery, Thomaston, USA, Major, Thomaston, Knox, April 21, 1965.

Malcolm Pierce Libbey, Beverley Nat’l Cemetery, Beverley, New Jersey, USA, SSgt, Rockland, Knox, October 12, 1967.

Donald Lewis Mansfield, Glen Cove Cemetery, Glen Cove, USMC, PFC, Rockland, Knox, April 13, 1968.

Earle Eugene McAuliffe Jr, Achorn Cemetery, Rockland, USN, PO 2nd Class, Rockland, Knox, July 29, 1967.

Norman LaForest McKenney Pleas-

ant Hill Cemetery, Freedom, USN, PO 2nd Class, Thorndike, Waldo, June 6, 1968.

Bradford Scott Nickerson, Mount Prospect Cemetery, Stockton Springs, USMC, Private, Stockton Springs, Waldo, September 1, 1966.

Linwood Preston Rickards, Beaufort National Cemetery, Beaufort, SC, USMC, Gnyr Sgt, Rockland, Knox, July 9, 1968.

Lynn Jordan Russell, Counce Cemetery, Warren, USA, Spec 4, Rockland, Knox, Nov 5, 1966.

Clair Hall Thurston Jr, USA, Military Academy Cemetery, West Point, NY, USA, 2nd Lt,

Thorndike, Waldo, November 8, 1965.

Frederick Hazer Vester, Oak Hill Cemetery South, Camden, USA, Spec 4, Rockport, Knox, June 21, 1966.

Owen H. Webster, Unknown Burial Location, USA, Spec 4, Vinalhaven, Knox, August 20, 1967.

John Wallace Knight, Evergreen Cemetery, Berwick, USA, Sergeant, Lincolnville, Knox, January 21, 1968.

Article and Photos by Chris Wolf,

Penobscot Bay Pilot,

Wed, 03/30/2022 - 12:15pm

<https://www.penbaypilot.com/article/camden-s-post-30-remembers-fallen-vietnam-veteran-s-day/158540>



Vietnam Veteran’s Day Color Guard: Left to right, Department Commander Debra Couture from West Gardiner; Rodney Lynch USN, Camden; Jose Moncada, USA, Camden; Horace Benner, USAF, Waltham, and Eddie Ryan, USA, Camden.

Photo by Chris Wolf

Legion Post 30 Holds Remembrance Ceremony

CAMDEN — The Legion Post 30 of Camden held a remembrance ceremony for Vietnam Veterans on the brisk morning of March 29 on the Village Green.

During the ceremony, names of Vietnam Veterans from Knox and Waldo

counties that were killed in Vietnam were read.

Article & Photos By Holly Vanorse Spicer,

Editorial Assistant

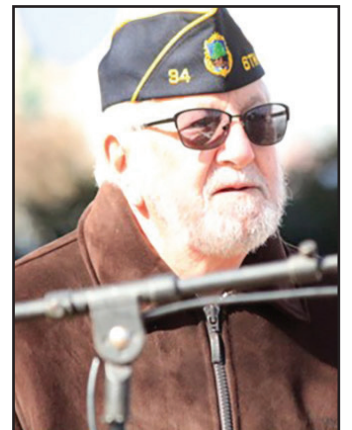
Courier_Gazette/Camden Herald

<https://knox.villagesoup.com/2022/03/30/legion-post-30-holds-remembrance-ceremony/>



Camden Post 30 Remembrance Ceremony: Member & District 6 Commander Ray Lewis, left, and Post 30 Past Commander Steve Spomakis, right

Photos By
Holly Vanorse Spicer





Camden Post 30 Color Guard: Post 30 Member Rodney Lynch, top left, Post 30 Member Jose Mancado, top right, Post 30 Member Horace Benner, bottom left, Post 30 Asst. Sgt.-At-Arms Ed Ryan, bottom right.

Photos By Holly Vanorse Spicer



Camden Post 30 100 Percent Membership

Recognition: State American Legion Commander Deb Couture presents a 100% membership recognition certificate to Post 34 Commander Randy Deutsch and Adjutant Steve Pomakis at the District 6 meeting on April 3rd. She also presented them with her state commander's pin.

Photo by Camden Post 30 Adjutant Jeff Sukeforth



Tenants Harbor Receives 100% Membership:

Congratulations to the Tenants Harbor Kinney-Melquist Post 34 for receiving a 2021 100% Membership Award from Commander Debra Couture at the District 6 meeting in Camden on April 3rd. Left to right, Commander Couture, Post 34 Commander Randy Deutsch, and Post 34 Adjutant Steven Pomakis.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 8

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

Women Veterans Advisory Committee Luncheon

Greetings, The Women Veterans Advisory Committee recently met and had a very successful meeting. We would like to thank committee member Tracey Rancourt for hosting this meeting at Post 135 in Sabattus.

I would like to introduce you to the following committee members:

Tricia Thurston Chairperson: (c 207-357-3289), tricia425@roadrunner.com

Mary Burune: (c 973-997-4347) maryaburune413@gmail.com

Deb Couture: (c 207-215-6775) E-mail: navycaptpomi0031@gmail.com

Gloria Hall: c 207-740-1537, ghall-te23@hotmail.com

Nancy Laffin: 975-1923, nanslaf@gmail.com

Maureen Malley: c 207-557-3109, maureenmalley.66@gmail.com

Catherine Merril: 207-693-5654, coldcablegal@gmail.com

Tracey Rancourt: c 207-504-0521, tarancourt@yahoo.com

Caroline Yarmala: c 228-365-0528, cayarmala@gmail.com

As a committee we have decided on the following changes. Our committee's name was changed from WOMEN'S ADVISORY/WOMEN VETERANS ACTION COMMITTEE to Women Veterans Advisory Committee. We will create a new Facebook page that will remain viewable to the public. When we can make this change, we would appreciate your help in spreading the word.

Our mission statement has been revised to read: To ensure women veterans are providing the Department of Maine with their concerns, recommendations and are being properly considered as equal veterans. To mentor women veterans seeking camaraderie and resources.

We are seeking women veterans who would like to become active members of the committee. If you are interested, please reach out to one of the committee members.

We would like to thank Legion Post 20 in Brunswick for holding a Women Veterans Luncheon. Thank you, Dave Watson, Joe Donahue and Post and Unit volunteers, for all the hard work they put in towards this luncheon.

If your Legion Family would like to host a luncheon, please reach out to Tricia for more information. The following was included in the Leadership Ledger as well as in forms on the mainelegion.org website:

Guidelines for Women Veterans Events that are sponsored by the American Legion, Department of Maine. These events are events that would take place at an American Legion Post within the Department of Maine and would be sanctioned by the Department of Maine.

1. If considering an event, the Commander of the American Legion, Department of Maine Post that wishes to sponsor the event will contact the Women Veterans Advisory Committee (WAVC) Chairperson. a. The WAVC Chairperson will assist the Post Commander with determining a date for the event.

b. The WVAC Chairperson will furnish the Post Commander (or his or her designated point of contact for the event) with Attachment A: an attached list of ideas and recommendations for the event.

c. The WVAC Chairperson will follow up on a weekly basis (or time interval agreed upon by the WAWVAC Chairperson and Post Point of Contact) considering Attachment A.

d. The WVAC Chairperson will not complete the items listed in Attachment A but will advise and make recommendations where needed or requested.

We have exciting news for an upcoming luncheon that will be held at Department Headquarters. This event is still in the planning stages and will hopefully be able to be held in July 2022. We will share all info as it is planned.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our State Convention.

Thank you for reading!

Women Veterans Advisory Committee Chair
Patricia "Tricia" Thurston



WVAC Luncheon:
Left to right, Pat O'Brien, Gloria Hall, and Tricia Thurston.



Luncheon Attendees: Left photo, Department Commander Debra Couture, left, and Barbara Kasiola, right. Right photo, Maureen Malley.

[More on "WVAC LUNCHEON" Page 24](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 8 continued

"WVAC LUNCHEON" (Continued from Page 23)



Air Force: Front row, left to right, Lori Milner, and Candina Lucore. Back row, left to right, Maureen Malley, Patty Smith.



Marines: Representing the Marine Corp Veterans, Maryann Green.

Navy Veterans: Front row, left to right, Cindy Zelinka, Louise Leavitt, Louann Gagne, Joyce Legasse, Marilee Wilson, Deb Lyons, and Barbara Rogers. Second row, left to right, Joy Acunson, Jodie Clark, Judy Otis, Amy Stevens, Tricia Thurston, Phyllis Page, Deb Couture, Dawn Olges, and Lou McDonald. Back row, left to right, Joanne Kozlak Vicki Brissette.



Army Veterans: Front row, left to right, Madeline Littlefield, Barbara Kasiola, Dani Begert, and Alola Morrison. Back row, left to right, Gloria Lavertu, Pat O'Brien, Gloria Hall, Lou McDonald, Crystal Guerrett, Carolyn Bulliner, and Lindsey Leblanc Cole.

Brunswick Post 20 Renovation Upgrades

To all American Legion of Maine members. We at Post 20 Brunswick are in the midst of a major fundraiser in an effort to make some upgrades and much needed renovations to our legion

facility. This building once succumbed to a devastating fire and was brought back from the ashes.

Thank You
Brunswick Post 20 Member Richard Barter



Post 20 Reviews Fundraising Plans:

Commander Dave Watson, left, and Fundraising Chairperson Richard Barter, right, are seen standing in the front of the post home reviewing the plans to make this next fundraising a success and to continue supporting the youth programs.



Brunswick Post 20 Activities: Post 20 recently started another campaign to raise \$30,000 for the renovation to the hall. Considering that Post 20 was at the point of closing not too many years ago, they have been revitalized and energized to become a strong advocate of veterans and to support the local community. The programs that have helped to get support can be seen in the following photos.

Phippsburg Post 216 Happenings/Events



Thank You: Chaplain Richard Spear, left, and Commander Ken Kellogg, right, display Veteran Thank You cards from Phippsburg Elementary School students.



Post 216 LOTY Award: Commander Ken Kellogg, left, presents Comrade Larry Swizdor, right, with the "2021 Post Legionnaire of the Year" award.



Ten Year Service Award: Commander Ken Kellogg, left, presents Service Officer Terry Nordmann, right, with his "Ten Year Service" certificate and pin.



Warrant Presentation: Commander Ken Kellogg, left, presents Comrade Fred Libby, right, with his Judge Advocate Warrant.



5 Year Service Award: Commander Ken Kellogg, left, presents Comrade John McLuer, right, with his "Five Year Service" certificate and pin" award.



Decorating Team: The Phippsburg Town Hall Christmas decorating team, left to right, Comrade Bob Belben, Commander Ken Kellogg, Comrade Larry Swizdor, and Comrade Bob Morse.

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 8 continued

"EVENTS"

(Continued from Page 24)



Christmas Lights: Commander Ken Kellogg, left, and Comrade Bob Morse, right, hang Christmas lights at the Phippsburg Town Office.



Christmas Potluck: Post members and their families enjoy some comradery at the Annual Christmas Potluck Dinner.



who are missing but are not forgotten.



Santa Visits Post 216: Comrade Santa at the Phippsburg Christmas Open House.



Christmas Dinner: Comrade Bruce MacMillan and Bob Belben enjoy the annual Christmas Potluck Dinner with their wives Linda and Carol.

POW/
MIA

Table In-
cluded in the
Phippsburg
Christmas
Potluck din-
ner for those



Litchfield Post 181 Chili/Chowder To Go Luncheon: William R. Bold Post 181 is all set up for their 2nd annual Chili/Chowder To Go Luncheon on March 26. Front, left to right, Tony Morgan and Donna Radovich. Back, left to right, Denise Emery, Department Finance Officer Greg Couture, Jennifer Braunfels, Kathryn Alexander, and Department Commander Debra Couture.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 10

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



Madison Unit 39 Auxiliary: Installation of Unit 39 Officers took place at Madison Post 39 on April 1. Back, left to right, Installing Sgt-at-Arms Deborah Rumery, Dept Vice President Sherry Medilin, Executive Committee Pauline Bell, Sgt-at-Arms Val Coulombe, Secretary Diane Pinkham, Historian Amy Washburn, Chaplain Harriet Bryant, Treasurer Tammy Giguere, 1st Vice President, Department President, and Installing Officer Audrey L'Heureux. Front, left to right, 2nd Vice President Nancy Misiaszek, Executive Committee Irma Fluet, newly elected President Karen Lytle, outgoing President Executive Committee Robin Turek.



Three District 8 Posts Receive 100% Membership: Congratulations to three District 8 Posts for receiving 2021 100% Membership Awards from Department Commander Debra Couture at the District 8 meeting in April at the Cory Edwin Garver American Legion Post 202 in Topsham. Left photo: Bath's Smith-Tobey Post 21 Adjutant Mike Frelk accepts the award from Commander Couture. Middle photo: Topsham's Cory Edwin Garver Post 202 Commander Joe Lemont accepts the award from Commander Couture. Right photo: Phippsburg Memorial Post 216 Commander Kenneth Kellogg accepts the award from Commander Couture.

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



Winthrop Chapter 40 Legacy

Donation: Winthrop Chapter 40 American Legion Rider Sgt-At-Arms Dave Glidden, right, presents a \$500 check to American Legion Rider State Director Mike Lallemand, left, for the Legacy Fund.



The Military Child's Table Setting Ceremony was performed by Unit Chaplain Amy Washburn, left, and Post Chaplain Rich Robinson, right.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 10 continued



Giving Final Respects To WWII Veteran: Tardiff-Belanger Post 39 pay final respects to World War II Veteran Nunzio Biondello at Mount Vernon Veteran Cemetery in Augusta on April 15. Left photo: Madison Post 39 Firing Squad Members, left to right, Rich Peterson, Eric Fluett, Ray Cloutier, and Firing Squad Commander Bob Demchek. Right photo: State Senator and American Legion member Brad Farrin pays final respect to World War II Veteran Nunzio Biondello.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 12

Bar Harbor Post 25; Ellsworth Post 63; SW Harbor Post 69; Blue Hill Post 85; Bucksport Post 93; Stonington Post 102; Seal Harbor Post 103; Ellsworth Post 207

District 12 March 2022 Meeting in Ellsworth

District 12 was very honored to have the 1st Vice Commander Kirk Thurston, and his wife Patricia Thurston who is also the State of Maine Americanism Officer at the District 12 Meeting held at Governor's Restaurant in Ellsworth on March 8. Patricia "Tricia" gave an excellent overview of programs offered under Americanism and several activities that were planned for the year. Kirk gave an inspirational speech about the importance of reaching our membership goals and doing Buddy Checks. He also talked about the Mission Blue Grants, Legionnaire Accidental Insurance, and the Past Com-

mander's Club and that the Leadership Ledger was a good source of information for posts to use on a regular basis. Certificates for Meritorious Service were given to the ladies of the Hancock County Council including Marci Beal, Joan Broussard, Ann Durost, Roxanne Grindle, Ida Match, Tammy Leach, Toby Mason, Polly Scott, and Madeline Sweet. In addition to this, over 176 Continuous Service Certificates have been awarded by Paul Blackstone, the District 12 Commander, assisted by his Adjutant, Albert Scott, to members of the various posts.



District 12 Meeting Attendees: Members present at District 12 meeting March 8. Top left photo: left to right, Joan Broussard and District 12 Finance Officer Robert Broussard. Top right photo: left to right, Southwest Harbor Post 69 Commander Robert Kramp, District 12 Vice Commander Bruce Damon, Department Americanism Officer Patricia Thurston, Department 1st Vice Commander Kirk Thurston, and Northeast Harbor Post 103 Commander Ernest Smallidge. Left photo: left to right, Hancock County Council member Ida Hatch, District 12 Chaplain Frank Gray, and Hancock County Council member and Bar Harbor Post 25 Commander Barbara MacPike.



District 12 State Officer Attendees: Department Officers in attendance at District 12 meeting March 8. Left photo: left to right, Department Americanism Officer Patricia Thurston and Department 1st Vice Commander Kirk Thurston. Right photo: Joan Broussard gives out awards to ladies of the Hancock County Council for service to the Legion.

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 75 100% Membership: Congratulations to the Tedd-Lait American Legion Post 75 of Old Town for receiving a 2021 100% Membership Award. Department Commander Debra Couture presented the award to Post Commander Charles Grant and Post Adjutant Kevin McGarry on March 26 at the Post home. Left to right, Post Commander Grant, Department Commander Couture, and Post Adjutant McGarry.



Old Town HS Presents Special Award: Amedeo "Deo" Lauria, Harry J. Conway Post 135, Sabattus receives a special award from the Old Town High School JROTC Battalion on March 26, at their annual awards banquet. LTCOL (Ret) Lauria was the Battalion Commander for the Old Town High School "Coyote" Battalion for over 10 years, before his retirement from the US Army. His recognition and award included a framed smaller version of the Old Town JROTC Battalion Colors.

Old Town High School Military Ball

On Saturday, March 26 at 6:30 p.m., Department of Maine Commander Deb Couture, 1st Vice Kirk Thurston, Americanism Officer Patricia Thurston and Old Town Legion Post Commander Karl Huntley attended the Old Town High School JROTC Military Ball in celebration of 20 years on campus.

The cadets received the following awards and medallions from the American Legion Leadership:

Commander Debra Couture presented the American Legion Medallion for Scholarship to Cadet Elizabeth Curtis,

a Senior in the program, 4/33 in class. Department Americanism Officer Patricia Thurston presented the AL Medal for Scholastic Excellence to Cadet Isabella Bouchard, a Junior in the JROTC program, 17/123 in class. Old Town Post Commander Karl Huntley presented the AL Medallion for Military Excellence to Cadet Battalion Commander Maxwell Chapman, Senior in the JROTC program, 8/133 in class. 1st Vice Commander Kirk Thurston congratulated Cadet Battalion Commander

[More on "OTHS BALL" Page 27](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 13 continued

"OTHS BALL"

(Continued from Page 26)

Maxwell Chapman, Senior, on his AL

Medallion. The Medal for Military Excellence was presented to Cadet Keeara Dutton, a Junior in the JROTC program, 9/123 in class.



Medallion For Scholarship: Department Commander Debra Couture, right, presents the American Legion Medallion for Scholarship to Elizabeth Curtis, Senior, 4/133 in class.



Medal For Scholastic Excellence: Department Americanism Officer Patricia Thurston, left, presents the AL Medal for Scholastic Excellence to Cadet Isabella Bouchard, Junior, 17/123 in class.



Medal For Military Excellence: The American Legion Medal for Military Excellence went to Keeara Dutton, Junior, 9/123 in class.



Medallion For Military Excellence: Left photo: Old Town Post 75 Commander Karl Huntley, left, presents the AL Medallion for Military Excellence to Cadet Battalion Commander Maxwell Chapman, Senior, 8/133 in class. Right photo: Department 1st Vice Commander Kirk Thurston congratulates Cadet Chapman on his AL Medallion.



Post/State Officers Attend High School Military Ball: Old Town Post 75 Officers and State Officers of The American Legion support the Old Town Military Ball & ROTC program in celebration of 20 years on campus March 26. Left to right, Dept. of Maine Americanism Officer Patricia Thurston, Dept. of Maine Commander Deb Couture, member of Old Town Post 75 Arcelyn Huntley, Old Town Post 75 Commander Karl Huntley, Old Town Post 75 Adjutant Kevin McGarry, and Dept. Of Maine 1st Vice Commander Kirk Thurston. Also, in attendance but not pictured, Dept. Of Maine Finance Officer Greg Couture.

ALR of Maine Summer Rally 2022

Millinocket Chapter 80 - August 12-14, 2022

TRAVELING TO AMERICAN LEGION POST 80: 970 CENTRAL STREET, MILLINOCKET, ME

Traveling from Southern Maine to the North

- Get on I 95 in Augusta or a closer on ramp to I 95
- Get off the Turnpike at exit 244 off ramp
- To Route 157 turn left, Post is 9.8 miles from this turn
- Stay on 157 will take you right to Post 80 in Millinocket

Traveling from Northern Maine

- Get on I95 in Houlton Exit 302
- Get of I95 to Exit 244
- Turn Right on Route 157, Post is 9.8 miles from this turn.
- Stay on 157 will take you right to Post 80 in Millinocket

Millinocket, ME, 1-866-633-9777.

- Across street from Legion Post 80. Normal Rate is \$129-\$149 per night NO DISCOUNT

Pamola Motor Lodge Millinocket: 973 Central Street, Millinocket, ME, 207-723-9746.

- Directly across street from Legion Post 80. Normal Rate: \$95.00 per night will give to \$85.00 with the presentation of Legion Rider Membership Card.

Gateway Inn: Medway, ME, 207-746-3398.

- 9.4 miles from Legion. Room Rate \$75.00 with Legion Rider Membership Card

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS SUMMER RALLY 2022

Friday August 12

4PM Meet and Greet

Open mic and karaoke downstairs (smoke Free)

Registration and Meal tickets.

Saturday August 13

7am to 9am Pancake breakfast

9am start of two rides

1. Short ride to painted Rock near park entrance
2. Longer Ride up through Sherman and back to the post

Those that will not be joining us on the rides, there will be a horseshoe and corn hole tournament

11am BBQ Burgers, hotdogs, etc will be served (pay as you go)

1pm Meeting (upstairs)

5pm Supper

Entertainment

Sunday August 14

Pancake breakfast 7am to 9am



IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT:

- Bridget at 207-357-4133 or bridgetdaigle2010@gmail.com
- Director Chapter 80 Millinocket Rick Cyr Jr. @207-447-8389

HOTELS/INNS/B & B

Katahdin Inn & Suites: 740 Central Street, Millinocket, ME, 207-723-4555.

- Approx ¼ mile from Legion Post 80. Rates are \$130.00 per night will give 10% discount with presentation of Legion Rider Membership Card.

Baxter Park Inn: 935 Central Street,



Millinocket Chapter 80 With ALR State

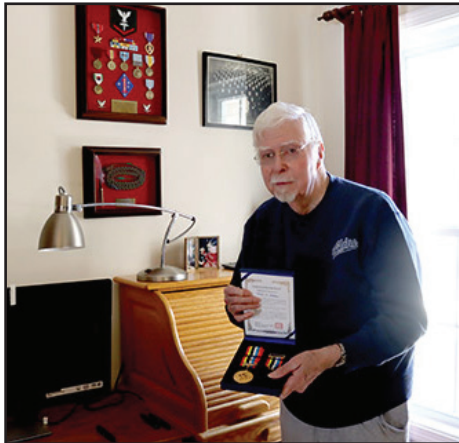
Director: Left to right, Millinocket Chapter 80 Historian and ALR State Historian Jon Williams, Road Captain Shawn Boutaugh, ALR State Director Mike Lallemant, Asst Director Dale Hayes, Lester Raymond Jr, and Todd Hayes.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 13 continued

Korean War Veteran Receives Peacekeeper Medal: Howland Post 97 Korean War Veteran Phil McPhail, a 50-year member of Post 97, receives his Peacekeeper Medal awarded to him for his service by the Korean Consulate. Navy Hospital Corpsman McPhail served with the Marines in Korea; he was awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart medals as well as others.

Photo by Tony Hallett, Lincoln News



Howland Post 97 Installation Ceremony: Department Commander Debra Couture and Department Finance Officer Greg Couture installed the 2022-2023 Officers of the Lee-Graham American Legion Post 97 of Howland on Tues., April 12, at the Post home. Left to right, Howland Post 97 Americanism Officer and Chaplain James Hatch, Department Commander Debra Couture, Post Sergeant-at-Arms Royce Smith, Jr., Service Officer Raymond Rancourt, 1st Vice Commander Edward Spencer, Jr., Finance Officer John Neel, Adjutant Henry Carey, and Commander Joseph A. Briggs.

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



50 Continuous Years: Guilford Post 119 Adjutant Steven Deane presents a 50 Year Continuous Membership Award to Paul Herrick on March 20 at Guilford Post 119. Left to right, Post 119 Adjutant Steven Deane, Paul Herrick, and Gloria Herrick.

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



Cherryfield Post 8 Receives 100% Membership: Department Commander Debra Couture presents a 2021 100% Membership Certificate to Cherryfield Post 8 Commander Jon Gay on May 5 during the District 15 meeting held at Cherryfield Post 8. Gay had just returned from a deployment to Montenegro with the 101st Air Refueling Wing, Bangor ANG.



Cherryfield Post 8 Supports Ukraine

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



District 16 Award Appreciation: Department Commander Debra Couture presents National Commander Paul Dillard's coin and pin to Korean War Veterans Burns Weeks and Richard Scribner of the Presque Isle Ray Goding Post 88, and James Burton of the Oakfield Frank B. Holden Post 52 on April 2 at the District 16 meeting held at Post 88. Left to right, Burns Weeks, Richard Scribner, and Department Commander Debra Couture. James Burton was not available for the picture.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 17

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



Frenchville Auxiliary Unit 145 Holds Raffle:

The American Legion Auxiliaries held a 50/50 Raffle with the proceeds to benefit the Dr. Levesque School. Dr. Levesque School had a fire in the summer of 2021; which burned the school completely to the ground. With our 50/50 raffle, we were able to raise \$571. The winner of the raffle chose not to accept his winnings and donate the winnings to the school, also.

Catholic Financial Life Insurance matched us and awarded us \$500. This meant that we were able to present the principal of the Dr. Levesque School with a check of \$1,071 to purchase supplies that the school desperately needed. They were very pleased and appreciative. Presenting the check is Unit 145 Sec., and Fund Raiser Chairperson, Denise Sinclair. Accepting the check is the Dr. Levesque School Principal, Cheryl Hallowell. Also present is Catholic Financial Life Insurance Representative and Post 145 Legionnaire Bobby Michaud. Photo was taken by a school staff member.



Subscribe To Our Emails and receive instant email updates including our bi-weekly newsletter "The Leadership Ledger" and The Maine

Legionnaire newspaper by visiting <https://form.jotform.com/RachaelJ/maine-al-email-subscription-form>

DIRECTV Partners With the Legion

DIRECTV Entertainment is now a partner of The American Legion. American Legion posts can now take advantage of saving up to 20% on select Business Viewing Packages.

- 15% off retail pricing – Business Select Pack (over 95 channels)
- 20% off retail pricing – Business Entertainment Pack (over 100 channels)

- 20% off retail pricing – Business XTRA Pack (over 155 channels)
- 25% off retail pricing – Music Choice Premium (over 80 music channels)

Learn more at cssdtv.com/american-legion.

www.legion.org/dispatch
The American Legion
Feb. 8, 2022



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- Cancer Care
- Accidental Death Protection
- On-The-Move Travel Accident
- Emergency Assistance Plus
- Medicare Supplement Insurance
- Health Insurance
- Dental Insurance
- Long-Term Care
- Lifeline Medical Alert Service



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DEPARTMENT



- **Hospital HELP Plan** — Provides benefits for hospital stays including intensive care, cardiac care, care for cancer, rehabilitative facilities, and V.A. hospitals.*
- **Cancer Care** — Provides important protection and a daily benefit if you are hospitalized due to cancer.*
- **Accidental Death** — Helps provide financial protection for you and your family. Up to \$5,000.00 LegionCare AD coverage at no cost to Legionnaires is available: (activation required).* You can also purchase additional Accidental coverage up to \$100,000.00.
- **On-The-Move Travel Accident** — Provides up to \$200,000.00 coverage when fatally injured in a covered accident while traveling, plus \$500.00 per day if a covered accident lands you in the hospital.*
- **Emergency Assistance Plus** — Provides you with 24/7 emergency medical and travel assistance services should something happen to you or your family while traveling away from home.
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- **Health & Dental Insurance** — Request a quote on various Health & Dental Insurance Plans designed with you in mind.
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For Questions Call 1-800-235-6943

*The Accidental Death, Cancer Care, Hospital Help Plan, and On-The-Move Accident Insurance Plans are underwritten by Securian Life Insurance Company, St. Paul, MN. Plans may not be available in all states. These policies contain limitations and exclusions. Please visit www.TheLIT.com to review plan details.

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your behalf by Your Department of The American Legion.

As soon as your enrollment is received, LegionCare will take effect. Your acceptance is guaranteed, so mail your coupon today.

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

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ADDRESS _____	
CITY _____	STATE _____ ZIP _____
DATE OF BIRTH _____	MEMBERSHIP CARD NO. _____
EMAIL _____	
MAKE SURE YOU INCLUDE YOUR DATE OF BIRTH <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____	

Have you filled out all the above information?

Please mail to: **Legionnaire Insurance Trust • P.O. Box 26720 • Phoenix, AZ 85068-6720**

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

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

Cut it out

100 Miles for Hope Challenge Information

To all Legion Leadership:

I wanted to direct your attention to a new challenge as part of this year's 100 Miles for Hope that allows members to support their departments while raising funds for the Veterans & Children Foundation. The national commander wanted to expand the Department Breakout Challenge for the entire duration of the 100 Miles for Hope challenge, which ends Sept. 5.

Here's how it works:

- Proceeds from registrations and donations go directly to the V&CF. If you haven't already registered, visit www.legion.org/100miles to register and learn more.

- For the breakout challenge, departments are divided up into categories by size. You can find out which category your department is in by visiting the FAQ page here.

- The department in each category that raises the most money for the V&CF via the 100 miles challenge will receive a plaque from the national commander.

- To ensure that your fundraising gets credited to your department, you must join its team. There are two ways to join or support a department or team.

1. Make a donation. To donate to your department, download this PDF to find your department. Then either click the link to go to your department donation page, or text your unique department code to 71777. After texting your department code, you will receive a link to donate to your department.

2. Fundraise. Go to Mobile Cause to sign up and then choose "Become a fundraiser" then select a team. All of the departments have already been created. To join a team after initial set-up, log back into your Mobile Cause page or type in app.mobilecause.com/vf/100MFH/YourName and select edit at the bottom of the page, then click Join a Team.

Additionally, I wanted to share some resources with you to help promote this great program.

Those include:

Promotional materials. National headquarters staff has created promotional items for participants to share. For example, there is a poster that can be displayed at your post, community center or elsewhere. Additionally, there is a small hand-out card with a QR code that can be given to someone to sign up or donate on the spot, or used as a leave-behind at a meeting. Visit legion.org/100miles/tools for these and other promotional items.

Share your story. The American Legion encourages all participants to share their 100 Miles for Hope journey. A few ways to do this is by sharing your progress and fundraising achievements on the Legiontown web page. And for social media posts, use the hashtag #100MilesForHope. Tag The American Legion and staff will help share your progress.

Facebook shares. An American Legion member has graciously volunteered to create personalized

social media graphics that you can share on Facebook and other social media sites. All you need to do is send an email to her with a photo, and she will create one for you. Learn more at legion.org/100miles/share.

Create your own team. It is also possible for American Legion districts, posts or other entities that would like to create their own challenge against another group. For example, two posts, districts, or Riders chapters could create their own challenge. If you would like to create a new team, please email donor-services@legion.org.

Thank you for your support of this great program, and our Veterans & Children Foundation.

Please direct questions to Henry Howard at magazine@legion.org. Thank you.

Dan Wheeler, National Adjutant

<https://www.legion.org/100miles/255418/100-miles-hope-join-and-support-your-department%C2%A0%C2%A0>

Instruments Needed for the Greater Seacoast Salvation Army

The Greater Seacoast Salvation Army needs brass band instruments to form a band and is looking for donated or inexpensive instruments. Instruments need not be new or perfect - just playable. Legionnaire Donald G. Hands is the point of contact and can be reached at 1-(207)-703-2727 or by email at dghands@comcast.net.

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



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

mailed to: American Legion Department of Maine Foundation, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901-0727.

Please make sure to provide your name and address so that we may send you a tax receipt.

Thank you in advance for your generous contribution!

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

All donations to the foundation are tax-deductible under the United States Tax Code and Internal Revenue Service.

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



T a p s C o l u m n

POST	NAME	CONFLICT	POST	NAME	CONFLICT
Post 1 – Rockland	Harold L Shields	WWII	Post 132 – Richmond	Roland W Dearborn	Korea
Post 2 – Augusta	Leroy F Hussey, Jr	WWII	Post 134 – Alfred	Robert Gobeil	WWII
Post 4 – Gardiner	Thomas W Mahoney	Vietnam	Post 134 – Alfred	George O Pendleton	WWII
Post 5 – Waterville	Albert J Duguay	WWII	Post 132 – Richmond	Roland W Dearborn	Korea
Post 5 – Waterville	Wallace R Emerson	Korea	Post 143 – Wells	Rudolph H Larson	Vietnam
Post 5 – Waterville	Wyman C Goodwin	Vietnam	Post 149 – Waldoboro	Clarence York	Vietnam
Post 5 – Waterville	James A Smith	Korea	Post 150 – Mechanic Falls	Robert C Anderson	Vietnam
Post 9 – Machias	Bart Brize Persian	Gulf	Post 150 – Mechanic Falls	Carroll N Holmes	Korea
Post 9 – Machias	Michael R Tingley	Vietnam	Post 153 – Auburn	Robert L Booth	Korea
Post 10 – Livermore Falls	John B Wood	Vietnam	Post 153 – Auburn	Roger P Dufresne	
Post 17 – Portland	Douglas J Gorman		Post 153 – Auburn	William P Gagne	Korea
Post 17 – Portland	H R Langella	WWII	Post 153 – Auburn	Alphee L Grenier	Korea
Post 19 – Sanford	Henry R Belrose	WWII	Post 153 – Auburn	Donald A Nadeau	Vietnam
Post 19 – Sanford	Kenneth D Bemis	Vietnam	Post 155 – Naples	Curtis R Merrill	Vietnam
Post 19 – Sanford	Andrew B Carlin	Korea	Post 171 – Harpswell	J Edward Johnson	Korea
Post 19 – Sanford	Patrick M Leblanc	Vietnam	Post 171 – Harpswell	Robert E Webber	Vietnam
Post 21 – Bath	John H Stiner	Vietnam	Post 178 – Winslow	Roger Bilodeau	Vietnam
Post 23 – Baileyville	Alvin J Hanson	Korea	Post 178 – Winslow	Charles P Brooks	Korea
Post 24 – Rumford	Leo P Arsenault	WWII	Post 178 – Winslow	Daniel A D’Auteuil Sr	Vietnam
Post 24 – Rumford	Joseph J Bernard	Vietnam	Post 178 – Winslow	Richard Merrill	Vietnam
Post 24 – Rumford	William P Papsadora	Vietnam	Post 178 – Winslow	Michael Pesce	Grenada/Lebanon
Post 24 – Rumford	Lester O Prue		Post 186 – Clinton	Jordan Williams	Vietnam
Post 25 – Bar Harbor	Lawrence V Hall, Jr	WWII	Post 192 – Athens	Lawrence B Anderson	Vietnam
Post 28 – Farmington	Clifford A Boynton Sr	Vietnam	Post 192 – Athens	Walter G Butler	Korea
Post 28 – Farmington	Robert E Jones Sr	Korea	Post 192 – Athens	William A Ward	Vietnam
Post 34 – St. George	Jay M Balano	Vietnam	Post 197 – Westbrook	Daniel H Bryant	Korea
Post 34 – St. George	Rev Walden C Chandler	Vietnam	Post 197 – Westbrook	Jean G Chamberland	Vietnam
Post 35 – So Portland	Ralph F Deangelis	Korea	Post 197 – Westbrook	Robert J Cyr	Vietnam
Post 35 – So Portland	Robert J Hawkins	Persian Gulf	Post 197 – Westbrook	Arthur M Spink Jr	Korea
Post 35 – So Portland	James “Ron” Palmquist Sr	Korea	Post 197 – Westbrook	Joseph E Thibeault	WWII
Post 35 – So Portland	David M Sawyer	Vietnam	Post 202 – Topsham	Clarence Macdonald	WWII
Post 35 – So Portland	Richard H Swasey	Korea	Post 202 – Topsham	David R Mockler	Vietnam
Post 42 – Damariscotta	Ralph R Bond	WWII	Post 202 – Topsham	Dewey Nelson	Vietnam
Post 42 – Damariscotta	Ralph G Knowles	Vietnam	Post 202 – Topsham	Joel Rollins	Vietnam
Post 42 – Damariscotta	Paul T Farrin	Vietnam	Post 202 – Topsham	Edward Zazeski	Vietnam
Post 42 – Damariscotta	Malcolm C Simmons	Vietnam	Post 216 – Phippsburg	Richard C Albertson	Korea
Post 49 – Van Buren	Aurele Lagasse	Korea	Post 216 – Phippsburg	Michael C Palmer	Korea
Post 50 – Unity	Daniel Emery	Vietnam	Post 216 – Phippsburg	Robert C Morse	Vietnam
Post 52 – Oakfield	Bruce W Barrett	Grenada/Lebanon			
Post 57 – Old Orchard Beach	Philip Dimodica	Korea			
Post 57 – Old Orchard Beach	Jean M Skinner	Vietnam			
Post 57 – Old Orchard Beach	Roger D Smith Jr	Vietnam			
Post 58 – Buckfield	Raymond M Bussiere	Vietnam			
Post 62 – Westbrook	Philip L Mailhot	Korea			
Post 62 – Westbrook	Robert E Meggison	Korea			
Post 63 – Ellsworth	Kenneth L Torrey	Korea			
Post 67 – Bridgton	George F Murphy	Vietnam			
Post 69 – SW Harbor	Edward L Gilley	WWII			
Post 69 – SW Harbor	Wilbert Terry	Korea			
Post 69 – SW Harbor	Warren R Worcester	WWII			
Post 73 – Corinna	Allan J Palmer	Vietnam			
Post 79 – Berwick	Carl W Polito Sr	Vietnam			
Post 80 – Millinocket	Clement Dangelo Jr	Vietnam			
Post 80 – Millinocket	James J Doucette	Korea			
Post 80 – Millinocket	Robert C Leet	Vietnam			
Post 82 – Norway	Rawn Phinney	Vietnam			
Post 84 – Orono	Millard W Dolley	Vietnam			
Post 84 – Orono	Bobby J Hazelton	Vietnam			
Post 88 – Presque Isle	William H Allen	WWII			
Post 88 – Presque Isle	Norman R Blotner	Korea			
Post 88 – Presque Isle	Robert C Carter	Korea			
Post 102 – Stonington	Archie Pickering Jr	Korea			
Post 105 – Newport	Paul D Conklin	Panama			
Post 105 – Newport	Allen Mesurvey	Vietnam			
Post 111 – Turner	Albert F Gondeck	Korea			
Post 117 – Wilton	Robert A Richard	Korea			
Post 118 – Mars Hill	Lewis Boyce	Vietnam			
Post 118 – Mars Hill	Louis O Mahan	Korea			
Post 121 – Monticello	Steve Tucker	Vietnam			
Post 123 – Kezar Falls	Robert L Chadbourne	Korea			
Post 123 – Kezar Falls	Howard J Forsythe	WWII			
Post 123 – Kezar Falls	Charles H Jordan III	Vietnam			
Post 123 – Kezar Falls	Darrell Lee Settell	Vietnam			
Post 128 – Standish	John P Gismondi	Vietnam			
Post 128 – Standish	Carl F Henrikson	Korea			

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Attention: Next Deadline is JULY 15

The deadline for material, stories and/or pictures to be submitted for consideration for use in the **August 2022** issue of The Maine Legionnaire will be **July 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 or rachael@mainelegion.org

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

Maine American Legion Takes First in the Wigle Membership Innovation Initiative

The Wigle Membership Innovation Initiative recognizes the innovative efforts of American Legion Departments in their membership development activities. Commander Debra Couture has been extremely successful by earning two consecutive years in 2nd Place. The Department of Maine was rewarded with \$7500 for each 2nd Place win.

Department Americanism Officer Tricia Thurston, Legionnaire Insurance Trust Director, was slated to apply for the 2022 Initiative. She was tasked with explaining what Maine has done

to identify, recruit, and procure new members. The judges were focusing on unique and innovative methods that have illustrated proven growth in Department membership. On April 27th, the Department of Maine was awarded 1st Place in for the Wigle Membership Innovation Initiative, along with a \$12,500 award.

Congratulations to Americanism Officer and LIT Trust Director Tricia Thurston for her challenging work and dedication which attributed to the success of this award.

TEAM MAINE!



WWII Veterans Receive Letters Of Commendation: In a special ceremony and dinner at Kezar Falls Post 123 on March 26, State Commander Debra Couture, center, presents WWII Veterans Carroll Hanson, left, and Adrian Durgin, right, with American Legion Letters of Commendation in appreciation of their service during WWII. Veterans Carroll and Adrian also received State Commander Pins, 100th Anniversary Legion Coins, State of Maine WWII Certificate of Appreciation Letters signed by Governor Mills with WWII Coins, and American Legion National Commander Paul Dillard Coins and pins in appreciation of their WWII service. *Congratulations Carroll and Adrian! Thank You both for your service!!!*



Excellence In Promoting Legionnaire Insurance Trust Programs & Services Pays Off: Congratulations to Americanism Officer and LIT Trust Director for taking 1st place in the Wigle Membership Innovation Initiative Program (AGIA). Left to right, President & CEO of AGIA Affinity Center Chris Burke, Legionnaire Insurance Trust Director Patricia "Tricia" Thurston, and Senior Vice President AGIA Carl Adamek.

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.