

# THE MAINE Legionnaire



MAY 2023

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OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

AMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF MAINE

28 Pages

## Don't Wait to File For PACT Act Care, Benefits

Dear American Legion Family members and friends,

The American Legion fought relentlessly to see the PACT Act passed and signed into law in the last Congress. Since then, more than 500,000 veterans have filed for VA disability benefits that were previously, and wrongly, denied.

That may seem like a lot in a short period of time. The truth is, time may already be running out for some veterans who are now eligible. The deadline for veterans of two major categories to file for PACT Act VA health-care service is Oct. 1, 2023. That's six months from now. Other categories have later deadlines - <https://www.va.gov/kansas-city-health-care/programs/2022-pact-act-understanding-health-care-eligibility-and-benefits/> but the application window is not going to open any wider than it is now.

Also, those who apply for disability benefits before Aug. 10, 2023, will have them backdated to Aug. 10, 2022.

Some 3.5 million post-9/11 veterans immediately became eligible through the PACT Act for service-connected disability benefits and health care for conditions related to their exposure to toxic burn pits in Iraq and Afghanistan. About 52,000 Vietnam War veterans who were exposed to the poisonous defoliant Agent Orange in previously unrecognized locations were finally given a dose of justice. Veterans who suffered from cancers caused by atomic radiation, and others who served at a contaminated air base in Uzbekistan, are now eligible to seek relief from their diseases by filing claims. The only way to achieve any benefits, care or justice is to file an application.

Accredited American Legion service officers have been working day and night to assist these long-ignored veterans with their PACT Act claims. VA added no fewer than 23 cancers and respiratory illnesses to the list of conditions presumed to have been connected to military service and caused by toxic exposure.



NATIONAL COMMANDER  
VINCENT J. "JIM" TROIOLA

To learn more about PACT Act VA eligibility, visit [va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits/](https://www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits/)

American Legion Service Officers can be found near you by visiting <https://mylegion.org/PersonifyEbusiness/Find-a-Service-Officer>.

By the end of 2022, American Legion service officers had secured more than \$16.3 billion in VA benefits for disabled veterans for the year, up nearly \$2 billion from 2021. The PACT Act (Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022) undoubtedly contributed to that increase, which can be expected to continue.

If you are unsure about your eligibility - some veterans exposed to burn-pit toxins think they are too young for VA care or benefits - I strongly urge you to locate a Legion service officer and investigate before important deadlines come and go.

Florida Legionnaire Susan Kohler put the need for urgency, especially among younger veterans, this way: "Don't wait until you're 80 and then try to file a claim for an injury that's more difficult to demonstrate that happened while you were in the service."

That's great advice. I know more than a few veterans who have tried to file for disability benefits long after they could have or should have, only to get hung up in the burden of proof, which doesn't get lighter as the years go by.

Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola  
National Commander  
[legion.org](https://legion.org) | May 3, 2023

## Annual State Convention June 9-10, 2023 | Brewer, Me Preregistration required!

Plan now to join us at our Annual State Convention at Jeff's Catering & Event Center in Brewer, June 9-10. The American Legion, Department of Maine Commander Kirk Thurston will call the convention to order promptly at noontime on Friday, June 9.

Presentation awards to the 2022-23 award recipients will be formally acknowledged and special guests, including Maine's Congressional Delegation have been invited to address this year's convention on behalf of The American Legion. (See page 13 for the tentative agenda).

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

any other business properly brought before the convention.

Preregistration is required for all delegates, alternates, members, and guests. The registration fee is \$10/person which covers both sessions to be held June 9-10. To preregister, please visit <http://www.mainelegion.org/pages/newsevents/state-convention.php>. Please note, that special guests and award recipients DO NOT have to register.

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

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



**Team Maine Visits National HQ For Spring Meetings:** Team Maine visited National Headquarters in Indianapolis for Spring Meetings held May 8-11, 2023. Left to right, National Executive Committeeman Lloyd Woods, Department Sgt.-At-Arms Leroy McKenzie, Past National Commander Anthony "Tony" Jordan, National Executive Committeeman Alternate Matthew Jabaut, and Department 2nd Vice Commander Patricia "Tricia" Thurston.



## Commander's Comments

Hard to believe my year as your Commander is over. I have enjoyed a lot of camaraderie, friendship, and conversation with many of you. What impressed me the most was the attendance at the Conferences and the Department Executive Committee meetings that followed. It showed, you too know the value of these conferences. The training and information provided is important and for all of us to be a sponge, absorb the information then go back to our Posts/Districts and share that information.



**KIRK  
THURSTON**

I think we all agree that change is good. With the American Legion upgrading our marketing brand, we sometimes forget about our roots. When was the last time you heard anyone talk about 'The Four Pillars'? If you go to the legion.org website, you will need to go to the archive pages to retrieve a copy of 'Our Pillars, Your Platform', which is copy 2016. PNC Anthony 'Tony' Jordan still talks about them when addressing an audience of legionnaires. Time for all of us to be more familiar with them and to talk about them. A good way to remember is the acronym 'V-DAY'. V stands for veterans; we advocate for Veteran Affairs & Rehabilitation. This covers health care needs, employment and education, and quality gender-specific care for women veterans, to name a few. D stands for

supporting a strong national defense. This pillar covers securing the borders, maintaining peaceful foreign relations and a call for full accounting of America's POW/MIAs. A is for Americanism, which covers protecting the U.S. flag from desecration and the pledge of allegiance in schools. Y is for Children & Youth programs. I learned this acronym years ago from a PDC, PNVC, PNEC legionnaire. It has stayed with me since. I hope it works for you as well.

By the time you read this, Memorial Day will probably have passed. Posts will have had ceremonies and parades or members attended at least one within their community. Most of us will have put flags on veteran's graves and noticed coins on some head stones. Have you ever wondered the meanings behind these? I know I have. A friend sent me a link with an explanation of each coin. A penny on a gravestone signifies that a person has visited the headstone. It is an act of gratitude for the person's military service. A nickel on the gravestone means that the visitor who left it went to boot camp with the person buried. A dime on their gravestone means the visitor served with the deceased military member. A quarter means that a previous visitor was present when the soldier passed away.

Thank you to all, Posts/Districts and individuals that supported my Commander's Project. I truly believe our contributions to Operation Reboot Outdoors have and will continue to help them with their Dream going forward.

God Bless you all for your support and friendship over the past year and God Bless America! Until we meet again, "Fair Winds and Following Seas".

**Kirk Thurston**

## Department of Maine Commander's Project OPERATION REBOOT OUTDOORS

**Show Your Support by Donating Today!**

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

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

Support the American Legion Commander's Project!

Please send and make all donations payable to:

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

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

## A 'First' Look

Greetings comrades! I hope the winter has treated you well. The Mid-Winter Conference is over, and we are turning our attention and plans toward spring projects.

I want to thank everyone that attended the conference this year. We had great attendance, with Posts from all over the state represented and great guest speakers.

We, as the Department, have made the 80% membership goal set by National HQ. Congratulations on that achievement to all. Now we have the task of getting the remaining 20% before the 17th of May, I believe we can do it!

Please continue to do the all important Buddy Checks. The Buddy Checks need to be conducted year-round, not just during the winter months. They can



**ALFRED  
MCKAY**

be a simple phone call and conversation, or better yet, someone goes to visit them and listens to what they have to say. A simple act of kindness and a cup of coffee just may save a life, and you will "BE THE ONE" that made that happen. Remember to listen also to what they are not saying. Are they sitting in a dark house wearing heavy sweaters because they are cold; do they have food or need prescription medication? Sometimes they won't ask for your help because they are too proud to do so. Your visit may also just be the reason they feel needed and wanted as a member of the Legion family, and it's a good way to get the new members involved in Post activities and keep them coming back.

On another note, we need to be training our replacements and other future officers at the Post and District levels. After you train them, turn the reins over to them and continue to mentor and praise them on their performance.

Thank you for allowing me the privilege and honor of being your Department 1st Vice Commander. I hope to see you at the Department of Maine's Annual State Convention in June.

## A 'Second' Look

I hope this finds you in good health and enjoying this better weather. I for one am happy winter is behind us. I know it is still a little chilly, but it will be warmer soon. It is hard to believe that we are closing out our 2022/2023 year for the American Legion.

We have had some challenges this year with membership. Why is this? Is everyone doing their part to bring in new members? Are we retaining our current membership? What are we doing in our Posts that bring these members back and want to renew their dues? It is time to take a hard look at what we are NOT doing to make this happen. Create a questionnaire to email or send out to current members to gain feedback on how they feel your Post is doing. What can be done differently? How's it going for you! This is the bottom line. If it's not going well then it is time to reevaluate what you are doing. Change can be a wonderful thing. How does your community view your Post? Are you an asset? Do you provide meaningful ceremonies for Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Flag Day as well as others? Do you do enough to bring in new members and continue to do these things to retain them later



**PATRICIA  
THURSTON**

on? Do you support veterans even though they are not members? My hope is that you answered yes to that last question. We will not fail our veterans and we should be there for them all. For all Posts that are at 100% or higher, tell us some of the things you are doing to make this happen. Share with others in hopes it will support them as well. Share them with us so we can then post them on Facebook or in TML with pictures if you have them. You own the bragging rights to your events and stories. Let's show the world we are TEAM MAINE, and we are AWESOME. The following is from an unknown author:

**THE MEMBER WHO NEVER CAME BACK**

"It amuses me to think that your organization spends so much time looking for new members when I was there all the time. Do you remember me?"

"I'm the fellow who was asked to join. I paid my dues and then I was asked to be a loyal and faithful member."

I'm the fellow who came to every meeting, but nobody paid any attention to me. I tried several times to be friendly, but everyone seemed to have his own friends to talk to and sit with. I sat down among some unfamiliar faces several times, but they didn't pay much attention to me."

"I hoped somebody would ask me to join one of the committees or to somehow participate and contribute – but no one did."

"Finally, because of illness, I missed a meeting. The next month no one asked

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



## NEC Update

As we start on another part of our year, this time is where we are considering nominating various individuals and maybe businesses for the various awards our organization gives out each year. As a member of the



**LLOYD  
WOODS**

NEC and chairman of the liaison committee for the Veterans Employment and Education Commission (aka: VE&E), I have been involved in reviewing nominations for one portion of awards the National organization gives to employers and individuals. That is Employer of the Year and Employment Service Awards. Another part of the awards is related to the Enhance the Lives of Disabled and the Michael Guty Homeless Veterans Outreach categories.

The awards also cover employers and employment services for small employer business with

(1-50 employees), for medium size companies (51-200 employees), and for large companies (201+ employees). Others are for Employer of Older Workers and for Enhance the Lives of the Disabled. The group also reviewed nominations for LVER (Local Veterans' Employment Representative), for DVOP (Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program Specialist), Employment of Local Office. All of these awards pertain to veterans and their employment.

Each award has specific requirements in order to be eligible for consideration. For example, for the small, medium and large employer award there are four (4) statements that require an affirmative response in order to be considered. They are:

- the employer does not restrict employ-

ment only to veterans

- a minimum of 10% of their workforce are veterans
  - the employer is in the private sector (not city, county, state or federal)
  - the employer has been in business for at least five (5) years
- Other areas would be:
- a veteran workforce of 11% to 21% or more,
  - how they actively outreach to hire veterans,
  - written veteran preference policy,
  - how they actively outreach to hire veterans that have a disability,
  - written policy relating to employment status and benefits for deployed employees,
  - does the employer promote veterans' activities in the community as well as demonstrated other activities promoting Americanism, Community Service and/or other values recognized by the American Legion.

Each year the number of nominees from the various departments has been diminishing. There is information on each category and the requirements for what the nominations should include. It is hoped that at this year's National Convention in Charlotte the Commission will be able to make a presentation on the various awards and the requirements for the nominations. This would be very helpful to the departments and to the nominating individual. This year we reviewed 14 various nominations where in 2020 we had a total of 27 nominations. In 2021 we reviewed 40 such nominations.

The committee members receive a copy of the nominations for the categories, reviews each one, scores each nomination and puts each nomination in order for first, second and third place, if appropriate. We then meet, either in person or virtually and rank each determining which is first, second or third. The committee consists of five individuals from all over the country.

port is past due. Please reach out if you are in need of support to make this happen. My phone number is listed on our website at [mainelegion.org](http://mainelegion.org). Connect with Department if you are certain you have sent it in so they are able to update the list. The Consolidated Post Report is due by June 1st. Notification of Post/Squadron Commanders & Adjutants Form is due no later than July 1st. Post Officers form is due by July 1st. My hope is that we will be able to reach 100% submission for all reports!

Our Annual State Convention will be here before we know it. Dirigo State will follow later in the month. I look forward to seeing everyone at these events. I thank you for all you do for the American Legion whether it is at Post, District, or State level. You are important to us. Please stay healthy and travel safely as you all do great work for our organization. I thank you for your continued service.

## On the Agenda

### JUNE 2023 MEETINGS

District 3 – Androscoggin: June 4, Auburn Post 153, 2PM

District 12 – Hancock: June 13, Bucksport Post 93, Dinner at 6:30PM, Meeting at 7:30PM

### JULY 2023 MEETINGS

### AUGUST 2023 MEETINGS

### SEPTEMBER 2023 MEETINGS

District 14 – Piscataquis: Sept. 16, Guilford Post 119, 12 Noon Lunch w/Business Meeting at 1PM



**Team Maine's Visit To Washington:** Team Maine met with Maine's Congressional Delegation in Washington this February to discuss Veteran issues and how to improve them. They are pictured here with Congresswoman Chellie Pingree after their meeting on Feb. 28. Left to right, Dept. Finance Officer Eugene Connolly, Auxiliary National Executive Committee Joan Caron, Auxiliary National Eastern Division Vice President Veronica Gurney, Congresswoman Chellie Pingree, National Executive Committeeman Alternate Matthew Jabaut, Gray Post 86 Adjutant Richard Flynn, and Farmington Post 28 Adjutant Harold "Drew" Goodridge.

.....

**Congresswoman Pingree's Message To Team Maine:** "Wonderful to welcome Maine American Legion members to Washington today! From implementing the historic #HonoringOurPACTact to ensuring access to quality child care + health benefits, I'll never stop fighting for those who fought for us!"

## Get Your Centennial Coin Today While Supplies Last!

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

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



### ■ "A 'SECOND' LOOK" (Continued from Page 2)

where I had been. I guess it didn't matter, whether I was there or not."

"On the next meeting date, I decided to stay home and watch a good television program. When I attended the next meeting no one asked me where I was the month before."

"You might say that I'm a good guy, a good family man, that I hold a responsible job and love my community."

"You know who else I am? I'm the member who never came back."

This is surely something to think about!

When reading the Leadership Ledger you can double-check to ensure your Post has submitted reports due to Department. As I was reading the Ledger, I found that Department is still waiting on 53 Posts to send in their Annual Data Report. This re-





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## 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](http://legion.org/RENEW)

## QUICKLY & EASILY RENEW ONLINE TODAY!

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



[WWW.LEGION.ORG/RENEW](http://WWW.LEGION.ORG/RENEW)

Collection for 2024 membership begins July 1, 2023

## The Adjutant Speaks

It has been ten years since I started on this adventure as your Department Adjutant. As I look back over those ten years, never did I think we would have accomplished



PAUL  
L'HEUREUX

all that was done. My concern is that so many of you were there to make these accomplishments happen and I don't want to inadvertently leave anyone out, so I'll highlight some of the adventures and a few of the many people who have made all our successes possible.

It started in 2013 when Department Commander John Hargreaves wanted to appoint me to the Department Adjutant's position because of an opening that occurred between conventions. I must say I was caught off guard but accepted the position knowing of the many challenges we faced and the changes that were needed. The Department Executive Committee gave their approval, and I began my tenure as Department Adjutant on November 1, 2013, at 8:00 AM at our HQ in Waterville. That is where I met the new Department Finance Officer, Tommy Adkins, not knowing at the time that a dynamic team was forming and that changes were coming. The first, and biggest change was when the DEC gave the approval two months later at our Mid-Winter conference for the purchase of a new Department Headquarters. After over 90 years in Waterville, we moved to 5 Verti Drive in Winslow—the proud new owners of a new building and property. The energy and enthusiasm grew as we added new headquarters facilities on this property for the American Legion Auxiliary, the Sons of the American Legion, and the American Legion Riders. New HQs for The American Legion, Auxiliary, Sons of the Legion, and the Legion Riders. Results: New Headquarters for all and pride in our newly formed "Compound" in Winslow!

As many of you were aware we needed a training plan so we could offer the best for our current members as well as those new veterans that wanted to learn about the Legion and help to make a difference. The plan

was started for a new training room to be made out of a dirty, dusty storage building on the property and donations came in to pay for all the furniture and equipment needed to make it state-of-the-art in technology and design. The training has been going on since 2017 with no end in sight. The current Legion College class started in April with 24 in attendance and we have another list started for the next class. We have been evaluated by our national organization and were informed that the Department of Maine runs the best Legion College classes in the country. Some of our graduates have also attended National Legion College and returned to run ours here in Maine. Thank you, Matt & Jason, for working hard to make our curriculum what it is today. By the way, during this time Tommy, our finance guy, was keeping an eye on the finances of the Department-- and on me as well! Results: New Classroom & Training to develop the future leaders of our collective organizations!

During this time frame, I had a discussion with three members about something new I wanted to try, but I needed a team to help. There were many obstacles and challenges, but they were ready to make something happen. We started an American Legion Post in the state prison to help incarcerated veterans during their transition back into the community. Please keep in mind that they all had honorable discharges but did not have support when they came home. They now have a ceremony on Memorial Day and Veterans Day and have monthly membership meetings. We have also had the Department Service Officer speak to them about possible benefits when they are released. Thank you, Carl Curtis. I want to especially thank "Team-3" who take the time every month to attend those meetings and offer guidance. This program exists because of them. Thank you, Ray, Jeff, and Jan. Results: Veterans Helping Veterans.

During these past years, our often-flexible Finance Officer Tommy left, and I became a little nervous about the finances of the Department and the possibility of not being able to complete a few more projects and challenges that we faced. With everything else that comes into this office, finances are a constant concern for any Department Adjutant. However,

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

## Judge Advocate

We are beginning the start of the busy time of year. State-wide elections at both the District and Post level are starting and then the process of installing officers is next.



**JASON  
HALL**

Department of Maine came out of the Mid-Winter Conference, the Oratorical Competition, and Washington Conferences only to start the process of marketing and recruiting young adults for DIRIGO State, American Legion Baseball, and to prepare for National Spring Conferences, Testimonial, and our Annual State Convention.

As for Districts and Posts, there are several reports due in the next few months including:

- District Officers Form- Due July 1st
  - Post Officers Form- Due July 1st
  - Consolidated Post Report - Due June 1st
  - Annual Post Data Report DUE NOW! Get them in!! (April 15th)
- I can't stress the importance of these various reports/forms.
- *The Post Data Report* confirms the

dues amount for the post as well as the official mailing address. This report goes straight to National and becomes the official record for the post.

- *The Post Officer Form*, after elections, is what is used to update contact information for the Post Officers. Extremely important to maintain communications with the Post Officers.
- *District Officers Form*, after elections, also needed for correct contact information.
- *Consolidated Post Report*. The most beneficial form needed by The American Legion. Established in 1975 to assist departments in the documentation of the various activities a specific post has done during the twelve-month reporting period, June 1 through May 31. The post's information, combined with that of other posts, is used when the National Commander and others testify on Capitol Hill as mandated by our federal charter. This report is set up in MyLegion.org as a save and send option, a streamlined easier method as opposed to the 3 copy papers mailed to Department.

As stated previously we have some big.....BIG....Legion events coming upon us quickly:

- Testimonial: Saturday, May 20, 2023, we honor our 2022-2023 leaders.

- ◇ The American Legion Department Commander Kirk Thurston
- ◇ The American Legion Auxiliary Department President Debra Rumery
- ◇ Sons of The American Legion Detachment Commander Mike Hustus

Always a great event filled with laughs. All are welcome, check out the latest Legion Ledger or MaineLegion.org for more information.

- American Legion Baseball: Teams are being organized, committee meetings held to finalize districts and state championship locations, and young adults are gearing up to play their first games shortly.
- DIRIGO State: Your program has become prestigious and popular in our state. Applications are coming in daily, schools and Posts are contacting potential delegates, and excitement is in the air. The Department has been working closely with volunteers and our new venue, Colby College, to make 2023 an incredible experience for these young attendees. I am asking that all Posts, Units, Squadrons, and Riders make it a point to volunteer or attend graduation to support our future leaders. Contact: [DirigoStateMe@gmail.com](mailto:DirigoStateMe@gmail.com) or [Jason@mainelegion.org](mailto:Jason@mainelegion.org) for more information.
- Department of Maine Annu-

al Convention: we already have some great speakers lined up. We also have committees ready to review many applications for scholarships, Legionnaire of the Year, Adjutants of the Year, first responder awards, and more. The Annual Convention is the opportunity to vote on Department Officers, and resolutions, cheer on our successes as a whole, network with others, and see some future leaders recognized for their contributions to veterans and their communities. Always a good time. More information to come, keep an eye on the Legion Ledger and website. Remember- this is when your Post Delegates vote. (*If you don't send representation, your Post has no voice.*)

- Maine American Legion College: currently in full swing. We have 25 dedicated Legionnaires and Auxiliary members learning about the history, officer positions, ceremonies, and more, of our organization. We are so excited to see our future leaders committed to 3 full weekends of study to better The American Legion.

Hope to see you at one of the upcoming events, a ball game, or most importantly our State Convention. Thanks for all the work you do to help veterans and thanks for continuing to serve your community, State, and Nation.

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

that did not happen because of a new finance officer, Greg Couture. Well, something tells me that Greg and Tommy must have had a chat because the changeover was smooth, and immediately new ideas and challenges were met head-on. Investments were made for the future of our new Foundation (501-C3) and Greg assisted me on the road with financial issues at different posts in the state. I believe that Greg holds the record of a traveling Finance Officer to assist the Adjutant in revitalizing many Posts. Results: Great Finance Officers with Thanks to Tommy & Greg.

Also, during the past years, we had to make some changes in the way we conducted business at HQ. Mass mailings had to stop, and we had to change the way we communicated with our members. We upgraded our technology and research programs

to assist staff in the office. Some of the changes were painful for not only staff but our members as well. We started with basics and moved forward making sure no one was left behind. With our new website designed by our Office Manager Rachael, progress started to move, and we added Facebook, PayPal, the new Leadership Ledger by email only, and improved the quality and content of The Maine Legionnaire. Then Rachael set up appointments for any Post Adjutants to visit HQs to go over materials pertaining to the membership using new technology, offering her guidance and support. This has been an excellent program to educate our Post Adjutants. Please keep in mind we still have more upgrades to do to move us forward a little faster. Thank you, Rachael, Jeanette, and Rebecca. Results: Communication & Technology improvements

As I sit here in the office there are so many others that I want to thank

so I will do it this way: Thank you to all past and current Department Officers, District Officers, Post Officers, and members of the American Legion who stepped up to make this organization what it is today and will be in the future. Thank you, Past National Commander Tony Jordan, for your support and guidance over the years as well. William J. Rogers, Past National Commander from my own Auburn Post #153 would be proud of what all these officers, members, and administrative staff have done over these last ten years. Thank you to my friend, Past Department Adjutant Ron Sailor, who was my adjutant when I served as Department Commander and has always been the voice of reason for me. I also have a special place in my heart for my traveling buddy, the late Past Department Adjutant Chick Ciciotte. There is one other thing that I have mentioned to members that hold any position in the American Legion: your job is not complete until you find

your replacement—someone who can do a better job than you did. If all goes well, I have found the Legionnaire who will do a better job, Jason Hall. So, I guess I have completed my job. Results: Thank you all.

The last person who has had to endure all the traveling and the time away from each other and our family for over 20 years is the one who supported me to continue with my passion for this organization. Thank you, and I love you very much Audrey L'Heureux. Results: I married her and learned to say, "Yes dear!"

REMEMBER: FORWARD AND FOCUSED! It's what keeps us growing strong in the Department of Maine and will keep bringing us RESULTS into the future.

Paul L'Heureux, State Adjutant  
2013-2023





# Maine American Legion State Adjutant Paul L'Heureux (2013-2023)



Paul L'Heureux  
State Adjutant  
(2013-2023)

**FORWARD  
&  
FOCUSED!**



**Thank You for Your Dedicated Service to Veterans in the State of Maine and Your 10-Year  
Commitment as State Adjutant of The American Legion, Department of Maine**





## President's Message

Greetings from the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Maine. Hard to believe that the year is coming to an end. Time for the new Officers and Committee Chairs to take



**DEBRA RUMERY**

over and help make our organization better than the year before. We are very thankful to the Committee Chairs that worked so hard to help bring the committees back to life after the Covid pandemic. The Units really shined this year with getting back to all the fundraising for our programs without any restrictions. The imagination and creativity that our Units have shown this year with their fundraising efforts is quite amazing. Thinking out of the box and trying new ideas has really given our members that have never volunteered before, the spark that they

needed to be active and to participate, creating new membership experiences. On a personal note, I am so proud of our Posts, Units, Squadrons and Riders in Maine that tackled the difficult subject of Veteran suicide. They were the voice for our Veterans with mental illness as they started conversations to help lift the stigma, and to bring awareness and prevention. I know that it was not an easy task. I am hoping that the conversations continue after the Presidents project is over to help bring that number 17 to zero. I congratulate Commander Kirk Thurston on the success of his project to raise funds for Operation Reboot Outdoors and the BE THE ONE Campaign. Team Maine has recognized that Veteran mental health is a crisis, and together we can accomplish great things to ensure our Veterans get the help that they deserve. It has been an honor to serve as your Department President for 2022-2023, and I will cherish the memories forever.

For God and Country,  
Debra Rumery, Department of Maine President

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

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

How do we help?

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

### Ideas for Unit 63

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

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



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

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

working on suicide prevention statewide.

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

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

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

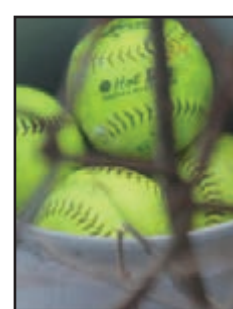
Send all donations to Maine ALA, earmarked "President's Project" to Maine ALA, 5 Verti Drive, Suite B, Winslow, ME 04901.

**SUICIDE PREVENTION IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS**



## Winter Softball Game Raises Money For Homeless Veterans:

Topsham Post 202 9th Annual Winter Softball Classic II took place Feb. 18 at the Corey-Edwin Garver Post 202 in Topsham where many Legionnaires, members and guests attended or took part in playing the game. A fun filled day was had by all who attended, including, left to right, Department Auxiliary Chaplain Stasi Heitmann, Department of Maine Auxiliary President Debra Rumery, Department Commander Kirk Thurston, and Department 2nd Vice Commander Patricia Thurston. All proceeds for this event were donated to Homeless Veterans. A selection of event photos can be viewed by visiting the following links: <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?vanity=100064488834381&set=a.569460925213530> or <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.569432898549666&type=3>



**Department Adjutant Paul L'Heureux, left, Auxiliary National Eastern Division Vice President Veronica Gurney, center, and National Executive Committeeman Alternate Matthew Jabaut, right at The American Legion National Convention held in Milwaukee, WI in August, 2022.**

## 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 membership in the Sons of The



American Legion.

Print an application by visiting <https://www.legion.org/documents/legion/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.



## American Legion, Department of Maine Sweepstakes Drawing Delayed Until July 5th Due to Mailing Issues

The American Legion, Department of Maine has delayed its summer sweepstakes drawing originally due to take place on Sat., June 10th at the Annual State Convention in Brewer due to mailing issues. The sweepstakes drawing will take place at the American Legion State Headquarters in

Winslow on Wed., July 5th.

Please plan accordingly and get your tickets in before the July 5th drawing. 1 Ticket \$5, 3 for \$10, 6 for 15, and 12 for \$25. Drawing Prizes:

**Grand Prize: \$1500, 2nd Prize: \$500, 3rd Prize: \$300 and 4th Prize: \$200.**



## Legion Family Attends Washington Conference

Maine Legionnaires and Auxiliary members represented Department of Maine at The American Legion's Washington Conference, held annually in our nation's capital. The conference gives our organization's leadership a chance to meet with elected officials to discuss legislative initiatives and priorities important to Legion members and their families. It also provides a forum that allows Legionnaires to hear from senators, representatives, and officials from the White House and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) as they address our members at the conference.

Richard Flynn (Post 86), Matt Jabaut (Post 202), Andrew Goodridge (Post 28), Gene Connolly (Post 17), Veronica Gurney (Unit 51), and Joan Caron (Unit 135) professionally presented the following legislative priorities to the officials:

- Mental Health and Suicide Prevention

- VA Healthcare Modernization
- PACT Act Implementation and Oversight
- Protect Veterans from Predatory Actors
- Concurrent Receipt
- Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity
- GI Bill for Honorable Service
- Support our Afghan Allies
- Military Quality of Life
- Pay the Coast Guard
- Protect the American Flag

Though the conversation aimed at these priorities, there was much conversation concerning issues in Maine concerning Veteran Homes, state college tuition, veteran homelessness and affordable housing, tax exemption for disabled veterans, and more.

The Washington Conference culminated with National Commander Vincent "Jim" Troiola, being introduced by Senator Susan Collins to testify at a joint

House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee hearing.

Special thanks to the Legion Family for advocating for the veterans of Maine.







## Veteran's Service Organizations, Including The American Legion Provide Indispensable Information and Insight to Policymakers in Government

Veterans' service organizations, including the American Legion, are an invaluable resource to the brave men and women who serve our country. In addition to serving as the "boots on the ground" supporting our veterans in communities throughout Maine and across our nation, they provide indispensable information and insight to policymakers in government.

As Vice Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee and a member of the Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee, I recently took part in a series of joint hearings of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees. These hearings help ensure that the patriots who defend our freedom receive the care and benefits they earned through their service.

At one of those hearings, I was honored to introduce Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola, a fellow Mainer and the National Commander of the American Legion, our nation's largest organization of war-time veterans. Needless to say, we in



**SENATOR  
SUSAN COLLINS**

Maine are very proud that Jim has been chosen as National Commander of the Legion.

Born in Jamaica, New York, Commander Troiola has served our nation and its veterans honorably for more than a half century. He enlisted in the United States Navy in 1969 during the Vietnam War; served aboard the USS Nitro, an auxiliary ammunition ship in the Sixth Fleet; and then went on to the Naval Reserves, where he remained until he was honorably discharged as a Third Class Petty Officer in 1974.

Back in civilian life, Commander Troiola first got involved in veterans' programs through the Sons of the American Legion, based upon his father's service during World War II. In 1993, he joined the American Legion Post in New City, New York, and helped lead the citizenship, patriotism, and service projects that define the Legion in communities across the country.

Commander Troiola took on greater responsibilities at the local and state levels, and in 2016 he was elected National Vice Commander. That same year, he and his wife, Saveria, moved to Windham, here in Maine, to be closer to their grandchildren.

Upon his election as National Commander last September, Commander Troiola embarked upon a grueling schedule of 330 days on the road during his first year in office that will take him to Legion posts in all 50 states and overseas. I was delighted that his travels last fall included posts throughout Aroostook County, including Post 15 in

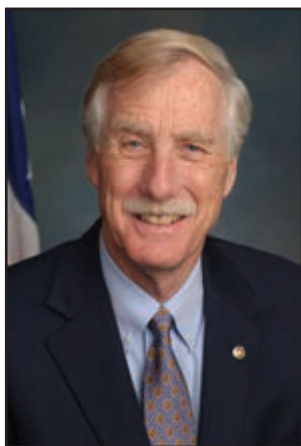
my hometown of Caribou, where I am a member of the Auxiliary based on my father's service in World War II.

A special focus of Commander Troiola's tenure is the American Legion's "Be the One" campaign to end veteran suicides. "Be the One" encourages family members, veterans, servicemembers, and others to take action when they believe a veteran is at risk of suicide. The goal is to destigmatize asking for mental health support, provide peer-to-peer resources, and educate everyone on how they can "be the one" to reach out to a veteran in distress.

I have had the opportunity to meet with Commander Troiola several times over the years to discuss a wide range of veterans' issues. Like me, the committee members at our hearing found him to be informed, insightful, and totally dedicated to his fellow veterans. That quality is evident throughout the ranks of our great American Legion.

## Serving Maine Veterans, Just as You Served Us

As a Governor, and now as a Senator, one of my greatest privileges has been serving the men and women who answered the call for our nation. It is among our country's most solemn commitments and why I was honored to join the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee (SVAC) to build on this work.



**SENATOR  
ANGUS KING**

Committee, I sat down at American Legion Post 20 with a group of Maine veteran leaders – including Commander Kirk Thurston and Post Commander David Watson – to hear about the issues affecting your community.

One of the top concerns shared was the coordination between the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans' Affairs during the transition out of service. I heard compelling stories detailing the need for both these departments to work harder to provide a "warm handoff" to help veterans integrate back into our communities.

Currently, we're just not doing enough. Our country spends billions of dollars recruiting servicemembers into the military and we should invest just as many resources to help them rejoin civilian life.

Improving this handoff is also among

the most important ways to tackle behavioral and mental healthcare challenges. In 2020, Maine had a veteran suicide rate of nearly 35 per 100,000. It's heartbreaking, and frankly, unacceptable that our country is failing so many servicemembers and veterans.

Another important thing discussed was the need for effective implementation of the programs we already have. We've made real progress over the last few years to improve benefits, like with the bipartisan PACT Act to support veterans exposed to burn pits and other hazards. But at the end of the day, execution is just as important as vision—and benefits aren't much good if you can't access them.

This is among my top priorities this Congress and is why the Committee recently passed the bipartisan VA CAREERS Act to help address staffing

shortages at veteran healthcare facilities like Togus. Hopefully, we can get the bill to the President's desk, so that when you call a VA healthcare facility, someone is always there to pick up the phone.

This bipartisan action shows why SVAC is considered one of Congress' most productive committees. While the average Senate committee passes a half-dozen bills each two-year Congressional Session, this past session the Veterans' Affairs Committee passed 56; almost all on an overwhelmingly bipartisan basis.

All told, work on the Committee is off to a good start, but there's more to be done. America's veterans answered the call for our country and now it's time for us to have your back.



# Service Office Update

Hello from the Service Office. The Togus Regional Office is changing their masking policy but will continue with the limited number of access points.

This change starts on 1 May. The other big news out of the Regional Office is the veteran expo is going to the county. On July 14 it will be at the Cary Medical Center. This event is all about information on the PACT Act. The time for the event is from 7am to 11am. There are a lot of different resources to come and check out.

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: Guam or American Samoa, Johnston 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 May 20th, look for more information to come on the Facebook page.

**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 veterans are not ready to file a claim or are looking for additional information. In that case, you can execute an Intent to File with our office. That is NOT a claim for benefits. You have 1 year to file your claim; one year period! Failure to file in one year starts the clock on your claim from the day you file. **DO NOT FORGET TO FOLLOW**

**UP AND FILE YOUR CLAIM!**

**NEW AND MATERIAL EVIDENCE.**

VA claims that are denied and have not been appealed within the appropriate time frame require "New and Material Evidence" to be reopened. It is sometimes futile and frustrating to the veteran to keep resubmitting the same claim as it will most likely be denied.

**NEW WAYS**

**TO APPLY FOR VA HEALTHCARE**

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

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

Veterans a convenient third enrollment option.

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

**TOGUS VA WOMEN'S CLINIC.**

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

**PLEASE USE THE DSO TO TRANSMIT YOUR CLAIMS/EVIDENCE TO THE VA THIS ENSURES A PAPER TRAIL AND EVIDENCE IT WAS SUBMITTED!**

You can either mail it or drop it off in the office!

**DSO CONTACT INFORMATION.**

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

**REQUESTING A DSO PRESENTATION AT YOUR AREA/DISTRICT OR SPECIAL EVENT.**

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



**SERVICE OFFICER  
CARL CURTIS**



## HELP WANTED!

### PART-TIME JOB POSITION FOR AMERICAN LEGION ASSISTANT DEPT. SERVICE OFFICER

Immediate part-time job opening for Assistant Department Service Officer at The American Legion, Department of Maine. This position entails working a 4 day work week up to 28

hours/week.

For a full job description and qualifications visit:

[https://www.mainelegion.org/media/misc/Job\\_Description\\_-\\_ADSO\\_07122022.pdf](https://www.mainelegion.org/media/misc/Job_Description_-_ADSO_07122022.pdf)

Resumes can be sent to Department Headquarters,

5 Verti Drive, Winslow, 04901 or emailed to: [legionme@mainelegion.org](mailto:legionme@mainelegion.org).





# Department Officer Candidates 2024



**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



**JOSEPH MICHAUD**  
Americanism  
Madawaska Post 147



**DAVID SLAGGER**  
Historian  
Greenville Post 94



**LOUIS MARIN**  
Historian  
Rumford Post 24



**DANIELLE BEGERT**  
Sergeant-At-Arms  
Lewiston Post 22



**LLOYD WOODS**  
NEC  
Madawaska Post 147



**MATTHEW JABAUT**  
NECA  
Topsham Post 202

## 104th National Convention of The American Legion

This year's National Convention will be held in Charlotte, NC Aug. 25 - Aug. 31, 2023. The hotel assigned for members from the Department of Maine will be The Westin Charlotte, 601 South College Street, Charlotte, NC 28202.

The hotel room rate is \$159, plus a tax rate of 15.25% per room/night (subject to change) for one King bed or two Double beds; Additional Occupant in Room per Day – \$20 (Triple/Quad);

Rollaway Rate per Day – \$15; Parking Rate per Day – \$20 Self / \$30 Valet.

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

For more information, please visit [www.legion.org/convention/resources](http://www.legion.org/convention/resources).



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

This is a short reminder to all legionnaires attending the 104th Annual State Convention in Brewer, June 9th and 10th. If you are a delegate or alternate to this year's convention, please remember to bring your current American Legion membership card or PUFL card. Attendees should go to the registration table immediately upon arrival to pick up your delegate or alternate name tag. Only registered

delegates are allowed to vote or address the convention. The official uniform of The American Legion is the Legion cap.





# THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MAINE

## OFFICIAL CALL FOR

### ONE HUNDRED & FOURTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

In accordance with Article IV of the Constitution and By-laws of the Department of Maine, The American Legion, the One Hundred and Fourth Annual State Convention is hereby called to convene in Brewer, Maine, June 9-10, 2023.

The first business session will be called to order at 12:00 p.m. daylight savings time, on the afternoon of Friday, June 9, 2023, with the final business session scheduled for Saturday morning, June 10, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. All general business sessions of the convention will be held at Jeff's Catering & Event Center, Brewer, Maine.

#### PURPOSE

The convention is called for the purpose of electing department officers for the ensuing year; to elect delegates and alternates to the 2023 National Convention to be held in Charlotte, NC; to receive reports of all department officers and standing committees; to consider the resolutions and actions of subordinate bodies and to transact any other business properly brought before the convention.

#### REPRESENTATION

Each post is entitled to one delegate and one alternate, and one additional delegate and alternate for each one hundred members or fractional part thereof paid up to May 10, 2023. A post with less than 15 members is not entitled to any delegates. All department officers, district commanders, area commanders, and past department commanders, in good standing, shall be entitled to vote and have all the rights of delegates in the convention. These officers and past department commanders are delegates-at-large and must not be named as post delegates.

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

#### RULES OF ORDER

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

#### MEETINGS

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

Jeff's Catering & Event Center on Friday, June 9, 2023, at 9 a.m. All delegates and alternates and members of The American Legion are invited to attend the session. Following this public hearing, the Committee on Resolutions will go into an executive session to vote on resolutions to be brought before the body.

The Department Executive Committee will hold the first meeting at Jeff's Catering & Event Center on Saturday, June 10, 2023. All department officers, district commanders, area commanders, and past department commanders are requested to attend.

#### CREDENTIALS

Each post will fill out the credential blank submitted by the department adjutant and return same to the Department Headquarters listing the delegates and alternates elected to represent the post. All delegates' registration must be prepaid.

All credentials must be verified by the Credentials Committee, which will be in session at Jeff's Catering & Event Center, Brewer, Maine, from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 10, 2023.

The department adjutant shall issue to each post, 30 days prior to the convention, a statement of the number of 2023 membership cards, accompanied by state and national dues, received at Department Headquarters on May 10, 2023. Listed with the membership report will appear the number of delegates allowed for each post.

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

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

for each delegate and alternate may be paid by sending a check made payable to The American Legion, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0727.

#### NOMINATION AND ELECTIONS

At the first session of the Department Convention on Friday, June 9, 2023, nominations shall be made for the offices of Department Commander; Department Adjutant; Department First Vice Commander; Department Second Vice Commander; Department Historian; Department Americanism Officer; and Department Sergeant-at-Arms; National Executive Committeeman, and National Executive Committeeman Alternate.

Nomination of officers shall be made

will be issued after 9 a.m. Delegates will cast ballots immediately. Delegate's card, badge, convention registration, and your 2023 membership card must be displayed during voting.

Ballot Boxes will close promptly at 9:15 a.m.

#### UNIFORM OF THE DAY

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

#### MEMORIAL SERVICE

The department chaplain of The American Legion will conduct a Memorial Service to be held just prior to the conclusion of the Saturday session, June 10, 2023. Posts wishing to have deceased members included in the Post Everlasting Ceremony are requested to submit a list of the honored dead to Department Headquarters. Lists must include the name of deceased comrades and conflicts served. If your post files a Post Everlasting list for The Maine Legionnaire and said list is up to date, a second list is not necessary.

#### LAW AND ORDER

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

#### PRESS

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

#### INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

A formal installation ceremony will be held Saturday, June 10, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. All department officers and district commanders will be sworn into office at that time and will automatically become members of the Department Executive Committee.

#### RAFFLES OR SALES ITEMS

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

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

Official:

Paul L'Heureux, Department Adjutant  
Kirk Thurston, Department Commander

**THE AMERICAN LEGION**  
**104TH ANNUAL**  
**STATE CONVENTION**  
**June 9 - 10, 2023**  
**Jeff's Catering and Event Center, Brewer**  
**PLAN NOW TO ATTEND!**



THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MAINE  
104th Annual State Convention Program  
June 9-10, 2023

Jeff's Catering & Event Center, Brewer

TENTATIVE AGENDA

Friday, June 9, 2023

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

First Session  
Friday, June 9, 2023

Call to Order (12:00 p.m. noon)	Department Commander, Kirk Thurston
Opening Ceremonies	Department Commander, Kirk Thurston
Presentation of the Colors	Department Sgt.-at-Arms, Leroy McKenzie
Invocation	Department Chaplain, Ethan McKenney
Pledge of Allegiance	ALL
Preamble	ALL
Report of the Committee on Permanent Rules and Organization	Department Judge Advocate, Jason Hall
Welcome	Past National Commander, Anthony G. Jordan
Greetings	Brewer City Mayor, Soubanh Phanthay
NEC Report	NEC, Lloyd Woods
Post Excellence Awards	Department Commander, Kirk Thurston
Greetings	Secretary of State, Shenna Bellows
Greetings	US Congresswoman, Chellie Pingree
Maine Blind Camp Update	Chairman, Brian Knowlton
History Awards	Department Historian, Louis J. Marin
Children & Youth/DEL Scholarships	Scholarship Committee Chair, Ron Caron
Past Commander's Club (James V. Day Scholarships)	Department Commander, Kirk Thurston
Oratorical Update	Oratorical Committee Chair, Maureen Malley
Introduction of Past Dept Commanders & Past Legionnaires of the Year	Past Dept. Commander, Debra Couture
Legionnaire of the Year Award	Past Dept. Commander, Debra Couture
Greetings	Maine Speaker of the House, Rachel Talbot Ross
Greetings	Chief, Veteran Exp. Office Acting Chief/ VA Ctr for Dev. & Civic Engagement, Kylie J. Higgins
Nomination of Department Officers	Selected Legionnaires
Announcements	Department Adjutant, Paul L'Heureux
3:00 p.m. Recess	

Reminder: Voting will be on Saturday, from 8:00 a.m. – 9 a.m.

.....  
**Lunch will be available for purchase both  
Friday & Saturday from Jeff's Catering.**



Second Session

Saturday, June 10, 2023

Call to Order (9:00 a.m.)	Department Commander, Kirk Thurston
Presentation of Colors	Department Sgt.-at-Arms, Leroy McKenzie
Greetings	Governor Janet Mills
Greetings	US Senator Angus King
Greetings	US Senator Susan Collins
Greetings	Senate District 6 Senator Marianne Moore
Public Service Awards	Law & Order Chair, Ethan McKenney
Humanitarian	Chairperson, Ron Caron
Border Patrol Award	NEC Lloyd Woods
Dirigo State Presentations	Dept Judge Advocate, Jason Hall
Greetings	ME Veterans Memorial Cemetery Chairman, Jerry Dewitt
Service Office Update/Award	Dept. Service Officer, Carl Curtis
The Peace Gallery	<b>Shawn Puckett</b>
Junior Shooting Sports Program Update	Chairperson, David Watson
USAA	Lead Account Manager   Military Affinity Mgt, Robert Warren
Americanism Awards	Dept. Americanism Chair, Joseph Michaud & Dept. Commander, Kirk Thurston
Women Veterans Advisory Cmte. Update	Dept. Americanism Chair, Patricia Thurston
Greetings	US Congressman Jared Golden
Honor Flight Maine	Board Chairman Matthew Mank & Advisory Chairman Brian Knowlton
Adjutant of the Year Award	Committee Chair David Tanguay & Members Jeff Sukeforth & Mike Pock
Department Finance Update	Dept Finance Officer, Eugene Connolly
Auxiliary, SAL & Legion Riders (Awards)	Dept. Commander, Kirk Thurston
Greetings	SAL Detachment Commander, Mike Hustus
Greetings	Legion Riders Secretary, Bridget Ellis on behalf of Legion Riders Director Mike Lallemand
Greetings	Auxiliary President, Debra Rumery
Legion Baseball Update	Director, Jeff Sukeforth & Field Director Dennis Damon
Greetings	Adjutant General, Douglas A Farnham
Greetings	Michelle L'Heureux, Boston Bombing
Roger's Rangers & Tony's Tigers Awards	PNC Anthony "Tony" Jordan & Vice Cmdrs. McKay & Thurston
Membership Awards	Dept. Vice Cmdrs. McKay & Thurston
Legislative Update	Chairperson, Matthew Jabaut & members Drew Goodridge and Richard Flynn
Greetings	Maine Senate Pres., Senator Troy D. Jackson
Membership Awards	Dept. Vice Cmdrs. McKay & Thurston
Legislative Awards	Patrick Eisenhart & Dept. Cmdr. Kirk Thurston
Report of Credentials Committee	Credentials Chairperson, Brian Knowlton
Report of Committee Resolutions	Committee Chairperson, Lloyd Woods
Cmdr's Proj./Operation Reboot Outdoors	Department Commander, Kirk Thurston
Ceremony Honoring Outgoing Dept. Cmdr.	Department Adjutant, Paul L'Heureux
Response	Department Commander, Kirk Thurston
Drawing for Sweepstakes Raffle	Will take place July 5th at State HQ, Winslow
Memorial Service – Post Everlasting	Department Sgt.-at-Arms, Leroy McKenzie & Department Chaplain, Ethan McKenney
Announcements	Department Adjutant, Paul L'Heureux
Benediction	Department Chaplain, Ethan McKenney
Retirement of Colors	Department Sgt.-at-Arms, Leroy McKenzie
Adjournment	(Sine Die)
3:30 p.m. State Convention Installation for Legion, Auxiliary, and SAL Officers	Jeff's Catering & Event Center, Brewer
4:00 p.m. Social	Jeff's Catering & Event Center, Brewer

Sunday, June 11, 2023

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



# 2023 Resolution Index

## Resolution No. 1

### Title: ARTICLE X, Internal Affairs Committee

Origin: Task Force for the Future

Submitted by: Task Force for the Future

**WHEREAS**, The Internal Affairs Committee current membership appointment process is cumbersome and time consuming when quick and immediate action may be required; and

**WHEREAS**, To maintain the integrity of The Department of Maine by streamlining the membership appointment process to better serve The Department of Maine; Now, therefore, be it

**WHEREAS**, The review found that the current procedures need updating; now therefore; be it

**RESOLVED**, At the 104th Annual Convention of The American Legion, Department of Maine, assembled at Brewer, Maine June 9 through 11, 2023; That, The Internal Affairs Committee, Article X of the Constitutions and By-Laws, be changed to read as follows

The Internal Affairs Committee of the Department of Maine, The American Legion shall be constituted to be composed, of a five-member fast action response team, appointed by the Department Commander, with limited authority to act on the behalf of the Department of Maine. Until such time the facts of the matter with actions taken can be presented to the DEC within a reasonable amount of time.

And be it further

**RESOLVED**, That this resolution be effective at the end of the Department of Maine's 104th Convention.

## Resolution No. 2

### Title: Article IV, Section 5, DEC Representations

Origin: Task Force for the Future

Submitted by: Task Force for the Future

**WHEREAS**, A quorum of the Department of Maine Executive Committee is fifty percent (50%), plus one (1) of voting members in order to conduct any business; and

**WHEREAS**, A District Commander, or Vice Commander cannot always

represent their District at a DEC meeting, Now, therefore, be it changed to read as follows;

In the absence of the District Commander, from any District, the District Commander may appoint any District Officer to represent the District at any Executive Committee meeting with voice and vote.

**RESOLVED**, that this resolution be effective at the end of the Department of Maine's 104 Convention.

## Resolution No. 3

### Title: The Robert "KI" Owen Post Service Officer Award

Origin: Department of Maine District 12 (April 13, 2023)

Submitted by: District 12 Commander Paul Blackstone, District 12 Adjutant Albert Scott

**WHEREAS**, Robert A. Owen served as the Department of Maine Commander from 1986-1987 and the Department of Maine Vice Commander from 1985-1986; and

**WHEREAS**, Robert A. Owen served as a member of the National Executive Committee from 1998-2012, and various other National

Committee's during the same time-frame to include the Finance Commission, the National Legislative Council, the Nation VA&R Commission and the National Veterans Planning and Coordinating Committee; and

**WHEREAS**, Robert A. Owen, known as Robert "KI" Owen, served as the Assistant and State of Maine Department Service Officer from 1988-2013, during which time he consistently met the needs of countless American Legion veterans in receiving their disability benefits in a professional manner; now therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, by District 12, The American Legion, Department of Maine, in a regular meeting assembled at Duffy-Wescott Post 85 in Blue Hill on April 13, 2023, That The American Legion, Department of Maine rename the Post Service Officer Award after Past Department Commander, Robert "KI" Owen.



## Legion Riders Show Support to Those in Need at a Winter Meeting Held at Oakland Post 51



### Donations Appreciated!

**Winthrop Chapter 40** Director Colin Hewett, left, presents 2 checks to Legion Riders Director Mike Lallemand which included \$500 to the Legacy Fund and \$500 to the Betsy Ann Ross Home for Female Veterans (left photo).

**Damariscotta Chapter 42** Director Ryan Coffin, left, presents 3 checks to Legion Riders Director Mike Lallemand. Checks included \$250 to the Betsy Ann Ross House, \$250 for the new State Legion Riders Flag, and \$500 to the Legacy Fund (right photo).

**Oakland Chapter 51** Secretary Lynn Woodard, left, presents a \$500 check for the Homeless Veterans to State Director Mike Lallemand (left photo).

**Millinocket Chapter 80** Director Rick Cyr, left, presents 2 checks to Legion Riders Director Mike Lallemand which included \$100 for the new State Legion Riders flag, and \$100 for the Legacy Fund (right photo).

**Thank You Riders For Your Generous Contributions!**



### The American Legion Riders Post #42

## Bike Show

June 24<sup>th</sup> from 11am-4pm!

**All proceeds go to the Riders Legacy Scholarship Fund**

Food! Cornhole! Music! Inside/outside seating!  
Cash Bar! Motorcycles!



This event is **CASH ONLY!**  
We do have an ATM in the Post!  
Questions?  
Contact: Kassidi Gilbert  
Email: ktd23xx@yahoo.com



## 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

## Tri-City Cars Surprises Berwick American Legion Post

Recently the staff and crew of Somersworth, NH Tri-City Cars gathered together to present a much-appreciated donation to the members of American Legion Post 79 in Berwick. Tri-City's motto may be "Everything We Do is Driven by You" but this time, owners Rick and Mike Bickford and their Tri-City team were clearly in the driver's seat as they presented a check with the entire proceeds of their 1st Annual Tri-City Cars 5K Run/Walk fundraiser to Post 1st Vice Commander Paul Amatucci and Post Car Show founder Andy Buckman.

The fledgling race attracted 37+ participants across 10 age groups/divisions and garnered enough attention and interest to warrant making it an annual event. The 2nd Annual Tri-City 5k Run/Walk is scheduled for Sunday, Sept 24 at 189

Route 108 and this year will feature a "Kids Fun Run" in the dealership's parking lot in conjunction with the 5K. This rain or shine event will also include a silent auction and raffle items on race day and cash prize awards in two categories: Mens and Women's \$250.00 (1st Place), \$150.00 (2nd Place) and \$100.00 (3rd Place).

Participants may register on-line now (\$20.00 Race Fee and \$4.00 Sign-up Fee) at <https://runsignup.com/Race/NH/Somersworth/TriCityCars5kRunWalk> or just mark your calendar and come on over to Tri-City Cars to cheer on the runners! Donations will benefit American Legion Post 79 supporting area veterans and their families.

Submitted by Berwick Post 79  
Public Relations Officer Rosanne Martin



Photo by Paul Lacroix



**Representing District 1 & Eliot Post 188: Conor McPherson** performed well Feb 11 at the Department of Maine Oratorical Contest held at Thomas College. Conor earned fourth place among some formidable competition and for his efforts was given a Certificate of Distinction and a monetary award. Conor's parents, District 1 Commander Paul Moessner, Legionnaire Dale Midgely, and Post 188 1st Vice Commander

Donald Hands were there to support him. Here he is shown with the American Legion State Commander Kirk Thurston. Congratulations Conor McPherson!

Eliot Post 188 1st Vice Commander Donald G. Hands

## Legionnaire John Richardson's Collection Honors Our United States Armed Forces

Legionnaire Richardson has a collection of military artifacts ranging from the U. S. Civil war to the Global War on Terror. Most of the walls in his home are adorned with military uniforms, photographs, and other paraphernalia. He has well over 700 uniforms. Tables and display cabinets are filled with interesting military objects.

Among his civil war items is a "carte de visite" of Gen. George McClellan. There are multiple books, maps, and photographs of the era.

Also of interest is his collection are "Yankee Division" items. The idea of an American Legion was initially born out of the Yankee Division of the American Expeditionary Forces in France. Yankee Division dishware, historical books, pictures, and a Yankee Division uniform are displayed. Within that section is a piece of Trench art - an artillery shell repurposed to be the base of a lamp.



His WWII collection is expansive. Along with our armed forces, he has artifacts representing the Red Cross, Civil Defense, U. S. Merchant Marine, Salvation Army, and other organizations. In this room he showed me a frequency meter. He put on the headset and turned a dial which would have calibrated the item to receive a certain frequency.

He honors the involvement of women in the war effort. Documents, pictures, patches, jewelry, and medals from the WACS, (Women's Army Corps), WAVES, (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service), Wasps, (Women Air Force Service Pilots), and SPARS, (Semper Paratus - Always Ready), are displayed. WACs were associated with the U. S. Army, WAVES were associated with the U. S. Navy, WASPS were associated with the US Air Force, and SPARS were associated with the U. S. Coast Guard.

His Korean era section includes the sheet music for "The Cold War with You", a country song by Floyd Tillman which was popular then. He has North Korean propaganda leaflets. Unit pictures, books, insignia from the era are also displayed.

In his Vietnam section there is a bomber pilot helmet with oxygen mask and hose extension. I am sure kids, as well as adults, would appreciate seeing that. Among those uniforms is a Class A, (dress uniform), of a U. S. Army Air Mechanic. I noticed a ballcap of a senior air crewman with Jump wings. He also has copies of American literature that was shared in Vietnam.



Along with his WWI uniforms - he has a "Croix de Guerre" which is a certificate issued to American forces along with a medal for valor by the government of France. There is an original photograph of Gen. John J. Pershing meeting with the King Albert and Queen Elizabeth of Belgium. Numerous books, medals, and insignia, round out that collection.



Having served in the U. S. Coast Guard myself, I was surprised to see that he has a ballcap from the U. S. C. G. C. Gallatin which is a cutter I served on in the late 1970's. It was sitting on a rack of many U. S. Coast Guard uniforms and above that were frames full of medals, insignias, unit patches, and pictures. These included the U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

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



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 1 continued

### ■ "COLLECTION" (Continued from Page 15)

Among his collection of veterans organizations is the VFW, (Veterans of Foreign Wars), GAR, (Grand Army of the Republic), DAV, (Disabled American Veterans), and of course The American Legion. His American Legion collection features uniforms, medals, and photographs. John has been a Legionnaire for several years and his commitment to the American Legion and veterans is admirable. Currently, he serves as Sgt-at-Arms and Chaplain for Eliot Post 188. Both, his collection, and his character are outstanding.

We sat for a while and discussed his collection and what inspired it. I learned that at about 8 or 10-years-old, he played war games with neighborhood children. This excited his curiosity about our armed forces. He decided he wanted to

have some original items. He began his collection and by high school he was known as "GI John" because he would wear military garb to school.

He told me his most precious items are his father's U. S. Navy possessions. His father served as an Electricians Mate from 1956 to 1962. John served in the U. S. Army from 1996 to 2002. He was in the Mechanized Infantry.

I know John to be a very quiet, unassuming man, who does not want to garnish attention to himself. Visiting his home feels more like visiting a museum with John being able to comment on his many items. It is an opportunity to see and touch military historical items. The visit is not only interesting – it is educational. John is willing to share.

If you would like to see his collection – please contact me at 1-(207)-703-2727.

Article by Past Department Centennial Chairman  
Donald G. Hands, Eliot Post 188



### South Portland Post 35 Observes Earth Day:

Commander Guy Linscott and his staff of flag burners observe Earth Day, Sat, April 22, by ceremonially burning 962 well used American Flags at Post 76 in Scarborough, Maine. Left to



right, Guy Linscott, Michael Pock, Tony Batchelor, Wes Splettstoesser, Ken Marston and Chad Rasmussen rendered honors to our country flag by doing the job of burning those flags. Another more formal burning will be done at the Post on May 20th with the assistance of the Boys and Cub Scouts.



**Earth Day Flag Burning** duties performed with the help of, top photo, left to right, Mike Pock, Wes Splettstoesser, Tony Batchelor, Chad Rasmussen and Ken Marston. Bottom photo, 962 well used American Flags were properly retired with a ceremony and burning.

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

### Brunswick Post 20 Donates Podium:

Post 20 Commander W. David Watson donates a podium Feb. 10 to the New Brunswick Central Fire Station that recently just opened. The podium was given to the Post by members Gretchen and Robert Evans.

Left to right, New Brunswick Fire Department Chief James Millson, Brunswick Post 20 Commander W. David Watson, and New Brunswick Fire Department Chief Jeffery Emerson.



### Westbrook Post 62 March Meeting:

Post 62's Wed, March 1 monthly business meeting included guest speaker Greg Post, Director of the Westbrook Community Center. Left to right, Commander Dennis Marrotte, WCC Director and guest speaker Greg Post, Post Adjutant Gary York, Post Chaplain Phil Leclerc, Service Officer Harry Gorham, Immediate Past Commander Roger Barr, and Post Board Member Michael Thomas.

Photo by Westbrook Post 62 David Greenlaw



### Westbrook Post 62 Guest:

Westbrook Community Center Director Greg Post, describing the activities and programs at the busy WCC. He gave everyone a multi-page set of printed descriptions of all the programs.

Photo by Westbrook Post 62  
Commander David Marrotte



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 2 continued



**Post 62 April Meeting:** The Wed, April 5 business meeting was a busy meeting and several topics were discussed including plans for this year's Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony, and placing Flags on Veteran's Gravesites in Woodlawn Cemetery, scheduled for Saturday morning, May 13, starting at 9:00 am. The meeting included guest Speaker Kevin Battle. Dinner was eggplant parmesan by Profenno's. Left photo, left to right, seated front row, Post 62 members Harry Gorham, Phil LeClerc, Kevin Battle (guest), Michael Thomas, Post 62 Bill Hurd. Standing back row, left to right, Post 62 members Roger Barr, Ed Symbol, David Perry (guest), and Bob Barton. Right photo, Kevin Battle, guest speaker, describes some of his many experiences in a multi-faceted career with the Coast Guard, So. Portland Police, and as Portland Harbor Master.

Photos by Westbrook Post 62 Commander Dennis Marrotte



**Westbrook Post 62 Special Presentation:** Two of Post 62's longtime members, David, left, and Donna Berry, right, receive a special gift at the Post's April 5 business meeting from Westbrook Post 62 Commander Dennis Marrotte, center. It was a framed photo of their two granddaughters, left to right, Rae Rice and Mikalya Mckinley, placing floral wreaths at the base of the Civil War Soldier's statue in Westbrook's Riverbank Park during Memorial Day Ceremonies, Monday, May 27, 2019. That was the last live, in-person Memorial Day Ceremony, following the parade until last year's 2022 revived Memorial Day Parade and ceremonies. A unique part of the photo was its selection, for the juried Photography Exhibition: "OUT and

About MAINE 2023", from January 21 to March 18, 2023, at the Cove Street Arts Gallery in Portland. Longtime Photography Curator Bruce Brown decided to organize a Statewide Call for showing Maine people around the State getting out and about post Covid. This was one of my 2 images that were selected.

Photo by Post 62 Americanism Officer Phil Spiller, Jr.



**Windham Post 148 Veteran's Fair Door Prize:** The Field-Allen Post 148 Veteran's Fair door prize (Legion Logo cutting board) was won by Mike Pasquini (Humanna), right. Presenting is Post 148 Adjutant David Tanguay, left. Mike has been very supportive of Veteran's Issues and provided snack and drinks for the event. Thank You! and congratulations!

Photo by Tom Theriault

## Veterans Resource Fair at Windham Post 148

Over four dozen members from a wide range of VA Organizations and Veteran support groups descended on the Windham Veterans Center to set up two dozen tables; all ready to support Veterans and their families at the Field-Allen Post 148 Veterans Resource Fair on March 8th. The list of organization with individuals and/or teams in attendance follows: Senator King's Office; Martin's Point; Town of Windham Social Services; VA Homeless Veteran Program; VA Caregiver Support Team; VA Suicide Prevention Coordinator; VA Interpersonal Violence Coordinator; VA Whole Health Team; Peoples Alliance; Operation Ray of Light; Quilts of Valor; Vet 2 Vet; Paws for Vets; Field-Allen Post 148; Field Allen Unit 148; Veterans of Foreign War Post 10643; Local Cumberland DAV Post; Honor Flight Maine; Post 9/11 Vets; VBA (Vet Benefits Administration); VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic; Portland Vet Center/

VAST; VA Mobile Vet Center, Lewiston, Me. (Outside in Parking Lot); -HUMANNA; Fuller Center; and Caregivers support network.

Doors at the Center opened to an initial three-dozen veterans who stopped by for the Coffee and stayed to discuss a wide range of VA related topics and issues. Overall, it was estimated that there were approximately 60 plus Vets and their family members in attendance for the event. Many stayed from opening through the luncheon hosted by the Post. It was nice to see members of several of the District Two Posts in attendance as well. Thank-you for the support! Based on the positive feedback from the visitors and organization members, the Post is looking forward to making this Vet Fair an annual event. One item of note, there was considerable sharing of items and topics among the organizations as well (a little cross-pollination). Veterans Supporting Veterans.



**Veterans Resource Fair:** VA Organizations and Veteran support groups ready to support Veterans and their families at the Field-Allen Post 148 Veterans Resource Fair on March 8.

## Windham Post 148 Holds 98th Birthday Celebration

Past Post Commander (1951) and WWII Pilot (P-51 mustangs), Carroll McDonald, was surprised, by over two dozen vets, with a 98th Birthday Celebration at the Wed weekly Veterans Coffee held at the Windham Veterans Center in Windham. Carroll, at a spry 98, is a weekly fixture at the Coffee. He spends time visiting with old friends and regaling them with the performance of the P-51 D that he flew. Later in

the War, Carroll was a flight instructor for the next generation of pilots later heading for Korea. After WWII, Carroll had his own float plane and spent many years providing tourists with flights over the Lake Region out of Long Lake Naples. Later on, Carroll had a postal route in Windham before retiring and volunteering with Meals on Wheels for several years.



**Birthday Cake Cutting & Story Swap:** Carroll McDonald, left photo, cutting the 98th Birthday cake and, right photo, Carroll exchanging stories with another pilot, Col Bob Chapin, USAF (F4).



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

## District 2 continued



**Windham Post 148 Initiates New Members:** New member initiation ceremony at Field-Allen Post 148 on March 15 during the Post's Membership meeting at the WVC. Photo depicts seven of the Post 148 new members available for the new member 2023 recognition ceremony and welcome to Post 148. Right hands up, left to right, Derek Wilcox, Harry Blake, Kaullen Winter, Yvonne Johnson, Maryann Johnson, Peter Foss, and Bill Holms complete the reciting of the Preamble to the Legion Constitution as part of their pledge. Post Officers conducting the ceremony: Post Commander Tom Theriault, Sgt-at-Arms Arn Hegggers, and Chaplain Gerald Beaulieu. Photos of Arn Hegggers were presented to each new member with an American Flag as part of the Ceremony. Each new member also received a Legion lapel pin, copy of the Preamble, Legion logo decal, along with their new member certificate.

Photo by Windham Post 148 Adjutant David Tanguay

### Post 148 Celebrates 7th Anniversary Of Vet Coffee:

A busy March continues with the Post's 7th anniversary of the Veterans Coffee at the Windham Vets Center. There was Cake!!

Over two dozen vets stopped by to celebrate the anniversary of the Vet Coffee meetings, started March 23, 2016 with eight veterans. The Coffee has been held continuously for the past seven years in some form. During the covid pandemic, our members would often meet in the parking lot with lawn chairs and their own coffee. That is dedication!! Today's cake ceremony was conducted by Chuck Whynot, the Post's Past Service Officer and founder of the Coffee, and Jon Ross, the Post's newest member for 2023. Thank you one and all for making this program a success!!!



Photo by Windham Post 148 Adjutant Dave Tanguay

## Windham Post 148 Celebrates Legion Anniversary & St. Patrick's Day Dinner

St Paddy's Day Dinner was a great success with opportunities to meet old friends and enjoy a fabulous corned beef dinner with all the fixings. The American Legion Field-Allen Post 148 uses the traditional St Patrick's Day dinner to also recognize and celebrate the Legions and Post Anniversaries'. This year the Legion celebrated its 104th year of service in mid-March and the Field-Allen Post 148 its 85th year of service to Veterans in the Windham Community. Yes, there was cake for the occasion with two of

the Post's senior ambassadors, WWII Vet Carroll McDonald (98) and Jerry Black (94), doing the ceremonial cake cutting honors. The rest of the evening was all green! and from all aspects, a good time was had. The traditional dinner is a in-house prepared event covering approximately 10 hours of prep and cooking. Thank You to all who made this happen! Our Unit participated in the serving line and a Pie Auction, (Thank You as well!). All in all, a great Legion Family and Community event.

**Cake cutting ceremony for the Legion's 104th Anniversary and the Windham Post's 85th Anniversary, held at the annual St Patrick's Day Dinner. Cutting the cake, Post members Jerry Black (WWII and Korea) and Carroll McDonald (WWII and Past Commander).**

Photo by Windham Post 148 Adjutant David Tanguay



## Windham Post 148 Vet Coffee & Quilt Of Valor Ceremony

Honoring our Veterans at the Veterans Coffee, Field-Allen Post 148 in Windham, Wed, April 19, a Quilt of Valor ceremony was held for Korean War Veteran David Wilson. The ceremony was attended by a dozen friends and family. The event added to the normal Wednesday Coffee

Break hosted by the Legion family, which had about three dozen in attendance. The Vet Coffees are held each Wednesday from 9-11 AM at the Windham Veterans Center, North Windham. ALL VETS ARE WELCOME!!!



**Post 148 Vet Coffee & Quilt Of Valor Attendees:** David Wilson, left photo, honoree of the Quilt of Valor Ceremony. Right photo, members of Post 148 attending the Vet Coffee.

## 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

## Farmington Post 28 Happenings and Events

Roderick-Crosby Post 28 kicked off the new year with a belated Post Christmas party. Mother Nature forced us to postpone our annual holiday gathering several times due to inclement weather. Finally, a break in the weather allowed us to join together in fellowship and celebration. We took advantage of lapses of snowy weather to continue the Friday Night Dinner series to raise money for the building fund. The projects undertaken included interior painting, ceiling tile refurbishment, and overall cleaning.

We started event planning for the new year with a tentative schedule of events slated well into Memorial Day 2024. Post 28 assumed the planning lead for the 100th Anniversary and Re-dedication of the Teague WWI Memorial Arch located

on North Main Street in Farmington. Collaborating with area civic organizations and historical societies, Post 28 initiated and hosted monthly planning meetings for the 2024 Memorial Day ceremony. The scale of planning is large, and support is growing with organizations and businesses contributing to the cause. The proposed time capsule has a pledged donation of a small vault. Various individuals are working together to research and narrate short historical summaries of those Franklin County servicemen who gave the ultimate sacrifice in service during the Great War. A proposed digital and print presentation is underway.

In February we hosted a Valentine's

[More on "EVENTS", Page 19](#)



## ■ "EVENTS"

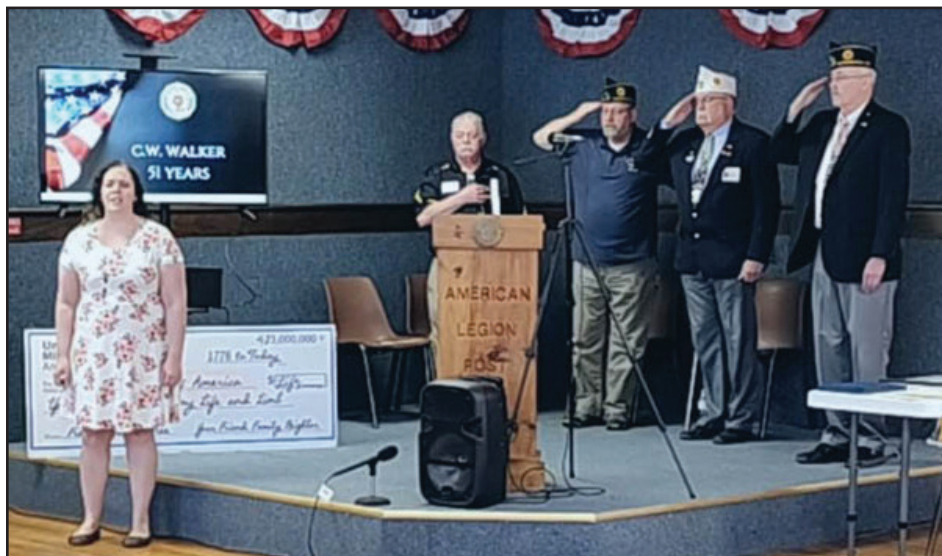
(Continued from Page 18)

dance. The month of March was a cause for celebration with the 104th birthday of The American Legion. We hosted a well-attended birthday party with a Legion Family potluck dinner and a beautifully crafted birthday cake. Commander Stephan Bunker gave stirring remarks and presided over the cake cutting ceremony. Legionnaires Francis Paling and Jennifer Bowser-Kimble each cut the cake as the eldest and youngest members present for the ceremony. At the end of March, we hosted our Coffee and Checkers with Vets event and were surprised with visits by District 4 Commander Pat Mitchell, Kingfield Post 61 members and Department Commander Kirk Thurston.

On April 15th, we hosted the first Salute to Service honoring thirty Post 28

Legionnaires with 35 years and more of continuous service and membership. These thirty veterans share a combined total of 1492 years of American Legion membership. The formal program included our Color Guard, a beautiful rendition of our National Anthem by Priscilla Kimble, niece of our Finance Officer Jennifer Bowser-Kimble, a prayer by Post Chaplain Langdon Adams, and remarks by Post Commander Stephan Bunker, District 4 Commander Pat Mitchell, Department Commander Kirk Thurston, and Post 28 Membership Chair Peter Tracy. Certificates were presented to the honorees in attendance. A light lunch followed with cake for dessert.

Spring weather has finally arrived, and our attention focuses on a May chicken barbeque fundraiser, Memorial Day and Flag Day ceremonies, and summer car washes.



**Farmington Post 28 Salute to Service Opening Ceremony.** Left to right, Priscilla Kimble, District 4 Commander Pat Mitchell, Post 28 Membership Chair Peter Tracy, Department Commander Kirk Thurston, and Post Commander Stephan Bunker.

## Farmington Post 28 Birthday Celebration:

American Legion 104th Birthday. Left to right, Finance Officer Jennifer Bowser-Kimble, Commander Stephan Bunker, and Legionnaire Francis Paling.



## Birthday Remarks:

Farmington Post 28 Commander Stephan Bunker 104th Birthday remarks.



Photos by Farmington Post 28 Adjutant Drew Goodridge



**Post 28.** Left to right, Commander Bunker, Colonel Schofield, 1st Vice Matt Smith, and Joe Paradis.

**Farmington Post 28 Color Guard** participated in the opening ceremony of the United States Air Force Band concert at Mt Blue High School on April 2. Commander Bunker presented Colonel Don Schofield, Commanding Officer, USAF Band, a certificate of appreciation on behalf of

## 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

## Four Chaplains Day

February 3rd is remembered as Four Chaplains Day. It is celebrated to varying degrees by military and civilian groups in many places in the United States and overseas.

On Feb 5, approximately 57 American Legion and community members gathered at Legion Post 24 in Rumford, to honor the "Four Chaplains."

Who are the four chaplains? They were four United States Army chaplains: a Methodist minister, the Reverend George L. Fox, a Jewish Rabbi, Alexander Goode, a Catholic priest, Father Washington, and a Reformed Church in America Minister, the Reverend Clark Poling.

From the opening welcome from Post Commander Ed Perry through the invocation by Post Chaplain Bill McAloney and stunning tributes by local clergy, the stories of the incredible chaplains were well told.

The Army Chaplain School has been around since World War I, when the army learned of the importance of having chaplains of various faiths for their men. It has been housed in many different locations around the United States. During the World War II years, it was housed at Harvard University. It went from 75 enlistees in the years prior to World War II, to more than 450 chaplains enlisted after the attacks on Pearl Harbor, so needing more space the training facilities were moved to Harvard.

Though they were four chaplains of different faith denominations, they are remembered for their acts of bravery and heroism on Feb. 3, 1943. These four men met each other where they received their army chaplain training at the Army Chaplain School at Harvard University.

These four men were assigned to a ship called the SS Dorchester. Again, it wasn't an accident that they were of these different denominations. During World War II, there were men enlisting from all over the country of different backgrounds. The Dorchester was a passenger ship. It had been requisitioned by the army and it was transporting

900 plus troops to Greenland as part of a convoy with a couple of other troop ships and some Coast Guard escorts.

The men on the Dorchester sailed together for 11 days in very close quarters, so they would see the clergymen together setting up for their respective services. They would also have shown nights where they played the piano, and all four chaplains could sing. Later surviving soldiers would comment on how well the representatives of various denominations got along and that when they preached, they seemed to be in most ways more united in faith than separated.

During the early morning hours of February 3, 1943, at 12:55, The SS Dorchester was torpedoed by German submarine U-223. The damage was severe, boiler power was lost, and there was inadequate steam to sound the full 6-whistle signal to abandon ship. It sank by the bow in about 20 minutes. The water and the air temperature was barely above freezing, and it was, by all accounts, chaos on the ship. There were not enough lifeboats, there were not enough life jackets and men were scrambling. The ship sank with the loss of 674 of the 904 on board with one of the 230 survivors lost after rescue.

The chaplains helped organize the abandoning-ship effort. They distributed life-jackets and got as many men as they could into lifeboats. When all available lifejackets ran out, they each gave up their life jackets to enlisted men, and urged and helped men get into the water. One survivor recounts seeing one of the chaplains putting a life-jacket on a man who was frozen with fear and pushing him into the water because they knew the ship was going down. Then the chaplains joined arms, said prayers, and sang hymns as they went down with the ship.

Rose Dyke, American Legion Post 24 Auxiliary President, told of the chaplains being a shining beacon of light for the surviving men, and how they stood for sac-

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



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 5 continued

### ■ "CHAPLAINS" (Continued from Page 19)

rifice, much like the band who played on when the Titanic sank.

After presenting the eulogy of Chaplain Alexander D. Goode, Leonard Brombergh of Peru related how his father's generation, in the New York Jewish borough where he grew up, was among the holocaust survivors and still wore identification tattoos from labor prisons. "This event always gets to me," He said, "We can never forget the sacrifices of Rabbi Good, and so many more."

Father Arron Dambolse from Parish of the Holy Savior in Rumford eulogized Chaplain John P. Washington and his selfless giving to the men who would otherwise have not withstood the trying times and how this selflessness is the cornerstone for giving and faith.

Chaplain George L. Fox's story was told by Reverend Cindy Christie of Rumford Point Congregational Church, who lauded Fox's calming effect and how taking off his flotation device for another equated to giving the shirt off his back.

Pastor David Willhoite of The Apostolic Church of Mexico used his powerful voice to deliver the eulogy of Chaplain Clark V. Poling, and his ultimate sacrifice in help-

ing men into life jackets and out of the Dorchester's sinking hulk.

After the reading of each eulogy, a member of the Auxiliary placed a black sash over the crosses and Star of David denoting each clergy member, and lay a rose at its base, and members of Boy Scout Troop 580 placed a life vest for each chaplain in front of each religious icon, followed by the lighting of a candle for everyone who was eulogized by their honor.

The audience joined the Apostolic Church's choir's amazing voices to offer stirring renditions of the National Anthem and God Bless America.

The biggest part of the four chaplains' legacy is this story of interfaith peace. There is an interfaith chapel in Philadelphia. It was established at a church in Temple University and dedicated by President Eisenhower in 1951. The actual church has moved to the Navy Yard in Philadelphia, but the foundation is still run out of Temple University with the mission to further the cause of unity without uniformity and encourage goodwill among people.

Leslie Skibitsky, American Legion Post 24 Auxiliary Chaplain, finished the stirring ceremony with a prayer and reminder that some people go far beyond the ordinary effort to put others and their faith first.

Submitted by Dept of Maine Historian Lou Marin

**Legacy:**  
American Legion  
Post 24 Ed Perry  
talks about the  
legacy of The Four  
Chaplains.



**Sacrifices:** Reverend Cindy Christie Of Rumford Point Congregational Church speaks about the sacrifices of Chaplain George L. Fox.



**Eulogy:** Leonard Brombergh Eulogizes Chaplain Alexander D. Goode.

## Veterans No Boundaries 2023

Due to a miscommunication, 2023's Veterans No Boundaries Program, conducted by Maine Adaptive, was held at the Crescent Park Elementary School, in Bethel, instead of at its traditional home of Jackson-Silver Post 68. Maine Adaptive

thought we were still renovating our kitchen, a task we had completed a week before the scheduled event. No matter, members of Bethel Post/Unit 81, and Locke Mills Post/Unit 68, joined mostly Legion/Unit members from Brunswick Post 36 and Bar

Harbor Unit 20, to prepare and serve lunch and supper on Sat, Jan 21. (Breakfast had already been served.)

Bethel's Veterans No Boundaries brings together scores of veterans who are experiencing personal challenges, along with spouses and children, from all corners of the nation to experience a weekend of Maine Winter activities, including a fabulous breakfast, lunch, and supper (special diet requests provided), games, quizzes,

and prizes on their Saturday night. The various Posts who participate in this endeavor enthusiastically look forward to enjoying a like occasion next year (at Post 68).

One of the non-Auxiliary volunteers said that after experiencing what the Legion/Auxiliary did for veterans, she was going to induce her Navy veteran husband to join a Post near their residence, so that she could join the Auxiliary.

**Locke Mills  
Post 68 &  
Veterans No  
Boundaries:  
Various area Posts  
came together to  
support the Veterans  
No Boundaries  
Program. Left to  
right, Bethel Post  
81 Bob Everett, Ann  
Doucette, Boothbay  
Harbor Unit 36  
Mary Ellison, Locke  
Mills Unit 68 Susan**



**Vacca, Post 68 Commander Harry G. Orcutt, Brunswick Post 20 Marty McMahon, Post 20 Joanne McMahon, Unit 81 Carol Everett, and Karen Anderson.**



lives, and surrendered his own as he died of pneumonia in hospital some days after the tragic event. The difference with honoring Davis's sacrifice this year was that an additional script was created in the same tone as that provided for the Four Chaplains. If anyone wants to request the additional text, send an email to mgen1775@gmail.com. Left to right, Unit 68 Secretary Susan Vacca, Post 68 Commander Harry G. Orcutt, and the Rev. Sondra Withey, Pastor of the Locke Mills Union Church (and also a Unit 68 member).

**Post 68 Five Bells For  
Four Chaplains:** At the Locke Mills Union Church on Sunday, Feb 4, Jackson-Silver Post 68 again conducted its Four Chaplains Ceremony. There were two major differences this year: the Church had members in attendance, including other members of Post/Unit 68, and once again the Post honored the sacrifice of Coastguard Stewarts 1st, Charles W. Davis, Jr., who repeatedly dove into the frigid waters to save

## Progress on Cummings Plot Restoration in Greenwood

In the early 1960's, a logging operation in Greenwood inadvertently used a family graveyard as a log landing, a place where cut logs are stacked. The ground was said to be covered in many feet of snow, and it is conjectured that the logger didn't know that his operation was shattering the grave-stones and pressing what remained of them into the ground. There are at least six family graves, two husbands and their wives, and one of their children, one who didn't survive childhood, and the sixth believed to be the Progenitor of the family. Jackson-Silver Post 68 took an interest in restoring the graveyard, known as the Cummings Plot, located on the Greenwood Road opposite the Town Beach, in Greenwood, when it was discovered that both husbands, father and son, were veterans of, respectively, the War of 1812 and the Civil War. Both were

named Joseph -- Sr. (1791- 1876) and Jr. (1827 - 1910). A twist comes in that there may be buried in the Plot one more Joseph, the progenitor of the line, also Joseph Cummings (1751 - 1843), who could have been a veteran of the Revolutionary War. Though the latter is known to have died in Gray, Maine, apparently no grave has been discovered there.

Enter Suzanne Nusbaum, of Longboat Key, Florida, a direct descendant of all the Josephs. She has been busily organizing the resources to find the six known grave sites, and to restore the family cemetery to a more dignified appearance. Other than a sign identifying the Plot, placed by the Town, the site itself is overgrown with various sized trees, weeds that grow to waist high, and other flora. In other words, it is

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



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

## District 5 continued

### ■ "PLOT" (Continued from Page 20)

presently an empty lot.

The local newspaper, the Bethel Citizen, sent reporter Rose Lincoln, to interview two of the principals anxious to see the Plot restored for its historical value, and to give due honor to the two veterans, with their family members buried therein. Those interviewed for an article were Blain Mills of the Greenwood Historical Society, and Harry G. Orcutt, Commander of Jackson-Silver Post in Locke Mills (Greenwood), who were accompanied by their wives.

A meeting with Ms. Nusbaum is to take place at the Greenwood Town Office, conveniently located on the Post property (they are very good tenants), around May 8th. Other local Cummings descendants in collateral lines have also expressed interest in lending a hand. Suzanne is presently enlisting the additional help of Maine and New Hampshire College Archaeology/Forensic programs to lend their expertise in making sure that the grave location and restoration efforts are professionally conducted. The final update of this series of reports will, hopefully, be a fully restored cemetery.

Submitted by Locke Mills Post 68  
Commander Harry G. Orcutt

**Post 68 Supporting Family Grave Plot Restoration:** Taking the lead with the restoration of a family grave plot, that currently looks like an empty lot, and recognizing several veterans buried there, Blain Mills of the Greenwood Historical Society and Locke Mills Post 6 Commander Harry G. Orcutt.



### Locke Mills Post 68 Past Commanders Photos, The Before:

A result of the previously reported cleanup at Jackson-Silver Post 68 in Locke Mills was that the photos of Past Commanders had to be taken down for some sprucing up, with the Post Commander recommending that before they be returned to their place of honor, they be placed in photo rails for a more regimented presentation. The Post Executive Committee approving the Commanders description of similar photo rails he had encountered at South Paris Post 72 and Norway Post 82, he preceded to rout the rails in prime unblemished clear pine. Post Historian Timothy Twitchell stained the rails. And the Three Musketeers of Post Commander Orcutt, Historian Twitchell, and Post member Al Lake installed them. In doing so, by extending the top two rails further over the storage room door, they increased the number of spaces on the bottom rail from three to thirteen.



**Wall Of Honor, The After:** Standing before the Past Commanders Wall of Honor, left to right, Post 68 Commander Harry G. Orcutt, Historian Tim Twitchell, and Post member Al Lake. From 1919 to the most recent, all the Post Past Commanders are in order by their dates of service.

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

## District 6

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



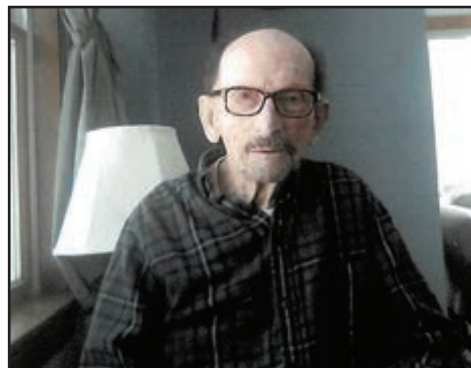
**Camden Post 30 Four Chaplains Ceremony:** War Memorial Post 30 in Camden held its annual Four Chaplains ceremony on Feb 18. The event was organized by Rev Dave Franclemont, Post Chaplain and was assisted by members of the post by reading the biographies of each Chaplain. Left to right front row, Sandy Delano, Horace Benner, Rev Dave Franclemont, Sandy Lyle and Rodney Lynch. Left to right back row, Norm Carver and Allison Pierce.

Photo by Camden Post 30 Adjutant Jeff Sukeforth

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

## District 7

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



**Korean War Vet & 69-Year Legion Member:** 92-year-old Kendrick Wilson sits for a picture while recovering from a stroke and broken hip out of Cove's Edge and at a good friend's home. Kendrick is a 69-year member of the American Legion Damariscotta Post 42. As the sign says outside his home, "Kendrick Strong" to 70 years "We Love You".

Photo by Post 42 Service Officer Mike Brewer

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

## District 8

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



**Brunswick Post 20 Member Receives State Sentiment:** Brunswick State House of Representative Poppy Arford, left, and Brunswick Post 20 Commander David Watson, right, present a State Sentiment to Gretchen Evans, middle, for all her dedication to sports, veterans and her community. Gretchen and Robert, both members of Post 20, are moving to Texas to be closer to family and to make it easier for Gretchen to travel to speaking engagements.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 8 continued

### Phippsburg Post 216 Awards Ceremony

Members of Post 216 held their annual Initiation and Awards Ceremony on April 13. This was attended by 19 members. Families were invited and refreshments were served following the ceremony. Post 216 is the second youngest Maine Post and was established in 2010.

The evening started with the Post Everlasting Ceremony where we remembered with love and reverence our valiant and honored departed Comrades with the announcement of their name and ringing of the bell.

We then conducted an Initiation Ceremony for Comrade Tiffany Brown as she swore her oath to uphold the traditions of the American Legion and was presented with her Legion Pin, Initiation Certificate, American Flag, and U.S. Flag Etiquette

Booklet.

Each member received their "Continuous Service Certificate," notably recognizing both Comrade Ron Paquin for his first year and special acknowledgement to Harvey Munsey who has been with the Legion for 46 Years.

At the end of the ceremony the highly anticipated, annual "Post Legionnaire of the Year" award was presented to Comrade Robert "Bob" Belben. Bob has been a member of the Legion for 38 Years and a member of Post 216 since 2017. Post Commander Kellogg remarked that "Bob is one of the first to volunteer at all of our events and takes pride in arriving earlier than anyone else to get projects started!"

Submitted by Phippsburg Post 216 Adjutant, Historian, and Public Affairs Officer Mike Young



**Phippsburg Post 216 Attendees** at the Post 216 Initiation and Awards night on April 13.

All photos by Chilloa Young



**Post 216 Initiation:** Comrade Tiffany Brown is initiated into The American Legion. Left to right, Tiffany Brown, Adjutant Mike Young, and 1st Vice Commander Scott Miller.



**Phippsburg Post 216 LOY Award:** Comrade Bob Belben receives the 2022 "Post Legionnaire of the Year" citation and pin from Commander Kellogg. His name was engraved on the "LOY" plaque being held by Adjutant Young. Left to right, Bob Belben, Commander Kellogg (a founding member of the Post), 1st Vice Commander Miller (a founding member of the Post), and Adjutant Young.



**One Year Service Award:** Comrade Ron Paquin, our newest Legion member, receives his 1-year Service Award Certificate. Front, left to right, Comrade Ron Paquin and Commander Ken Kellogg (13-Year Certificate). Back, left to right, Comrade Tim Williams (5-Year Certificate and Pin) and Comrade Tiffany Brown (2-Year Certificate).



**2-Year Certificate:** Comrade Keith Sikora receives his 2-year Continuous Service Award Certificate. Front, left to right, Comrade Keith Sikora and Commander Ken Kellogg (13-Year Certificate). Back, left to right, Comrade Ron Paquin (1-Year Certificate) and Comrade Tim William (5-Year Certificate and Pin).

**7-Year Continuous Service:** Comrade Tom Totman receives his 7-Year Continuous Service Certificate from Commander Ken Kellogg. Left to right, Tom Totman, Commander Kellogg (13-Year Certificate), and Comrade Larry Swizdor (6-Year Certificate).



**13-Year Certificate:** Chaplain Richard Spear, left, receives his 13-Year Service Certificate from Commander Ken Kellogg, right, (13-Year Certificate). Comrade Spear has filled the elected Chaplain position since the inception of Post 216 in 2010.



**13-Year Certificate:** Comrade Alice Kolczynski (a founding member of the Post) receives her 13-Year Certificate from Commander Kellogg. Left to right, Comrade Alice Kolczynski, Commander Ken Kellogg, and Service Officer Terry Nordmann.



**15-Year Continuous Service:** Post Judge Advocate Fred Libby, Jr., left, receives his 15-Year Continuous Service Certificate and Pin from Commander Ken Kellogg, right. JA Libby's father, Fred Libby Sr., was a founding member of the Post and had 26 Years of Legion service when he was transferred to Post Everlasting in April of 2021.



**46-Year Service Award:** Comrade Harvey Munsey, left, receives his 46-Year Service Certificate and 45-Year Pin from Commander Ken Kellogg, right, (13-Year Certificate). Comrade Munsey has the most continuous years of service of any post member.



## 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



**Hallowell Post 6 Prepares For Memorial Day:** Members of Goodrich-Caldwell Post 6 in Hallowell, getting ready for Memorial Day 2023 by assembling new American flags on March 20 at the Legion Post. Volunteers are, left to right, Larry Auger, Lewis Gipson, William Meehan, and Carroll Whitman. The program consists of 43 flags lining Water Street in Hallowell furnished by Post 6 and assisted by the Hallowell Public Works.



**Litchfield Post 181 Thanks Mills Foundation:** A thank you breakfast for Vietnam era veterans was held at the Augusta Civic Center on Wed, March 29 by the Travis Mills Foundation. American Legion William R. Bold Post 181 in Litchfield, Maine had several members in attendance. Two members had their picture taken with SSGT Mills. Left to right, Legionnaire Larry Parlin, SSGT Travis Mills, and Legionnaire Ernie Rowe. Post 181 wishes to thank SSGT Mills and his Foundation for the work they do to help all veterans.

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

## District 10

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

**Madison Post 39 Legislative Sentiment Presentation:** Maine State Senator Brad Farrin, kneeling, & Maine State Representative Jack Ducharme, standing, present Madison Post 39's oldest veteran, Clara Gilbert, with a Certificate of Legislative Sentiment



and a US Flag that was flown over the State Capitol Building on the occasion of her 100th Birthday Dec. 8, 2022. The presentation took place at Madison Post 39 on Feb. 11.

## 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

## Lingayen Gulf, Luzon Philippine Liberation January 3 to the 17th, “Fourteen Days”

Throughout December 1944 we steamed via the Marshalls & Ulithi islands with a special submarine task force called HUNTER KILLERS, in the Palau's and Southern Marianas headed for Saipan.

### UNDERWAY FOR LINGAYEN GULF

On the first day of the New Year 1945 my ship the USS TULAGI CVE-72 is underway for Lingayen Gulf, the liberation of the Philippine Islands. The Japanese have assigned more than 100 suicide planes ready to attack our Task Force. Although air alerts were called from the second day out and the cruiser HMAS AUSTRALIA reported an unidentified plane's splashing close aboard.

Jan. 3rd, the destroyer escort STAFFORD DE-411, sailed with our task unit from Kossel Roads screening units of Task Force 77 steaming toward Luzon. From Leyte, the task force sailed south through the Surigao Strait, then west along the northern coast of Mindanao, before turning north to skirt the coasts of Negros, Panay, Mindoro, and Luzon.

The following day, enemy attacks continued on the convoy as it steamed through Mindoro Strait into the South China Sea. The Australian Cruiser shot down a Kamikaze, the Japanese knew we were headed for Lingayen.

The following 3 days the kamikazes took their toll. The next day reports of enemy aircraft became more frequent, then late in the afternoon a suicide plane was shot down while trying to dive into the aircraft carrier LUNGA POINT CVE-9.

Late on Jan. 4th, we spotted a plane lagging behind a squadron of planes returning from a mission to the aircraft carrier OM-MANEY BAY CVE-79 and quickly notified the carrier. They replied, it must be one of theirs, and his identification gear was not working, moments later from our ship we saw a suicide plane dive straight down into the carrier.

A few minutes later, they reported unidentified object just went through their flight deck. Two bombs went through the flight deck, one exploded on the hanger deck and a second went through the hanger deck and ruptured the fire main and the ammunition was exploding and showered metal & debris as the fires raged out of control.

The destroyer BELL gets damaged as it tries to help fight the fires that were raging on the carrier, then the explosion rocked the ships around her and the destroyer BURNES DD-588 lowered her boats in the water to help in the rescue of the survivors.

Then one of her boats were able to board a motor launch going in circles, the crew

were killed when the carrier exploded. After the ship was abandoned and the destroyer BURNES was ordered to sink her with a torpedo. She lost 93 men, and 2 men were lost on the destroyer assisting when the carrier exploded.

On 5 January, the escort carrier WAKE ISLAND received 19 survivors of OM-MANEY BAY who had been rescued by MAURY. The ship went to general quarters with bogies on the radar screen, but three threatened raids failed to develop. At 1502, (3:02) eight LCAP fighters from WAKE ISLAND pounced upon a division of Japanese Army fighters.

When the melee was over, the Americans claimed three certain kills and a probable without suffering any loss themselves. In all, WAKE ISLAND launched three LCAP's during daylight. At 1655, (3:55) the ship again went to general quarters to repel an air attack and for the next hour was under severe attack.

At one time, six single-engine planes were simultaneously diving on carriers off WAKE ISLAND'S port side. Five were knocked down by anti-aircraft fire, narrowly missing their targets, but one managed a hit on the escort carrier MANILA BAY.

She caught fire and dropped behind, but her efficient damage control efforts enabled her to resume her position in the formation in only 51 minutes, with her flight deck out of commission. During the attack, at least 10 enemy planes splashed within 5,000 yards (4,600 m) of WAKE ISLAND, and her own anti-aircraft gunners claimed three.

By January 5th, the Japanese had determined that Task Force 77 was headed for Lingayen; and they intensified their air attacks accordingly. Late that afternoon, the task force, located just northwest of Manila Bay, came under moderately heavy kamikaze attacks.

Late in the afternoon, at 1747 (5:47 pm), eight Japanese planes, came in low out of the sun, our three destroyer escorts STAFFORD, GOSS, and ULVERT M. MOORE were screening (protecting) my aircraft carrier TULAGI. The three escorts quickly brought their anti-aircraft batteries to bear and opened fire.

About the same time four of the bombers peeled off to the right while the remaining four were headed straight at us. Each destroyer shot down a suicide plane, the fourth plane crashed into the STAFFORD'S starboard side, amidships, just aft of the stack, the stricken destroyer escort lost way rapidly, and began taking on water.

All crew members, except for a nucle-

[More on "14 DAYS" Page 24](#)



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 13 continued

### ■ "14 DAYS" (Continued from Page 23)

us crew, were transferred to ULVERT M. MOORE; and all topside depth charges, K guns, and loading machines were jettisoned to improve her stability. STAFFORD remained in the vicinity of Lingayen until Jan. 11th, after receiving the rest of her crew, except for casualties, departed.

January started a series of heavy air attacks began, in order to conserve ammunition the HOVEY had to abandon the normal routine of firing at any suitable target and restrict herself to only firing on aircraft that posed a direct threat.

During the Lingayen Gulf invasion, the high-speed minesweeper HOVEY, was a WW1 destroyer built 1917 and is the flagship of the Minesweeping and Hydrographic Group (under Commander Loud). She sortied to Leyte on January 2nd, 1945, and sailed for the landings through the Mindanao Sea.

Two days later, Japanese planes tore into 15 ships, including the bridge of the battleship NEW MEXICO (BB-40). The fiery crash killed the skipper along with British Lieutenant General Herbert Lumsden—Prime Minister Winston Churchill's liaison—and Time magazine correspondent Bill Chickering, all of whom were later wrapped in canvas, weighted down with 5-inch projectiles, and buried at sea after sunset.

"The action was so fast and so continuous that it is hard to sort out the images of what happened," Chickering had written to his wife only hours before his death. "They came in from all sides. 'three of the ferocious kamikazes, which would ultimately injure or kill more than 2100 sailors, sink two dozen ships, and damage another 67.

Although our fighters from the carrier shot down a Japanese bomber, enemy aircraft managed to get through the gunfire from our convoy, the black puffs of exploding shells filled the sky and seemed impossible anything could fly through it.

Two were shot down, but others were able to damage the heavy cruiser LOUISVILLE and destroyer HELM and the escort carriers SALVO ISLAND and MANILA BAY and damage the cruiser AUSTRALIAN with 25 dead and 30 wounded and the destroyer HMAS ARUNTA was damaged by a near miss, all a part of our convoy.

The high speed DMS minesweepers converted from WW1 four stack destroyers entered Lingayen Gulf on 6 January, where they came under heavy and effective air attack. Shortly after noon, beginning her second run, the minesweeper LONG DMS-12 spotted two Mitsubishi A6M Zeros heading for her. LONG went to 25 knots and opened fire, but a kamikaze crashed into her portside below the bridge about 1 foot above the waterline.

Two kamikaze aircraft hit the high-speed minesweepers BROOKS and LONG, causing heavy damage. The minesweeper HOVEY attempted to come to the aid of the

LONG, but was unable to get close because of explosions and more air attacks. Lieutenant Caplan prepared to lead a salvage party and board LONG from the ocean tub APACHE, but continuing heavy air attacks prevented firefighting and salvage attempts.

On 5 January 1945, tugboat APACHE was attacked by numerous Japanese planes and claimed to have shot down four. One of the planes crashed into Apache's radar mast and exploded off her port bow. Three of her crewmen were wounded, and APACHE herself sustained minor material damage, but remained in operation with the task group.

With fires and explosions amidships, the minesweeper LONG lost power and internal communications, and was unable to fight fires forward. Her commanding officer, Lieutenant Stanley Caplan, fearing an explosion in the forward magazine, gave permission for men trapped on the forecandle to leave the ship, but not standing, the crew aft abandoned ship. All were quickly rescued by the minesweeper HOVEY standing by to aid the burning ship but still seaworthy.

The surviving minesweepers withdrew at dusk. They came under attack again early on January 7th. This time the Hovey's luck ran out, at 0450 am one aircraft flew past her starboard quarter.

A second Japanese plane came in from the port and was hit and set on fire by USS CHANDLER. This burning aircraft hit the sea just off the starboard side of the HOVEY at 0455 am, at the same moment that she was hit by a torpedo on the starboard side.

The HOVEY immediately lost power. The stern remained level while the bow listed 40 degrees to starboard as she tore herself in half, two minutes later the bow listed to 90 degrees and then sank. Twenty-four of her own crew were killed, along with 24 men from the LONG and BROOKS.

Jan. 7th planes from our carrier group TG 77.4 under Admiral Dargin began bombarding Japanese defenses on Lingayen Gulf. Enemy air attaches continued, sinking two minesweepers.

Jan. 8th Japanese Kamikazes continued diving on our invasion force and damaging the escort carriers KITKUN BAY and KADASHAN BAY and a suicide plane crashed close to the cruiser AUSTRALIA ending her support for the day.

vision commander wrote in his war diary after a previous attack: "The AUSTRALIA appears to be a marked ship."

A twin-engine Japanese bomber clipped the foremast and radio antennas of the destroyer escort HODGES (DE-231), at 0745 am two Japanese planes dove on the light cruiser COLUMBIA (CL-56), killing 13 and wounding 44, boxed in by landing craft, she was unable to make evasive maneuvers.

The cruiser's 20-mm and 40-mm guns opened up—19 total—throwing up a thousand rounds. The USS BOISE (CL-47), moored nearby with MacArthur on board, fired another 1,500. None proved able to stop the suicidal pilot, who plummeted down at 400 knots and crashed into the cruiser COLUMBIA'S port side. The third such hit to her in as many days killed 24 men and injured 97.

Jan. 10th, assault demolition boats infiltrated the transport area and sank two landing craft and damaged the destroyers ROBINSON and PHILIPS and another landing craft. Meanwhile the air attacks against our fleet off Lingayen damaged destroyers WICKS and WILSON and the transport DEPAGE.

Jan. 12th, we supplied air support for the beachhead and the next day our port battery shot down a suicide plane headed straight for our carrier. Before it crashed into the sea, the Japanese plane crossed astern to our starboard and attempted to dive into an alternative target.

Jan. 13, the next day at 0900 am a kamikaze crashed and damaged the aircraft carrier SALAMAUA CVE-96 killing 15 and wounding 80 and she still managed to shoot down two more Japanese planes. The fleet ocean tugboat APACHE ATF-67 steamed to the aid of escort aircraft carrier USS SALAMAUA and shepherded her to Leyte.

On 13 January, two enemy planes attacked Salamaua, cruising about eight miles (13 km) astern of WAKE ISLAND. One of the attackers was shot down, but the other scored a hit which briefly slowed that carrier. She soon regained speed and controlled a fire on her hangar deck without losing her position in the formation.

Four days later, WAKE ISLAND was detached and left Lingayen Gulf in TG 77.14, a force consisting of eight escort carriers and their screen to retire to Ulithi, in the Caroline Islands.

Then on Jan. 17 the Army Air Force assumed responsibility for air support of American operations at Lingayen Gulf and we turned our attention to Bataan, the Zambales coast of the Philippines near San Narciso.

The Japanese decided to make their stand in the rugged Zambales Mountains at the northern base of the Bataan peninsula, where our planes assisted in covering the landing.

With our job completed we then headed to Ulithi to prepare for the invasion of Iwo Jima.

Article by Millinocket Post 80  
WWII Veteran Bob Miller



**Bob Miller:** My father was in WWI, my sister was a WAC in WWII, my son was on a Navy submarine, and I enlisted in the Navy a year before the war, serving on 10 ships, 3 fronts; Atlantic, Europe, Africa, Pacific, Philippines, Iwo Jima, Okinawa & Ryukas.

Later that afternoon a second plane attacked LONG and exploded at the same spot, destroying the bridge, and breaking the ship's back. LONG capsized and sank the following morning. Several of the survivors rescued by HOVEY perished when HOVEY herself was torpedoed and sunk by enemy planes early the next morning.

On 6 January 1945, a Japanese kamikaze crashed into the converted four stack destroyer to high-speed minesweeper BROOKS' port side (left), starting a fire amidships. The main and auxiliary steam lines were severed, the fire main was broken, and the sea valve to the condenser was pierced, causing the forward engine room to flood.

Three of BROOKS' crew were killed and 11 wounded, a few of BROOKS'S survivors were rescued by the high-speed minesweeper USS HOVEY. She was able to pick up 149 survivors who got off the LONG.

Jan. 9th, D-DAY INVASION OF LINGAYEN GULF

When the invasion began, we launched our planes for air strikes on land targets, anti-snooper patrol and air cover for the ships in the harbor. The Japanese sent small motorboats loaded with explosives called "Shinyo" assault demolition boats to attack our invasion force off the beaches and damaged the transport WAR HAWK killing 61 with many wounded & sank two tank landing craft.

Kamikazes returned at 1303 (1:03 pm), zooming low and giving gunners little time to react. One plane crashed into the port side of the battleship MISSISSIPPI (BB-41), killing 26 sailors, and wounding 70 others. Seconds later another sheared the top of the funnel off the Australian heavy cruiser Australia.

The ship's fifth such hit in recent days seemed to confirm what one battleship di-



## 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



**Annual Battle Of The Boards Fundraiser:** The Annual Battle of the Boards was held at the Piscataquis Ice Arena in Dover Foxcroft on March 18. It is a fundraiser for the Penquis Youth Hockey Association and Amercian Legion Post 29. The Legion set up a table and were there to talk to the adults about what the Legion has to offer. This year, we added a trivia wheel to test the knowledge of the next generation. It seemed to be a big hit; they enjoyed the candy handed out as prizes and we hope they learned a bit about civics, history, and the military. Thank you to Bart Merrill and Bill Siemerling for manning the table during the event and we would like to thank the event organizers and sponsors that made the Battle of the Boards a success. Left photo depicts table set up at the event. Right photo, Bill Siemerling asking children trivia questions.

Photo courtesy of Jane Conroy

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

## District 15

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



**Cherryfield Post 8 Grants Soldiers' Wishes:** "AJ" is a veteran in Hospice, forgotten and living in an assisted living facility Downeast. Cherryfield Post 8 discovered him and two other veterans, presented hats for their branch of service, and framed certificates. AJ wanted to know if the Post could find him a uniform. Here he is receiving a uniform with a proper name tag and 7th Army for his service in Germany. Presented by Cherryfield Post 8 Adjutant Peter Duston.

## \$10,000 Donated By Sons of The American Legion

The Sons of the American Legion of the Ephraim H Johnson American Legion Post 9 in Machias is excited to share that in 2022, the group donated over \$10,000! The donations were made to support our local community, youths, people in need, and our veterans!

The SAL is a non-profit and looking forward to surpassing this amount in 2023. If you'd like to help us achieve our goal, please send donations to Attn. Sam Whitney, SAL Post 9, 42 Court St., Ma-

chias, ME 04654.

If you are interested in joining our Post 9 family, please stop by and pick up your Legion, SAL, or Auxiliary application.

Article by County Wide Newspaper,  
(207) 259-6212



## 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

## Citation Regarding Jean-Marie St. Onge Nominations For The American Friendship Award

Comrade Jean-Marie St-Onge was born on Sept 12, 1948 in St-Basile, New Brunswick. He completed his high school education in 1976 at the Edmundston Community College. After his upgrading was completed, he took a course in nursing in 1980 at the Campbellton Community College.

Comrade Jean-Marie St-Onge worked as a nurse at the Foyer St-Joseph in St-Basile, New Brunswick for a period of ten years and then worked at the laundry department until he injured himself while on exercise with the Royal New Brunswick Regiment (Carleton & York). He first joined the Primary Reserve (Land) as an infantryman in 1968 until he took his release in 1970. He then rejoined the unit on the Feb 13, 1989, and worked as a storeman until he was medically released in 2003. He was also a member of the SCOUTISM from 1980 as a leader (animator) until 1985. Has also been a member of the Golden Age Club for the past eighteen years. Also joined the Knights of Columbus Council 7543 since 2017.

Comrade Jean-Marie St-Onge joined the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 25 in 1996 as an ordinary member because he served with The Royal New Brunswick Regiment (Carleton & York). Since then, he has been working on different committees especially the Hospital Visitation, Funerals, and the Bar committee. Comrade Jean-Marie was elected President in 2011 and has been since then. His military medals are as follows: Canadian Decora-

tion & Queen's Jubilee Medal (50th & 60th). Two years ago, he was appointed Upper Valley District Sergeant-At-Arms. His Legion medals are as follows: 90th Anniversary, Executive Medal with different committee bars and his medal as President. About a month ago, Comrade St-Onge received his District medal at the last Spring Rally meeting.

Comrade Jean-Marie St-Onge has also been attending Memorial Day ceremonies at the Post 147 in Madawaska, Maine for at least the last eighteen years. He also participates at every Cadets inspection (Air) and (Land) every year and lately in the Edmundston area.

Motion passed by Pauline St-Onge at our General meeting on 27th November 2012, at the General Meeting on 26th November 2013, at the General Meeting on 27th November 2014, at the General Meeting on the 24th November 2015 and recently at the General Meeting on the 27th February 2019 to have comrade Jean-Marie St-Onge nominated to receive the American Friendship Award. Seconded by: Gilles H. Levesque. Motion was accepted unanimously. Motion carried.

Comrade Jean Marie St-Onge resides in St-Basile, New Brunswick with his wife Nicole of thirty-seven years. They have two children, a daughter Veronique and a son Philippe and a granddaughter Roxanne.

This member would be more than honoured to receive this esteemed award.



**Madawaska Post 147 Presents Friendship Award:** Jean-Marie St-Onge is nominated for the American Friendship Award on March 13. Left to right, NEC Lloyd Woods, Past Commander Pauline St-Onge, Madawaska Post 147 1st Vice Commander Greg Morin, recipient of the American Legion Friendship Award Comrade Jean-Marie St. Ornge, Post 147 Commander Joseph Michaud.



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



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

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

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

**Thank you in advance for your generous contribution!**

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

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



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- **Accidental Death** — Helps provide financial protection for you and your family. Up to \$5,000.00 LegionCare AD coverage at no cost to Legionnaires is available: (activation required).\* You can also purchase additional Accident coverage up to \$100,000.00.
- **On-The-Move Travel Accident** — Provides up to \$200,000.00 coverage when fatally injured in a covered accident while traveling, plus \$500.00 per day if a covered accident lands you in the hospital.\*
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\*The Accidental Death, Cancer Care, Hospital Help Plan, and On-The-Move Accident Insurance Plans are underwritten by Securian Life Insurance Company, St. Paul, MN. Plans may not be available in all states. These policies contain limitations and exclusions. Please visit [www.TheLIT.com](http://www.TheLIT.com) to review plan details.

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## 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](http://www.TheLIT.com/No-Cost-LegionCare)

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

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

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

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

Cut it out



Taps Column

POST	NAME	CONFLICT	POST	NAME	CONFLICT
Post 1 – Rockland	Ronald L Beaupre	Vietnam	Post 69 – S W Harbor	John Dittmar	Vietnam
Post 1 – Rockland	Kalsey J Blastow	Vietnam	Post 72 – South Paris	David Shaw	
Post 1 – Rockland	Charles K Novicka	Vietnam	Post 73 – Corinna	Brian A Hanson	Korea
Post 1 – Rockland	William Nuesse	Vietnam	Post 75 – Old Town	Gordon Plourde	Vietnam
Post 1 – Rockland	Leroy E Peasley	WWII	Post 76 – Scarborough	John T Esposito	Korea
Post 2 – Augusta	Howard Betts	Grenada/Lebanon	Post 79 – Berwick	Vernon Huestis	WWII
Post 2 – Augusta	Joseph Blais	Korea	Post 84 – Orono	George E Thibodeau	WWII
Post 2 – Augusta	William E Eustace	Korea	Post 86 – Gray	George O Baker Jr	Vietnam
Post 5 – Waterville	William A McIver	Vietnam	Post 86 – Gray	Lenora R Conger	Vietnam
Post 6 – Hallowell	Robert Eger	Grenada/Lebanon	Post 88 – Presque Isle	Myron J Turner	Korea
Post 6 – Hallowell	Ernest McPherson	WWII	Post 88 – Presque Isle	Ralph W Wilcox Jr	Vietnam
Post 6 – Hallowell	Richard E Treadwell	Korea	Post 93 – Bucksport	Raymond C Bishop Sr	Korea
Post 9 – Machias	Fred E McNeil	Vietnam	Post 94 – Greenville	Wayne N Carpenter	Vietnam
Post 12 – Bangor	Lawrence E Puls	Vietnam	Post 98 – Brewer	Douglas F Avery	Vietnam
Post 14 – Fairfield	Cleon R Bernatchez	Vietnam	Post 99 – Bingham	Maurice Miville	Vietnam
Post 17 – Portland	Peter J McFarland		Post 99 – Bingham	George J Tatakis	Vietnam
Post 18 – Vinalhaven	Clarence W Conway	Korea	Post 103 – N E Harbor	Paul A Jewett	Vietnam
Post 18 – Vinalhaven	Bruce D Kelwick	Korea	Post 103 – N E Harbor	Mary Jane Philips Smith	Korea
Post 19 – Sanford	Garfield R Boutillier, Sr	Korea	Post 116 – Monson	Gerald F Viera	Vietnam
Post 19 – Sanford	William W Cilley	Vietnam	Post 132 – Richmond	Julian S Parker	WWII
Post 19 – Sanford	Richard D Purcell	Vietnam	Post 133 – Fort Kent	Jean B Dubois	Vietnam
Post 20 – Brunswick	Read E Rich Jr	Vietnam	Post 134 – Alfred	Keith H Bean	Korea
Post 20 – Brunswick	Dennis L Rioux Jr	Vietnam	Post 145 – Frenchville	Armand Gagnon	Korea
Post 24 – Rumford	Edward J Roach Jr	WWII	Post 149 – Waldoboro	Dana A Rolerson Sr	Vietnam
Post 30 – Camden	Ferdinand P Dufour	Korea	Post 150 – Mechanic Falls	Ned W Bigelow	Korea
Post 34 – St George	Patricia L Jarrett	Vietnam	Post 153 – Auburn	Leonard T Daley	Vietnam
Post 39 – Madison	Nicholas Ambulos	WWII	Post 155 – Naples	Richard E Moore	Vietnam
Post 39 – Madison	Robert F McGlashing	Vietnam	Post 178 – Winslow	Kenneth Bearce	Korea
Post 39 – Madison	Edward Rubleskey	Vietnam	Post 178 – Winslow	Gene N Charette Sr	Vietnam
Post 42 – Damariscotta	Ralph A Berticelli	Vietnam	Post 178 – Winslow	Stanley E Gunn	WWII
Post 42 – Damariscotta	David E Rice	Vietnam	Post 178 – Winslow	Gregory C Jones	Vietnam
Post 47 – Houlton	Neil E Cowperthwaite	Vietnam	Post 186 – Clinton	Craig Crommett	Clinton
Post 50 – Unity	Robert G. Carson	Vietnam	Post 187 – Easton	Lewis C Copeland	Vietnam
Post 51 – Oakland	Richard A Cole	Vietnam	Post 197 – Westbrook	Irving J Gottsch	Korea
Post 52 – Oakfield	Merlyn Faulkner	Vietnam	Post 197 – Westbrook	Donald E Johnson	
Post 52 – Oakfield	Philip K Faulkner	Vietnam	Post 197 – Westbrook	Eric J LeBlanc	Vietnam
Post 52 – Oakfield	Raymond R Thomas	Vietnam	Post 197 – Westbrook	Raymond A Levesque	Vietnam
Post 55 – Limerick	Francis J Mahoney	Vietnam	Post 197 – Westbrook	Daniel J Morrison	Vietnam
Post 59 – Pembroke	Robert S Patterson	Persian Gulf	Post 197 – Westbrook	Lou Napolitano	Vietnam
Post 62 – Westbrook	Robert L Guitard	WWII	Post 197 – Westbrook	Charles W O'Reilly	Korea
Post 63 – Ellsworth	Robert J Wingham	Vietnam	Post 197 – Westbrook	Earl R Smith	Korea
Post 67 – Bridgton	James A Connor Jr	Vietnam	Post 201 – Dixmont	Richard E Tasker	Gulf War
Post 68 – Locke Mills	Danny V Bennett	Grenada/Lebanon			

Honoring Maine's Veterans

Honoring Maine's Veterans who served their country so that we may enjoy living in a free country! The way for us. Many organizations are represented at the Homecoming as well as hundreds from our community,

- The 2023 Honor Flight Schedule is:
- April 28-30,
  - May 26-28,
  - September 22-24, and
  - October 27-29.
- All American Legion members are encouraged to attend this heartwarming event and give our veterans the Welcome Home they deserve and, for many, will be their first.

The flights return on Sunday morning to a Welcome Home ceremony. This is a great way for the veteran community to honor our fellow brothers and sisters, especially those who paved

**Rendezvous Jetport 1200, May 28th:** Free parking with shuttle buses from the State Office Building, 151 Jetport Blvd, Portland.





## Attention: Next Deadline is July 21

The deadline for material, stories and/or pictures to be submitted for consideration for use in the **August 2023** issue of The Maine Legionnaire will be **July 21, 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@mainelegion.org](mailto:legionme@mainelegion.org) or

[rachael@mainelegion.org](mailto:rachael@mainelegion.org)

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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.



## Dirigo State Program

Colby College

4000 Mayflower Drive, Waterville, Me. 04901

Sunday, June 18, 2023 - Thursday, June 22, 2023

Registration: Sun., June 18 at noon | Graduation: Thurs., June 22 at 3:00 pm  
For more information call 207-873-3229 Ext. 7 or visit [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org)

## Ask a Veteran to JOIN Maine American Legion Today!



Let's get word out to our Veterans this Memorial Day and ask a Veteran to JOIN Maine American Legion!

Have them scan the QR Code with the camera on their phone or visit [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org) and click JOIN.



**Vietnam Veterans Event:** Department and Post Officers in attendance at the Vietnam Veterans Day Ceremony held at the Maine State House Hall of Flags in Augusta on March 29. Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services hosted the event as a tribute of remembrance, reflection and appreciation for the service of the state's Vietnam Veterans. Left to right, Gray Post 86 Adjutant Richard Flynn, Department Commander Kirk Thurston, Department 2nd Vice Patricia Thurston, and Department Judge Advocate Jason Hall.



**American Legion 100 Years of Service Plaque** that hangs on the wall at the Maine State House Hall of Flags.

### 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.