

THE MAINE Legionnaire



AUG-SEPT 2023

Vol. 38, Issue 3

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

AMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF MAINE

32 Pages

McKay to Command Maine American Legion

Alfred T. McKay was elected as the Department of Maine Commander of The American Legion during the 104th Annual State Convention in Brewer, Maine on June 10, 2023.

Al was born in Damariscotta, Maine, and was raised in Edgecomb, Maine. After graduating in 1976 from Wiscasset High School, he joined the Air Force in 1976 and retired in 1995.

He was an Aircraft Structural Maintenance craftsman and was stationed at Nellis AFB, Las Vegas Nevada, with the 474th TFW working F-111 and F4D, Loring AFB Limestone Maine, working B-52s and KC-135 of the 42 Heavy Bombardment Wing, Keflavik NAS, Iceland working F4's and F-15's of the 57th Fighter Interceptor Squadron, back to Nellis AFB Nevada in the 474th TFW where he became the squadron Mobility NCO and got nationally certified as a Motorcycle Safety Instructor, then was stationed at Anderson AFB, Guam working B 52's and KC-135's of the 43 Heavy Bombardment Wing. After Desert Shield/Desert Storm,

Al was stationed at Edwards AFB California. He was deployed to Daharan Saudi



STATE COMMANDER
ALFRED MCKAY

Arabia, after returning to Edwards AFB, and retired a few months later. After returning to Maine, he met his future wife, Toby, and they blended into their two families.

Commander McKay joined the American Legion 30 years ago and has been an active member ever since. He has been a member of American Legion Post 490 of Rosamond, California, Charles C Lilly Post 149 Waldoboro Maine, and Wells-Hussey Post 42, Damariscotta, Maine. He has held officer positions at the Post, District, Area, and again at the Department level and has been on various committees at the Post, Department, and National levels.

State Commander Installation Ceremony:

Past National Commander Anthony "Tony" Jordan installs Alfred McKay of Waldoboro as the new 2023-24 State Commander of Maine American Legion during the Annual State Convention on June 11 at Jeff's Catering & Event Center, Brewer.



**QUICKLY & EASILY
RENEW ONLINE TODAY!**

Simply Scan the QR Code with the camera on your phone or visit:

WWW.LEGION.ORG/RENEW



Seehafer Elected American Legion National Commander

Daniel J. Seehafer was elected national commander of the nation's largest veterans organization on Aug. 31, 2023, in Charlotte, N.C., during The American Legion's 104th national convention. Seehafer likes to say, "It's personal," when it comes to The American Legion's mission of serving veterans and their families. He is continuing the theme of "Be the One" to prevent veteran suicide.

An ordained minister from Wisconsin, Seehafer earned his American Legion eligibility through service in the U.S. Navy and Navy Reserve, where he served as a military chaplain. A member of American Legion Post 157 in Horicon, Wis., Seehafer has served in a number of American Legion offices at every level, including national chaplain and commander of the Department of Wisconsin.

Born and raised in Merrill, Wis., he lettered in cross-country track while in high school and later received a bachelor's degree in pastoral ministry from Concordia

University and a Master of Divinity at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind.

Seehafer was installed as assistant pastor of St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Horicon in 1997 and continues to serve as administrative pastor of the church and its school. His American Legion post was recognized for "100 percent" and "All-Time High" in membership during his terms as commander and adjutant. Other honors include district commander's new post achievement award, Silver Brigade membership recruiting award, and Post 157 Legionnaire of the Year.

In 2023, Seehafer earned an Outstanding Heroism Award for administering the Heimlich maneuver to a choking victim at an American Legion dinner.

National Commander Seehafer and his wife, Stacey, who is a member of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 157, live in Beaver Dam, Wis. Dan's son, Jacob, and daughter, Emma, are also members of the Post 157 family.



One Mission: BE THE ONE
Dear American Legion Family members and friends,

When contemplating my first message as national commander of The American Legion, there was consistently one topic I wanted to address: our Be the One initiative.

Nothing is more important than our effort to reduce the number of veterans who die by suicide.

Seventeen, 22 or even more a day. Even one is one too many.

As I said in my acceptance speech last week, "... with all this talk about num-

bers on this very subject, the only number I want us to push is 'one,' as in Be the One to save one, yes, one veteran, or even their spouse, from taking his or her own life."

The life of one veteran saved makes all the difference in the world.

That gets to the heart of the Be the One mission. While the initiative was only launched two years ago, it is already starting to make a difference. I can feel the momentum. It's an honor to be part of this organization-wide effort.

[More on "ONE MISSION" Page 3](#)

Commander's Comments

First and foremost, thank you for allowing me the honor to represent you, as your Department Commander. This is a responsibility I do not take lightly. I would at this time like to thank the immediate past



**ALFRED
MCKAY**

Dept. Commander Kirk Thurston, for his leadership and guidance over the past few years. I have no doubt that Kirk will be active in the Legion programs for years to come. We as the department as well as at the post level will be facing many hard and challenging times ahead. Together we can overcome these obstacles as a combined Legion force. We must be willing to reach out to the post in your district or other posts that may be in need of assistance. Another large discrepancy that each post is encoun-

tering is the "that is not how we do it here." The days of doing things with ink and paper are done and will not come back. All posts should have, and/or must embrace the electronic age. All but one form can be sent by email to headquarters; this not only saves time, but money as well.

In the upcoming months we will be having our Fall Conference. It will be in Westbrook this year and will be held at the Westbrook Community Center. I am looking forward to seeing many of you in attendance. There will be a lot of information presented as well as a chance to network with other posts. If you're new to the Legion or a new post/district officer, come meet the department and our national officers. Another great source of information is found on the Legion's website in the Legion Ledger.

Once again thank you ever so much for the privilege you have extended to me. I also am planning to visit many posts throughout this great state and look forward to meeting you.

COMMANDER'S PROJECT 2023

Department Commander Al McKay asks that each Post and Legionnaire support his goal.

The American Legion, Department of Maine has a long history with the Maine Veterans' Cemeteries across the State. In 1960, The American Legion learned of a plan for joint State-Federal cemeteries, by State Convention in 1962 (in Old Orchard Beach), a resolution was passed attested by Department Adjutant Nathaniel Cobb. The resolution was to establish a Legion committee at the Maine Veterans Cemetery in Augusta since the burial space at Togus was closed. The Committee was tasked with finding land, deciding on building designs, placing flag poles, deciding on marker types, and working on getting legislation passed to support this massive project.

Fast forward to 2023 - A chapel that had stood at the well-established cemetery fell into disrepair and was torn down years ago. The committal building that replaced it is heavily utilized and in need of some massive structural renovations. The committal building is an essential tool needed to conduct an interment Service for our fallen comrades.

Commander McKay states "This is a very

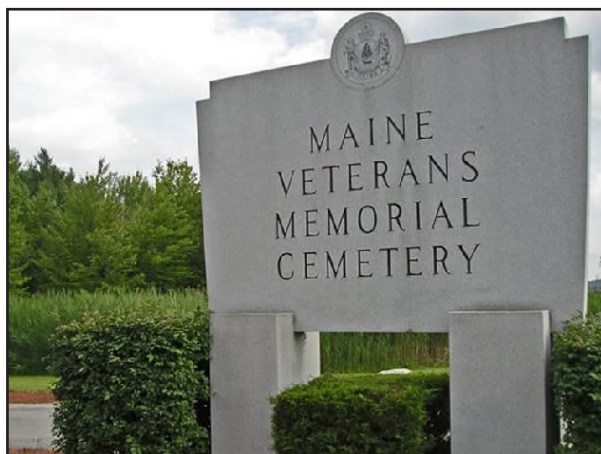
much-needed building to provide a dignified space for our veterans, their spouses, and their families. The building renovations will allow protection from the elements year-round and ensure The American Legion, continuing with their Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery history, remains a front-runner in honoring all veterans who enter Post Everlasting".

If you would like to support Commander McKay's project in renovating this necessary building, mail checks to:

**The American Legion Dept. of Maine
Attn: Committal Building
5 Verti Drive
Winslow, ME 04901-0727**

If you would like to donate with a Debit or Credit Card, please call 207-873-3229 or visit: www.mainelegion.org and click on the **DONATE** button.

Make sure to type "Commander's Project" in the Note section.



A 'First' Look

Greetings Fellow Comrades,

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your 1st Vice Commander for the great state of Maine. I was very happy to present the 2023/2024 Membership Plan at Fall Conference. As you heard at the presentation it is full of target dates, membership ideas, and fun challenges. I am positive that we can make the attainable goals National has set for us. I know you will not let me down.

I was able to attend the Membership Workshop in Indy. I am thankful for the opportunity given to me. I walked away with a lot of information. I was so fortunate to hear Leading Candidate for National Commander Dan Seehafer's very inspiring speech. He has challenged us to join him in "Operation, Eye of the Tiger". We need to get our spark back! I know we can achieve this goal!! This leads to the very important thought, first and foremost our, "membership mat-



**PATRICIA
THURSTON**

ters". When you ask someone if they are a member or if they would like to become a member and they say, "No, I don't drink" or, "I don't have time". What is your response to them? Please tell me you share what the American Legion is about and that we are NOT a bar/lounge/canteen. Some Posts just happen to have them. Do you have an "elevator speech" ready? If not get one, make it meaningful, practice it, and be ready to share it with a potential member. Let them know that their membership matters when we go to Capitol Hill to fight for veterans' rights. Share that we have VA Benefits Assistance and we happen to have one of the best VSOs out there, they will receive a monthly magazine filled with important information and meaningful stories, let them know we support family, provide camaraderie, and that we continue service through community support. Do you think the PACT Act would have been passed if we did not have the membership numbers we have nationwide? Probably not! We are nearly 2 MILLION strong. It is up to each and every one of us to work membership to support our growth. We cannot continue the membership slide. Every goal is within reach, we just

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

A 'Second' Look

It is an absolute honor to be able to serve as your Dept. of Maine 2nd Vice Commander this year. We have such a great leadership team in place and I look forward to seeing what we can all accomplish together.

I believe it is extremely important that we continue to strive to work on the important issues that veterans face on a daily basis. We didn't get to be the greatest veteran service organization by not taking care of our brother and sisters in arms. So, from the bottom of my heart, I thank each one of you for taking your time, out of your day, to continue to serve. Without you and your countless hours that you dedicate, we wouldn't be the greatest!

With that said, we still have some work to do. It is extremely important that we all ensure that we continue to get our reports turned in. Many posts have definitely stayed on top of them, but we can do so much better. Remember there are deadlines to turn these in for a reason. Everything that we ask for has a purpose and it only helps us to follow the guidelines and the dates that are provided to us.



**LEROY
MCKENZIE**

These reports take minimal time to complete, so I ask that we continue to strive to get these reports in before the deadlines. Currently our forms are available on the www.mainelegion.org website, under forms/applications on the left side of the page. Also, under that same link you will find all the deadlines for these reports. I don't want to harp on these reports, but I will because that's what needs to be done. And just like you, I want to do everything in my power to ensure the current and future success of our organization.

If you or your posts need help with any of these forms, are unsure if you have submitted them, or need support at all, please feel free to reach out. My contact details are readily available in the 23-24 Directory, or on the Officers tab on our website. If it is something that I don't have the answer to, I will do everything I can to get it answered for you.

I also wanted to touch base on Department Officers attending your events. If you have an event and would like someone to be there, the best way is to let us know and we can try to make it happen. We all know we can't be everywhere at once, but we can be sure to do our best to accommodate you.

Again, thank you all for all that you do and keep up the great work! We do what we do because we have a passion to help others. Please stay safe and remember to check on each other as we are ALL in this together.

NEC Update

Hello fellow Legionnaires. I would first like to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer season. It may be difficult with some of the bad storms we all have had but we are still here and will get through the rough times. Together we can and will do it.



**LLOYD
WOODS**

I would also like to congratulate all the newly installed Post, District and Department officers. I wanted to do that at the convention and with all of the goings on did not do so. I apologize. Again, together we will keep our great veterans service organization foremost in the eyes of the Maine people. If I can be of any assistance please contact me at lloydwoods12@gmail.com or 207-557-4971.

Next, Please, along with me, sincerely thank Chief Border Patrol Agent William Maddocks of the Houlton Border Patrol Sector for his assistance and huge input in making the Department of Maine, I believe, the first department in the nation to honor and establish a

recognition award of the Border Patrol Agent of the Year. This award was given to Supervisory Border Patrol Agent Chad Hewitt of the Fort Fairfield Border Patrol Station. I believe Chief Maddocks has since retired. A big thank you Chief for your outstanding support and assistance in this matter. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Another big congratulations from me is going to the Auxiliary's Eastern Region Vice President from our great State of Maine, Veronica Gurney. From all that I have seen and heard she represented our State and Department very well. As one who has had the privilege of holding a similar position in The American Legion nation-wide it is a very enjoyable and extremely informative position to hold. Thank you Veronica for your hard work and dedication!

As we are preparing for National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina there are many things that need our attention and input. I hope all that attend this year have a safe flight or drive and an enjoyable time there.

Finally, I would like to express my sincerest thank you to Outgoing Department Adjutant Paul L'Heureux. A big JOB WELL DONE and THANK YOU for all that you accomplished during your tenure.

As I have always said, PROUD TO SERVE.



Department Of Maine Installation Of Officers: Past National Commander Anthony "Tony" Jordan installs the 2023-24 American Legion Department of Maine officers at the Annual State Convention held at Jeff's Catering & Event Center, Brewer on June 11. Left to right, Commander Alfred McKay, Past Department Commander Kirk Thurston, 1st Vice Commander Patricia "Tricia" Thurston, 2nd Vice Commander Leroy McKenzie, Adjutant Jason Hall, Chaplain Catherine Merrill, Americanism Officer Joseph Michaud, Judge Advocate Harold "Drew" Goodridge, Historian Louis Marin, and Sgt-At-Arms Danielle Begert.

On the Agenda

OCTOBER 2023 MEETINGS

District 1 – York: Oct. 1, Eagle Lake Posts 176, 12 Noon Lunch
Election meeting at 1PM

District 5 – Oxford: Oct. 17, Buckfield Post 58, 7:00PM - Refreshments (Pumpkin Pie?) after.

District 12 – Hancock: Oct. 10, Bar Harbor Post 25, Dinner at 6:00PM, Meeting at 7:00PM

District 14 – Piscataquis: Oct. 21, Milo Post 41, 12 Noon Lunch w/Business Meeting at 1PM

District 15 – Washington: Oct. 8, Pembroke Post 59, 2PM

NOVEMBER 2023 MEETINGS

District 5 – Oxford: Nov. 21, Bethel Post 81, 7:00PM
Refreshments after

District 12 – Hancock: Nov. 14, SW Harbor Post 69, Dinner at 6:00PM, Meeting at 7:00PM

District 13 – Penobscot: Nov. 5, Old Town Post 75, 1PM -

District 14 – Piscataquis: Nov. 18, Monson Post 116, 12 Noon Lunch w/Business Meeting at 1PM

District 16 – S. Aroostook: Nov. 4, Mars Hill Post 118 – 12PM
Meal provided - \$10.00

"A 'FIRST' LOOK" (Continued from Page 2)

have to be diligent!

With all this information coming your way, is the fact that a lot of you will receive emails from me with information on membership and asking you to reach out to Posts within your Districts. If you have met your goals, then know we appreciate all you are doing. I will be respectful and I ask that if you feel the need to respond that you are also respectful and that you will be nice/kind. Don't shoot the messenger for doing their job. This includes all those reaching out to you. We have a job to do and we plan to do it well.

I want to share our membership plan and this year's focus once again "Make a difference, Pay It Forward". I challenge each of you, your Post, and your District to PAY IT FORWARD for a member that is going through a hardship, in a nursing home, on active duty, or, just because! Sign up a new member. "Remember" our WWII, Korean, and Vietnam Veter-

ans and give them a gift of membership. After all they matter and our Membership Matters! Pass a hat at your Post or District meeting to be earmark for the "Pay it Forward" campaign. If every Post within the state sent in at least two "pay it forward" dues monthly that would be approximately 340 memberships times 12 to go towards our membership goals. This would be incredible. We can do this!

I look forward to visiting District Meetings and special events within our state. If you are planning something you would like any of us to attend please reach out. What I want you all to know is I do have family responsibilities. My grandchildren are extremely important to me they are young and they may need me at times. Please send out invites ahead of time so I can plan to make your event. As these events are being scheduled we will hopefully be able to send at least one Department Officer your way.

We are Maine American Legion Strong and we have "Strength in Numbers".

Tricia Thurston
1st Vice Commander

WHY YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

VA Benefits Assistance

Accredited American Legion service officers are specially trained to provide expert assistance, free of charge, to veterans and their families. Your membership also helps support American Legion Department Service Officers nationwide who assist veterans in preparing claims and obtaining their full military healthcare benefits through the VA.

A Voice in Our Nation's Capital

The American Legion is the nation's most influential, effective and dependable advocate of veteran affairs fighting for better active-duty pay, improved housing for active-duty families and helping to ensure that the VA's medical system can

properly care for veterans.

Monthly Magazine (a \$30 value)

Our nation's leaders speak directly to citizens on the pages of The American Legion Magazine. The American Legion's organizational goals are promoted using the words of talented writers, professional journalists and world leaders.


Family, Camaraderie and Continuing Service Through Community Support

Financial grants are among the ways The American Legion supports its members and families of military servicemembers during times of financial hardship and natural disasters.

legion.org/RENEW



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



**THE MAINE
Legionnaire**

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MAINE

Official Newspaper of The American Legion, Dept. of Maine
Published at Maine Trust for Local News L3C, 295 Gannett Drive
South Portland, ME 04106

By The American Legion, Department of Maine
Business Office, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901-0727

Website: www.mainelegion.org

Tel.: 207-873-3229 Fax: 207-872-0501
Email: rachael@mainelegion.org
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TALDepartmentofMaine>

Jason Hall, Editorial Director
Rachael Currie, Managing/Layout Editor
Emily Sicely & Jeanette Glidden, Assistant Layout Editor

Third Class Postage paid at Waterville, Maine
Subscription for Maine Legionnaires \$2 as a part of their dues.
Other subscription Rate \$10 a year.
Average Circulation: 16,000.

■ "ONE MISSION" (Continued from Page 1)

You, too, can help build on this momentum to raise awareness about the issue, guide resources to those in need and eliminate the stigma sometimes associated with mental health counseling — all of which will contribute to reducing the veteran suicide rate.

Here are some ways that you and/or your post can play a vital role:

- Host a fitness-related event to raise awareness about Be the One, as well as improving one's physical and mental wellbeing. Posts across the nation have hosted 5K walk-runs and other similar events, including this one from my home state of Wisconsin.
- Put together a symposium or resource

fair where local service providers can share their resources with veterans in your community. Posts in Illinois, Massachusetts and elsewhere have put on events like these to bring together veterans and those who can assist them with resources.

- Be creative and spread the word about Be the One in your communities, especially on Be the One days — the first day of every month. And share how you are driving Be the One awareness by posting the story on our Legiontown web page.

Above all else, talk about it. Learn what to do when a fellow veteran needs help. And — above all else — Be the One.

National Commander Daniel J. Seehafer
 Photo by Hilary Ott/The American Legion

SEP 06, 2023

www.legion.org/commander

Money Matters



**EUGENE
CONNOLLY**

I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable summer and this article finds all of you in good health.

We had a very successful Dirigo Program thanks to the Financial support from all the posts that participated in sending students to Colby

College this year. Kudos to you. Hopefully, we can double the size of student enrollment next year if all the posts in the state start planning now and put a slot on your next year's budget to sponsor one or more students.

We had a little hiccup this past year with our Investment Portfolio. It was quite the roller coaster ride. Going into this Invest-

ment Program we knew that the money earmarked for the individual programs would not grow to the point where they would be self-sufficient overnight. But once again, our portfolio is on the upward growth.

We recently received a refund for filing an application for an Employee Retention Credit (ERC). In order to apply, your Post must have one or more W-2 employees during the years of 2020 and 2021. Claims must be filed by April 2024 in order to get a refund. We retained the services of Ron Witham to help file our claim. He has helped over 90 entities, including American Legions, non-profits, small businesses, and churches, for a total of nearly \$13 million to date. He is an independent consultant and can be reached by phone at: 207-314-2767. His e-mail is rwitham.mps@gmail.com.

Thank you for your time this time until next time. Until then, be safe.

The Adjutant Speaks

I would like to start out by thanking each one of you for attending our Department Convention on June 9th. So many dedicated members are in attendance that make differences in communities across Maine.



**JASON
HALL**

It was great to hear that the Legion programs are growing (Baseball, Oratorical, and DIRIGO State) and I especially enjoyed the awards presented for Legionnaire of the Year, Adjutant of the Year, Post Excellence Awards, and so many more.

I appreciated all the support and notes I received welcoming me to my new position. It is always tough following a top-notch advocate for veterans like Paul L'Heureux. I am fortunate to assume a position that has so much support from Legionnaires and to be surrounded by great staff. Thank you.

I did want to fill you in on my first few weeks as Department Adjutant, it was a little hectic and surreal at times.

After the Convention, I immediately set out to finish something I had been

working on for 6-9 months, DIRIGO State. Shortly after Convention, DIRIGO State went off without a hitch thanks to our Posts, Squadrons, and Units that support it. Also, thank you to all the Legion Family members that showed up during the week to observe, volunteer, and support the delegates at the graduation ceremony. It was fantastic and I had an amazing number of calls and emails from parents and schools thanking the Department of Maine for the successful program. I am also looking forward to the newly formed DIRIGO State Committee that will take things up a notch in 2024.

After DIRIGO State I prepared for American Legion Baseball State Championships, and in the middle of the State Championships left for the National Membership Conference in Indianapolis. I joined First Vice Commander Tricia Thurston where we learned new innovative ideas on retention and recruitment. We also had some valued time networking with other Departments to learn techniques we could utilize in Maine.

Since I mentioned baseball, I have a confession. I am a little bit of a trash talker. When the Trenton Acadians team won the State Championship, I was happy. When they upset teams at

[More on "ADJUTANT" Page 5](#)



New State Adjutant Installation Ceremony: Outgoing State Adjutant of ten years, Paul L'Heureux, left, stands with the incoming State Adjutant, Jason Hall of Durham during the installation ceremony initiated by Past National Commander Anthony "Tony" Jordan during the Annual State Convention on June 11 at Jeff's Catering & Event Center, Brewer.

Judge Advocate

I am honored to serve as the new Department of Maine Judge Advocate. I am grateful for the turn-over given by my predecessor and newly elected Adjutant Jason Hall. Moving into a new



HAROLD "DREW" GOODRIDGE

role is certainly less challenging with a proper hand off and support. By way of introduction, I am a veteran of the US Army Reserves with a dual MOS, Military Police and Infantry, serving in Bridgton and Dexter, respectively. My reserve experience paved the way for a fulfilling career in federal law enforcement wherein the latter half of my career I worked alongside service-members domestically and abroad. Throughout my career, I learned and practiced conflict resolution and the important role communication plays in deescalating conflict.

In the past month as Judge Advocate I have been called about matters where communication and early conflict management techniques certainly could have assisted in quelling dis-

putes. Conflict resolution is of paramount importance in various aspects of life, including personal relationships, workplace dynamics, community interactions, and even international relations.

Conflict, if left unresolved, can strain relationships and lead to resentment, hostility, and a breakdown in communication. Addressing conflicts as soon as they arise can prevent them from escalating and becoming more difficult to resolve. Communication plays a significant role in effective, sustaining conflict resolution.

Often, conflict arises when there is a breakdown of communication etiquette leading to distrust, rumors, and barriers to discussions. Encourage and practice open and honest communication. Set a positive tone for conversations. Use clear and concise language to remove ambiguity and vagueness whether in speaking at Post meetings or in writing recorded minutes or even Post by-laws. Practicing clear language techniques mitigates misunderstandings and miscommunication.

Employing active listening skills in conversations helps you to listen attentively and empathetically to the concerns, perspectives, and emotions of all parties involved. Seek clarity by asking questions and paraphrasing to ensure that you have a clear un-

derstanding of each party's position. Pay attention to nonverbal cues such as body language, tone of voice, and facial expressions. Avoid making assumptions or jumping to conclusions. Clarifying misunderstandings helps prevent further conflict and enables a more productive discussion.

Willingness to compromise is crucial in resolving conflicts. Be flexible and consider adjusting your position in pursuit of a mutually agreeable solution. Avoiding a rigid "win-lose" mentality allows for "win-win" outcomes. Look beyond surface-level positions and identify the underlying interests and needs of all parties involved. By understanding the motivations behind each person's stance, it becomes easier to find solutions.

Conflict resolution may take time, and patience is essential. Allow sufficient time for all parties to express themselves fully and work through their concerns. Rushing the process can lead to incomplete resolutions or further misunderstandings. Once a resolution is reached, document the agreed-upon solutions to ensure all parties clearly understand the resolution and can refer to it if needed. Written agreements promote accountability and prevent further misunderstandings.

Conflict resolution aims to address

underlying concerns and promote equitable solutions that consider the needs and interests of all parties involved. Successfully resolving conflict builds trust and strengthens relationships. When individuals or groups experience the positive effects of conflict resolution, they are more likely to trust and collaborate with one another in the future.

As a veteran service organization, we work together in our respective Posts as volunteers in collaboration and cooperation among individuals with differing viewpoints or interests. We constantly find common ground and work towards mutually beneficial solutions in our advocacy for veteran affairs. Posts are the American Legion. So, when conflict arises in a Post, it should be resolved within the framework of the Post's constitution and by-laws.

Conflict resolution guidance is available at the District and Department level, but actual resolution is first and foremost encouraged at the Post. Conflict resolution becomes more meaningful and lasting when achieved internally.



■ "ADJUTANT" (Continued from Page 4)

the Regional Playoffs, I immediately emailed the Adjutant of New Hampshire and Massachusetts letting them know how happy I was their team was crushed. New Hampshire responded.... Massachusetts did not. Having a team in The American Legion World Series from Maine, speechless. What a fantastic experience for these young athletes. Unfortunately, my trash talking did not stop there. I found out my Post, American Legion Post 86 Gray, is entering a team in 2024 for Legion Baseball. I sent texts and meeting messengers to Post 36 Boothbay, I sent messages to New Auburn Post 153, I even poked Portland Post 17 and let them know "get your teams back together for 2024 so I can watch the Gray team whoop your team". That is correct, the challenge is out. All the Posts that had an American Legion Baseball team, I challenge you to get them back together and enter them in 2024. Be-

cause I also would like to be in the stands watching Post 86 beat them on the fields, I am looking at you Auburn, Portland, Topsham, and Skowhegan/Madison. (Note: the athletes from Gray-New Gloucester Little League just returned from the Little League World Series and are the right age for Legion Baseball).

Before I get too spicy about baseball, I will tie up this article.

- 2024 Membership Goals are out, check them out on the website or give HQ a call.
- 2024 Membership cards are in, if you still haven't received.... give HQ a call.
- 105% membership is attainable in 2024.
- 2023 Fall Conference is September 23rd in Westbrook. This is your chance to learn how to get new members and how to retain the current members. Bring a Post member with you.

Check in on your members and see you at the Fall Conference.

Jason T. Hall
Department Adjutant

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



Endorsed by
Your Department of
The American Legion

You are eligible for LegionCare;
\$5,000.00 in Accidental Death
Insurance at NO COST TO YOU if a
covered accident occurs while
traveling on official Legion
business*, or \$1,000.00 at NO COST
TO YOU for all other covered
accidents. This has been arranged on

your behalf by Your Department of
The American Legion.

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

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

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

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

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

© 2015 AGIA 100135 A3713 38796

Complete details of the coverage are contained in accident only Master Policy MZ0933569H0000A/0001A underwritten by Transamerica Premier Life Insurance Company Cedar Rapids, IA. This plan is not available in all states.
*For Purposes of the Legionnaire Insurance Trust, a member of The Legion Family, with current year's dues paid, could be eligible for the \$5,000 Accidental Death benefit if he/she is traveling to, attending, or returning from an official function at which the Legionnaire represents his/her Post, District, Department, or National Organization in an official capacity.

Cut it out

President's Message

It is an honor to be serving as Department President for the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Maine. I look forward to working with all members of The American Legion Family this year.



PATRICIA GRANT

I can't wait to start visiting Auxiliary Units and District meetings to share current projects and programs of the American Legion Auxiliary. Our Unit members are the grassroots of our or-

ganization and it is important to be able to visit them and provide updated information as often as we can.

The Auxiliary will be supporting women veterans as our Department President's Project for 2023-2024. This project is two-fold. We will be supporting the Sisters in Arms Center in Augusta, a home for homeless female veterans and their children by providing necessary repairs and daily needs. Additionally, we will be supporting The American Legion's female veterans committee by providing support and items needed for female veterans luncheons.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our Fall Conference in Westbrook on September 23, 2023.

Pat Grant

American Legion Auxiliary, Department President



U.S. Senator Susan Collins speaks to The American Legion, Auxiliary Department of Maine attendees at the Annual State Convention in Brewer, June 10. Senator Collins was also guest speaker for The American Legion, Department of Maine Veterans where she made her appearance earlier that day. Left to right, Auxiliary Sgt.-At-Arms Kitty Doyle, Auxiliary President Patricia Grant, Auxiliary Parliamentarian Charlotte Hagan, Past Department President Debra Rumery, U.S. Senator Susan Collins, and Auxiliary Department Secretary Michelle McRae.

Achievement Awards presented to Son's of the American Legion Commander Mike Hustus (left photo) and Auxiliary President Debra Rumery (right photo) by Department Commander Kirk Thurston at the Annual State Convention in Brewer on June 10.



Join Sons of The American Legion

Eligibility Requirements

All male descendants adopted sons, and stepsons of members of The American Legion, and such male descendants of veterans who died in service during the period of April 6, 1917, through November 11, 1918, or any time from December 7, 1941, to date, who served honorably, as set forth in Article IV, Section 1, of the National Constitution of The American Legion, or who died subsequent to their honorable discharge from such service, shall be eligible for member-



ship in the Sons of The American Legion.

[Print an application](https://www.legion.org/documents/le-gion/pdf/salapplication.pdf) by visiting <https://www.legion.org/documents/le-gion/pdf/salapplication.pdf>

* Membership applications can be delivered to an American Legion Post near you. There is a good chance that Post will have its own Squadron. If not, someone at the Post should be able to tell you where to find a Squadron near you. You can always contact SAL National Headquarters for information about finding a nearby Squadron.

Thurston's Commander Project: Operation ReBoot Outdoors

On Friday, 30 June, Previous Department Commander and member of American Legion Post 24 Kirk Thurston visited Le Paresseux Inc (Rumford Snowshoe Club) along with Department First Vice Commander Patricia Thurston, and Department Historian Louis Marin to deliver collected funds and donations to Operation ReBoot Outdoors (ORO).



Check Presentation: Kirk Thurston, left, presents fundraiser check, left to right, Operation ReBoot Outdoors President Nicole Waite and ORO Board Members Jacob "Doc" Reed and Kenny Blaisdell.

Kirk's State of Maine Commanders Project was to raise money for Operation ReBoot Outdoors (ORO). The Snowshoe Club and the American Legion combined for a cornhole tournament and dinner back in late January. Between the tournament and raising money on Monday nights throughout the winter they were able to raise a total of \$11,048 for ORO. That money combined with the fundraising Kirk did on his own reached a total of just over \$15,000. While fundraising, the American Legion issued ReBoot a grant for \$65,000. All monies combined for a total of \$91,370.69!

Operation ReBoot President Nicole Waite, Secretary Ken Blaisdell, and new Missions Director, Jacob Reed were on hand to receive the check. A special thanks went out to Leo Jolin Jr for volunteering and bartending, Leo Jolin III and Aaron Jamison for running the tournaments, and Mammy's Kitchen, Tammy Jolin, for donating her cooking proceeds to ORO. Leo Jolin Jr says, "We are honored and privileged to have worked with ReBoot and the American Legion!"

For 2023, Operation ReBoot Outdoors launched the "Dream Bigger

Campaign," with a goal of it being their biggest and best campaign to help veterans and Law Enforcement Officials in their 3 plus years of operation.

Operation ReBoot Outdoors President Dan Waite said, "We are dreaming bigger! Our organization recently purchased 100 acres of land in Byron, Maine to build Americans With Disabilities Act compliant accommodations for our visitors. Our operation will fully move to Camp Byron once the cabins are complete. The ADA compliant cabin will sleep up to 12 and have 1 kitchen and 1 bath."

Operation ReBoot Outdoors concentrates on getting Veterans, Law Enforcement Officials, and active-duty service members out of the house and into nature. This provides the veteran with healing through hunting, fishing, and other outdoor recreational activities. Their number one priority is to create an atmosphere of camaraderie and brotherhood and give veterans a sense of purpose again.

Nicole Waite, ORO President says, "I truly believe that the ORO mission is making a difference in our communities and the lives of the men and women we serve." She added, "We are helping close the gap between military and civilian life that claims the lives of 22 heroes a day. Here at ORO, we provide a sense of security and belonging for those who suffer combat trauma and physical limitations."

Operation ReBoot Outdoors President Dan Waite, in addition to being an Army veteran is a Registered Maine Guide who says he "Has been through some of the darkest days you can imagine, but I am here, running Operation



ORO Events: Operation ReBoot Outdoors Board member Kenny Blaisdell and former American Legion Department of Maine Commander Kirk Thurston discuss future ReBoot events.

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

■ "ORO" (Continued from Page 6)

ReBoot Outdoors, because I found my way out of that darkness."

Dan made it through tough missions on the battlefield, alongside his brothers and sisters, but found a new battle waiting here at home. He says, "I am here, on this battlefield, on a mission to help my brothers and sisters find true North."

Mr. Waite says, "My favorite therapy is found in the wilderness and on the water. My medicine is the outdoors, and I am committed to showing my Veteran brothers and sisters the value the outdoors has added to my civilian life." Nature offers him the serenity and clarity he could not find in other forms of treatment.

These missions are not just supported by Mr. and Mrs. Waite, and their 'regular staff,' but by the 75 or so volunteers who help in a myriad of ways. Through these volunteers, they have helped over 600 veterans and Law Enforcement members attend and experience ORO missions including over 160 hunts and 260 fishing trips.

Former Department Commander Thurston reminds us, "Operation Re-Boot Outdoors shows these heroes they can find purpose after service through the outdoors as well as empowerment through camaraderie." He also adds, "We hope you will support this project in an effort to stop the high percentage of veteran suicides that plague our families, communities, and country."

Submitted by
Department of Maine Historian
Lou Marin

Automatic Revocation – How To Have Your Tax-Exempt Status Reinstated

Organizations whose tax-exempt status was automatically revoked because they did not file required Form 990 series returns or notices for three consecutive years can apply for reinstatement of their tax-exempt status.

[Revenue Procedure 2014-11 PDF](#) explains the four procedures an organization may use to apply for reinstatement.

Streamlined retroactive reinstatement

Organizations that were eligible to file Form 990-EZ or 990-N (ePostcard) for the three years that caused their revocation may have their tax-exempt status retroactively reinstated to the date of revocation if they:

- Have not previously had their tax-exempt status automatically revoked.

Complete and submit [Form 1023](#), [Form 1023-EZ](#), [Form 1024](#) or [Form 1024-A](#) with the appropriate [user fee](#) no later than 15 months after the later of the date of the organization's Revocation Letter (CP-120A) or the date the organization appeared on the Revocation List on the IRS website.

For organizations submitting Form 1023, see Schedule E, Section 4; Form 1023-EZ, see Part V; Form 1024, see Part VI; or Form 1024-A, see Part VI.

In addition, the IRS will not impose the Section 6652(c) penalty for failure to file annual returns for the three consecutive taxable years that caused the organization to be revoked if the organization is retroactively reinstated under this procedure and files properly completed and executed paper Forms 990-EZ for all such taxable years. (For any year for which the organization

was eligible to file a Form 990-N, the organization is not required to file a prior year Form 990-N or Form 990-EZ to avoid penalties.) The organization should write "Retroactive Reinstatement" on the Forms 990-EZ and mail them to:

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service
Ogden, UT 84201-0027

Retroactive reinstatement process (within 15 months)

Organizations that cannot use the Streamlined Retroactive Reinstatement Process (such as those that were required to file Form 990 or Form 990-PF for any of the three years that caused revocation or those that were previously auto-revoked) may have their tax-exempt status retroactively reinstated to the date of revocation if they:

- Complete and submit [Form 1023](#), [Form 1024](#) or [Form 1024-A](#) with the appropriate [user fee](#) not later than 15 months after the later of the date of the organization's revocation letter (CP-120A) or the date the organization appeared on the Revocation List on the IRS website.

- Include with the application a statement establishing that the organization had reasonable cause for its failure to file a required annual return for at least one of the three consecutive years in which it failed to file.

- Include with the application a statement confirming that it has filed required returns for those three years and for any other taxable years after such period and before the post-mark date of the application for which required returns were due and not filed.

- File properly completed and executed paper annual returns for the three consecutive years that caused the revocation and any following years. The organization should write "Retroactive Reinstatement" on these returns and mail them to:

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service Center
Ogden, UT 84201-0027

These organizations should check the box on Schedule E for Section 5 when submitting Form 1023. For organizations submitting 1024-A electronically, check the box for Section 5 in Part VI. For organizations submitting Form 1024, check the box for Section 5 in Part VI.

In addition, the IRS will not impose the Section 6652(c) penalty for failure to file annual returns for the three consecutive taxable years that caused the organization to be revoked if the organization is retroactively reinstated under this procedure.

Retroactive reinstatement (after 15 months)

Organizations that apply for reinstatement more than 15 months after the later of the date on the organization's revocation letter (CP-120A) or the date the organization appeared on the Revocation List on the IRS website may have their tax-exempt status retroactively reinstated to the date of revocation if they:

- Satisfy all of the requirements described under the "Retroactive reinstatement (within 15 months)" procedure EXCEPT that the reasonable cause statement the organization includes with its application must establish reasonable cause for its failure to file a required annual return for all three consecutive years in which it failed to file.

These organizations should check the box on Schedule E for Section 6 when submitting Form 1023. For organizations submitting 1024-A, check the box for Section 6 in Part VI. For organizations submitting Form 1024, check the box for Section 6 in Part VI.

In addition, the IRS will not impose the Section 6652(c) penalty for failure to file annual returns for the three consecutive taxable years that caused the organization to be revoked if the organization is retroactively reinstated under this procedure.

Post-mark date reinstatement

Organizations may apply for reinstatement effective from the post-mark date of their application if they:

- Complete and submit [Form 1023](#), [Form 1023-EZ](#), [Form 1024](#) or [Form 1024-A](#) with the appropriate [user fee](#).

These organizations should check the box) for Section 7 on Schedule E for

Form 1023 or Part V for Form 1023-EZ. For organizations submitting 1024-A electronically, check the box for Section 7 in Part VI. For organizations submitting Form 1024, check the box for Section 7 in Part VI.

What's a reasonable cause statement?

A reasonable cause statement establishes that an organization exercised ordinary business care and prudence in determining and attempting to comply with its annual reporting requirement. The statement should have a detailed description of all the facts and circumstances about why the organization failed to file, how it discovered the failure, and the steps it has taken or will take to avoid or mitigate future failures. For a detailed explanation see Section 8 of Revenue Procedure 2014-11.

Reinstatements granted prior to January 2, 2014

Organizations that applied for and received reinstatement of exempt status effective from the post-mark date prior to January 2, 2014 (the effective date of Revenue Procedure 2014-11), and that would have satisfied the retroactive reinstatement requirements of Section 4, will be reinstated from the revocation date. Those organizations should keep their determination letters reinstating tax exempt status and a copy of Revenue Procedure 2014-11 with their books and records. See Section 10 of Revenue Procedure 2014-11 for details.

Avoid being automatically revoked again – file annual returns

An organization can be automatically revoked again if it fails to file required returns for three consecutive years beginning with the year in which the IRS approves the application for reinstatement. Organizations seeking reinstatement of tax-exempt status after a subsequent revocation are not eligible to use the Streamlined Retroactive Reinstatement Process.

Additional information

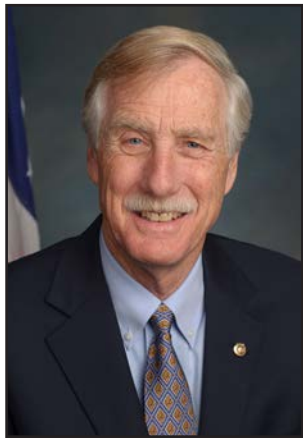
- [Annual Reporting and Filing](#)
- Online course- [Applying for Section 501\(c\)\(3\) Status - An Overview](#) (37 minutes)
- [Revoked? Reinstated? Learn more.](#)

Revenue Procedure 2014-11 modified and superseded Notice 2011-44, Application for Reinstatement and Retroactive Reinstatement for Reasonable Cause under Internal Revenue Code Section 6033(j).

<https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/charitable-organizations/automatic-revocation-how-to-have-your-tax-exempt-status-reinstated>

Fighting To Reimburse Maine Veterans' Homes For World-Class Care

For decades, Maine Veterans' Homes (MVH) has provided world-class care to veterans like you. It hasn't always been easy, but MVH has worked



SENATOR
ANGUS KING

hard to meet America's commitment to those who served despite rising costs and a lack of financial support from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

One of the most important services MVH provides is domiciliary care for veterans with dementia – a type of in-home assisted living that was established by the VA after the Civil War and is provided to older veterans who are independently mobile or semi-mobile but are incapable of living alone because of their disabilities. Over 130 MVH residents receive domiciliary care, 80% of whom are on Medicaid.

Domiciliary care was federally reimbursed for years, up until 2019, when the VA abruptly stopped coverage and ended payments without any substantive explanation. This sudden lack of support for these veterans was just not right. In December of 2020, led by the Maine delegation, Congress passed the *Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act* that authorized the VA to resume reimbursements for this type of domiciliary care at state homes like MVH.

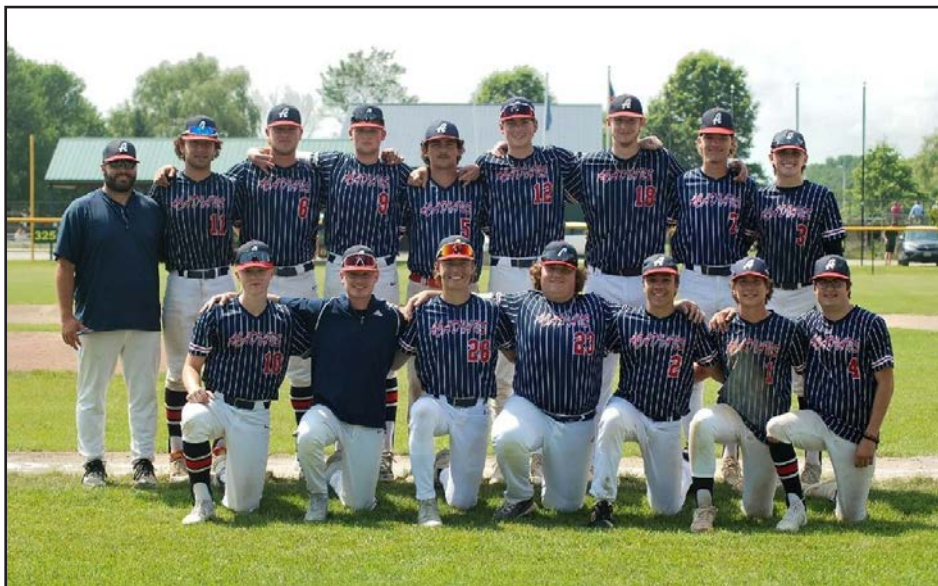
For reasons that escape me, more than two years since we passed that vital bill, the VA has yet to announce a proposal for resuming the payments. Since reimbursements have ceased, veteran families have had to pay more than \$1,000,000 out of pocket for domiciliary care. That's simply unacceptable; Maine veterans, their loved ones, and MVH all deserve better.

So when Cynthia Gantt, the VA's Deputy Director of the Office of Patient Centered Care, came before the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee (SVAC), I demanded she give us a **firm timeline** of when the payments will resume and make those reimbursements retroactive to when our bill was signed into law. Hopefully, this has lit a fire under the VA to end its absurd delays.

In the meantime, Maine's Congressional Delegation won't just sit on the sidelines and wait for the VA to act. Along with the public pressure campaign, we've introduced the *Reimburse Veterans for Domiciliary Care Act* which requires the VA to quickly resume the payments and help ensure older Maine veterans receive the care they need—without paying thousands of dollars out of their own pockets.

But it's a damn shame that we need to pass a second bill just to implement a bill that we already passed.

Together, the Maine Delegation and I will continue our efforts until either the VA will finally act, or Congress passes our bipartisan, bicameral legislation to end the unfair reimbursement delays. The nation has a solemn obligation to the brave men and women like you who answered the call of service. Reimbursing your necessary healthcare is truly the least we can do.



Congratulations Trenton Acadians Senior American Legion baseball team for winning the Maine State & Regional Championship!

Photo Credit: Courtesy of Amanda McLaughlin



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

Thomas College

180 West River Rd., Waterville, Maine 04901

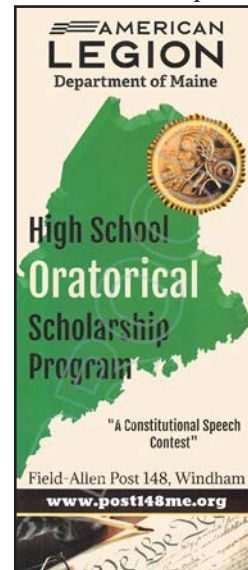
February 10, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

(Snow Date: Feb. 17, 2024)

The American Legion, Department of Maine High School Oratorical Scholarship Contest will once again be held at Thomas College in Waterville on February 10, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. Snow Date: February 17, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

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

Young orators will have the opportunity to earn some of the most generous scholarships. At the Post and District level, scholarships offered range from \$50 - \$100, and at the State level \$50 - \$1500. At the National level, each department (state) winner who is certified and participates in the National Oratorical Contest's 1st round receives \$2,000 scholarship. Each first round winner who advances to and participates in the second round, but does not advance to the final round, will receive an additional \$2,000 scholarship to pursue education beyond high school. The overall national contest winner gets a \$25,000 scholarship. Second place takes home \$22,500, and third gets \$20,000. The members of the Oratorical Committee will be working with District Commanders to prepare Posts and Districts for their local contests. We hope to have all Post contests completed by Mid-December 2023 and all District contests completed by the end of January 2024.



The 2024 National Finals is May 17-19 in Hillsdale, MI at Hillsdale College. Quarterfinal and semifinal contests are scheduled for Saturday, May 18, with the finals scheduled

for Sunday, May 19. **Certification of Department winners is due to National by April 1, 2024 by 5:00 p.m. EDT.** Failure to meet this deadline WILL result in disqualification of the contestant.

HELP SUPPORT THE MAINE AMERICAN LEGION ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM BY DONATING TODAY!

To Donate with Debit or Credit Card visit www.mainelegion.org and click on the DONATE button, or simply scan the QR Code with your phone. Select the Oratorical Contest listed under the "Use this donation for" dropdown menu and select Donate with Debit or Credit Card.



Donations may also be made by check payable to The American Legion, Department of Maine, earmarked "Oratorical Program". Mail to The American Legion, Department of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901-0727.

**THANK YOU IN ADVANCE
FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

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

HS ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP BANNERS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

Order Today for Display at
Your Upcoming Post and District
Competition!

For more information,
please call Department HQ at
207-873-3229 Ext. 2.

Service Office Update

Hello from the Service Office. It has been a very busy summer to this point.

The VA has continued to host veteran expos across the state. The last one before I wrote this article was in Caribou. It was a great turn-



**SERVICE OFFICER
CARL CURTIS**

out for the event. I really enjoy getting out to meet veterans from across the state and listen to their stories. The VA has sent some very high-ranking members to the state. Two weeks ago, we had the under secretaries for Health, Benefits, and the Veteran Experiences. To have time to discuss the state of the VA with these individuals and have them listen to our concerns was very satisfying. They had many notes when they left the meeting, and most of the conversation was on the training of the VA staff on the benefits side. The entire VA has been on a hiring spree, and thanks to COVID, the training has fallen off. I look forward to meeting with the Secretary of the VA next week at the Rumford Clinic. This is very good exposure for the veterans in the State.

This weekend I stopped in at Department on Saturday to teach the Post Service Officer section for the legionnaires in the American Legion College. I also got hey you'd to cook lunch. It was a great time. I too have some training coming up. I will host two Post service officer seminars, one at the end of September and the other at the end of October. Look for them on the Department Facebook page. If you want to sign up for the training, please see the section below for instructions.

The big news is still about the PACT act. A good idea is to add information from the Pact Act to your call script. If you are calling a Vietnam era veteran, start off the call about the added locations and conditions. It may help to get a good conversation started.

There are still questions on the PACT Act so I will again list some of the major changes due to the act passing and becoming law. For the Vietnam veterans the act added these locations:

Atoll, Cambodia, Thailand, and Laos. For the Gulf War and 911 veterans the act added these locations: from 1990 Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, and the United Arab Emirates. Then from 2001 Afghanistan, Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Uzbekistan, and Yemen.

The act also added 2 presumptive conditions for exposure to agent orange and over 20 for exposure to burn pits and toxic exposure. If you have any questions please call the office.

PLEASE READ AND RESPOND TO YOUR MAIL FROM THE VA!

APPEALS OF CLAIMS. The appeals process is no longer the strict

structure it was. If your decision was after the 19th of February, you fall under the AMA. There are now five lanes you can choose from. The first two are at the regional level. They are called supplemental review and higher-level review. Then there are three ways to appeal directly to the

Board of Veterans Appeals. They are direct, evidence only, and hearing. The time limit is now one year from each decision.

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

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

PSO Training Seminar. You do not have to be a Post Service Officer to

attend training. You just have to care and want to make a difference. The next seminar will be the 30 September, look for more information to come on the Department Facebook page. I will also host one on the 28th of October.

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.

INTENT TO FILE. Some veter-

ans 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.



Recruiting & Retaining VA Employees, Cutting Red Tape for Veterans



CONGRESSMAN
JARED GOLDEN

When having the fifth highest veteran population – this is an issue we simply cannot afford to ignore.

Alongside VA pay, I've also been listening for other ways that we can do better for servicemembers and their families. An obvious area for improvement is helping veterans find gainful employment. As it stands today, there is a six-month waiting period for veterans seeking to transition into civil service jobs. This is a prime example of pointless red tape in Washington, and I'm proud to back legislation that would eliminate this obstacle.

Many veterans also face holdups applying for Social Security Disability Insurance, which is especially unconvincing for those with injuries tied to their service. Applicants currently must wait five months to receive their benefits, and over two years to be eligible for Medicare coverage. I've joined a bipartisan, bicameral group of lawmakers seeking to phase out this delay and get disabled veterans the benefits they so clearly earned.

These are just two bills in the past few months I've cosponsored after hearing from constituents back home, and my staff and I hope you'll continue reaching out on the issues that are meaningful to you.

If we can be of assistance, please reach out to one of our offices below:

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

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

Jared Golden
Member of Congress

home. However, as those of us who live in the Second District know, the VA often lacks the resources necessary to maintain that commitment in our most rural communities.

Consider the issue of staff turnover, which recently hit a 15-year peak. When VA facilities lose the people tasked with treating our veterans, it can lead to longer wait times, strains on quality treatments, and loss of important institutional knowledge. These issues only get worse when vacancies remain unfilled, and recruitment here has proved challenging when VA salaries in Maine don't reflect today's cost of living.

To help address this, myself and the rest of the Maine delegation recently sent a letter to the Biden Administration urging them to increase pay for the roughly 1,400 VA employees working in Kennebec and Penobscot counties.

In short, four other Maine counties are considered part of the Boston locality when the government calculates regional salaries. With almost identical living costs in Kennebec and Penobscot, it's only fair that VA workers based there are paid equally, too.

A much-deserved reward for existing frontline workers, making salaries more competitive with the private sector is also vital to attracting more workers long-term. With Maine being the oldest state in the nation – along with

Your Letters

C&Y Scholarship Recognition Appreciated

To the American Legion, Department of Maine Children & Youth Scholarship Committee,

Thank you so much for awarding me the American Legion, Department of Maine Children & Youth Scholarship for 2023. I greatly appreciate this recognition and feel that this scholarship will go a long way towards assisting me in funding my education. As a result of receiving this scholarship, I hope to be able to spend less time worrying about tuition costs and more time taking advantage of the opportunities available to me on campus.

As I use my college education to study environmental science, I will be grateful for this scholarship and all the chances for learning and growing it has made available to me.

Thanks again,
Greta Ahlefeld

Game Warden of the Year Honored

Dear Mr. L'Heureux,

To the American Legion Department of Maine,

This award means a lot to me because it came from my brother and sister veterans; a group that surely knows a thing or two about Service, Integrity, Commitment, Sacrifice, and Leadership. It will forever have a special place both on my wall and in my heart.

This is my 30th year as a Maine Game Warden and I will be retiring soon. I also had a 30 year military career with the Maine Air National Guard (MAINEiacs) from which I retired almost two years ago. I retired as the Command Chief for the State of Maine and worked directly for the Adjutant General, Major General Doug Farnham. In that role, I was responsible for all of Maine's enlisted Airmen.

I am very fortunate in a number of respects, but when I look back on my two careers, the thing that I was most fortunate for was that both careers provided me a platform and put me in a position to be able to make a positive impact on many people's lives.....That's what it's all about and I have tried to make the most of it. Whether it is directly saving a person's life or influencing them through my interaction with them, there are many people out there, especially young people whose lives were positively changed.

As veterans, we are all part of the less than one-half of one percent of Americans that have served this country; we all have that in common. We also share very similar core values. With that in mind, we all see the negative things happening in this country. I challenge all the veterans in the room to be proactive in interacting and influencing our younger generations. You never know when even a simple conversation can put somebody on an entirely new path when you share your values and encourage young Americans to serve in some way.

Again, I am very appreciative of this honor.

Respectfully,
Scott Osgood, Game Warden
Maine Dept of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife
Warden Service

Scholarship Recipient Thankful

Mr. L'Heureux,

I wanted to say thank you for choosing me as a recipient of The American Legion, Department of Maine Children & Youth Scholarship for 2023. I really appreciate the time and effort taken to evaluate my application. This scholarship will help me in my next chapter at Bowdoin College, where I will be playing basketball and working towards my degree in Pre-Medicine.

Sincerely,
Abbie Quinn

C&Y Scholarship Helps Financial Needs

Dear American Legion donors and Maine Children and Youth Scholarship Committee, Thank you for selecting me for your scholarship.

As I head off to Maine Maritime, financial issues have been a main concern. Thank you for helping to alleviate that concern and investing in my future.

Micah Calhoun

A Note of Appreciation from the Family of Edward J. Roach, Jr.

Dear Napoleon Ouellette American Legion Post 24 Officers and members,

This is a note of appreciation from Edward J Roach, Jr's family for the thoughtful card and Post Everlasting ceremony conducted at Thibault's Funeral Home.

Sincerely Yours,
Don Roach

DEL Scholarship Recipient Grateful

Dear Paul L'Heureux,

Thank you for choosing me as the recipient of the American Legion Daniel E. Lambert Memorial Scholarship. I am so grateful to receive this scholarship because it helps me further my education and gets me closer to my goals and dreams.

Thank you again!

Sincerely,
Sam Plummer

Memories Cherished Forever

To all Legionnaires who supported me through this amazing year. From attending the election and installation in Milwaukee last year and attending my Homecoming in Augusta. Your presence meant the world to me. Thank you for your trust that I would make Maine proud. I have many memories I will cherish always.

Sincerely,
Veronica Gurney
National Eastern Division Vice President '22-'23



Attention District Commanders and Post Adjutants

MyLegion.org training lessons are available at State Headquarters. If you are interested in learning how to use the site, please call The American Legion, Department of Maine Headquarters at 207-873-3229 Ext. 2 or email rachael@mainelegion.org to set up an appointment.

Training lessons last between 1-2 hours.



Dirigo State Delegates at Colby College in Waterville, June 18-22, 2023.



Newly elected State Commander Alfred McKay welcomes Dirigo State delegates to the Annual Dirigo State Program held at Colby College in Waterville on June 18.

Congratulations to our Boys Nation delegates Matthew Ewy (right) of Kennebunk, Me., Dirigo Town of King and Jackson McCormick (left) of Cape Elizabeth Me., Dirigo Town of Muskie posing with National Commander V. Jim Troiola.



DIRIGO STATE would like to graciously thank the following for their contributions to our program:

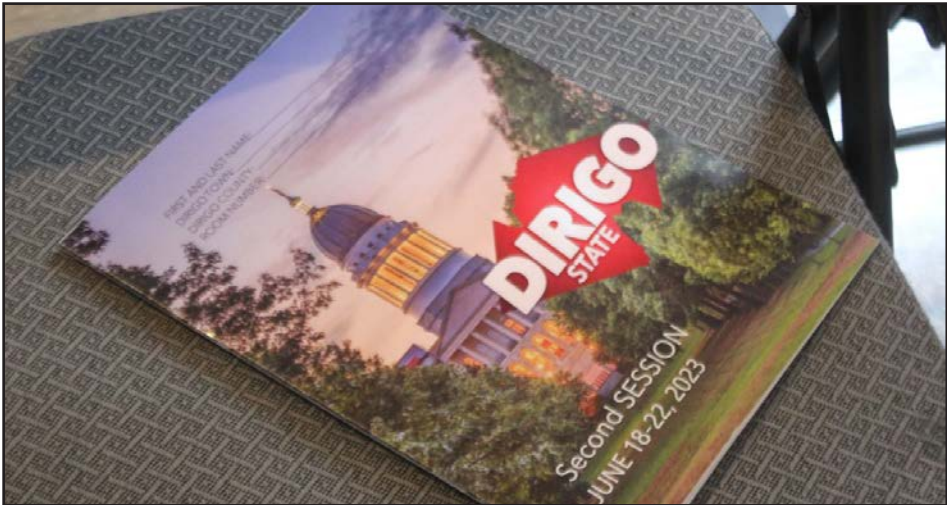
- The Hon. Susan Collins, U.S. Senator
- The Hon. Angus King, U.S. Senator
- The Hon. Janet Mills, Governor State of Maine
- The Hon. Shenna Bellows, Maine Secretary of State
- The Hon. Henry Beck, Maine State Treasurer
- The Hon. Aaron Frey, Maine Attorney General
- Maine National Guard
- Mr. Matthew Hunter, Assistant US Attorney
- Ms. Renae Misner, Lawrence High School
- Ms. Patty Hackett
- Yankee Communications of Benton
- Poland Spring

- Coastal T-Shirts of Auburn
- SBS Printing of Waterville
- Colby College

The American Legion Family legacy programs, Boys State and Girls State, have evolved into what we now celebrate as DIRIGO State. This unique experience is truly one of a kind, as Maine is the first and only state to fully integrate Boys and Girls State. I am happy that you have shared this experience with former and future delegates. Boys and Girls State has a strong history of alumni returning to their communities and enter into public service and I am confident that tradition will continue under DIRIGO State.

The entire staff extends our best wishes to each delegate as you move on to new ventures.

Sincerely,
Matthew LeClair, Director



2023 Dirigo State Winners

Award	Delegate's Name	Dirigo Town	Maine Town
Boy's Nation Delegate #1	John McCormick	Muskie	Cape Elizabeth
Boy's Nation Delegate #2	Matthew Ewy	King	Kennebunk
Boy's Nation Alternate #1	Matthew Dos Santos	Daggett	Augusta
Boy's Nation Alternate #2	Connor Mills-Dudding	Chamberlain	Freeport
Girls Nation Delegate #1	Grace Tetrault	Daggett	Bath
Girl's Nation Delegate #2	Theresa Straw	Blaine	Cape Elizabeth
Girl's Nation Alternate #1	Eyslin Frecker	Muskie	Augusta
Girl's Nation Alternate #2	Audrey Fryda	Blaine	New Gloucester
The American Legion Scholarship Winner	Tanner Carson	Blaine	Belfast
The American Legion Scholarship Alternate	Graham Higgins	Pinkham	Sebec
ALA Scholarship Winner	Dayla Sahib	Blaine	Westbrook
ALA Scholarship Alternate	McKayla Morello	Pinkham	Westbrook
Samsung Scholarship - Boy			
Samsung Scholarship - Girl			
Governor	Matthew Dos Santos	Daggett	Augusta
Senate President	Jack McCormick	Muskie	Cape Elizabeth
Speaker of the House	Theresa Straw	Blaine	Cape Elizabeth
Chief Justice	Eyslin Frecker	Muskie	Augutsa
Municipal Best Citizens			
Blaine	Joseph Griffen	Blaine	Hodgdon
Blaine	Adelaide McKelvey	Blaine	Bowdoinham
Chamberlain	Marina Gilman	Chamberlain	Madison
Chamberlain	Connor Mills-Dudding	Chamberlain	Freeport
Daggett	Dakota Harriman	Daggett	Liberty
Daggett	Sequora Kelley	Daggett	Augusta
King	Payson Turner	King	Lincoln
King	Megan Salib	King	Hampden
Muskie	Chase Weaver	Muskie	Jackson
Muskie	Emily Carlton	Muskie	Oakland
Pinkham	Makayla Morello	Pinkham	Westbrook
Pinkham	David Rush	Pinkham	Arundel



104th Annual State Convention Highlights

June 9-10 at Jeff's Catering & Event Center, Brewer



Law Officer Of The Year Trooper Travis Chapman, Penobscot.



Border Patrol Agent Of The Year SBPA Chad Hewitt.



Boston Bombing Survivor Presentation by Michelle L'Heureux.



Maine Game Warden Of The Year Warden Scott Osgood, Cherryfield.



Legislative Sentiment Award presented to Dale Shannon of Pembroke by District 6 Senator, Marriane Moore.



Legionnaire Of The Year Leroy McKenzie of Fort Kent is presented this prestigious award by Past Department Commander Debra Couture, left, and Department Commander Kirk Thurston, right.



Outgoing Department Commander Kirk Thurston, left, is honored with a blue hat and pin from Department Adjutant Paul L'Heureux.



Outgoing Department Adjutant Paul L'Heureux, right, receives American Legion Department of Maine State Adjutant Appreciation Award from State Commander Kirk Thurston.



Convention Break Time: Junior Auxiliary member Lux McKenzie, left, and Topsham Post 202 Legion member Caroline Yarmala, right, sneak out for a small break before the Sat. afternoon session begins.



Dirigo State Presentation by the 72nd Dirigo Boys State Governor / Seaman Lucas Wright.



U.S. Senator, Angus King talks about benefits and improvements in helping Veterans to State Convention attendees.



1st Pl. Post Narrative Award presented to Field-Allen Post 148, David Tanguay, right, by Department Historian Louis Marin, left.



1st Pl. Americanism & Youth Program presented to So. Portland Post 35 Commander Guy Linscott, left, by Dept. Americanism Officer Joseph Michaud.

Outstanding District Commander Of The Year District 1 Commander Paul Moessner, receives the Roger's Rangers Award from Past National Commander Anthony "Tony" Jordan.



Outstanding Post Commander Of The Year Pembroke Post 59 Commander Gene Holmes, right, receives the Tony's Tiger Award from Past National Commander Anthony "Tony" Jordan.



U.S. Congressman, Jared Golden gets escorted to speak to State Convention attendees by Dept. Sgt.-At-Arms Leroy McKenzie.



Adjutant Of The Year Richard Flynn, Gray Post 86.



Service Officer Of The Year: District 1 Service Officer Lynn Keith Rendell, Berwick.

Convention photos by
Department Historian Louis Marin

State Convention Awards

Brewer, Maine June 9-10 2023

Convention Awards

2023 Children & Youth Scholarship - \$500 scholarships: Mackinna Campbell of Westbrook, Elizabeth Dunn of Hebron, Cassidy Novicka of Rockland, Greta Ahlefield of Liberty, Abigail Quinn of Bangor, Daisy Jo Jones of Lubec, Micah Calhoun of Ashland.

2023 Daniel E. Lambert Scholarship - \$1000 scholarships: Samuel Plummer of Raymond, Emy Desimone of Waterboro.

2023 James V. Day Scholarship - \$500 scholarships: Samuel Dufresne of Saint David, Marta Norton of Winthrop

2023 Post Americanism & Youth Program Award to Stewart P. Merrill Post 35, So. Portland

2023 Humanitarian Legionnaire Award to Stephan Bunker, Farmington

2023 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award to Trooper Travis Chapman, Penobscot

2023 Game Warden of the Year Award to Warden Scott Osgood, Cherryfield

2023 National Security Award to

Border Patrol Agent SBPA Chad Hewitt
2023 Outstanding Post Commander (Tony Tiger Award) to Gene Holmes, Pembroke Post 59

2023 Outstanding District Commander (Roger's Rangers Award) to Paul Moessner, District 1

2023 Adjutant of the Year Award to Richard Flynn, Gray Post 86

2023 Legionnaire of the Year Award to Leroy McKenzie, Eagle Lake Post 176

2023 District Service Officer of the Year Award to District 1 Service Officer Lynn Keith Rendell, Berwick

2023 Post Narrative Award to David Tanguay, Field-Allen Post 148, Windham

2023 Post History Yearbook Award - Small Category to Jeff Sukeforth, War Memorial Post 30

2023 Post History Yearbook Award - Small Category, 2nd Place to Michael Pock, Stewart Morrill Post 35

2023 Post Newsletters - Small Category to War Memorial Post 30, Jeff Sukeforth

2023 Post Newsletters - Large Cat-

egory to Field-Allen Post 148, Windham

2023 District Newsletter to District 2, Cumberland County

2023 Post Article - Small Category to War Memorial Post 30, Camden

2023 Post Article - Large Category to Field-Allen Post 148, Windham

2023 Legion Family Awards: American Legion Auxiliary to Auxiliary President Debra Rumery; **Sons of The American Legion** to SAL Detachment Commander Mike Hustus; **Legion Riders** to Rider Director Mike Lallemand.

2023 Post Excellence Awards: Chadbourne-Merrill Post 29, Dover-Foxcroft; Stewart P. Morrill Post 35, So. Portland; Joseph P. Chaisson Post 41, Milo; Field-Allen Post 148, Windham.

2022-2023 Recruiter of the Year Award - 1st Place to Dawn M. Olges, Topsham Post 202

2022-2023 Recruiter of the Year Award - 2nd Place to Walter Horton, Naples Post 155

100% Post Membership by Dec. 31, 2022 - Honor Ribbons to Chad-

bourne-Merrill Post 29, Dover-Foxcroft; Frank E. Whitmore Post 63, Ellsworth; Lopeman-Potts Post 67, Bridgton; Carl Burrill Post 77, Lincoln; Duffy-Wescott Post 85, Blue Hill; Daniel E. Geagan Post 98, Brewer; Hutchinson-Boulter Post 130, Bar Mills; Randall and MacVane Post 142, Peaks Island; Smart-Soucie Post 176, Eagle Lake; Brian L. Buker Post 218, Warren.

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

All-Time High Award to Cobscook Post 59, Pembroke & Field-Allen Post 148, Windham

2023 Legislative Award: Senator Troy Jackson, Timothy Roche, Heidi Brooks

Legislative Sentiment Award from District 6 Senator Marianne Moore to Pembroke Post 59 and Pembroke Post 59 Adjutant Dale Shannon

Outgoing Department Commander to Kirk Thurston, Rumford

Outgoing Department Adjutant to Paul L'Heureux, Auburn

2023 Resolutions Action Taken at State Convention

The American Legion, Department of Maine Resolutions Vote—Convention Floor, June 11, 2023

Resolution No. 1 Update Internal Affairs Committee selection process to ensure quick and immediate action as needed. Resolution Committee recommendation "reject". **Motion to reject** passed.

Resolution No. 2 Changes to DEC

meetings to allow District Commander to appoint District Officer to represent District when District Commander is unavailable. Resolution Committee recommendation "accept". **Motion to accept** passed.

Resolution No. 3 Rename Post Service Officer Award. Resolution Committee recommendation "reject". **Motion to reject** passed.

Attention Legion Members!

Register a MyLegion Account Today!

Manage profile information. View and edit contact and demographic data.

Manage American Legion subscriptions to e-newsletters, Dispatch and The American Legion Magazine.

Print membership card. You don't have to wait for a new membership card to arrive in the mail. By having access to your membership record through MyLegion.org, you can easily print a current membership card.

Renew membership. You can renew your membership online or set up automatic membership renewal.

View member-only discounts. American Legion members have access to veteran and military family discounts from retail to travel.

Find an American Legion accredited service officer. The Service Officer Directory in [MyLegion.org](https://www.mylegion.org) provides access to accredited American Legion service officers who provide expert assistance, free of charge, to veterans and their families.

Officer Administrative Tools. Adjutants and Commanders have access to Post and squadron membership through their individual MyAccount log in. Administrative tools include member management, online membership processing, reports and officer publications. Create an individual member account and transition to the administrative side of MyLegion.

Visit www.mylegion.org and click on REGISTER



Past Department Commanders at the Annual State Convention in Brewer on June 11. Left to right, Ronald Sailor, Orono (2015); Lloyd Woods, Stockholm (2005); Paul L'Heureux, Auburn (2007); Peter Johnson, Greenville (2016); Randall Kluj, Orneville (2017); Scott Paradis, Corinna (2018); Matthew Jabaut, Topsham (2019-2020); Debra Couture, West Gardiner (2021) and Kirk Thurston, Rumford (2022).

How to Print 2024 Membership Cards in MyLegion

American Legion post and Squadron group leadership can print a current membership card for Legion and Sons of The American Legion members.



To start:

1. Go to your My Account page in www.mylegion.org.
2. Enter My Groups to access Group Profile.
3. Click on "View Members."
4. Search the member and click on their name from the list to view Member Profile.
5. Click "Membership Cards" and click on the link to view and print card image.

MEET THE OFFICERS 2023-24



ALFRED MCKAY
Commander
Damariscotta Post 42



PATRICIA THURSTON
1st Vice Cmdr
Rumford Post 24



LEROY MCKENZIE
2nd Vice Cmdr
Eagle Lake Post 176



JASON HALL
Adjutant
Gray Post 86



EUGENE CONNOLLY
Finance Officer
Portland Post 17



CATHERINE MERRILL
Chaplain
Naples Post 155



JOSEPH MICHAUD
Americanism
Madawaska Post 147



HAROLD GOODRIDGE
Judge Advocate
Farmington Post 28



LOUIS MARIN
Historian
Rumford Post 24



DANIELLE BEGERT
Sergeant-At-Arms
Lewiston Post 22



CARL CURTIS
Service Officer
Brunswick Post 20



LLOYD WOODS
NEC
Madawaska Post 147



MATTHEW JABAUT
NECA
Topsham Post 202

SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS

Winners of the Summer Sweepstakes Raffle drawn at Department Headquarters in Winslow on July 5. Grand Prize winner of \$1500 was awarded to Francis E. Amorofo, Winslow Post 178; \$500 to Craig Abbott, Limerick Post 55; \$300 to Richard H. Eaton, Corinna Post 73; and \$200 to Rebecca M. Lloyd, Winslow Unit 178.

CONGRATULATIONS!



HQ Staff Assist With Convention Needs: Office Manager/Membership Administrator Rachael Currie, left, and Administrative Office Assistants, left to right, Rebecca Orella and Jeanette Glidden help run the two-day Annual State Convention event held at Jeff's Catering & Event Center in Brewer June 9th & 10th.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 1

Sanford Post 19; Biddeford Post 26; Limerick Post 55; York Post 56; Old Orchard Post 57; Kennebunk Post 74; Berwick Post 79; North Berwick Post 87; Saco Post 96; Kezar Falls Post 123; Bar Mills Post 120; Alfred Post 134; Wells Post 143; Kennebunkport Post 159; Dayton Post 177; Eliot Post 188; Lebanon Post 214; Wilton Post 117; Rangeley Post 120

Sanford Post 19 Helping Veterans in Need

American Legion Sanford Post 19 received a request in early June from the Case Manager of the Veterans Transition Homes in Saco and Biddeford, Maine for basic items for veterans at these facilities. Such items as: soap, shampoo, dish soap, dish towels, laundry detergent, sponges, brooms, curtains, Brushes, trash bags, paper towels, toiletries, pillows, pots and pans; just the basic things we take for granted.

Post 19 and Partners Bank teamed up during the month of June and placed collection boxes at the Post and Bank locations for members and customers to conveniently drop off the items, which were delivered

to the transition home in Biddeford on June 27. The pickup truck delivered hundreds of these items to the transition homes. The assistance drive was extremely successful, and the shelves of the transition homes were stocked full.

The case manager was thrilled at the amount of the donations and the veterans now had a large quantity of basic items to make their transition back to independent living easier.

Many thanks to Partners Bank Customers and Post members for their generosity and assistance with this very worthy cause.

Submitted by Sanford Post 19 Adjutant
Dale Midgley

Craig Hendricks Performs at York Post 56

Award winning singer/songwriter and Nashville recording artist, Craig Hendricks, performed a free concert for veterans at the Ramsdell Rogers American Legion post # 56 in York, Me. He sang several country music standards and some of his own songs.

I attended this event introducing Craig saying: "I know him as a good friend and by the time he is done singing – you will know him too." His appearance was every bit the country star; with his Stetson hat, rodeo shirt featuring two guitars on the front and an embroidered Cadillac across his back. He sported his diamond patterned ostrich skin boots which are signature to him while performing with his prized Martin acoustic guitar.

He opened singing "Ring of Fire," and the audience reaction to his voice was impressive. I could tell they knew they were in for a good time. Many conversations stopped and people started listening.

Country Musician Hendricks mentioned that he has played in VA hospitals and at other events honoring veterans. He said, "I am a diehard patriot and we have this great country because of the bravery of our veterans." His grandfather, who fought in WWII taught him to have "pride in our flag, our country, and a love for people."

He shared that when he was much younger and partied a little too much; he and a friend went to an US Army recruiter saying that they would be the best damn snipers the U. S. Army ever had. They bragged that they could shoot a pecan off a pecan tree branch. The recruiter had

sense enough to call someone to safely get them home. The audience laughed.

He played and sang: "Rambling Man." I noticed multiple people recording him with their cell phones. Others came forward and bought his CD "Destination Home," a t-shirt or sweat shirt or another souvenir.

He played one of his songs which he says has been broadcast over radios in at least 14 or 15 states as far away as Washington State and even overseas in Northern Ireland. The song; "They Don't Make Them Like They Used Too" was well received.

He was scheduled to play from 3 to 5 pm with a small intermission but he so enjoyed talking to the crowd during intermission he played a half hour later to make up for the time spent talking with the audience.

There was great audience participation when he sang "Brown Eyed Girl" coaching people to sing the "Sha La La" part. Other songs like "Take It Easy, Boot Scootin' Boogie," and "She Still Thinks I Care" received applause.

Another Craig Hendricks original song he played was "I Want My Honky Tonk Back". The crowd was pleased to find out his music was available on i-Tunes, Spotify, and other streaming music services.

He surprised me by playing "Can't Help Falling In Love With You" to which my wife, Susan and I danced.

He closed his concert singing "Destination Home" – the title track of his first CD. He earned a long and loud applause. There was an additional applause for the

people who made this happen; the post commanders, post 56 facilitator, and his wife, Dianna who serves as his manager.

After the concert he shared with me that he felt he met a "good bunch of people." "We, (he and his wife Diana), felt like we made new friends."

Post 56 Commander Paul Klebaur told me that it was a "larger than usual crowd for a Saturday". I asked Kandice Minihane what she thought and she said; "We all had fun." She invited him back to play again sometime in October – look for it.

Eliot Post 188 Commander
Donald G. Hands



Craig Hendricks, left photo, plays at York Post 56 and the people who made it happen: right photo, left to right, Post 56 Commander P. Klebaur, Craig Hendricks, Post 188 Commander Donald Hands, Post 56 Facilitator K. Minihane, and wife/manager D. Hendricks.

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

So. Portland Post 35 Memorial Weekend 2023

South Portland War Veterans Memorial Association (SPWVMA) is responsible for memorial decorations for the graves of the South Portland men and women who have served our country and are buried in one of our many cemeteries. SPWVMA also organizes Memorial and Veterans Day Parades.

Memorial Day weekend started on May 25 this year with two members of the Stewart P. Morrill American Legion Post 35 laying out wreaths, graciously provided by Wreaths Across America, and flagging graves at the Minor Cemeteries. Minor cemeteries are as follows: Skillen Cemetery, Long Creek Cemetery, Wescott Cemetery, Browns Hill Cemetery and Smith Street cemetery. Additionally, there were five memori-

al plaques where wreaths are placed. A total of 50 graves are flagged and 10 wreaths are laid. Past Commander Ken Marston and 2nd Vice Commander Tony Batchelor took on the task this year and all tolls it took a full day visiting 10 sites throughout South Portland.

Saturday May 27 was the official "Flagging Day" for members and friends of Post 35 to flag around 1,150 graves in the Major Cemeteries. The Major Cemeteries are as follows: Highland Avenue Cemetery, Bayview Cemetery and Mount Pleasant Cemetery. Thirty seven people met at the American Legion Post at 9:00 in the morning and broke into three groups to place flags at three cemeteries. Post members guided younger and new people around the cemeteries to educate them on who got flags and where there were placed. Some of our cemeteries have veteran's graves going back to the Revolutionary War and all wars since. Many flag holders were bent and damaged and a couple members were nearby to replace and repair broken markers.

Monday May 29 was Memorial Day and it started off very early for Post members. A crew was in at 7:30 AM to start the coffee and prepare for the "Veteran's Lunch" served after the parade. Prior to the parade a contingent of Post Officers laid wreaths at the Major Cemeteries not covered by Ken and Tony last Thursday. These ceremonies consist of a memorial reading, wreath laying and chaplain's prayer followed by Taps and the National Anthem performed by the SPHS Band, 8 piece horn groups, that went to 5 sites. Shortly after these ceremonies the



Memorial Day Ceremonies: Officers, members and friends of Post 35, with the support of the South Portland War Veterans Memorial Association and Wreaths Across America, spent several days performing gravesite ceremonies, laying wreaths, placing flags, and replacing broken/damaged flag holders and markers throughout 10 cemeteries in the South Portland area, and participated in the Memorial Day Parade. Pictured here, Sea Cadets and Post 35 Officers doing a ceremony at a gravesite at Brown's Hill Cemetery.

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 2 continued

■ "WEEKEND" (Continued from Page 15)

group and band met at SMCC parking lot to form up for the annual Memorial Day Parade. The parade marched from SMCC to the Veteran's Memorial at Mill Creek Park followed by a short ceremony where local dignitaries spoke. Taps and Anthem observed. Lunch for the Vets, 12 plus CNA's, from the Maine Vets Home in Scarborough, where close to 35 people attended and enjoyed Hot Dogs, Fish



Post 35 Floating Wreath Ceremony: As part of the Memorial Day Ceremonies, left to right, Past Commanders Guy Linscott and Ken Marston, as well as Commander Wes Splettstoesser went to Bug Light Park in So Portland to throw a floating wreath into the Casco Bay for seamen and sailors lost at sea.



Post 35 Memorial Day Veteran Lunch: After wreath laying and a parade, South Portland Post 35 hosted a Lunch for Vets, as well as for other friends and guests such as CNA's from the Maine Veterans Home in Scarborough.

So. Portland Post 35 Installs New Officers for 2024

On a wet and rainy-day last June 17, Post 35 held its monthly meeting at noon at the Post at 413 Broadway in South Portland. The Maine Regiment, a local Drum and Bugle Corps, held their annual "Italian Sandwich Lunch" and the Officers and Members took advantage of the Lunch to attempt to boost member attendance. The Lunch was well attended, and it was followed by the monthly meeting and installation of new Post Officers. 1st Vice Commander Wes Splettstoesser opened the meeting and after going through the preliminary stages, turned the meeting over to 2nd District Commander Dave Tanguay. Dave was joined by 2nd District Finance Officer Michael Pock for the installation ceremony. After swearing in of the officers, present Commander Tanguay, with the help of Officer Pock, read the charge to each officer. The new officers present are as follows: Commander Wes Splettstoesser, 2nd Vice Commander Tony Batchelor, Adjutant Michael Pock and Sgt-at-Arms Ross Fehnel. Past Commander Linscott was commended for his work and the progress he had

made at Post 35 in the past 5 years. The balance of officer will be installed at the September meeting.

Commander Tanguay, also recently installed at the State Convention, spoke of some of the goals he hopes to achieve in the upcoming year. Post 35 has made great strides under the leadership of Commander Splettstoesser, 2016 – 2018 and Commander Linscott, 2019 – 2023; both in membership and building up of a once struggling Post.

Submitted by So. Portland Post 35 Adjutant
Michael R. Pock



Post 35 Installation of Officers, left to right, Past Commander Guy Linscott, District 2 Commander Dave Tanguay, new Commander Wes Splettstoesser, Adjutant Michael Pock, 2nd Vice Commander Tony Batchelor, and Sgt-At-Arms Ross Fehnel.

Westbrook Little League Hosts Opening Season Ceremony Honoring American Legion, VFW Veterans

Saturday, April 29 was a Welcoming Day at the Westbrook Little League Complex across from the Westbrook Community Center. Opening Day Ceremonies welcomed all the different Boys and Girls Baseball and Softball Teams, Coaches, Families, Supporters and a special Ceremony for area Veterans. A large, long banner signed by dozens of LL Players was a "WALL OF THANKS FOR ALL VETERANS." The banner was unrolled and held up by the members of several Girls' Softball Teams, all in their team uniforms.

In the foreground is Michael Thomas, from Westbrook, a retired US Coast Guard Officer and a Board Member of Westbrook's Stephen W. Manchester American Legion's Post 62. Standing along the outfield fence grass are all the players from the various LL Baseball

Teams by age and all the players from the softball teams, by age.

Two local veterans were selected to throw out two ceremonial first Pitches: for baseball, Keith Samara, former Marine Corp Corporal and catcher Jeremy Kendall, VP of Minors baseball and former Air Force Tech Sergeant. For softball, Nicholas Tavers, Sergeant for the 25th Infantry Division and catcher Jeremy Kendall, VP of Minors baseball.

A huge thanks to Julie Natale, for spearheading all the work for this Opening Ceremony and coordinating with Arty Ledoux in inviting all the veterans and Westbrook Mayor Michael Foley's Welcoming Speech to all the attending veterans.

Submitted by Westbrook Post 62 Commander
Dennis Marrotte



Westbrook Little League Honors area veterans, left photo, standing in a long arc around the Infield from Third Base to Second and First Base, and by presenting a signed banner by the little league players, as part of the Opening Day Ceremonies.

Photos by Westbrook Post 62 Commander Dennis Marrotte



Ceremonial Pitches: Two local veterans were selected to throw out two ceremonial first pitches, one a baseball and the second a softball. Left photo, Keith Samara, USMC Corporal, Ret., just about to release his right-handed Ceremonial First Pitch Baseball to Catcher Jeremy Kendall, USAF Tech Sgt., Ret., VP of Minors Baseball. Right photo, Nicholas Tavers, Sgt., U.S. ARMY, 25th Infantry Division, throwing his right-handed Ceremonial First Pitch Softball - visible as the bright yellow round softball airborne just above the white blanket on the lady seated on the bleacher seats, to Catcher Jeremy Kendall, USAF Tech Sgt., Ret., VP of Minors Baseball. Also right photo, Julie Natale, Secretary of Westbrook LL, in the red jacket, standing in back of Catcher Jeremy Kendall.

**Westbrook Post 62
New Banner Carrying
Tube:** Deborah Thomas, Artist Extraordinaire, shows her painting of the name of Westbrook's Post 62, "Stephen W. Manchester American Legion Post 62", on the newly assembled PVC carrying tube for Post 62's Blue and Yellow Banner. Debbie's husband and Post 62's Sergeant-At-Arms, USCG, Ret. Michael Thomas, assembled the tube.

Photo by Westbrook Post 62
Sergeant-At-Arms Michael Thomas



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 2 continued

First Westbrook Soldier Killed in World War I Won't Be Forgotten On Memorial Day

Bob Lowell, journalist with the "American Journal", and I had worked on gathering the history and carefully removing the under-glass wood framed black and white portrait of Stephen W. Manchester, from the wall inside the Post, so ceiling lights reflection would not show on a photograph for his Story - who was the first Westbrook citizen killed in action during World War I in France on July 18, 1918.

The Post was built in 1928 - 1929, by carpenters, electricians and plumbers, employed at the S.D. Warren Paper Company in Westbrook. The construction of the building was under the supervision of O.G. K. Robinson.

The Ceremony at the Manchester Family Gravesite was performed Memorial Day morning, Monday, May 29, following the Ceremony at Veterans Rest at 8:00 am, both located at Woodlawn Cemetery, 380 Stroudwater Street, Westbrook.

Westbrook Post 62 Commander Dennis Marrotte

A graveside remembrance in honor of Stephen W. Manchester will follow an American Legion ceremony at Veterans Rest at Woodlawn Cemetery and precede the city's Memorial Day parade.

The Stephen W. Manchester Post 62 American Legion on Monday will decorate the grave of its namesake, the first soldier from Westbrook to be killed in action during World War I.

The Memorial Day remembrance for Manchester, which will include Taps, will take place at Woodlawn Cemetery, following an 8 a.m. ceremony with Legion Posts 62 and 197 at the cemetery's Veterans Rest.

Westbrook's Memorial Day parade, with Bill Hurd of Post 62 and Rudy Poitras of Post 197 as grand marshals, will begin at 10 a.m. at Mechanic and Main streets and continue to Riverbank Park, where official city ceremonies will be held.

Manchester, a private with the 101st

French Mortar Battery, was wounded when a shell burst on July 11, 1918, on a Western Front battlefield in the Soissons-Reims sector in France, about 80 miles from Paris, according to the Westbrook Historical Society. He died of his injuries seven days later at a field hospital at age 31.

A U.S. Army certificate about his death displayed at Post 62 was signed by General of the Armies John J. Pershing.

Manchester grew up on Locust Street, attended Warren School and worked at S.D. Warren, according to historical society records. He hitched up in 1917 when soldiers were called doughboys. His unit served in the U.S. Army's 26th Division, a National Guard outfit nicknamed the Yankee Division and heralded as a storm division. The division arrived in France in the fall of 1917 and was in combat for 210 days, according to historical accounts.

Yankee Division was 27,082 troops strong and Manchester was one of more than 13,500 casualties (dead or wounded).

"He was brought home for a full military burial in Woodlawn Cemetery, but not until 1921," Westbrook Historical Society records say.

Manchester is buried beside his parents, Herbert and Ellen Ridley Manchester.

Memorial Day in Gorham

VFW Post 10879 will lead a ceremony at 9 a.m. at Hillside Cemetery on Huston Road. The ceremony will be followed by a wreath toss from the Route 202 Bridge into the Presumpscot River.

The Memorial Day parade will start at 11 a.m. from Lincoln Street, proceeding along South and Main streets to Eastern Cemetery for a town ceremony.

<https://www.pressherald.com/2023/05/24/first-westbrook-soldier-killed-in-world-war-i-wont-be-forgotten-on-memorial-day/>

Article by Robert Lowell, American Journal, May 24



Stephen W. Manchester, left photo, first Westbrook soldier killed in World War I. Right photo, certificate signed by General of the Armies John J. Pershing.

Contributed / Dennis Marrotte



The Manchester Grave at Woodlawn Cemetery.

Photo by Robert Lowell / American Journal



Placed Flags for Memorial Day at Woodlawn Cemetery Sat, May 13, by an enthusiastic and respectful team of Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, with their Troop Leaders David and Ashley Collins. Also present were Chapter 2 Rolling Thunder led by President Richard Willoughby and his Wife Debbie, all together with Post 62 Board members, Roger Barr on far left, Tom Mahon, Harry Gorham and Richard Galipeau in sunglasses, Dennis Marrotte in green t-shirt with his Gandalf hat, Phil Spiller and Michael Thomas to far right.

Photo by Ashley Collins



Westbrook Post 62 Wreath Laying: Commander Dennis Marrotte of Post 62, lays a floral wreath at the base of the grave of Private Stephen W. Manchester, early Memorial Day morning, May 29, during the ceremony in his memory at Woodlawn Cemetery in Westbrook. Stephen, age 31, was the first Westbrook soldier to be killed in action July 18, 1918. He incurred injuries on July 11 from a shell burst.

Photo by Scott Linscott



Memorial Day Meaning:

Dennis Marrotte, Commander of the Stephen W. Manchester American Legion Post 62, describes his thoughts of the origin and meaning of Memorial Day to the audience at the ceremonies for Westbrook's Memorial Day after the 4, which saw a large turnout of citizens along the entire route. To his right is William Hurd, in his Airborne uniform and maroon beret, this year's Co-Grand Marshal for Post 62 is Junie Dugas, who enthralled the audience, singing "God bless America" and "The National Anthem", and Arty Ledoux, USMC, Ret. and Westbrook Veterans Services Director.

Photo by Scott Linscott



Memorial Day Ceremonies:

A salute after laying of 3 floral wreaths at base of Soldiers & Sailor's Monument in Riverbank Park, Memorial Day May 29. Left to right, Westbrook Post 197 Commander Evan Webb, Mayor of Westbrook Michael Foley, Westbrook Post 62 Commander Dennis Marrotte. Seated and looking to his right, in dress whites, CPO, U.S. Navy, Ret. and new member of Westbrook Post 197 Richard Parsons, and Ceremonies Emcee, holding a green program, Westbrook Post 62 1st Vice Commander Philip Spiller, Jr.

Photo by Scott Linscott

Peaks Island Post 142 Flag Day Essay Contest, held on June 20, and once again sponsored by Post 142, for fifth graders who were completing their studies at the Peaks Island Elementary School. A team of three Post members and a Son reviewed the essays and selected two winners. Legion member Chris Hoppin, left, presented prize checks for \$50 and \$25 to 1st Place writer Isiah Olson, middle, and 2nd Place writer Edwill Mabuie, right.



Submitted by Post 142 Member Chris Hoppin

Windham Post 148 Memorial Day Ceremonies

The Town of Windham provided phenomenal support for the Memorial Day events with the largest crowd in recent history lining route 202 to Windham

High School. Parade goers were enthusiastic, waving flags at the participants including a range of marchers from Legion

[More on "MEMORIAL DAY" Page 18](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 2 continued

"MEMORIAL DAY"

(Continued from Page 17)

to VFW, to new this year, DAV, to scout groups, WHS band and WPS Chorus, to a variety of old vehicles, military vehicles, and the kids-favorites, the Fire Trucks!

The traditional Memorial day Ceremony held at the Windham High School Veterans Memorial was again well received as the American Legion and VFW honored those fallen veterans this past year with tolling of the bell for each of thirty names read by Legion Post Commander Tom Theriault followed by the bell being struck for each veteran by VFW Post 10643 Commander Willie Goodman.



Tolling Of The Bell for those thirty Veterans in Windham who passed from May 2022 to May 2023, Legion Post Commander Tom

Theriault reads the names as Post VFW Commander Willie Goodman strikes the bell.

Photo by Marsha Snyder

Korean war Veteran Walter Braley, with assistance from the Field-Allen Post 148 Honor Guard, placed the traditional red-white-blue floral wreath on the



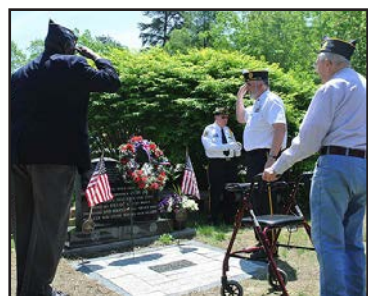
Wreath Placement at the town's Veterans Memorial (WHS), Korean War Vet Walter Braley with Tim Honor Guard, Tim Snyder, Larry DeHof and Craig Pride.

Photo by Marsha Snyder

Town's Veterans Memorial. Followed by a three-volley rifle salute by the honor guard and taps by the Windham High School buglers.

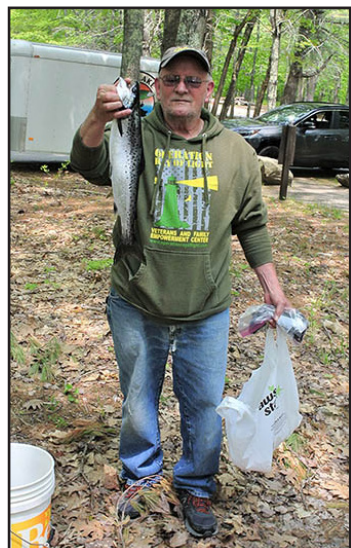
At noon, a second ceremony was held at the Windham Veterans Center, Memorial Garden with the dedication of a granite bench in memory of WWII veteran, Bob Miele, by the family followed by a wreath placement at the Garden's Vietnam Memorial by WWII Veteran Carroll McDonald assisted by, VFW Commander Willie Goodman and Legion District Two Commander David Tanguay. Then followed an open house and picnic for the community with approx. 100 in attendance.

Windham Post 148 Adjutant David Tanguay



Honors rendered at the Windham Veterans Center Memorial Garden. A floral wreath is placed at the Vietnam Memorial for those Cumberland County Vets who did not return from Vietnam. VFW Commander Willie Goodman, Past Legion Post Commander & WWII vet, Carroll McDonald, and Legion District 2 Commander David Tanguay render honors.

Photo by Marsha Snyder



Windham Post 148 At Veteran Fishing Event: Another wonderful outing with the Sebago Lake Anglers Association, Operation Ray of Light, Humana, and The American Legion Field-Allen Post 148 Windham on Sebago Lake for the 6th annual Veterans Fishing event. Approximately two dozen vets were hosted from various organizations by the Sebago Lake Anglers Association who provided boats, bait, tackle, and their experience in support of the vets. Thank You!!!! Also, a thanks goes out to Humana and their associates for providing a feast for all!!! Largest fish was an 18-inch salmon.

Submitted by Windham Post 148 Adjutant David Tanguay

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

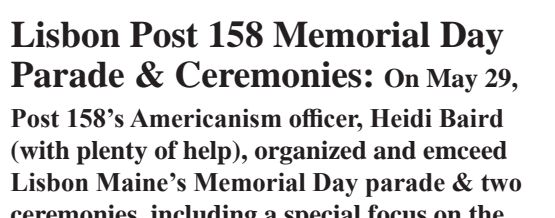
District 3

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



Lisbon Post 158 Cemetery Flag Replacement: On the morning of May 20, ten volunteers supported Post 158's effort to replace American flags in preparation for Memorial Day at eight different Lisbon cemeteries. The group tended to grave markers from at least the Revolutionary War, Civil War, Spanish-American War, WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam and Somalia.

Submitted by Post 158 Finance Officer Eric Cooper



Lisbon Post 158 Memorial Day Parade & Ceremonies: On May 29, Post 158's Americanism officer, Heidi Baird (with plenty of help), organized and emceed Lisbon Maine's Memorial Day parade & two ceremonies, including a special focus on the 30th anniversary of Tommy Field's death. SSG Thomas Field, US Army, was a Lisbon native who lost his life in Mogadishu during the battle memorialized in the movie Black Hawk Down. After the conclusion of the parade and ceremonies, close to 100 people enjoyed a lunch of hot dogs, hamburgers and potato salad at our post's outdoor pavilion.

Submitted by Post 158 Finance Officer Eric Cooper

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 4

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

Post 28 Happenings & Events

The Roderick-Crosby Post 28 Legion Family segued into early summer with a chicken barbeque fundraiser on Armed Forces Day, Saturday, May 20, to raise money to send some Mt. Blue High School juniors to Dirigo State. We were surprised with generous corporate spon-

sorship from the Dead River Company in Farmington who covered the operational cost of the barbeque and one student registration. Community support for our first barbeque in several years was kind.

In addition to the chicken barbeque **More on "POST 28 EVENTS" Page 19**

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 4 continued

■ "POST 28 EVENTS"

(Continued from Page 18)



BBQ: SAL Squadron 28 Commander Steve Cutler (with rake), Legionnaire Rodney Titcomb, right.

on Armed Forces Day, the Post 28 Legion Family with community volunteers placed flags on veteran graves across cemeteries in Farmington. During the week leading up to Memorial Day over 1200 flags were installed. The sight of American flags waving in the breeze in honor of our fallen veterans is poignant.



Marker: Membership Chair Peter Tracy explains the meaning of the veteran marker.

Memorial Day is one of our most revered public opportunities to honor and remember veterans. Together with our sponsored Scout Troop 546 and Cub Scout Pack 585, we held two public observances at war memorial sites in Farmington. Priscilla Kimble, niece of Post 28 Finance Officer Jennifer Bowser-Kimble, delivered a heartfelt performance of our National Anthem. Post 28 Chaplain Langdon Adams led the public in prayer. Commander Stephan Bunker delivered stirring remarks during the well-attended events with Scouts laying wreaths followed by a haunting TAPS rendition by local bugler Paul Harnden.

On June 5, Post 28 Legionnaires conducted flag education and advocacy to multiple classes at the Cascade Brook Middle School in Farmington. This annual event helps to promote veterans in the classroom who share their love and respect for our nation and our flag. After a flag folding demonstration, the students were teamed with Legionnaires to practice proper flag folding.

June witnessed the installation of Post



Flag Class: Giving a flag folding demonstration, left to right, Americanism Officer Butch

Tracy, Membership Chair Peter Tracy, Legionnaire Sherryl Kempton (in uniform), Finance Officer Jennifer Bowser-Kimble and Commander Stephan Bunker.

28 and Unit 28 officers for the 2023/2024 term. We are grateful to Immediate Past Department Commander Kirk Thurston, 1st Vice Commander Tricia Thurston, Historian Lou Marin and Valerie Scott, Rumford Unit 24, for installing our leadership team. Commander Stephan Bunker was elected for a second term and thanked the entire Post 28 Legion Family for their support and continued advocacy for veteran affairs.



Post 28 Officers: Installed June 6, left to right, 1st Vice Commander/Sergeant-at-Arms Matthew Smith, Chaplain Langdon Adams, 2nd Vice Commander Thomas Doak, Adjutant Drew Goodridge, Commander Stephan Bunker, Historian Karl Knight, Membership Chair Peter Tracy, and Finance Officer Jennifer Bowser-Kimble.

Post 28 was represented at the Department Convention in early June. We were very pleased and excited to see Commander Bunker recognized as Humanitarian of the Year. Commander Bunker is the epitome of selfless service not only to The American Legion but many diverse organizations as well as being an admired community leader with decades of public service.

Humanitarian Of The Year Award:

Stephan Bunker, Farmington Post 28, right, receives Humanitarian of the Year Award from Dept. Cmdr. Kirk Thurston at the Annual State Convention in Brewer. Standing back is 2nd Vice Cmdr. Tricia Thurston.



Following the convention at the District Executive Committee meeting, Post 28 Adjutant Drew Goodridge was confirmed by the DEC as the new Department Judge Advocate.

The month of July opened with our most visible Post 28 element, the Color Guard, leading the Farmington Fourth of July parade. For the first time in several years, Post 28 entered a parade float with Legion Family members riding onboard. The Color Guard was honored again to lead the Strong Pierpole Day parade on July 8th to a supportive Strong community. The Color Guard looks forward to participating in the upcoming Wilton Blueberry Festival and Phillips Old Home Days parades in August.

We held the first of our summer car

washes in early July. This event was the 2nd Annual Ron L. Smith, Sr Memorial Car Wash in honor of a respected and witty Post 28 Legionnaire. Ron was a vibrant presence in the Post who organized the car washes for the past several years to raise money to continue our various veteran programs. In memory of Ron's lighthearted spirit, the Post 28 team worked and played hard delighting patrons who stopped by for a new coat of clean on their favorite vehicles. We are always grateful for the generous community support at our car washes.

We close out July with another chicken barbeque during the Farmington Summer Fest and a full report will follow.

Submitted by Farmington Post 28 Adjutant Drew Goodridge

Car Wash Fundraiser:

Left to right, Commander Stephan Bunker, 2nd Vice Commander Thomas Doak,



and Legionnaire Rodney Titcomb.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 5

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



District 5 Oxford County At Department Annual Convention: Faithfully attending the Department Annual Convention at Jeff's Catering and Event Center in Brewer, was a delegation of District 5 Oxford County attendees, some of whom need no introduction. Left photo, Bethel Post 81/District 5 Finance Officer George Angevine, Rumford Post 24/Dept. Historian Louie Marin. Middle photo, George Angevine, Locke Mills Post 68 Commander/District 5 Adjutant Harry G. Orcutt, Buckfield Post 58 Adjutant/District 5 1st Vice Gloria Hall, Post 58/District 5 Commander James Lowell, and barely seen behind Jim, West Paris Post 151/District 5 Chaplain Randal Jack. Right photo, a better photo of Post 151/District 5 Chaplain Randal Jack.

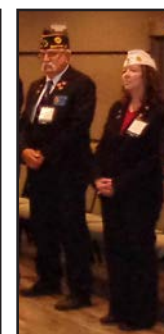


Auxiliary Remembers: During State Convention, at the Department Auxiliary Convention, the memory of Bethel Unit 81 Jeri

Greenwell, holder of numerous important positions at the local, State, and National levels, and a tireless champion in veteran and community causes was remembered.



"...Convention Is Closed": Lastly, when newly installed 2024 Commander Alfred McKay was invited by Installing Officer, Past National Commander Anthony "Tony" Jordan to address the assembly, he stated simply, "The 104th Department of Maine Convention is closed." Though the Commander is not a member of the District, eloquence like that must be recorded for posterity.



District 5/ Rumford Post 24

Members also in attendance for Convention, outgoing Department Commander Kirk Thurston and

incoming Department 1st Vice Commander Tricia Thurston.

Rumford Post 24 – District 5 Installation

The gathering at Napoleon-Ouellette Post 24 Rumford for the Installation of District 5 and Post 24 Officers commenced at 18:00 hours (6:00 pm), April 19, with a generous and delicious buffet supper. It must be that the big city has a diverse set of ethnic resources, as the half-Italian sub sandwiches were the real deal. Then there

were the wraps with just the right amount spicy flavor, and the usual buffet fare without which no such meal would be complete: various pickles, cheese, pepperoni, crackers, wavy (my favorite) potato chips, and so forth; and the piece-de-resistance, a fruit laden chocolate/vanilla trifle, that was

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 5 continued

■ "INSTALL" (Continued from Page 19)

outdone only by a vanilla-frosted vanilla cake, made so much more delicious with a large scoop of the trifle as a topping. Now, that's an eatery I'm looking forward to returning to.

Commander Lowell surrendered the podium to Auxiliary Installing Officer Linda Jack of West Paris Unit 151, who introduced her Installing Sgt-At-Arms Susan M. Vacca of Locke Mills Unit 68, and the Installing Chaplain Doreen Wilbur of West Paris Unit 151. They then proceeded to install Rumford Unit 24.

Following Post 24's Installation, the Le-

gion Installing suite continued with the installation of District 5 Elected Officers.

Upon being installed, the District Historian turned to the audience and announced: "Today is an auspicious occasion. 248 years ago, the battles of Lexington, Concord, and Menotomy took place, which culminating eight years later in the foundation of the United States, bringing forth all the freedoms we enjoy today." Left unsaid, was that the Warrants prepared for each office by the Department Commander bore both his signature and that of his Installing Sgt-At-Arms, the incoming Department Commander 2023-24. Most certainly a "keeper."

Submitted by District 5 Adjutant Harry G. Orcutt



Rumford Unit 24

Auxiliary Installation: Left to right, Installing Sgt-At-Arms Susan M. Vacca of Locke Mills Unit 68, Installing Chaplain Doreen Wilbur of West Paris Unit 151, Executive Committee Tricia Thurston of Rumford Unit 24, Installing Officer Linda Jack of

West Paris Unit 151, and the remainder all of Rumford Unit 24, President Rose Dyke, Treasurer Lynn McAloney, 2nd Vice Commander Rena Nichols, Secretary Anita Murphy, Chaplain Leslie Skibitsky, Executive Committee Carol Roach, and Sgt-At-Arms Judy Sanborn.



Rumford Post 24 Officer Installation: Left to right, front row, Post 24 Finance Officer/Department 2nd Vice Commander Tricia Thurston and Post 24/Department Historian Louie Marin. Back row, left to right, Post 24 Adjutant Randall Canwell, Executive Committee Diane Roberts, Installing Sgt-At-Arms/Dept. 1st Vice Alfred McKay, Sgt-At-Arms Michael Malak, Executive Committee Nick Kelly, Chaplain Bill McAloney, and Installing Officer/Department Commander Kirk Thurston.



District 5 Officer Installation: Chaplain Randal Jack (of West Paris Post 151), Finance Officer George Angevine (of Bethel Post 81), Installing Sgt-At-Arms Alfred McKay (Department 1st Vice Commander), 1st Vice Commander Gloria Hall (Buckfield Post 58 Americanism Officer), Commander James Lowell (of Buckfield Post 58), Adjutant Harry G. Orcutt (Locke Mills Post 68 Historian), 2nd Vice Commander Harold Wilbur (of West Paris Post 151), Installing Officer Kirk Thurston (Department Commander). Not present: District 5 Sgt-At-Arms Ralph Hart.

Flag Day History, Flag Folding Lesson, & Meaning Behind the Design

On Flag Day, 14 June, Past Maine American Legion Department Commander Kirk Thurston and Department Historian Louie Marin were invited to Opportunity Enterprises in Mexico, Maine to instruct the clients and staff there on proper raising and lowering of their newly presented flag and to display a flag folding ceremony.

The historian also provided the following flag facts:

During the American Revolution, a variety of flags were flown that would in-

spire the "Stars and Stripes" we know today, from the "Sons of Liberty" flag to the "Grand Union" flag, which was used by General George Washington's Continental Army.

In 1777, the Flag Act was passed by the Continental Congress. It said the flag of the then thirteen United States should "be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation."

The original 13-star version of the flag

was first unveiled on June 14, 1777, and that is why June 14 is known as Flag Day.

The U.S. Congress continued to make changes to the shape and design of the flag up until 1960, mostly to make room for stars as new states were added. Today, the flag's stars are arranged in 9 rows representing the 50 states, and the 13 stripes represent the original 13 colonies. The last time a star was added was when Hawaii became a state in 1959, so our current 50-star flag has flown since July 4, 1960. If the U.S. ever adds a state again, a star would officially be added on the next 4th of July!

Red symbolizes hardiness and valor; blue symbolizes justice, vigilance, and perseverance; and white symbolizes purity and innocence. The U.S. Flag Code gives Americans guidelines and customs for handling the flag. The flag code prohibits changing the flag with additional designs, letters or marks; using the flag for advertising; and hanging the flag upside down unless to signal danger! The code also says the flag should be allowed to fall freely.

The Battle of Baltimore inspired the lyrics of lawyer and poet Francis Scott Key in 1814. "O, say, can you see by the dawn's early light what so proudly we hailed through the twilight's last gleaming..." The waving American flag before, during, and after the fight was seen as a source of inspiration and resilience. The red, white, and blue stars and stripes, also named "Old Glory," have long symbolized patriotism, unity, and the spirit of pride in our nation.

Kirk Thurston and Louie Marin folded the flag before allowing some of the Opportunity Enterprises clients to practice flag folding, using a soon to be retired casket size flag. During the folding, staff members read the following:

The flag is folded exactly 13 times in remembrance of the original 13 colonies. But did you know there is a specific meaning to each fold?

Here is what each fold of the flag means:

- The first fold symbolizes life.
- The second fold represents a belief in eternal life.
- The third fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans who gave their lives in defense of the country in

order to help attain peace throughout the world.

- The fourth fold is in recognition of the nature of the country's citizens to trust in God.

- The fifth fold is a tribute to the United States. According to Stephen Decatur, S. Naval Commander during the American Revolution and War of 1812, "Our country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right, but it is still our country, right or wrong."

- The sixth fold symbolizes where people's hearts lie in keeping with the words of our pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

- The seventh fold pays tribute to the armed forces. After all, through our armed forces, the United States is protected against all enemies.

- The eighth fold is a tribute to those who died, and as Psalm 23 states, "entered into the valley of the shadow of death."

- The ninth fold honors womanhood.
- The 10th fold is a tribute to fathers.
- The 11th fold represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies, in Judaism, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

- The 12th fold represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in the eyes of Christians, God the Father, the Son and Holy Ghost.

- The 13th and last fold reminds us that when the flag is completely folded, in the uppermost corner signifies our national motto, "In God We Trust."

And Thurston finished with the following, "When the flag is folded and tucked in, the resulting shape appears like the hats of the soldiers who served under General George Washington, and the many who have followed them in order to preserve the rights, privileges and freedoms we enjoy today. So in the future when you see a folded flag, you will have a deeper understanding and appreciation of the tradition."

Submitted by American Legion Department of Maine & Rumford Post 24 Historian Louie Marin



Demonstration: Department Historian Louie Marin, left, and Past Department Commander Kirk Thurston, right, speak to the group at Opportunity Enterprises in Mexico, Maine, about flag folding.

Folding Lesson: Former Department Commander Kirk Thurston assist Opportunity Enterprises clients with folding flag.



Flag Raising: Department Historian Louie Marin assist Opportunity Enterprise Clients with Flag Raising.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 5 continued

A Legacy Gift For Buckfield Post

58: Knowing that her tenure upon the Earth would soon be over, before entering the Post Everlasting, John D. Long Post 58 member Barbara Finkbeiner bequeathed her vehicle as a donation to support the activities of her fellow Post members. The resulting sale realized \$8,000. The check was presented at the May 2023 General meeting. Buckfield Post 58 Adjutant Gloria Hall, middle, presents \$8,000 check to Post Finance Officer Conrad Conant, right, as Post Commander James Lowell, left, observes.



Submitted by District 5 Adjutant Harry G Orcutt

Post 58 – 68 – 81 & Unit 68 – 81 Annual Officer Installation

The Installation was preceded, at Jackson-Silver Post 68 in Locke Mills, beginning at 18:00 hours on May 18, with a potluck supper of various entrees, salads, and desserts brought by the participants who were installed.

Adhering to American Legion protocol, Commander Orcutt opened the meeting with the Posting of the Colors, followed by Chaplain's Benediction * POW/MIA Resolution and Chair Draping * Pledge of Allegiance * Preamble to Legion Constitution. He then surrendered the podium to the Auxiliary Installing team consisting of Installing Officer Linda Jack, Installing Sgt-At-Arms Dian Rainey, and Installing Chaplain Dorene Wilbur.

Locke Mills Post 68 Commander Orcutt next introduced the Legion Installing Suite: Installing Officer Harold Wilbur, Installing Sgt-At-Arms Wade Rainey, and Installing Chaplain Randall Jack. They proceeded to install the Posts that were present in numeric order in abbreviated ritual form, as all, being veterans, had been installed in numerous preceding years.

Returning to the podium, Commander Orcutt directed the Post 68 Sgt-At-Arms to escort to the front of the podium the officers in order of their Installation to receive their signed 2023-24 Officers Warrants. He then directed the Sgt-At-Arms to escort to the podium 50+ year member Gordon "Butch" Crockett to receive acknowledgement of his service to the Post. The Post will apply for like recognition from National.

Post Commander Orcutt thanked Ring-McKeen Post/Unit 151 of West Paris for providing the Installing Teams, headed respectively by Past District 5 Commander Harold Wilbur and Past Department Chaplain Linda Jack.

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

Meeting adjourned at: 20:00 hours.

Submitted by Locke Mills Pos 68 Commander Harry G. Orcutt



Buckfield Post 58 Install: Left to right, Finance Officer Conrad Conant, 1st Vice Ralph Hart, Adjutant Gloria Hall, Wade Rainey, Randall Jack, Harold Wilbur, Post Commander Jim Lowell.



Locke Mills Post 68 Recognizes longtime member. Commander Harry Orcutt, behind podium in left photo, hands Gordon "Butch" Crockett his Post 50 Year Membership Certificate. Crockett with his certificate, right photo.



Locke Mills Post 68 Install: Left to right, Sgt-At-Arms Timothy Twitchell, Historian Al Lake, Wade Rainey, Randall Jack, Harold Wilbur, Post Commander Harry G. Orcutt.



Unit 68 Install: Left to right, Chaplain Marleen Twitchell, Dorene Wilbur, Secretary Susan Vacca, Linda Jack, President Paige Crockett, Dian Rainey, Sgt-at-Arms Marie Bartlett.



Bethel Post 81 Install: Left to right, 1st Vice – Finance Officer George Angevine, Adjutant Robert Everett, Wade Rainey, Randall Jack, Harold Wilbur, Chaplain Richard Farren.



Bethel Unit 81 Install: Left to right, President Barb Dion, Secretary Carol Everett, Dorene Wilbur, Linda Jack, and Dian Rainey.

So Much Family History Awaits Restitution

Beginning in 2019, Jackson-Silver Post 68 received from VA a number of veterans' tombstones that Lewiston resident Anthony Bouchard had determined, through research, were missing from Greenwood, Maine cemeteries. Most of the stones were emplaced and dedicated by Post 68 members. But one eluded them. Opposite the Town Beach, there was, and will be again, a family cemetery created by one of the Town's early settlers. Content that they would lay undisturbed in eternal rest, they did not foresee that their repose would be destroyed when their resting place was used as a log landing. What remained of the substantial granite stones that marked their graves was, apparently, disposed of.

An effort was made by Post members to locate the exact burial location of the veteran in the family Plot, but with the covid lockdowns and meeting restrictions, efforts to generate support for a Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) sweep from various Maine Education and Historical institutions came to naught.

The cemetery is known as the Cummings Plot. In it are buried three Josephs -- grandfather, father, and son, the father's wife, their daughter, and their toddler son. Joseph Cummings (14 June 1751 – 14 December 1843) was a Revolutionary War soldier, serving in the 12th Mass. Regt. He was the second to be buried in the Plot. Next to him is his toddler grandson, Wellington (22 May 1840 – 8 January 1842), and by request, on the other side lies Joseph (5 September 1827 – 24 January 1910) who served in the 13th Maine Regt. in the Civil War and was accorded a Masonic Burial conducted by Woodstock's Jefferson Lodge 100. Above this trio, in the center, is Joseph (31 May 1791 – 10 March 1876) who served in the War of 1812 in Foxcroft's Regt. of the Mass (Province of Maine) Militia. Beside this Joseph, on either side (a coin toss as to which) are his wife Ruth Thayer Cummings (23 June 1798 – 22 July 1885), and the remaining married daughter, Ruth Cummings Glines (May 16, 1834 – 1899).

In early 2023, a burst of sunshine came forth from Florida. A descendant of Joseph (War of 1812), through his son Hiram, brother of the Civil War Joseph, Suzanne Nusbaum, with her husband Bob, has this

summer been spearheading the rehabilitation of the Plot. Volunteers helping her are Greenwood Town Manager Kim Sparks, Harry G. Orcutt, Commander American Legion Jackson-Silver Post 68, Locke Mills (Greenwood) who was the originator of generating interest in the Plot, Anthony Bouchard of Lewiston, Bill McAloney, Chaplain of Rumford Post 24, and Clayton Bartlett (Masonic brother of Bethel 30 and Jefferson 100). Clayton is a collateral Cummings cousin, descended from Elisha (a Revolutionary War first settler of Greenwood in 1800), brother of the progenitor Joseph.

Identifying the likely location of the graves was Greenwood Historian Blaine Mills, who played in the vicinity as a child, and reported the desecration of the Plot when he returned in 1960 from the US Air Force. Another cousin, Stefanie Burke (related to Suzanne's line) who had visited the Plot, helped with the initial clearing. Thus far the project has been recorded in detail by Rose Lincoln of the Bethel Citizen (a Sun Journal newspaper). Finally, Suzanne hired Jesse Cofelice, MA, RPA, of Independent Archaeological Consulting, LLC in Dover NH, and Robert Perry, of Topographix, LLC (ground penetrating radar), of Litchfield, NH, with Jesse to oversee the surface exhumation of materials without disturbing the grave occupants, and Robert to identify where the graves are located. (Blaine was correct).

Three gravestones supplied by the Veterans Administration are now being stored at Jackson-Silver Post. Two of them were acquired by Suzanne, with help from Kim Sparks and Commander Orcutt. Another three stones are needed, purchased by donation or by organizational grant. All the markers will then likely be installed by the Sons and Daughters of Union Veterans, headquartered in Woodstock (Bryant Pond). Suzanne has set up a Go-Fund-Me page for private donations at: <https://go-fund.me/c73342a8>

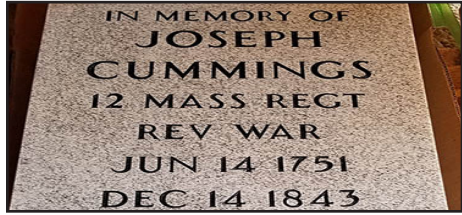
For an outright grant, it would be best to contact Suzanne at: Suzanne K. Nusbaum, 80 Hunnewell Avenue, Phippsburg, Me 04562. Cell: 408-355-4596, Landline 207-389-1144, suesm62845@aol.com

More on "FAMILY HISTORY" Page 22

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 5 continued

- "FAMILY HISTORY" (Continued from Page 21)



Cummings Plot Headstones supplied by the Veterans Administration after research determined they were missing.

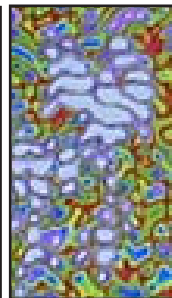
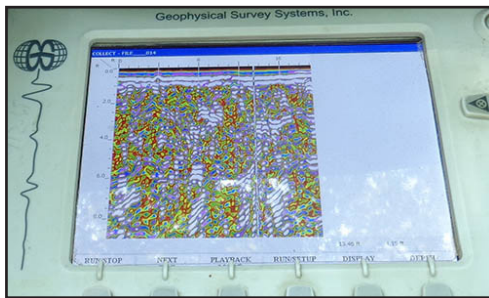


Before The First Clearing of the Cemetery Plot, May 19. Left photo, Post 68 Commander Harry G. Orcutt, middle, with Cummings descendants, Stefanie Burke, left, and Suzanne Nusbaum, right. Collateral cousin Clayton Bartlett, right photo, another Cummings descendent helps with family cemetery plot rehabilitation. Bunker Hill Day June 17, bright and sunny in 1775, a downpour in 2023. with family cemetery plot rehabilitation.

Legion Officers Assist In Plot Rehab: Post 68 Commander Harry G. Orcutt, left photo, and, right photo, left to right, Suzanne Nusbaum, Past RW Bill McAloney Master of Bethel Lodge 30, also Chaplain of Rumford American Legion Post 24.



Ready For Search And Find: The Cummings Family Plot, left photo. Middle photo, Bob Nusbaum recording, Jesse Cofelice and Sue Nusbaum observing GPR grave images discovered by Robert Perry of Topographix, LLC on July 7. Right photo, Making another sweep of the plot with the GPR (ground penetrating radar), left to right, Bob Nusbaum, Clayton Bartlett, and Robert Perry.



GPR Image Of The Graves in the Cummings plot, left photo, and GPR screen image, likely of Joseph Cummings, War of 1812, right photo.

Lurvey WWI Photo Exhibit in Capitol Hall of Flags

In a pre-Memorial Day special event, Jackson-Silver Post 68 Commander Harry G. Orcutt, and his wife, Unit 68 Secretary Susan M. Vacca, brought the Cpl. Harold A. Lurvey – Never Forget WWI Photo Exhibit to the Maine Capitol's venerable Hall of Flags, on Monday, May 22, from 09:00 to 16:00 hours. As previously reported in the Maine Legionnaire, Cpl. Lurvey was born in Rumford, and served

in the Mexican Border Service initiated against Poncho Villa. In that deployment, he served as a Wagoneer in Company B, 2nd Maine National Guard Regt. Activated for service in WWI, he went to France as part of the 26th Yankee Division, the first fully deployed stateside division in the American Expeditionary Force. Again, serving as a Wagoneer, he was in the same Company and Maine Regt., which subse-

quent to their arrival in Europe, was redesignated the 103rd Infantry Regt. Twelve days before the Armistice of 11-11-1918, Cpl. Lurvey was transferred into the Big Red One, the First Infantry Division, which had been formed from Regiments first deployed to France. He remained with the First throughout the occupation of Germany, coming home in October 1919. While serving with the First, though still a pasted into the inner cover Wagoneer, he turned in his wagon, for a US Army touring car limousine.

Lurvey possessed quite an eye for striking images of the war. He compiled a scrapbook containing, as it were, a full picture on the conflict from the start of the war in 1914 to the end of the occupation in 1919. The scrapbook also contains an original patch of the Big Red One pasted into the inner cover. Jackson-Silver Post 68 came into possession of the scrapbook when it was given to us for safe-keeping by Lurvey's niece, Beverly Lurvey Melville, a member of Auxiliary Unit 68. Her husband Richard is a 70-year member of the Post.

The Commander of Post 68, Harry G. Orcutt, scanned the various sized images and printed uniform 10 x 8 photos, which he placed in 9 x 11 frames. The photos were then arranged by time period and subject, and sequentially numbered. The collection was then explained on framed 5 x 7 cards on which were printed the Divisional Crests of the 26th and 1st.

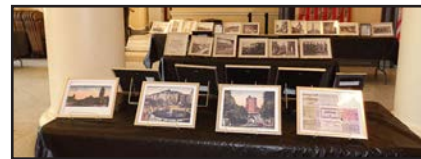
First exhibited on Veterans Day 2018 at Jackson-Silver, and seen by barely three dozen people, the Commander sought a permanent home where the public could appreciate the sacrifices made by their kin who had fought and lived under horrible

conditions to preserve the freedom of citizens of other nations.

In the Hall of Flags, a week before Memorial Day 2023, the exhibit was viewed by 28 High School students from the Minot area, who were conducted in two groups of 14, by Mr. Hunt of the adjacent Maine State Museum (presently closed for renovation). Commander Orcutt was asked to address both groups, who demonstrated by their attention that they truly appreciated this lesson in their history. Also visiting the exhibit were tourists, State Representatives, and our own Senator Lisa Keim of the 19th Maine district. She had her aide take photos of her and various of the exhibits, which she placed on her website. Even more photos of the exhibit were taken and displayed on his website by Legion Department Historian Louie Marin.

At the Annual Department Convention, Past National Commander Anthony "Tony" Jordan expressed his desire to see the exhibit permanently displayed at Department Headquarters in Winslow. He got it. The exhibit is not only the history of the US involvement in WWI, but also is, emphatically, the history of the American Legion. Cpl. Lurvey was a Charter member of Jackson-Silver Post 68 and was also a Charter member of Mundt-Allen Post 81, in Bethel, when it was formed in 1951. Judging by a Maine Convention medal of the 1930's, also part of the collection, he also appears to have been a Past Commander of Lewiston Post 22 in Auburn. Department Adjutant Jason Hall said that he would look into a suitable space at Headquarters for the exhibit to reside.

Submitted by Locke Mills Post 68 Commander Harry G Orcutt



Photos On Display at Maine's Capitol Hall of Flags on May 22. Top photo, the Battle of France, middle and bottom photo, photos of the German Occupation.



Supporting The Special Event: Department Historian Louie Marin, left, and Locke Mills Unit 68 Secretary Susan Vacca, right.



1st Division Motor Pool Photos: Standing Behind Lurvey's 1st Division Motor Pool photos, left to right, Locke Mills Unit 68 Secretary Susan Vacca, Locke Mills Post 68 Commander Harry G. Orcutt, and State Senator Lisa Keim.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 5 continued

Early Bird Craft Fair a Grand Success at Locke Mills Post 68

Auxiliary Unit 68 Sgt-At-Arms Marie Bartlett once again organized a spectacularly successful two-day event creatively entitled "The Early Bird Craft Fair." The money she raised for the Post was simply Grand. Her Craft Fair took place on Saturday June 24 and Sunday June 25, from 09:00 to 15:00 hours. Vendors paid \$35 per table, with all available 34 tables in the Great Hall being utilized. There were Post guests purchasing their "must haves" in abundance. The Unit 68 Canteen provided, at reasonable prices,

breakfast pastries and a variety of luncheon choices.

No word of public response, but the vendors were so pleased that Marie is already organizing a Halloween weekend Craft Fair, for the pre-Thanksgiving/Christmas gifting season. And this time, the event will be even Grand, as the Post Historian Al Lake discovered we had three additional tables, bringing the total to 37, which Marie will make available to the vendors at \$40 apiece.

Submitted by District 5 Adjutant Harry G Orcutt



Entrance: Unit 68 Secretary Susan Vacca, left, wife of Post Commander Harry G. Orcutt, right, with an indoor poster easel (2 of them) they fabricated

from a shelf taken down in the pantry, previously described in a Post cleanup article.



Unit 68 Officer Organizes Successful Fair: Auxiliary Unit 68 Sgt-At-Arms Marie, right, speaking with one of the 34 vendors.



Post 68 Craft Fair Hosts Vendors selling homemade items produced by talented local craft folk.



Post 68 Memorial Day Town Trifecta: After more than two years of conducting Patriotic ceremonies in the Post's spacious parking lot, Post 68 is once again executing a full range of its Memorial Day ceremonies in the three towns of its membership recruitment area. Beginning with a morning decades long tradition, sans

the parade of former days, as some participating Post members are only barely avoiding wheelchairs, every other ceremony was conducted as it has ever been. Post Commander Harry G. Orcutt, behind podium, opens the ceremony, Chaplain Dan Grover, left, awaits the call to say the benediction, and Unit 68 President Paige Crockett, back to camera, listens for her cue to present the Poppy Girls.



Post 68 Memorial Day Ceremonies includes the Mahoosuc Community Band, top photo, playing the National anthem and Armed Forces Medley, and in town 3, Woodstock. Bottom photo, the Band is seated comfortably on their borrowed Post 68 chairs atop their trailer.



50 Year Certificate: Left photo, Commander Orcutt reads Leroy Patten's National & Post 50-year Certificates of Continuous Service, which is presented with the 50-year cap star. Right photo, Leroy Patten & his family.



Poppy Girls participate in Locke Mills area Memorial Day ceremonies. Left photo, Unit 68 President Paige Crockett introduces Poppy Girls Lily and Madeline Lewis at the opening ceremony. Middle photo, Lily salutes the Naval Service by casting flowers upon the waters. Right photo, Madeline Lewis delivers a student Memorial Day speech in ceremonies conducted by Post 68 patriotic partners Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War- Judith Grover Tent #17.



Enjoying Memorial Day: Post Guests & the public observe the outdoor Memorial Day ceremonies.



Auxiliary Placement Of Floral Arrangements: Locke Mills Auxiliary takes part in Memorial Day ceremonies with the placing of a floral arrangement, left photo, in front of the Post Veterans Monument by Unit 68 Sgt-At-Arms Marie Bartlett and Chaplain Marleen Twitchell, and right photo, the carrying of the Post 68 flag by Unit 68 Auxiliary member.



TAPS: Brian Dunham and Ed Lovejoy prepare to render Taps for the second time in Woodstock's Lakeside Cemetery.



Post 68 Firing Squad, top photo, commanded by 1st Vice William Bickford, with members, left to right, Paul Hebert, Sgt-At-Arms Timothy Twitchell, Leroy Patten, and Historian Al Lake saluting as Taps is rendered. Middle photo, on to town 2, The East Bethel Cemetery on the Intervale Road, the Post Firing Squad fires another salute. Bottom photo, the Firing Squad fires its 3rd salute of the day, while Unit 68 Flag Detail observes, thus ending the day's Post 68 Memorial Day Town Trifecta.

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



St. George/Tenants Harbor Post 34 At The First Annual Rockport Donut



St. George/Tenants Harbor Post 34 Auxiliary Poppy Day 2023

Festival: Left to right, Post 34 Adjutant Steve Pomakis, Post 34 Finance & Service Officer Jan Gaudio, and Post 34 Commander Thornton Batty.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 7

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

Clara Wentworth Remembered
at Wiscasset's Memorial Day Observance

One of Wiscasset's Memorial Day traditions was missing this year, but not forgotten, the laying of a wreath by Clara Wentworth, a tradition that will be carried on in her honor.

Wiscasset Bradford-Sortwell-Wright American Legion Post 54 Commander William Cossette asked for a moment of silence to remember the dedication of Wentworth for her service to veterans of all wars.

Wentworth passed away Feb. 9 at the age of 95. She placed her last wreath at the Wiscasset Veterans' Wall, Veterans' Day, Nov. 11, 2022, a tradition she had done for decades representing the Pemaquid Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She was the widow of Joseph Wentworth, a veteran of World War II, who served in the European Theater.

American Legion Auxiliary Member Diane Munsey laid a wreath in Wentworth's honor during the wreath laying ceremony, along with wreaths being laid by the American Legion, and the American Legion Auxiliary.

The memorial service also included the distribution of poppies by Auxiliary member Faye Shea. The poppy is the official flower of the American Legion family and memorializes the men and women who fought and died in war. Since 1924, it has been a national program of the American Legion.



others gather at the Wiscasset Veterans' Wall on Memorial Day to honor the veterans who gave their lives fighting for the freedoms enjoyed by all Americans today.

During Commander Cossette's remarks he praised Wiscasset's Middle High School students for work they did at the Greenlawn Cemetery, and for placing flags on veterans' grave sites. He said the students worked very hard for about four hours, and were willing to stay longer.

"They did one heck of a job and remind us there are a lot of good kids out there," he said.

Cossette also praised the town for work and repairs that were planned for the veterans' wall. The plans include extending the walkway along the both sides of the wall, and doing some repairs to the front.

The Wiscasset American Legion Honor Guard had a new member this year, Bruce Poland, from Bremen. Poland proudly wore the U.S. Army Uniform he wore during his tour of duty in 1969-1971.

The service concluded with the firing of a three-gun salute, by Legionnaires Poland, Cliff Hendricks, and Michael Barnes, the playing of Taps by Tom Stoner, and an invitation to the American Legion Post for coffee and donuts following the service, by Commander Cossette.

Clara Wentworth Remembered at Wiscasset's Memorial Day Observance

Article by Charlotte Boynton,
Lincoln County News
June 2, 2023 at 8:00 am

Wiscasset Memorial
Day Remarks: Bradford-
Sortwell-Wright American Legion
Post 54 Commander William
Cossette delivers a few remarks
as veterans, family members and

All photos by Charlotte Boynton

Three-Gun Salute: Legionnaire's Cliff Hendricks, Bruce Poland, and Michael Barnes fire a three-gun salute during the Wiscasset Memorial Day Observance Monday, May 29. To the right, bugler Tom Stoner prepares to play Taps.



Poppies: Wiscasset Unit 54 Auxiliary member Faye Shea, right, distributes poppies to Brian and Linda Adams during Wiscasset's Memorial Day Observance, Monday, May 29.

Wreath Laying: American Legion Auxiliary Member Diane Munsey lays a wreath at the Wiscasset Veterans Wall in honor of the late Clara Wentworth, who passed away in February.

Commander William Cossette addresses the group gathered at Wiscasset Veterans' Wall during the Memorial Day Observance Monday, May 29.



Waldoboro Post 149 Officer Installation: The Charles C. Lilly Post 149 in Waldoboro announces the installation of their officers for the upcoming year 2023-2024 on May 4, 2023. Seated, left to right, are Finance Officer Steven Karp, Commander Donna Wallace, and 1st Vice Commander and Historian Jan Griesenbrock. Standing, left to right, are Installation Commander and Department 1st Vice Commander Alfred McKay, Service Officer and Americanism Officer Ensley Parker, Chaplain Aloysius O'Donnell, Adjutant Ralph Turner, Sergeant-At-Arms William Connelly, and Installation Sergeant-At-Arms and 7th District Commander Zakia Thiesen. Congratulations to all!

Photo by Bryan Hodgkins

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 8

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

M.S.A.D. No. 75 Dedicates POW/MIA Chairs

TOPSHAM, ME - On Thursday, May 25, students at Mt. Ararat High School (MTA) assembled in the school gymnasium at 10:30 a.m. for the dedication of a permanently affixed POW/MIA memorial seat at the school; a similar dedication event took place on Friday, May 26 for a second seat in the Orion Performing Arts Center at Mt. Ararat Middle School. Both events marked the start of Memorial Day weekend, encouraging local students to pause and remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice to their country.



Thursday's assembly began with a welcome from Principal Chris Hoffman (*above*), followed by the presentation of the colors by cadets from the 21st Composite Squadron of the Maine Wing Civil Air Patrol. Led by Cadet Commander, 1st Lt. Matthew O'Shea, Cadets Felicity Jackson, Jacob Smith, and Christopher Jacobs marched in time into the gym to mark the start of the event. The Mt. Ararat Treble Choir (*right*) performed a beautiful rendition of the national anthem under the direction of Kristen Thomas, which was followed by a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance by the packed room of more than 700 students led by Gabe Russell (*right at podium*) of the MTA Class of 2025.



Commander Roger Stevens (*right*) of VFW Post 2197 served as the honored guest speaker for the event. Stevens shared a poignant address of the importance of Memorial Day to all veterans

and Americans: "We must never forget the sacrifices these comrades make, and the suffering they endure for us and our way of life. They will remain alive in our minds and hearts until we know they have returned home to their loved ones, or have been properly laid to rest."

Prior to the unveiling of the permanent chair, Mike Doyle (*above*), Commander of American Legion Post 171 in Harpswell, placed a POW/MIA chair covering on a separate, temporary seat. Stevens then invited Hoffman and Superintendent Connolly to reveal the chair, donated by Hussey Seating of North Berwick, during his remarks. Following the unveiling, three flowers representing the red, white, and blue of the American flag were placed upon the chair



(*pictured above l-r with Roger Stevens*) by Louis Larios, 1st Vice Commander of Legion Post 202 in Topsham, David Watson, Commander of Legion Post 20 in Brunswick, and Frank Slinger, Member of VFW Post 2197 and Junior Vice Commander of Disabled American Veterans Chapter 15 in Brunswick. Also present as honored veteran guests were Eric Cooper of VFW Post 158 in Lisbon, Walter Coombs of VFW Post 7738 in Bath, David Poulicakos of Legion Post 202, and Craig Caffrey of Post 2197.

"This empty chair ensures that we will

Flower Placement:
David Watson places a flower on the seat.

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 8 continued

■ "CHAIRS"

(Continued from Page 24)

never forget that it is our duty to bring our comrades home," Stevens shared before his concluding sentiments, directed at the students who filled the gymnasium: "We served our country because despite

its faults, it is the greatest country in the world, and we believe in the future. You are the future."

The ceremony concluded with additional remarks from Superintendent Connolly (*above*), during which he in-



vited students to volunteer their time and efforts to service to their country and to veterans, specifically. "We can all do something," Connolly noted, sharing that all Americans can volunteer their efforts to the ongoing effort to find and identify the many thousands of Americans still missing in action through the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency.

Article by Publisher Charles Crosby, The Cryer, June 2023

The POW/MIA seat is now permanently affixed to floor at the Mt. Ararat High School Gymnasium.



Brunswick Post 20 Interview: During a luncheon provided by Legion Post 20, after the morning concert for the Brunswick Rec Summer Youth Programs, Post 20 Commander Dave Watson interviewed Staff Sergeant Crystal Ryder, lead vocalist for the 195th Maine Army National Guard Band. Post 20 worked with the Brunswick Rec Department to provide two concerts, the morning and early evening of July 5, presenting the 195th Maine Army N.G. Band to the community of Brunswick. It was a great day. Link to the interview: "Service: A Woman's Viewpoint" <http://tv3hd.brunswickme.org/CablecastPublicSite/show/5379?site=1>. Link to the National Guard Band playing at a concert at Harriet Beecher Stowe School for Summer campers attending Brunswick Parks and Recreation camp. "The 195th Maine Army National Guard Band HBS Concert" <https://youtu.be/iJkuzEijhh0>.

Submitted by Brunswick Post 20 Commander Dave Watson



Harpswell Post 171 Memorial Day Observance: Post 171 members at the Grange, left photo, before departing for the Ewing Narrows Bridge

wreath ceremony commemorating service members lost at sea. Left to right, front row: John Hill, Tom Guerra, Bob Webber, Jim Swol, Howard Yanik, Bill O'Connell; second row: Cdr. Mike Doyle, John Ott, Chris Collins, Chuck Collins, Amy Ferrell and Matt Maurer. Right photo: Jim Swol leading the exit from the ceremony. He's carrying the non-floral, non-plant wreath remnants that were not eco-friendly and could not be thrown into the Narrows.

Photo by Lili Ott



Harpswell Post 171 Leads the Memorial Day Parade.

Photo by Mary Coombs



Ceremony At Harpswell Center: Lynn McGee sang "God Bless America" at the conclusion. Pastor Joseph Connolly (Elijah Kellogg Church) began with prayer and opening remarks. Dorie Barnes sang the National Anthem. Dave Hackett shared highlights of past Memorial Day observances. Gale Doyle read "In Flanders Fields." Left to right: Cdr. Mike Doyle, Gale Doyle, Dorie Barnes, Tracy Williams (parade organizer), Pastor Joseph Connolly, Lynn McGee at podium, Dave Hackett. A tape of the parade/ceremony can be viewed at HCTV/Vimeo section <https://www.harpswelltv.org>.

Photo by Lili Ott



Harpswell Post 171 Flag Day 2023: The flags were collected throughout the year at Harpswell, Bailey Island and Orr's Island post offices, Orr's Island Library, Cundy's Harbor Library, Recycling Center and other locations. Top photo, John Ott, left, and Michael Doyle, right, unload the 2500 flags to be retired. John Ott's grandson Hudson Himan is on his left. Middle photo, Scott MacInnes, left, and John Hill, right, load the burn barrel. Bottom photo, Matt Maurer observes Mike Doyle placing more flags in the barrel. Bill O'Connell is at the truck in the background.

Photos by Lili Ott

Phippsburg Post 216 Introduction of Events

Phippsburg American Legion Memorial Post 216 had a very busy spring and first part of the summer. On May 6, members of the Post conducted their annual yard cleanup fundraiser at a local business and the next day they spent the morning at the Town's Veterans Park cleaning up the gardens and mowing in preparation for Memorial Day.

As Memorial Day approached, the Post members divided up into five groups and placed over 230 US Flags on veteran graves in 42 public and private cemeteries. The Post also participated with VFW Post 7738 in the City of Bath's Memorial Parade sponsored by Bath Legion Post 21.

Unfortunately, due to rain, we had to postpone our annual Flag Day ceremony where we normally retire unserviceable US Flags.

The Post Installation of Officers Ceremony was held at our June 8 meeting

and was followed by a reception. Several Post awards were presented. District 8 Commander Joe Donahue, District 8 Sergeant-At-Arms Mike Doyle and incoming District 8 Commander Dawn Olges were officiants at the ceremony.

Our Post members attended a special POW/MIA Table Ceremony hosted by VFW Post 7738 on June 21. The Ceremony was conducted by Honor Flight Board Chairman Matthew Mank and Board Member Crystal Guerrette. At this ceremony VFW Post 7738 donated \$1,000 to Honor Flight Maine.

On July 8, we partnered with VFW Post 7738 and held our 8th Annual Veterans Appreciation Day. This is a "BBQ and Recognition Ceremony" for area veterans and their families where good food and goodwill are shared. Local businesses and individuals donated \$2,082.00 towards this event and in support of veteran programs.

May Activities – Flags, Fundraiser, Cleanup, & Parade



Veteran Flags: Comrade Keith Sikora places a U. S. Flag on a veteran's grave in an ancient cemetery.

Photo by Phippsburg Post 216 Adjutant Mike Young



Martinez, Chaplain Richard Spear, Comrade Bob Belben, Comrade Keith Sikora, and Adjutant Mike Young doing yard cleanup at a local business to raise funds for Veteran Programs.

Tax Bracket Fundraiser: Phippsburg Post 216 members, left to right, Comrade Bill Nicolson, Comrade Rob

Photo by Chilloa Young



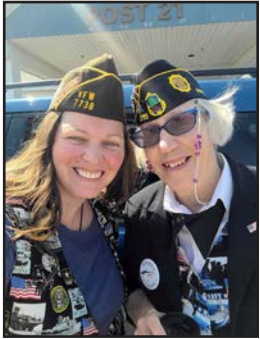
Veteran's Memorial Park Cleanup: Top left photo: Comrade Bob Belben power blows leaves at the Phippsburg Veteran's Memorial Park in preparation for the Memorial Day celebration. Also supporting cleanup efforts (top right photo), left to right, Comrade Bob Belben and Sergeant-At-Arms Larry Swizdor. Bottom photo: Post members clean up the Veteran's Memorial Park. Left to right, Finance Officer Debra Reddinger, Comrade Keith Sikora, Sergeant-At-Arms Larry Swizdor, Commmander Ken Kellogg, Kiara and mother Comrade Tiffany Brown, and Comrade Bob Belben.

Photos by Phippsburg Post 216 Adjutant Mike Young

[More on "POST 216 EVENTS" Page 26](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 8 continued

■ "POST 216 EVENTS"
(Continued from Page 25)

Memorial Day Parade: Post 216 members participate in the Bath Memorial Day Parade. Left to right, Comrade Tiffany Brown

(also member of VFW Post 7738) and Post 216 Finance Officer Debra Reddinger.

Photo by Comrade Tiffany Brown



Getting Ready for the Parade: Post members and VFW Post 7738 members prepare for the Bath Memorial Day Parade. Left to right, Kiara and her Mother Comrade Tiffany Brown, Comrade Fred Libby, and Comrade John Mcluer. Tiffany, Fred and John are members of both Legion Post 216 and VFW Post 7738.

Photo by Phippsburg Post 216 Finance Officer Debra Reddinger



Installation of Post 216 Officers at June Post Meeting. Officiants, left to right, District 8 Sergeant-At-Arms Mike Doyle, District 8 Commander Joe Donahue, and incoming District 8 Commander Dawn Olges. Post Officers, left to right, Sergeant-At-Arms Larry Swizdor, Chaplain Richard Spear, Service Officer Terry Nordmann, First Vice Commander Tim Williams, Commander Ken Kellogg, Financial Officer Debra Reddinger, and Adjutant Mike Young.

Photos by Chilloa Young



Installation Ceremony: Left photo, District 8 Commander Joe Donahue presents the Chaplains Warrant to Richard

Spear at the Post 216 Installation of Officers Ceremony. Right photo: District 8 Commander Joe Donahue, left, and Sergeant-At-Arms Mike Doyle, right, present the Judge Advocate Warrant to Fred Libby, middle, at the Installation of Officers Ceremony.



Service Awards Presented: Comrade Chuck Mainville, left photo, receives his 13 Year Service Award. Left to right, Commander Ken Kellogg, Sergeant-At-Arms Larry Swizdor,

and Comrade Chuck Mainville. Comrade Bill Turek, right photo, receives his 6 Year Service Award (with 5 Year Pin). Left to right, Commander Ken Kellogg, Sergeant-At-Arms Larry Swizdor, and Comrade Bill Turek.

Photos by Phippsburg Post 216 Adjutant Mike Young



Honor Flight Maine: Honor Flight Board Chairman Matthew Mank & Board Member Crystal Guerrette, left photo, conduct a "POW/MIA Ceremony" for Legion Post 216 & VFW Post 7738 members and guests. Post 216 Judge Advocate Fred Libby,

also VFW Post 7738 Commander, right photo, presents a VFW Post Donation of \$1,000 to Honor Flight Maine. Left to right, Honor Flight Board Chairman Matthew Mank, Judge Advocate Fred Libby, and Honor Flight Maine Board Member Crystal Guerrette.

Photo by Adjutant Mike Young

Veterans Appreciation Day Ceremony and BBQ in July

Vietnam War Commemorative Certificates and Pins were presented at the Veterans Appreciation Day Ceremony and BBQ. Left to right, Post 216 Jusdge Advocate Fred Libby, also VFW Post 7738 Commander, Post 216 Commander Ken Kellogg, and Adjutant Mike Young (Master of Ceremony).

Photos by Chilloa Young



Veteran Certificates Of Honor were presented at the Veterans Appreciation Day Ceremony and BBQ. Left to right, Post 216 Commander Ken Kellogg, USN Veteran LT Grey Terry, USMC Veteran SGT Buell Heminway, USAF Veteran A1C Derek Tingley, and Judge Advocate Fred Libby, also the VFW Post 7738 Commander.



Presentation of Veteran Certificates of Honor. Left to right, Post 216 Commander Ken Kellogg, USN Veteran RD3 Bill Tracy, USA Veteran SP4 Charles Buki, USMC Veteran SGT Christopher Samuel, USMC Veteran Doug Quinn, and Judge Advocate Fred Libby, also the VFW Post 7738 Commander.

Enjoying The BBQ: Post members, veterans and family members enjoy the BBQ following the Ceremony at the Veterans Appreciation Day Ceremony and BBQ.



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



Waterville Post 5 Names
LOTY: Post 5 Commander Craig Bailey, left, presents the Legionnaire of the Year for 2022 Award to Val Bard, right, in recognition of outstanding leadership and service on June 12.



Waterville Posts 5 Installation of Officers was held on June 12. The past National Commander Tony Jordan installed the elected and appointed officers for the 2023-2024. The installing Chaplain was Bob Jordan. Left to

right, Commander Craig Bailey, 1st Vice Commander Mike Coyne, 2nd Vice Commander Val Bard, Finance Officer Butch Berard, Chaplain Pearley Lachance, Judge Advocate Donald Marden, and Adjutant Ernie Paradis. Absent from photo: Service Officer James Weare and Sergeant-at-Arms Mike Hanley.

Hallowell Post 6 New Members were introduced at a meeting July 10. Left to right, Joseph Moore US Army; Sean Fournier USNR SeeBee; and Francis Dumas USNR SeeBee.

Submitted by Hallowell Post 6 Historian Mike Madden



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



Skowhegan Post 16 Coin Presentation: Terry Knowles, member of Peters Shortier Post 16, presents Maine Bureau of Veterans Services' coins for Honorable Service and the Preservation of Freedom to, left to right, Dave Daigneault (Cold War Era), Bob Salisbury (Vietnam Era), and Lee Couturier (Vietnam Era). David Bucknam (Cold War Era) was not present to receive the coin.

Post 16 Officer Installation:

The Peters Shortier Post 16 in Skowhegan installed new officers for the coming year on May 1. Left to right, Service Officer Lee Couturier, Commander and Historian Tina Richard, Adjutant Bob Mercier, Finance Officer Margaret Williams, 1st Vice Commander Terry Knowles, Chaplain Ira Stoddard, Sergeant-At-Arms Greg Shorey, and Americanism Officer Dave Daigneault. Missing from the photo Judge Advocate Dave Bucknam.



Post 16 Memorial Day

Speech: Tina Richard, the new Commander for the Skowhegan Peters-Shortier Post 16, speaking at the Memorial Park after the parade in Skowhegan on Memorial Day.



Post 16 Flag Day Ceremony: On Flag Day, June 14, a flag burning ceremony was held at Peters-Shortier Post 16 in Skowhegan. Left to right, Service Officer Lee Couturier and Dan Richardson disposing of a flag properly.



Madison Post 39 Honors Team along with Maine State Senator Brad Farrin (center and guest speaker) at the Memorial Day services in East Madison. Left to right, Adjutant Bob Washburn, Pete Petersen, At-Large Executive Committee Member Bill Lytle, Sgt-at-Arms Phil Daigle, 1st Vice Commander Bob Demchak, John Bryant; Chaplain Rich Robinson, State Senator District 3 Brad Farrin, Commander Will Price, 2nd Vice Commander Eric Fluet, Finance Officer Ray Cloutier, and Linwood Cowan.

Madison Post 39 1st Vice Commander Bob Demchak

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 Post Officers Attend Convention: Ellsworth Post 63 Commander Frank Butler, left, and SW Harbor Post 69 Service Officer Jim Harper, right, at the State of Maine Convention in June 2023.

Submitted by District 12 Commander Paul Blackstone

Committed to each other and the veteran community, District 12 Finance Officer & Bar Harbor Post 25 member Robert Broussard and Unit 63 Ellsworth Auxiliary member Joan Broussard at the 104th State of Maine Convention on June 9-10. Robert and Joan have been married 51 years. Joan has been involved with the Women's Auxiliary and the Hancock County Council for 47 years. Robert has been involved with the Legion for over 57 years.

Submitted by District 12 Commander Paul Blackstone



District 12 Officers Sworn In:

New District 12 Officers met at Bucksport Post 93 on June 13. Left to right, District 12 Finance Officer Robert Broussard, District 12 Adjutant Albert Scott, District 12 1st Vice Commander Robert Kramp, Department Commander Alfred McKay and District 12 Commander Paul Blackstone being sworn in by Commander McKay.

Submitted by District 12 Commander Paul Blackstone

Bar Harbor Post 25 Celebrates Member 70 Yrs of Service

Post 25 held a ceremony for Norma W. Spurling to celebrate over 70 years of service to the American Legion George Edwin Kirk Post 25 and Auxiliary Unit 25 on Saturday, July 29.

Presentations were made to honor her service and dedication. Her brother was pilot Lt. George M. Haut, MIA since September 1944. He was born and raised in Bar Harbor before joining the Army Air Corps. He received the Distinguished Service Cross for flying a transport plane over the dangerous Himalayan Mountains between India and China during WWII.

As a young girl Norma would help her mother who was the President of the Auxiliary in Bar

Harbor at the time. She fondly remembers running around the building and trying to stay out of mischief. Over the years she served food, washed dishes, and supported many veteran events.

When asked if they would ever recover her brother's remains, she replied that she would never give up hope but that for now she said, "He is right here", tapping on her heart. About 83,000 U.S. service members are still missing from WWII and the Korean and Vietnam Wars. A total of 480 service members are from Maine.

We salute you Norma for your service and the sacrifice your family made so many years ago.

Celebrating 70 Years: Left to right, District 12 Commander Paul Blackstone, Maria Lopez, daughter of Norma, Auxiliary Unit 25 Co-President Christine Harding, Jennifer Spurling, also a daughter of Norma's, and in the front, Auxiliary Unit 25 Past President Norma Spurling.

Submitted by Bar Harbor Post 25 Adjutant & District 12 Commander Paul Blackstone



Ellsworth Post 63 Installation:

Members of the Frank E. Whitmore Post 63 in Ellsworth being sworn in by the District 12 Commander Paul Blackstone July 17. Left to right, Historian Colon Smith, Adjutant Albert Scott, Commander Frank Butler, and Chaplain Vinal Tainter Jr.

Submitted by District 12 Commander Paul Blackstone



Blue Hill Post 85 Meeting at the Duffy-Wescott Post on July 13. Left photo, left to right, District 12 Adjutant Albert Scott, Post 85 Sergeant-At-Arms Reggie Nevells, and new member at end of table. Right photo, Post 85 Vice Commander James Grindle, his wife in the middle, with Post 85 Adjutant & Finance Officer Butler Smythe at the end of the table. Not present in the photos is District 12 Commander Paul Blackstone.

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 Presents Checks: The JROTC Ball was held on March 25 at the Old Town Elks Club. The two winners who received checks for \$500 each, to help pay for educational expenses, Isabella Bouchard and Keeara Dutton. Left photo, Post 75 Commander Karl Huntley II and Isabella Bouchard. Right photo, Post 75 Adjutant Kevin McGarry and Keeara Dutton.

Photos by J&J Photos



Millinocket Post 80 Memorial Day Services were conducted on Sunday, May 29 at Millinocket Veterans Park, Granit Street Bridge (honoring those lost at sea) and at Millinocket Cemetery. Left photo, left to right, Post Commander Lester Raymond Jr., Chaplain Eric Buckingham, and laying the wreath is Adjutant Keith Carver. Right photo, members of Post 80 who also conducted memorial services at the Memorial Wall in downtown Millinocket. Commander Lester Raymond Jr led the services. Left to right, Historian Wesley Land, Sergeant-At-Arms Roger O'Donnell, Adjutant Keith Carver, Deloris Stewart; representing the Women's Auxiliary, Chaplin Eric Buckingham, and Post Commander Lester Raymond Jr.



Brewer Post 98 Installs Flagpole For New Residents:

The Daniel E Geagan Post 98 in Brewer received a request for help with a flagpole installation from a Veteran couple who recently moved to town. The Post answered the call and in one hour had the pole

installed and the flag raised to its full glory. The couple, Bill and Ann Harmon, applied for membership and are now members of Brewer Post 98. Left to right, Commander George Maxsimic, Mike Murphy, Finance Officer Ellen Murphy, Historian Kris Clark, homeowners and new members Ann and Bill Harmon, Sonny Wirta, Romain Seymour, Adjutant David Burke (flag raiser).

Submitted by Brewer Post 98 Adjutant David Burke

Brewer Post 98 Pays Respect:

On Memorial Day, Post 98 members assembled at Oak Hill Cemetery in Brewer to recognize and pay tribute to Civil War Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, Navy Seaman Samuel W. Davis. Davis was born in Brewer in 1845 and was awarded the Medal of Honor on August 5, 1864 for heroic actions on the U.S.S. Brooklyn. Post members had a moment of silence before reading Davis's citation. Left to right, David Burke, George Maxsimic, Sonny Wirta, Paul Miller, Ellen Murphy, Michael Murphy, Gary Freeman, Kris Clark, Kevin O'Connell, Ray Curran, George Maxsimic II.



Photo by Julia Freeman



Post 98 Participates In Festival:

Members of Post 98 had a booth again this year at the Annual Brewer Riverwalk Festival where they sold hotdogs/chips/drinks to raise money for Post activities. Flags and etiquette pamphlets were distributed in preparation for Flag Day. The weather was cold and damp but a great time was had by all Post members and the community. Left to right, Ray Curran, David

Burke, George Maxsimic II, Gary Freeman, George Maxsimic, Arnold Graham, Sonny Wirta, Kevin O'Connell, Kris Clark.



Memorial Day Activities: Post 98 participated in several area events; they gave away poppies at Hannaford on Sunday & at the Parade on Monday, and also attended a ceremony at the Holden Veterans Memorial.



Brewer Post 98 Makes Flag Retirement Boxes: Post 98 held a dedication ceremony on June 12 for two new flag retirement boxes they recently designed and built. The boxes are now located in Lowe's and the Brewer Community Center. The materials for the boxes were donated by Lowe's and Stick It! Custom Vinyl Graphics. The Post flag committee, David Burke, Kris Clark and Michael Murphy built and decorated the boxes in about a month. The Post will collect all U.S. Flags placed in these boxes and periodically perform a dignified disposal ceremony for unserviceable flags. The dedication was performed in front of the Veterans Memorial in the Community Center parking lot. In less than one week after dedicating the boxes, over 100 flags were collected.

Newport Post 105 Fundraiser:

The Barrows Skidgel American Legion Post 105 in Newport teamed up with Fire Station Dept 69 in Newport on May 27 for a Fill The Boot fundraiser which raises money for first responders and veterans. It was fun to greet new folks and joke with the old friends...and raise money for 2 great causes!



Newport Post 105 Hosts Band: After a 3-year hiatus, the 195 Army National Guard Band played in the rain, July 2, for damp listeners at Barrows Skidgel Legion Post 105.



Festival Participation: Adjutant Tim Vashon of Post 105 in Newport, taking a few pies in the face for charity at the Newport Riverwalk Festival on August 5.

District 13 Posts Participate in July 4th Celebration

District 13 Posts participate in 4th of July Celebration. They had a group float and walkers in the parade. The Brewer Post gave away water to parade watchers.

Submitted by Brewer Post 98 Adjutant David Burke



More on "JULY 4" Page 29

■ **"JULY 4"**
(Continued from Page 28)



Etna-Carmel Post 107 Flag Placement Team honoring our brothers and sisters. Left photo, left to right, Matt Straniero, Bob Kenneally, Roger Keene, Ryan Simpson, Bob Sibley, Jim Thorne, Don Candage, Ansel Zitterman, Pat Hoff and Steve Luzzi. Right photo, Post 107 members place flags.



Honored: Post 107 honors a 70 plus year member, Stanley Powell.

Etna-Carmel Post 107 Adjutant Don Candage, left photo. Second Vice Installation, Mary Donghy, at Post 107, middle photo and Post 107 Historian Liam Nedredd installation, right photo.



Standish Post 128 celebrate Flag Day with Scouts Troop 875.



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



Legionnaire 14th District Installation: Past Department Commander Randy Kluj, left, Commander Daniel Nutter, center, and Past Department Commander Pete Johnson, right.

District 14 Commander Daniel Nutter

Milo Post 41 Happenings & Events



Milo Post 41 Hosts Lunches for the organization, Eastern Agency on Aging, which serves lunch every Thursday from 11:30-1:00. Everyone is welcome. Lunch is by donation.



A Handmade Plaque by one of frequent lunch guests of Milo Post 41.

Coffee & Camaraderie: All Veterans are welcome to join Milo Post 41 for coffee & camaraderie, and Veteran's assistance every Wednesday from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm.



Annual Chicken BBQ: Milo Post 41 held its 2nd Annual Glen Sanborn Chicken BBQ on June 3.



Post 41 State Convention Attendees: Officers and members of Milo Post 41 attend The American Legion, Department of Maine Annual State Convention in Brewer, Maine June 2023.



Baked Bean Supper held at Post 41 June 10. Left to right, Past Department Commander Randall Kluj, 2nd Vice Commander Inez Sanborn, and 1st Vice Commander Wally Sinclair. Baked bean suppers are held every 2nd Saturday from 4:30 - 6:00 pm; \$10 for Adults, \$5 for Children under 12.



Medford Veterans Memorial Park: Medford, Maine dedicate its new Veteran's Memorial Park on Sat., Aug. 26 in Medford Center.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 15

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



Calais Post 3 Project Patriotism: Mike McLean, left photo, replacing flags for Project "Patriotism" Flags 2023! Right photo, Calais Post 3 American Legion.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 15 continued

A Family Affair At Lubec Post 65 Memorial Day Ceremony:

When Gunner Brock (right in photo) brought the silver bugle to his lips, he joined the rest of his family as they participated in a Memorial Day ceremony at Lubec's Bayview Cemetery. His sister Sophia (left in photo) read In Flanders Fields. Dad, Army veteran and Legionnaire, David (second right), carried the U.S. flag while Mom, Navy veteran and Legionnaire, Dawn (third from right), carried the POW-MIA flag. "We are grateful for those who sacrificed for us," Dawn explaining the family's participation. In background is



Peter Case who carried the Canadian flag.

Photos submitted by Lubec Post 65 Adjutant Maureen "Mo" Ramsey



Flags & Ceremony: Sophia, David (US Flag), Dawn (POW-MIA flag), and Gunnar (bugle), Brock, plus Peter Case (Canadian flag), and Lubec Christian Temple Church pastor David Glidden participate in Lubec's Memorial Day ceremony at Bayview Cemetery.



Wreath Laying & Taps: Elizabeth Pike prepares to lay a Memorial Day wreath in honor of those who died in service to our nation, Ellie Ampuja looks on, and Gunnar Brock plays Taps at Monday's ceremony at Lubec's Honor Roll on the Civil War Monument grounds.

Veterans Bestowed Honor for Years of American Legion Membership

The American Legion recently recognized three Veterans—Richard Monk, William Grass, and Hollis Beers—for their many years of continuous years of Legion membership.

The men are members of the Frederick S. Mills Post 172 American Legion in Vanceboro, and the honor was presented to them by Ike Hubbard, District Commander.

Mr. Monk received a 55-year membership certificate, Mr. Grass a 50-year membership certificate, and Mr. Beers a

75-year membership certificate.

Adjutant for Post 172 Barbara Mason said the men have actually been members even longer. Mr. Monk has been involved for 57 years, Mr. Grass 52 years, and Mr. Beers, who was a charter member of the Frederick S. Mills Post, has 77 years.

[Veterans Bestowed Honor for Years of American Legion Membership | The Calais Advertiser](#)

Article by Jayna Smith, The Calais Advertiser
May 18, 2023; Vol. 188, No. 20



Certificates Awarded: Members of Frederick S. Mills Post 172 American Legion in Vanceboro Richard Monk, William Grass, and Hollis Beers were each recognized by District Commander Ike Hubbard, shown second from left, for their many years of membership in the American Legion. (Submitted photo) See story on page 9.

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



Stockholm Post 136's Firing Squad ready to do Memorial day services at six cemeteries. They also do services at the Veterans Cemetery and Veteran's funerals. They are one of only two in Northern Maine.



Stockholm Post 136 Receives Spirit Award: American Legion Post 136 in Stockholm and Unit 136 receive the Spirit of America Foundation Award from the State of Maine for volunteerism and impactful work in the community. Top left photo, Award Letter from Maine Senate President Troy Jackson and, right photo, the Spirit of America Foundation Award. Bottom photo, members of Post 136.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN...

CANADA

St. John's, Newfoundland Fort Pepperrell Post CN09



Fort Pepperrell Post CN09 Installation Ceremony: Meet the 2023-24 Officers Fort Pepperrell Post CN09, St. John's, NL Canada. Left to right, seated: Commander John Walther, Ann McFarlane, and Dave Stinson. Left to right, standing: Finance Officer Ray Reiser; Adjutant George Walter, Terry Clower, Richard Mease, and Bob Cobb.



Canada Post CN-09 Visitor: United States Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Mark Milley was in St John's Newfoundland on July 1. His grandfather was a Newfoundlander and was in WWI. Memorial Day in Newfoundland remembers a battle during WWI during which The Nfld Regiment was almost entirely destroyed with only about 60 of the ranks, from the day before, at roll call the morning after the battle. Gen. Milley laid a wreath at the War Memorial and afterwards he spoke to some of the Veterans including CN-09 Commander John Walther and CN-09 Finance Officer Ray Reiser. The picture was taken when he was talking to Finance Officer Ray Reiser.

Challenge Coin: General Mark Milley, US Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, shows CN09 his challenge coin.



T a p s C o l u m n

POST	NAME	CONFLICT	POST	NAME	CONFLICT
Post 1 – Rockland	Will L Stone	Korea	Post 82 – Norway	Vernon R Vincent	WWII
Post 2 – Augusta	Michael K Charest	Vietnam	Post 83 – Freeport	George R Briggs	Vietnam
Post 3 – Calais	Merle F Andrews	WWII/Korea/Vietnam	Post 84 – Orono	Paul B Irish	Korea
Post 3 – Calais	Daniel A Seger	Persian Gulf	Post 84 – Orono	Frank Thayer	Vietnam
Post 3 – Calais	David O Sivret	Global War on Terror	Post 86 – Gray	Leroy S Morrill	Vietnam
Post 3 – Calais	John W Stevens	Korea	Post 88 – Presque Isle	William W Sewall	Vietnam
Post 5 – Waterville	Donald J Bartlett	Korea	Post 93 – Bucksport	Don Nelson	Vietnam
Post 5 – Waterville	Roland E Dechaine	Korea	Post 93 – Bucksport	Brent H Soper	
Post 9 – Machias	Frank Gatcomb	Vietnam	Post 94 – Greenville	Ronald F Macomber	Korea
Post 9 – Machias	Troy N Reynolds	Grenada/Lebanon	Post 98 – Brewer	Roger W Leeman	WWII
Post 12 – Bangor	Frank P Tenney	Korea	Post 98 – Brewer	Roger Rhodes	Vietnam
Post 13 – E. Millinocket	David L Bartlett	Korea	Post 108 – Jonesport	Roland L Alley	Korea
Post 14 – Fairfield	Roger Pooler	Vietnam	Post 108 – Jonesport	Stanley C Beal	Korea
Post 15 – Caribou	Ernest R Chamberlain	WWII	Post 115 – E. Corinth	Delwin F Blackwell	Vietnam
Post 15 – Caribou	Andre L Dumas	Vietnam	Post 118 – Mars Hill	Perley E Shaw	Korea
Post 15 – Caribou	David L Quimby	Vietnam	Post 118 – Mars Hill	Henry Young	Vietnam
Post 15 – Caribou	Joel E Theriault	WWII	Post 123 – Kezar Falls	Leona L Wright-Chasse	WWII
Post 16 – Skowhegan	Eugene Cullinane	WWII	Post 127 – Limestone	Frederick Ormezzani	Vietnam
Post 16 – Skowhegan	Roger A Sabourin Sr	Vietnam	Post 132 – Richmond	Larry E Srock	Korea
Post 16 – Skowhegan	Robert W Shaw	Korea	Post 133 – Fort Kent	James S Palmer	Vietnam
Post 16 – Skowhegan	Vaughn M Spencer Sr	Vietnam	Post 133 – Fort Kent	Wayne E Wilbur	Vietnam
Post 16 – Skowhegan	Robert Stonehocker	Vietnam	Post 135 – Sabattus	William E Henshaw	Korea
Post 19 – Sanford	Mark E Allaire	Other	Post 139 – Harrison	Fay K Paugh	Korea
Post 19 – Sanford	Donald H Whitney	Korea	Post 147 – Madawaska	Alfred Gerard Jr	
Post 20 – Brunswick	John S Houston	Korea	Post 149 – Waldoboro	William M Connelly	Vietnam
Post 20 – Brunswick	Robert L Lebourdais	Vietnam	Post 149 – Waldoboro	Raymond L Perkins Jr	WWII
Post 21 – Bath	Maurice Morin	Vietnam	Post 149 – Waldoboro	Gorden E Simmons	Vietnam
Post 22 – Lewiston	Fernand R Fournier	WWII	Post 151 – West Paris	Carl W Polvinen	Vietnam
Post 24 – Rumford	Kenneth “Harry” Bean Jr	Vietnam	Post 153 – Auburn	Richard P Bolduc	Korea
Post 24 – Rumford	Maurice O Daigle	Korea	Post 153 – Auburn	Roland L Bosse	Korea
Post 24 – Rumford	Brian Jamison	Vietnam	Post 153 – Auburn	Edmund G Grenier	
Post 24 – Rumford	Cleve R Leckey	Korea	Post 153 – Auburn	Normand E Guerette	Korea
Post 24 – Rumford	Dale Madison	Vietnam	Post 153 – Auburn	Bert Jalbert	Vietnam
Post 24 – Rumford	Joseph E McPhee	Korea	Post 153 – Auburn	Rene L Lavoie	Vietnam
Post 24 – Rumford	Robert “Bob” H Worthly	WWII	Post 153 – Auburn	Richard D Mercier	Vietnam
Post 27 – Ft Fairfield	Earle W Johnston	WWII	Post 153 – Auburn	Maurice A Michaud	Korea
Post 27 – Ft Fairfield	Kendall F Stratton III	Panama	Post 153 – Auburn	Richard L Ouellette	Vietnam
Post 28 – Farmington	Norman R Ferrari	Korea	Post 153 – Auburn	Stanley P Pelletier	Vietnam
Post 28 – Farmington	Burchell Morrell	Korea	Post 153 – Auburn	Roland A Racine	WWII
Post 30 – Camden	David R Masalin	Korea	Post 153 – Auburn	Andy T Spiro	Korea
Post 30 – Camden	Robert G McKearney	Vietnam	Post 153 – Auburn	Robert R Turner	Vietnam
Post 35 – So. Portland	William E James	Korea	Post 153 – Auburn	Warren L Witas	Vietnam
Post 37 – Thomaston	George S Alex	Korea	Post 157 – Stockton Springs	Clarence Littlefield	WWII
Post 42 – Damariscotta	George B Fahey	Korea	Post 157 – Stockton Springs	James E McCarrison	Vietnam
Post 42 – Damariscotta	Michael P Flagg	Gulf War	Post 159 – Kennebunkport	Stuart E Brooks	Vietnam
Post 42 – Damariscotta	Robert D Hahn	Korea	Post 160 – Lee	Carroll A Nevells	Korea
Post 47 – Houlton	Michael L O’Hara	Vietnam	Post 164 – Falmouth	James A Vollkommer	Korea
Post 47 – Houlton	Richard A Stevens	Vietnam	Post 178 – Winslow	Joseph A Bourque Sr	Korea
Post 50 – Unity	Robert Hamilton	Vietnam	Post 178 – Winslow	Eugene Daggett	Vietnam
Post 52 – Oakfield	Henry L Joy	Korea	Post 178 – Winslow	Harry Ellis	Korea
Post 54 – Wiscasset	Howard A Hendrickson	Korea	Post 178 – Winslow	Richard Emery	Vietnam
Post 54 – Wiscasset	Leonard Kaply	Vietnam/Grenada/Lebanon	Post 178 – Winslow	Asa H Harvey	Korea
Post 54 – Wiscasset	James E Savage	Vietnam	Post 178 – Winslow	Russell L Kennedy	Vietnam
Post 57 – Old Orchard Beach	Duane L Daley	Vietnam	Post 178 – Winslow	Stanley S Martell	Vietnam
Post 57 – Old Orchard Beach	Frank J Deluca	Vietnam	Post 178 – Winslow	Kenton E Quint Jr	Korea
Post 57 – Old Orchard Beach	Loring F Newcomb	WWII	Post 178 – Winslow	William C Ryerson	Vietnam
Post 57 – Old Orchard Beach	Frederick H Rice	Vietnam	Post 178 – Winslow	George W White Jr	Vietnam
Post 58 – Buckfield	Donna M Alexander	Vietnam	Post 183 – Brooks	Robert F Tuthill	Korea
Post 58 – Buckfield	Richard G Cutler	Korea	Post 186 – Clinton	Alton O Dixon	Vietnam
Post 58 – Buckfield	Barbara L Finkbeiner	Korea	Post 188 – Eliot	Kenneth L Lilly Jr	WWII
Post 66 – Lisbon Falls	Roy A Clark	Vietnam	Post 188 – Eliot	Mark Herpst	Gulf War
Post 66 – Lisbon Falls	Robert A Fortin	Vietnam	Post 192 – Athens	Peter Kennedy	Vietnam
Post 66 – Lisbon Falls	Arthur J Stebbins	Vietnam	Post 192 – Athens	Victor Lester	Vietnam
Post 67 – Bridgton	Brian P Manchester	Vietnam	Post 192 – Athens	Warren Thompson	Korea
Post 67 – Bridgton	Charles “Bud” F McLaughlin	WWII	Post 192 – Athens	Benjamin F Willard	WWII
Post 68 – Locke Mills	George R Hooper		Post 205 – Augusta	George F Bean	Korea
Post 68 – Locke Mills	Linwood C Newell Jr	Korea	Post 213 – Hampden	John White	Vietnam
Post 73 – Corinna	George L Lougee	Korea	Post 214 – Lebanon	Dennis P. Moore	Vietnam
Post 76 – Scarborough	John R Moon	Korea	Post 214 – Lebanon	David Ross	Vietnam
Post 76 – Scarborough	Norman Pease	Korea	Post 214 – Lebanon	Charles M Torno	Vietnam
Post 77 – Lincoln	William B Wallace	Vietnam	CN09 – Canada	Harlow Snippen	Vietnam
Post 80 – Millinocket	Terry F Baker	Vietnam			
Post 81 – Bethel	Peter G Anderson	Vietnam			
Post 82 – Norway	Edwin E Rawding	WWII			
Post 82 – Norway	Robert P Rosenberger	Vietnam			

CORRECTION: Wayne N Carpenter, Greenville Post 94 was mistakenly listed in the Taps Column in the May 2023 edition of The Maine Legionnaire.

Attention: Next Deadline is October 20

The deadline for material, stories and/or pictures to be submitted for consideration for use in the **November 2023** issue of The Maine Legionnaire will be **October 20, 2023**.

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@maineleion.org or rachael@maineleion.org

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

NON PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PORTLAND
MAINE
PERMIT NO. 454

CHANGE OF ADDRESS CARD

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

Member's Name _____

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

Town/City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

Town/City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Remarks _____

To update your address, complete all sections of the above form and mail to: The American Legion, Department of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0727, or register on-line by visiting www.mylegion.org

Show Your Support to Maine Veterans TODAY & Make Your Name Part of American Legion History

Donate \$100 or More & Receive a Yearbook & Centennial Coin!

Deadline for Submission May 10, 2024



Show your support to our Veterans in the State of Maine! Become a sponsor today by donating to the Maine American Legion Convention Year-



simply scan the QR code below with your phone or visit www.mainelegion.org

and click on the Maine American Legion Convention Yearbook Donations Welcomed button to donate today. If donating by check, please make payable to The American Legion, Department of Maine earmarked "Yearbook Program" and mail to: The American Legion, Department of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901-0727.

For more information, please call 207-873-3229 Ext. 2 or email rachael@maineleion.org



book Program and make your name part of The American Legion history! Your name will be listed in our 2024 Maine American Legion Yearbook made available in print and online in digital format by visiting www.mainelegion.org.

Donate \$100 or more and receive a Maine American Legion Convention Yearbook as well as one of our most popular centennial coins to add to your collection. To donate with Debit/Credit Card,



Donations To Blind Camp Much Appreciated: Maine American Legion Blind Camp was held at Camp Lawroweld in Weld July 30 to August 5. We had excellent attendance at the Camp this year and the weather was beautiful on Visitor's Day on Wednesday August 2. All the Campers were in high spirits and I enjoyed visiting with them throughout the day. At the start of the evening Talent Show a check was presented to Camp Lawroweld Director Trevor Schlisner. Fund raising has been slow for the last few years but we had a much better year this year, so I would like to thank all the Posts, Districts and Individuals who donated in

Submitted by Americanism Committee
Blind Camp Rep. Brian Knowlton

Kennebunk Post 74 Dollhouse Raffle

For the 4th year in a row, the American Legion, Webber-Lefebvre Post #74 in Kennebunk is raffling off a beautiful dollhouse. Only 150 raffle tickets will be sold at \$10 per ticket. Proceeds of the raffle will benefit the Webber-Lefebvre Post #74 so that it can continue to support community programs such as the Kennebunk High School Scholarship Fund, Dirigo State, the High School Oratorical Program as well as veterans' and local charities.

This beautiful dollhouse was built and generously donated by Barbara and John Farchione of Millbrooke Farm in Wells. "The Victoria Farmhouse" is a three-story structure consisting of 6 extra-large rooms with a wrap-around porch on two levels. The dollhouse exterior is painted in patriotic red, white and blue colors and displays its own miniature U.S. flag. It measures 34 1/2" w x 25" d x 33" h. This magnificent dollhouse is ready to be furnished and will provide many hours of fun and amusement

for a child or grandchild. The drawing for the winner of the dollhouse will be held on December 6, 2023, in plenty of time for Holiday giving.

To purchase a ticket for this striking dollhouse, please contact: Bob De Clercq, rjde-clercq@aol.com or (781) 264-5178.



Kennebunk Post 74 Commander John Gouveia, left, and dollhouse builder John Farchione, right.

Photo by R.J. De Clercq

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.