

# THE MAINE Legionnaire



NOVEMBER 2023

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OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

AMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF MAINE

28 Pages

## Task Force Movement: More Than a Job Program

Dear American Legion Family members and friends,

For many years, The American Legion has worked to help transitioning military personnel convert their experiences in uniform into credits to help them move quickly and effectively into civilian careers that require special licenses and credentials.



DANIEL J  
SEEHAFER

and fulfill important purposes, all of which contribute substantially to good mental health and well-being.

Last August, during the 104th American Legion National Convention in Charlotte, N.C., [the committee met and announced an important new area of emphasis – health care](#). Look for new developments on that front in the months ahead.

Many of those civilian careers are in serious need of qualified professionals. That need grew painfully clear during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in such areas as commercial truck driving and nursing.

The American Legion is proud to have a place on the steering committee of [Task Force Movement](#), a White House initiative that unites key stakeholders from industry, education, labor, government and the military to help our nation fulfill two key objectives:

- Get the U.S. economy rolling again in areas of need that, if not adequately staffed, pose national security and public health threats.
- Help transitioning military personnel and veterans get into career fields that make the most of their training and can put them in jobs that pay well, offer good benefits

Task Force Movement was launched in April 2022 to speed up and ease the process for veterans to work in the commercial trucking industry, which now has some 80,000 vacancies. Five months later, [TFM added cybersecurity to its targeted industries](#), where some 70,000 jobs are available in government and perhaps 10 times that in the private sector.

The program proved successful in its first year, providing scholarships, apprenticeships and education waivers for veterans who had already proven their skills while in uniform. It's no easy endeavor to make this happen because different states and different industries in those states have different requirements to achieve certification. TFM has been working tirelessly with multiple stakeholders to break down barriers for veterans who are ready now to step into these

[More on "TASK FORCE" Page 3](#)

## Seehafer Brings 'Be the One' to Maine in Aftermath of Shootings



[Watch Video](#)

The sign posted at the makeshift memorial in front of Schemengee's Bar and Grill in Lewiston, Maine, reflects what many in the community feel. "Fix the mental health system," was the message to a town reeling from a mass shooting on Oct. 25, which took 18 lives.

Mental wellness has been a priority for The American Legion as well. National Commander Dan Seehafer leaned on his pastoral background while taking his "Be the One" message to the Department of Maine during a visit Nov. 3-4.

"God gave us two ears for listening," Seehafer said. "For me as an ordained minister, I do it all the time. We have

office time. I have it with my members and people in need. We talk. Over 90 percent is listening. When people seek my counsel, they are the ones talking. By the time we are done with my little portion, they say, 'Pastor, I feel a lot better.' And I didn't even basically say a word. So, it's that listening."

Seehafer added his appreciation for Past National Commander Tony Jordan, who referred to him as "the right commander at the right time." It's a sentiment that was shared by many American Legion Family members who met Seehafer during his visits to six different posts in the Pine Tree State.

"I think it's critical that we show

[More on "BE THE ONE" Page 7](#)

### National Commander's Official Visit To The Department of Maine:

National Commander Daniel J. Seehafer visits The American Legion Department of Maine Nov. 3-4 and speaks at several Legion Posts throughout the state on the "Be The One" program.



**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)



## Commander's Comments

Greeting Comrades, a lot has happened within the department between the close of the department's State Convention in June and now. The department's Fall Conference was held in Westbrook with good attendance, but



**ALFRED  
MCKAY**

we need to do better. District commanders, as well as any other district officer, and at least one post member from each post must attend. A lot of information is presented at both the Fall and Mid-winter conferences. If your district and or post is not represented, you lose the opportunity to ask for clarity of said information. For example, do you know about the dues increase next year at the conclusion of our National Convention in August, or the purposed three-year payment option? These items were explained in detail by NECA Matt Jabaut. How about the ideas

for getting membership dues paid? The excuse of "no one told me about it" will not work. It is the responsibility of all district and post officers to be current on the training available. Should anyone need guidance, call your district officers or call headquarters. It is easier to give or get the correct information, than to repair the actions of an incorrect guess.

We are entering that time of year when Buddy Checks are even more important than ever. Comrades, take a few minutes and reach out to all, whether they are a legionnaire or not. We are all neighbors, community members, veterans, and family members. A call, or better yet, a visit could be the event that changes their attitude and lifts them up to a good place. Invite them to your coffee meetings if you have them. Invite them and their significant other to a post event or a meeting as a member or guest. In doing this small heartfelt gesture, you just may BE THE ONE—the one that showed a veteran they are needed and wanted. With your help, let us set a goal for Maine: 100% membership and a more important goal, using the BUDDY CHECKS of 0% suicides. We can do this if we treat each other with dignity and respect.

## COMMANDER'S PROJECT 2023

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

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

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

Commander McKay states "This is a very

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

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

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

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

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



## A 'First' Look

Fellow Legionnaires, I hope this finds you all healthy and feeling energized for our upcoming year. 2024 will be a great year for membership.

The Pay It Forward program has begun and hopefully you have found those deserving a gift of a Legion membership. Please don't stop there! Remember to have contact with this new member you have gifted a membership to. Educate them on how membership supports them. Send them newsletters and invite them to meetings and functions your post is doing. Remember to take these new members from where they are at in this moment of time. If they are not ready to be totally involved, at least make sure they are in the know. Someday soon our hope is they will be ready along the way. I know those who have been involved for a while may be tired and ready to pass on the torch to new members coming in. It is important that we do not overwhelm these people



**PATRICIA  
THURSTON**

by throwing them into a position they know nothing about or give them too much too soon. Education is the key and knowledge is power.

I recently sent out 1,300 DMS possible transfers to all districts/posts. I want to thank Rachael and the office staff for all their support with this huge endeavor. My hope is that you have contacted all of these members by phone. If you are unable to make calls, then at least reach out by mail. Please follow up with them as well. I know many of you already check the DMS and are trying to gain these members in your area. This is appreciated, but I also know it may be frustrating. We are all constantly trying to reach the next target date. My hope is we do this before it is due. Do not sit on membership! Send it in ASAP.

Let's talk about Buddy Checks. With the latest horrific events in our state that have recently happened it is evident that we need to check in on our members. We also need to check in on our veterans who are not members. Let them know we care. This goes hand in hand with our Pay It Forward program to give a gift of membership to show we care. I know you all care! You all should have the resour-

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

## A 'Second' Look

It is an absolute honor to be able to serve as your Dept. of Maine 2nd Vice Commander this year. We really do have a great leadership team in place, and I look forward to continuing to see what we can all accomplish together. We should all strive to continue to support each other and show the world who Team Maine is.

It's hard to believe that we are already 4 months into this new year. Time is going by so fast and before we know it, Christmas will be here and then Mid-Winter Conference will be right around the bend. It won't be long after that and we will all be back for another State Convention.

With that said, I would ask that districts and posts all be cognitive of the due dates for our reports. As I have said before, these reports take minimal time to complete. With the deadlines available on our website, there should be no reason why we cannot mentally prepare ourselves and devise a plan to ensure that we all get these reports in before the deadlines. For your reference, the Annual Post Data Report is due April 1, the Post Officers Form is due July 1, the Notification of Post/Squadron Commanders/Adjutants

Form is due July 1, the CPR report is due July 1 if filled out online and May 29 if mailed to the department. Lastly, the District Officers Form, to be filled out by each district adjutant, is due by July 1. Please, again plan for these reports and let's strive to get them all turned in and launch TEAM Maine back to the top!

If you or your post need help with any of these forms, please feel free to reach out. My contact details are readily available on our website or by simply asking someone for them. If you have a question that I don't have the answer to, I will do everything I can to get it answered for you.

I also wanted to thank all the posts who have reached out and invited me to their post to speak. I cannot attend every event but as a TEAM, we can make things happen all over our great state. All you have to do is ask us and we will try to accommodate your needs.

Please make sure to let us all know what you are all doing by submitting pictures and info to us, or by telling your district commander so they can update us at DEC meetings. Thank you all for all that you do and keep up the great work! We do what we do because we have a passion to help others.

Lastly, remember that "PASSION IS INFECTIOUS," no matter how difficult it is. Others are counting on being able to feed off your passion to create their own. Please stay safe and remember to check on each other as we are ALL in this together.



**LEROY  
MCKENZIE**

## NEC Update

The Fall Meetings at National Headquarters have just been completed and the National Executive Committee has completed some very important work pertaining to our organization's operations and functions.



**LLOYD WOODS**

The Subcommittee on Resolutions for the NEC met on a Monday and Tuesday in early Oct. to review the resolutions submitted for the NEC to consider. The seven members of this committee, Chairman Kile and the Vice Chairman yours truly, reviewed all submitted. The resolutions, as approved by the whole National Executive Committee, will be published and available on the digital archives in the very near future and probably before this article is published and/or read. Please take a moment or two to review them so you can see what was decided.

On Monday, the Maine group of PNC Jordan, Commander McKay, Adjutant Hall and yours truly went before the Committee of Committees with our recommendations for the National Commander's decision to assign individuals to the various committees and commissions of our organization. These were only recommendations as

only the National Commander has the authority to make appointments.

Also on Monday, the Northeast Departments held our caucus for the departments in the northeast. The caucus was very well attended by many of the delegates for the departments. We were informed that the National Vice Commander for our region will be Chuck Robbins from New Jersey for the year 2024-2025. The present NVC is Bill Roy from New Hampshire.

Tuesday afternoon, a training session for new national executive committee members was held at the NEC room at headquarters. There were sixteen new members given training on a number of topics by PNC Jake Comer, Resolutions Committee Chairman Bill Kile, Resolutions Committee Vice Chairman Lloyd Woods, National Adjutant Dan Wheeler, Howard Trace, National Archivist/Librarian and Judge Advocate Mark Seavey.

Wednesday and Thursday the NEC met and heard reports from various commissions and committees that met prior to Wednesday. Prior to the opening of the meeting, the whole NEC attended a training session on diversity. Many have had this before and it reminds us all just what is allowable in the work area as well as in our meetings.

In closing, please be careful when driving and be mindful of others on the highways. Remember we are in a campaign of "BE THE ONE" and conduct as many buddy checks as you can.

**PROUD TO SERVE**

### ■ "TASK FORCE" (Continued from Page 1)



careers in an economy starved for well-trained and capable employees who care about fulfilling important needs in the nation they swore with their lives to protect and defend.

By adding health care to its portfolio, TFM addresses a need The American Legion has listed among its highest priorities for the Department of Veterans Affairs over the last decade – recruiting and retaining qualified health-care professionals, particularly nurses. The shortage of

health-care professionals in the nation right now is estimated at nearly 2 million, so everyone in that industry is competing for talent, more of which is desperately needed.

To keep making progress, TFM looks to continue building its roster of partners from industry, government, education, charitable foundations that want to support the initiative and the veterans community. Online registration forms to get involved are available on the TFM website at [taskforcemovement.org](http://taskforcemovement.org).

Most important, all stakeholders – including The American Legion – have a responsibility to close these labor gaps because understaffed hospitals, idled trucks and online vulnerabilities do not simply represent economic inconvenience; they threaten our national security.

By National Commander Daniel J. Seehafer  
Nov. 01, 2023

[Task Force Movement: more than a job program](http://taskforcemovement.org)

## On the Agenda

### DECEMBER 2023 MEETINGS

**District 2 – Cumberland:** Dec. 10 South Portland Post 35, 12:00 p.m. \*Maine Military Museum Legion and ALA. Tours at Noon, Luncheon, 1:00 p.m., and Meeting at 2:00 p.m.

**District 5 – Oxford:** Dec. 19 Locke Mills Post 68, District Christmas Party at 7:00 p.m.

**District 12 – Hancock:** Dec. 12 NE Harbor Post 103 Dinner at 6:00 p.m., Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

### JANUARY 2024 MEETINGS

**District 5 – Oxford:** Jan. 16 South Paris Post 72, District Oratorical Contest at 7:00 p.m.

### FEBRUARY 2024 MEETINGS

**District 2 – Cumberland:** Feb. 18 Naples Post 135, 12:00 p.m., Legion & ALA Luncheon at 1:00 p.m., Meetings at 2:00 p.m.

**District 5 – Oxford:** Feb. 20 Buckfield Post 58, 2025, 7:00 p.m. – Nominating Committee.

**District 14 – Piscataquis:** Feb. 29 Dover-Foxcroft Post 29, Lunch at 12:00 p.m. w/ Business Meeting at 1:00 p.m.

**District 16 – S. Aroostook:** Feb. 3 Mars Hill Post 118, 12:00 p.m. – Meal + 4 Chaplains.

**District 17 – N. Aroostook:** Feb. 4 Van Buren Post 49 – Meal at 12:00 p.m. and Meeting at 1:00 p.m. – 4 Chaplains

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

es to give them if they are needed. If you do not have them, find them. Reach out to the department for these resources or reach out to me. If a veteran is in crisis, the most important guidance you can give them is to call "988 and press 1." I want to stress at this time that buddy checks are NOT to inquire about membership. It is simply to check in on our fellow veterans and to make sure they are okay. Be the ONE to check in on veterans. Also remember to wear something that shows the Be the One item on the first of every month. Spread the news on one of the newest resolutions. [Resolution 13](#) urges Legion Family members to wear a Be the One item on the first day of every month to show their commitment to reducing the stigma around mental health issues among veterans and servicemembers. The other goal is to start a conversation about what Be the One is and how to save the life of a veteran. Legion posts should also promote Be the One on the first day

of every month.

Remember to send in all ideas you are doing for membership with pictures and stories for The Maine Legionnaire. Send them to me so I can update others on what you are doing within your posts or districts in between papers. This will support others to do the same in their posts and districts. The best form of flattery is to have someone else do what you do. It is a huge compliment to the originator of the idea. I say bring it! When I look at national's website, I see other states sending in their accomplishments of buddy checks and many other stories. Don't be afraid to submit yours! We need to make sure Maine shines along with everyone else.

I look forward to hearing from you all as we move forward in this membership year of 2023/2024. We have this, TEAM MAINE! American Legion Strong and as you know we have strength in numbers! Thank you for reading, take care and stay healthy and safe out there.

Patricia Thurston  
1st Vice Commander

## WHY YOUR MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

### VA Benefits Assistance

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

### A Voice in Our Nation's Capital

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

properly care for veterans.

### Monthly Magazine (a \$30 value)

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

### Family, Camaraderie and Continuing Service Through Community Support

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

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

**THE MAINE Legionnaire**

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Website: [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org)

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

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Rachael Currie, Managing/Layout Editor  
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## The Adjutant Speaks

A group of Maine legionnaires recently returned from October meetings at national headquarters, productive training and meetings for department adjutants, department commanders, and a few national committee persons. There always is a wealth of information gathered that we attempt to funnel down to the districts and posts.

One item stuck with me: what is the difference between being bonded and crime and fidelity insurance?

Bonding your finance officer is a specific product that protects your post from a specific fraudulent activity. Crime and fidelity insurance offers your post more complete and diverse coverage against criminal activities that could cost your business side money. It also tends to cover third-party parties where bonding may not. A good policy should also cover losses related to non-employee-specific crimes such as:

- Forgery or alteration of negotiable instruments, such as contracts and business checks
- Theft, destruction or damage of



JASON HALL

money, property or securities

- Computer hacking resulting in a transfer of funds to an outside account
- Social engineering fraud resulting in financial losses
- Receiving counterfeit money
- Fraudulent electronic transfers of funds

I bring this up because my post was a victim of a break-in several years ago. Each year posts elect new officers; we train and guide the new officers in their roles. Several of the things we seem to miss are updating names on bank accounts and reviewing vendor accounts to see if we can save money on internet, phone, security systems, dumpsters, etc. We especially forget to review our insurance policies. After a decade of not reviewing our post's insurance policies, we were broken into. Unfortunately, the insurance did not cover us for all our losses. It was a hard lesson learned, there were a lot of positive things that came out of it, but updating the security systems and insurance policies quickly were a priority for the immediate future.

I don't want your post to learn the hard way. Put it on your next agenda, make sure you have adequate coverage and review with your leadership team. A few minutes at a meeting will save you from months of stress.

**BUDDY CHECKS** - we are in full swing starting the Buddy Checks. This is a valuable tool to reconnect

with members you haven't seen or heard from in a while. The American Legion has created an entire tool kit to assist posts and districts with reaching out to members: [www.legion.org/buddycheck/tools](http://www.legion.org/buddycheck/tools). There has been some incredible success stories relating to Buddy Checks, the program has been so valuable that the Veterans Administration has adopted Buddy Checks. For those of you connected with the VA, expect a call from someone soon to explain available resources from the VA. They also created a quick training to help you do some checks: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=b67\\_zyjsUW0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b67_zyjsUW0)

**MEMBERSHIP** - It's go time for 2024!!! First Vice Commander Thurston is monitoring Maine's progress on a weekly basis. Your post may have received some information on new members who signed up online and it is your responsibility to contact them as soon as possible. Reach out and offer a tour of your posts, have an elevator pitch ready on why they should belong, tell them about your post history and what functions you do in the community. This is a huge opportunity for new members, and your post needs to jump on this and secure these members.

While on the topic of membership, the Fall Conference occurred recently in Westbrook. We had a few posts that were pleading for help getting new members, young members, and active members. Those were the posts that didn't show up at Fall Conference (is there a scratching head emoji?) Perhaps posts should add to their bylaws that post officers are expected to attend either Fall Conference, Mid-Winter

Conference, or State Convention to hold that position. Just a thought. I do want to thank those members that did attend, we appreciate you beyond words. THANK YOU.

**ORATORICAL CONTEST** - Packets went to the schools and the posts last week. Feel free to contact us with any questions. Start getting the contestants through the post and district level, it appears the department contest will have some great talent in 2024.

Finally, a few things that are happening in Maine media over the next few weeks: Past National Commander James Troiola was recognized by the Falmouth School Department for his year of service to The American Legion and for his exemplary work as a Falmouth School bus driver. Portland Press Herald should run that story close to Veterans Day. For those of you that watch WGME, be on the lookout for a short American Legion Department of Maine commercial to air over the next few months. Department of Maine will also be on the morning news Nov. 10 talking membership and about Veterans Day. If you happen to be in Portland on Nov. 10, swing by WGME's studios on Allen Avenue, the first 200 veterans get coffee, doughnuts, and some loot. After Veterans Day, also on WGME, the Department of Maine will be partnering with WGME to promote Wreaths Across America. We are hoping the that the repetitious American Legion logo and mention of our name will attract veterans to join our ranks, the rest is up to you at your individual posts to recruit and retain.

Enjoy your day, and the people in it.



**Fall Conference Welcome Speech:** Department Adjutant Jason Hall welcomes all those in attendance at The American Legion, Department of Maine Annual Fall Conference in Westbrook, Sept. 23.

# Judge Advocate

I've enjoyed meeting many comrades and Legion Family members over the past couple of months at Fall Conference and district and post visits. The enthusiasm, energy and good work being accomplished



**HAROLD "DREW" GOODRIDGE**

brings positivity to our entire organization. When we share pride, purpose and passion we make a deeply meaningful impact in the veteran service space to include our communities. Our professionalism fosters quality, memorable engagements with fellow veterans, civic leaders, resource sponsors and the public.

For many, professional conduct is inherent with our mission, while for a minority, acceptable conduct is elusive at times. Superior leadership in a post sets expectations of behavior, etiquette and business manners. Fair and equitable correction of undesired behavior and conduct can be challenging without a written, agreed upon code of conduct (The Code). Our organization's reputation and legacy suffer when members and guests act in ways contrary to our values.

In essence, the Code establishes and promotes a framework for ethical behav-

ior and helps individuals understand what is considered right and wrong within a particular context. It sets a standard for honesty, integrity, and fairness while ensuring compliance. A well-defined Code can contribute to a positive, inclusive sense of belonging and shared values. By establishing clear guidelines for behavior, the Code can reduce conflicts and misunderstandings. When everyone knows what is expected, it becomes easier to resolve disputes.

When faced with ethical dilemmas or difficult decisions, members can refer to the Code for guidance. It provides a reference point for making choices that align with our organization's values. Used as a valuable tool during the onboarding process for new members, the Code helps them understand our organization's culture and expectations from the start. When violations occur, the Code provides a basis for holding individuals accountable.

Creating a code of conduct involves a thoughtful and collaborative process to define the expected behaviors and ethical standards. Clearly define the purpose regarding the goals and objectives to be achieved. Determine the scope of the Code and how it applies to members, employees, and guests. Will it cover specific situations or be more general? Gather member input and perspective to identify core values and principles important to your post. When drafting the Code, use plain language to make it easily understandable. Consider organizing the Code

into sections or categories that address different aspects of behavior, such as honesty, integrity, diversity, respect, confidentiality, compliance with laws, and such.

Provide specific examples or guidelines for expected behavior whenever possible. This helps individuals understand how the principles apply to real-world situations. Clearly outline the consequences or disciplinary measures that may be taken in the event of Code violations. This can include warnings, suspensions or termination, depending on the severity of the violation. Establish a process for reporting code of conduct violations. Ensure that individuals feel safe and supported when reporting misconduct and guarantee confidentiality where appropriate.

The Code is a living document requiring regular review and revision to ensure that it remains relevant and effective. The Code must comply with legal and regulatory requirements. Once the Code is finalized, communicate it to all relevant stakeholders. Enforce the Code consistently and fairly. Address violations promptly and in accordance with the established consequences. Continuously monitor effectiveness soliciting feedback from stakeholders and make improvements as necessary. Officers and leaders should always model the behavior outlined in the Code.

Implementing the Code starts with strong leadership commitment and public endorsement. Clear, regular communication using multiple nodes such as email,

posters and meetings ensures everyone is aware of its existence and importance. Establish confidential and accessible reporting mechanisms for code of conduct violations. Encourage individuals to report misconduct without fear of retaliation. Develop a process for investigating and resolving reported violations. Ensure that investigations are impartial and thorough, and that corrective actions are taken as necessary. Enforce the Code consistently and fairly treating all individuals equally allowing for due process when addressing violations. Maintain records of reported violations, investigations and actions taken. Documentation is essential for accountability and demonstrating compliance with legal and ethical standards. Effective implementation of the Code requires commitment, consistency and discipline to create a culture of ethics, integrity and accountability.

One of my objectives as Judge Advocate and Chair of the Task Force for the Future is to develop a Department of Maine Code of Conduct. Several Departments in our organization have Codes either in their by-laws or as reference documents available to their posts. I encourage every post to consider incorporating a new or reviewing their current Code to ensure it articulates the values and needs of its members. Whether your post currently has a Code or not, be the positive professional that imbues pride, purpose and passion for our organization. Be the example for others to act accordingly.

## Membership Management in MyLegion.org



**MyLegion.org** is a one-stop-shop for managing your American Legion membership.

Within the **My Account** section, members can easily manage their subscriptions to e-newsletters and The American Legion Magazine. There are a variety of e-newsletters to subscribe to such as the Dispatch, American Legion Online Update, Flag Alert, Legion Riders and more. Members also can renew their membership,

print a current membership card, view member-only discounts, manage their personal profile and receive information on giving opportunities. Overall, **MyLegion.org** provides a hassle-free way for members to stay informed on matters related to their American Legion membership, with options tailored to their preferences and needs.

[www.MyLegion.org](http://www.MyLegion.org)

### 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.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_ MEMBERSHIP CARD NO. \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

MAKE SURE YOU INCLUDE YOUR DATE OF BIRTH  SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Have you filled out *all* the above information?

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

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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 travelling 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

## Money Matters



**GREG COUTURE**

**Why is he writing this?** Good question. As it happened, Deb and I attended the Fall Conference and Department Executive Committee (DEC) meeting. During the DEC, Adjutant Jason Hall spoke that

the Finance Officer had resigned for personal reasons, and I was voted in to fulfill the rest of his term in office. So as a result, I will be the Finance Officer until the elections at the State Convention in June.

**990 Report Requirements:** Most charitable nonprofits (posts) that are recognized as tax-exempt have an obligation to file an annual information return with the IRS. This document is commonly known as a 990 form. The IRS Form 990 is a public document, so make sure that your nonprofit's board reviews it before it's filed, and that it is completed thoroughly as well as accurately. Look to the IRS website for guidance on annual reporting of the Form 990. If a nonprofit is incorporated in a state but has never been recognized by the IRS as "tax-exempt," then it does not have an obligation to file an annual information return with the IRS. Note: conversely, even if your post fits

one of the few exceptions to mandatory annual filing with the IRS, it may still have to file forms annually in Maine where it is incorporated, or where it engages in fundraising activities. 990 forms are due each year 4½ months after the end of the post's fiscal year. These forms are sent to: Internal Revenue Service Ogden, UT 84201-0027 or, some of the forms can be filed online at [www.irs.gov/charities](http://www.irs.gov/charities) (i.e. 990N). For information on 990 forms and what to file, visit the IRS website.

**Prevent Employee Theft and Fraud:** Employee theft is one of the most serious problems facing posts today. An employee is 15 times more likely than a non-employee to steal from a post. Employees account for an estimated 44 percent of theft losses at stores. The U.S. Department of Commerce reports that nearly a third of business failures are related to employee theft or fraud. Posts are rightly concerned—or should be. Employees' and those who hold elected, financial-sensitive positions misdeeds take many forms:

- Larceny (outright theft)
- Skimming (diverting business funds)
- Fraudulent disbursements (billing schemes, inflated expense reports, check tampering)
- Embezzlement of raw materials or inventory

Stay safe, hope to see you at the Mid-Winter Conference.



**Fall Conference Chat:** Department National Executive Committeeman Alternate Matthew Jabaut, left, and Litchfield Post 181 Adjutant & current Department Finance Officer Gregory Couture chat about upcoming agenda items at the Annual Fall Conference in Westbrook Sept. 23.

## Americanism Report

**G**reetings to all, Well, it's been a busy summer with the State Convention, Dirigo State and Legion Baseball. A big congratulations to the Trenton team for making it to the World Series and Fall Conference.

Now we must focus on the Oratorical Contest coming up on Feb. 10 at Thomas College in Waterville.

Important Dates and Locations: the following are fixed dates. The districts and posts need to fix their contest dates so these dates are met. There are NO exceptions.

1. **National has changed** their contest dates to May 17-19, 2024.

**National has changed** the location to Hillsdale College, 33 E. College St. Hillsdale, MI 49242.

2. Department of Maine Certified Winner is due to National by 5:00 p.m. on April 1, 2024.

3. Department of Maine contest is Feb. 10, 2024 with a snow date of Feb. 17, 2024. **Location:** Thomas College, 180 River Rd, Waterville, ME 04901. **Time:** Candidates are asked to be in place by 8:00 a.m., NLT 8:30 a.m. there are briefings, they need paperwork, and they need time to settle in and be prepared.

4. Department must receive your district winner NLT Jan. 26, 2024.

5. Contestant applications are due to the Post NLT Dec. 1. NO exceptions.

6. Post must coordinate with your district in order for you to meet the districts level of competition. Even if there is only one contestant you must give the candidate the opportunity to practice at multiple levels.

Oration speeches are 8-10 minutes of their choice of the U.S. Constitution. The Four Assigned Topics are 3-5 minutes. Candidates must be prepared for all four topics. Anything less than the minimum or over the maximum time creates a time penalty.

Post and district awards are set by their own values to the winner(s). Department has their awards and certificates. National is different, there are approximately nine groups competing. The Winners' cash awards are not given directly to the candidates. When a candidate chooses the college/university they will attend, the college/university is given the amount they have won.

Volunteers are always needed to fill positions of judges, tabulators, room



**JOSEPH "JOE" MICHAUD**

monitors, ushers and door guards.

Please go to the Leadership Ledger and print copies of all the documents listed. Read and review with your team. Write down any questions

and contact the Oratorical Chairperson: Maureen Malley, (207)557-3109, [Maureenmalley.66@gmail.com](mailto:Maureenmalley.66@gmail.com).

Let's talk scholarships—there are so many scholarships available for our high school seniors.

- There's the Children and Youth Scholarships—seven \$500 scholarships, must demonstrate financial need.

- The Daniel E. Lambert Memorial Scholarship - \$1000 (two scholarships may be awarded contingent upon availability of funds). Must demonstrate financial need, must be a resident of the state of Maine, U.S. Citizen, and parent or grandparent must be a veteran.

- James V Day - \$500 (two scholarships may be awarded contingent upon the availability of funds). Must demonstrate financial need, must be a resident of the state of Maine, U.S. Citizen, and parent or grandparent must be a member of The American Legion.

The deadline for these scholarships is May 1 of each year.

Other scholarships include national scholarships:

- The American Legion Legacy Scholarship
- The American Legion Baseball Scholarship
- Samsung American Legion Scholarship
- National High School Oratorical Contest Scholarship
- Eagle Scout of the Year
- Plus, Post and District Scholarships.

So please have your post or district Americanism officer or member of your post get in touch with your local high school guidance counselors and get the word out to the graduating class.

All the information you need to get the applications is available at [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org).



**USAA** is proud to be the Preferred Provider of Insurance and Financial Services to The American Legion. Please visit [usaa.com/legion](http://usaa.com/legion) or call 877-699-2654.

## ■ "BE THE ONE" (Continued from Page 1)

family support," added American Legion Auxiliary National President Lisa Williamson, who accompanied Seehafer on some of the post visits. "We know the individual who did these atrocious crimes had some mental health issues and the Legion Family – that's the Legion, the Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion – firmly believe in our Be the One mission. And that mission is to destigmatize mental health. It's been a taboo subject for far too long."

Matt Jabaut is a Lewiston native and The American Legion National Membership & Post Activities Commission Chairman. "I'm lucky in the fact that I have lots of different families and the Legion obviously being a primary one. Some of the first messages I got were from Legion Family members, who were messaging me and saying 'Hey, are you all right?' They know that I'm from Lewiston, that I live in Lewiston, went to Lewiston High School. It's a big part of my community."

Post 153 in Auburn hosted Seehafer for breakfast Saturday. The post is just a few miles from where the shootings occurred. Paul L'Heureux, a member of the post, described the tight-knit community. "When this came about," he said, "nobody knew who the victims were in the beginning. Within the next eight hours after the event, some of the names started to surface. It became apparent that as large as we thought we were here, we weren't. Your thought process became we are not that big. We are a community of one."

Department of Maine Adjutant Jason Hall also noted the smalltown feel that permeates the state and the impact that such a massive crime has on its residents. "In Maine, every town is a rural town. We're all close knit. Most parts of the country are six degrees away from separation. Maine is two degrees from separation. It almost affected every person in Maine. We either played softball with that person or it was our hairdresser's brother. It was a schoolteacher's aide from your high school. It was somehow connected to every person in Maine."



### \*\*Attention District Commanders and Post Adjutants\*\*

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

*Training lessons last between 1-2 hours.*

## Be The One Training 2024

### **American Legion Be the One Campaign**

Today, the #1 issue facing those who served is veteran suicide. According to the National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report, 17 veterans still die by suicide each day, or more than 6,000 each year. The rate of suicide for veterans is more than 50% higher than that of non-veteran adults.

The American Legion is activating a national platform to end veteran suicide. - **The Be the One campaign** will: Destigmatize asking for mental health support, creating opportunities for those with mental health issues to speak freely and get the support they need; Provide peer-to-peer support and resources in local communities; Deploy FDA-approved therapeutics for veterans to identify issues and find resources for support.

# BE THE ONE

TO **ASK** VETERANS IN YOUR LIFE  
HOW THEY ARE DOING

TO **LISTEN** WHEN A VETERAN  
NEEDS TO TALK

TO **REACH OUT** WHEN  
A VETERAN IS STRUGGLING

The American Legion Department of Maine is announcing training dates for the BE THE ONE initiative, a campaign aimed at reducing the rate of veteran suicide. The American Legion is leading a nationwide effort — "Be the One" — to eliminate the stigma related to mental health treatment, and in turn, lower the number of veterans who die by suicide every day.

The number of veterans who die by suicide every day is estimated at between 17 and 22. The American Legion has elevated Be the One to be its top priority, empowering veterans, servicemembers, their family members and civilians to act appropriately when a veteran may be at risk. This training intends to bring more awareness to the problem while providing resources to those who may be able to help save the life of a veteran.

**AMERICAN  
LEGION**  
DEPARTMENT OF MAINE

#### **TRAINING LOCATION:**

Department of Maine Training Room  
5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901

#### **2024 TRAINING DATES:**

January 27th  
March 30th  
May 25th  
July 27th  
September 28th  
November 30th

For more details on the Be The One campaign, visit: [betheone.org](http://betheone.org)

To Reserve Your Spot, Email:  
[jason@mainelegion.org](mailto:jason@mainelegion.org)

## Service Office Update



**SERVICE OFFICER  
CARL CURTIS**

Hello from the Service Office. As summer winds down and we turn to cooler temperatures, remember that our older veterans may need help winterizing their homes. It may be a good way to reach out to members who have yet to pay this year's dues. It is also a good way to conduct buddy checks.

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 with 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 Dec. 2 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.— look for more information to come on the Department 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.

**Attention  
Post Service Officers**



**We Want You...**  
at our next Post Service Officer's Training Seminar

For More Information  
or to Sign up  
Contact the Department Service Office  
at  
[carl.curtis2@va.gov](mailto:carl.curtis2@va.gov)  
or call: 207-623-5726  
To make a seminar reservation!

**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. Online 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 a.m. – 3:00 p.m., on Friday the hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. 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.

### **Post Service Officer Training:**

**When: December 2, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. (rescheduled)**

**Where: The American Legion, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901 Training Room**

**RSVP: Reserve your spot by emailing: [jason@mainelegion.org](mailto:jason@mainelegion.org)**

**Department Service Officer Carl Curtis will be hosting Post Service Officer training to any Legionnaire interested in gaining knowledge (you don't have to be a PSO). Space is limited, reserve your spot today.**



## President's Message

Hello Legion Family,

It's been a wonderful few months since Convention in June. The American Legion Auxiliary continues to overwhelm us with their generosity for all mission-related programs, but most importantly our veterans programs.

The department project this year is focused on female veterans and the support has been amazing. We have already replaced a broken freezer at the Sisters in Arms Center. Several Units and members have delivered daily essentials, as easy as toilet paper. During



**PATRICIA GRANT**

our National Presidents visits, the first weekend in November, we delivered approximately \$1,000 worth of essentials, such as toilet paper, dish soap, toiletries and so much more.

We also donated \$2,000 to replace their worn-out refrigerator and another \$3,000 towards oil for the winter.

This upcoming weekend we will be gifting many, many items to our women warriors for the 10th annual Women Veterans Luncheon in Rumford. Thank you so much to The American Legion 1st Vice Commander Tricia Thurston for allowing us to support this worthwhile program for our women veterans.

We ALL make a difference. Please continue to send your donations to MAINE ALA in Winslow, earmarked Presidents Project.

God Bless,  
Pat Grant  
Department President



**POW/MIA Recognition Day** held at Dept. HQ in Winslow on Sept. 15 honoring those Americans who were prisoners of war and those who served and never returned home. Left to right, Department Auxiliary President Pat Grant, Department Commander Alfred McKay, and SAL Detachment Commander Steve Doyle.

## 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.



**ALR Check Presented At National Headquarters:** At the recent October meetings held at The American Legion National Headquarters in Indianapolis, Department of Maine Commander Al McKay, right, presents a check in the amount of \$3800 on behalf of the Maine American Legion Riders, to Membership and ALR Liaison Kenneth George, far left, and National American Legion Riders Advisory Committee Chairman and Legacy Run Chief Road Captain Mark Clark, center.

## Operation ReBoot Outdoors Update



missions from around the state was mind-blowing.

This is how much we care about doing the right thing. This is the story of brothers helping brothers! I wish to share the following story from a veteran that was on one of those moose missions:

Paul Watkins reached out to me, wanting to donate his tag to a veteran. I always ask what the circumstances are, especially if they call me. Paul said that his daughter, who was his sub-permittee, is in the military deployed overseas and really would like to just donate it. He then told me he heard about us because he is in The American Legion.

At that moment, I knew he was a veteran, and his daughter was serving. I told him we could not accept that tag, but let us figure it out. Well at that point, Reboot was 15 bull tags deep and I suggested we call the state and defer until next year. His concern was that his daughter still would not be able to attend the hunt due to service. I suggested to him as a plan b: let us find someone to bring you hunting for your moose. He was blown away. I said, "Give me a day and see what I can come up with."

I made one phone call to Matt Chassion, a very proven all-around

[More on "OPERATION REBOOT" Page 11](#)

Dan Waite, founder of Operation Reboot Outdoors, here with an update on the support that the American Legion Department of Maine and OCW National program provided to Reboot. To my fellow legionnaires, with your support I dedicated this fall's bear and moose hunts (missions) to The American Legion, Department of Maine and The American Legion National for the support provided with the donations through Past Department Commander Thurston's Commanders Project and the OCW grant.

Reboot was able to harvest 14 out of 20 bear missions with one weighing in at 415 lbs., which is a new Reboot record. As of the beginning of this season, Reboot had only harvested 20 moose since the start of the program. This year alone, Reboot was able to fill 16 donated bull moose permits. The support that Reboot received throughout all of their

## Supporting Maine Veterans in Their Transition to Civilian Life

Every year approximately 200,000 servicemembers transition out of military service into civilian life. Whether the servicemember is finishing their first deployment or retiring, transition-



SENATOR  
ANGUS KING

ing back into civilian life is a major life event full of uncertainties. After years of structure and order, the transition to the civilian world can feel like a difficult journey without a game plan. Since joining the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee (SVAC) earlier this year, I have worked to help transitioning servicemembers navigate this path in Maine and across the country because just as they have served the American people, we need to make sure we're serving them.

Earlier this month, SVAC and the Senate Armed Services Committee held a joint hearing, one that I requested, to ensure federal agencies work together to ensure a smooth transition and "warm hand-off" as servicemembers transition to civilian life. For example, many servicemembers have specialized job skills from their roles in the military that can be easily transferred to the civilian workforce. When agencies work together to remove red tape, veterans will face fewer barriers to employment in the civilian job market—especially at a time when there are workforce shortages across the country. This hearing comes on top of my bipartisan legislation to do just that. The [Veteran Improvement Commercial Driver License Act](#) will ensure GI benefits can be used at more commercial driving license (CDL) schools – helping veterans maintain access to good jobs while providing trucking companies with additional workers.

I also recently led a group of bipartisan Senate colleagues in introducing [The TAP Promotion Act](#) which would allow servicemembers to connect with a VA-accredited representative who can help them navigate the process of accessing their benefits. I know many veterans can speak to the challenges of navigating TAP and I want to be sure we're able to cut through that red tape.

So, our game plan is simple: make sure our veterans have easy access to the benefits they deserve and provide our veterans with opportunities to land a good paying civilian job – all before leaving the service.

That is why I invited VA Secretary McDonough for a summer two-day tour of Maine's VA facilities and the challenges facing our veteran community. During the visit to VA facilities in Rumford, Maine veterans spoke about filing for PACT benefits and the mental health challenges they face after leaving service. In Portland, veterans shared the importance of finding affordable housing for the veteran community. I always say one day of seeing is worth 1,000 pages of reading, and Secretary McDonough definitely saw firsthand how important it is to serve our Maine veterans.

In response to our trip, the federal government has taken multiple steps to provide veterans with services addressing these challenges — resulting in a more transparent post-service game plan. We have [one of the highest rates of veteran suicide](#) here in Maine and during September, we were able to shed more light on this urgent issue with the Senate recognizing Suicide Prevention Month. We owe it to our veterans to have open, candid conversations about mental health challenges, while working swiftly to address them.

So I teamed up with the Maine Bureau of Veterans' Service to distribute gun locks and safes, which have been proven to decrease suicides, to our veterans. Gun lockboxes have been proven to help decrease suicide and self-harm. It's amazing that something as simple as a gun lock can save countless lives and I want to be sure every veteran who requests one, is able to receive one. In fact, there have been over 2,500 requests from Maine veterans for these lockboxes. I am glad that Representatives Pingree and Golden joined me in [calling on Secretary McDonough](#) to request that the VA set aside more funding for regional offices to provide firearm storage.

But we can't stop at just lockboxes. We need to look at the different factors that lead to self-harm. In a [recent Senate Veterans Affairs Committee hearing](#), I spoke with Dr. Matthew Miller, the Executive Director for Suicide Prevention with the Veterans Health Administration, about how we can support our veterans dealing with financial strain – which is a major contributor to suicide ideation.

Put simply, our game plan is putting veterans first: removing barriers to civilian jobs and providing resources for veterans if challenges arise after leaving the service. Thanks to our servicemembers and veterans, we get to enjoy the American way of life. Now it's up to all of us to return the favor.

*Servicemembers and veterans may [contact my office](#) in Maine or Washington, D.C. to receive help accessing their well-deserved benefits.*



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

Thomas College

180 West River Rd., Waterville, Maine 04901

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

(Snow Date: Feb. 17, 2024)

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

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

Young orators will have the opportunity to earn some of the most generous scholarships. At the Post and District level, scholarships offered range from \$50 - \$100, and at the State level \$50 - \$150. At the National level, each department (state) winner who is certified and participates in the National Oratorical Contest's 1st round receives \$2,000 scholarship. Each first round winner who advances to and participates in the second round, but does not advance to the final round, will receive an additional \$2,000 scholarship to pursue education beyond high school. The overall national contest winner gets a \$25,000 scholarship. Second place takes home \$22,500, and third gets \$20,000. The members of the Oratorical Committee will be working with District Commanders to prepare Posts and Districts for their local contests. We hope to have all Post contests completed by Mid-December 2023 and all District contests completed by the end of January 2024.

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

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

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

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



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

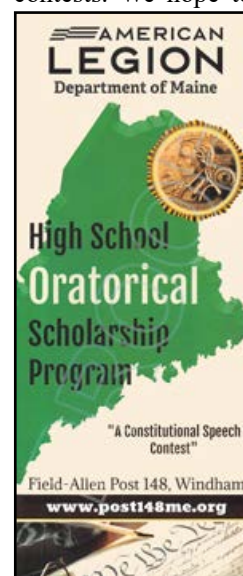
**THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

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

#### HS ORATORICAL SCHOLARSHIP BANNERS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

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

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



# Your Letters



## Our Most Sincere Thank You

Dear American Legion Dept. of Maine,

For your support of Maine Veterans and the 11th Annual MMCN Conference we give our warmest, and most sincere thanks.

The Maine Military & Community Network  
Thank you!  
Jeff Sychterz

## James V. Day Scholarship Recipient

Thank you so much for your generosity towards my college endeavors.

Samuel Dufresne  
Class of 2023

## Children and Youth Scholarship

American Legion,

Thank you so much for selecting me for the Department of Maine Children and Youth Scholarship. I really appreciate it. It means a lot and really helps.

Mackinna Campbell  
Westbrook High School '23

## ■ "OPERATION REBOOT" (Continued from Page 9)

hunter, and without hesitation said "Absolutely!" Matt is a selfless brother who is always asking what he can do for Reboot. Matt put a ton of hours in for Paul's hunt and did all the prep himself. I gave Paul's number to Matt and he took over from there.

I called Paul after the hunt and my first words were, "How did it go?" Paul says, "Dan, I don't even have the words to describe what this has done for me or the hunt—it was like a movie, and I was the observer. I can't thank Matt and Chris enough for what they have done for me. The moose was the icing on the cake, but the friends I made who once were complete strangers, is what did it for me."

When you choose to give your tag selflessly to a veteran, this outcome is the result of doing the right thing. The "Karma Bull" is brought to you by Matt C, Chris and Paul, who is now part of the Reboot family forever! We have in The American Legion Preamble a phrase that states 'TO CONSECRATE AND SANCTIFY OUR COMRADESHIP BY OUR DEVOTION TO MUTUAL HELPFULNESS'. I believe Reboot is doing just that with each mission.

~Dan ReBoot Out~

Dan Waite  
Founder of Operation Reboot Outdoors

*The following letter was sent to Operation Reboot by Paul Watkins:*

My name is Paul Watkins from Lebanon, Maine. After 21 years of "putting in," I was drawn for a bull tag in Zone 3 for Oct. 2023. I was beyond shocked at being selected and at the same time, internal stress was rising for another reason. By the time of the moose drawing in June of 2023, my 19-year-old daughter, who is serving on active duty in the U.S. Air Force, was deployed overseas on short notice. I did not know what to do.

I spoke with Dan Waite from Operation Reboot, explained my situation and

we talked about options for the moose tag. I told Dan I was considering donating my tag to another veteran from Operation Reboot as I was having a tough summer with my daughter being deployed. I served as a U.S. Navy Seabee and a Municipal Police Officer, having medically retired in 2006 due to line of duty injuries. I have been sober coming up on nearly 9 years and I know how hard it can be to stay focused and true.

Dan asked me to take 24 hours and just reconsider going on the moose hunt. Dan said if my daughter was to return home in time for the hunt, then to bring her and some active duty people up and just get out there and have fun. I spoke with my daughter that night via email and she told me not to defer or donate the tag and to go forward with the hunt as planned and if she was home in time she would be there.

Dan actually called me back 23 hours and 45 minutes later! Dan asked how everything was going and I told him I would really love to try to fill the tag. I told Dan I did not have a sub-permittee though my daughter was unsure of her return date. Dan told me that would not be a problem either and that Operation Reboot had it covered, everything happens for a reason and to stand by. Less than 20 minutes later my phone rang, "Hey Paul, this is Matt Chassion, Operation Reboot Volunteer, I want to get together with you on this tag up in Zone 3". Matt was signed on immediately as the sub-permittee and the rest is history. Unfortunately, my daughter did not make it up to the moose hunt, but more importantly, she returned home safely to Lackland AFB after a long deployment.

It was a privilege and an honor to be part of an event like this. Filling the moose tag itself was unbelievable and the fact it was a bull of a lifetime, is beyond words. I would like to thank everyone at Operation Reboot and beyond with special emphasis on the selfless devotion and professionalism of Volunteer Matt Chassion. Bravo Zulu!

Paul Watkins

# How to Participate in Legion Baseball

With an alumni base that includes more than half of current Major League Baseball players, American Legion Baseball is one of the most prominent and tradition-rich amateur athletic leagues in existence.



The program is always growing, and participation is easy. About 3,500 teams compete each year, so there's ample opportunity for new players to join, and for coaches who want to start a team. The league also employs a large number of umpires and other volunteers.

### To play:

Contact your local Legion post. Look for the address and phone number in the local White Pages or at [www.legion.org/baseball](http://www.legion.org/baseball). Click on "Find a Post" and fill in your city, state and ZIP code.

Players who are cut from a team, or try out but don't make the roster, can play for the post that is the next-shortest driving distance from their residence. If a player doesn't make that team, he can try out with the next-closest post. He can continue until he finds a team to join.

### [Age eligibility chart](#)

### To coach:

Coaches who want to start a team should contact the department baseball chairman in their state. A full listing of chairmen can be found [here](#). The department will send a new team packet, which includes copies of the state and national rules, insurance information and registration forms.

Begin your team registration at [baseball.legion.org](http://baseball.legion.org).

### To umpire:

Usually, local umpire associations provide departments with umpires. Department chairmen can nominate umpires to officiate the national tournament. Umpires can also nominate each other.

### To volunteer:

Legion Baseball can always use your help. Volunteers can serve in a variety of ways, ranging from statisticians to serving Gatorade during games.

For more information, contact your local post.

[www.legion.org/baseball/participate](http://www.legion.org/baseball/participate)

## Maine Legion Baseball Celebration at Trenton



**Legion Baseball Award Recognition Night:** Maine American Legion Baseball State and Regional Champions, the Trenton Acadians, receive recognition awards including a Maine American Legion baseball bat for their great achievement. The celebration took place at Trenton Post 207 on Oct. 15. Presenting awards to recipients, top photo, left to right, Field Director Dennis Damon and Director Jeff Sukeforth; bottom photo, left to right, Past National Commander Vincent J "Jim" Troiola, and State Commander Alfred McKay.



## The American Legion Changes and Saves Lives

Less than two weeks ago, there was the possibility of another government shutdown where funding for troops, border patrol and other vital government services would come to a halt.

During the last government shutdown in 2019, the U.S. Coast Guard continued to report for duty while their paychecks were stopped, but The American Legion stepped up and provided more than \$1 million in Temporary Financial

conference on September 22 that there would be no outreach. Again, no outreach. We should be thankful that VA's first National Buddy Check occurs next week (Oct. 16-20) – before another potential shutdown.

“We know that outreach saves lives. That’s the whole purpose of our Buddy Checks and any peer-wellness program for that matter. The numbers may not yet show it, but the progress that has been made toward removing



Assistance to Coast Guard families in need. “Incredibly, Congress still has not passed legislation to pay the Coast Guard if a shutdown occurs before the passage of a Homeland Security appropriation. And this year we faced – and still face – the possibility that no branch of the U.S. military would have its members paid on time,” said National Commander Daniel J. Seehafer to members of the National Executive Committee on Oct. 11 during Fall Meetings in Indianapolis at National Headquarters.

“While we certainly dodged a bullet on September 30, we are definitely not out of the woods. The current funding only runs through November 17. While VA assures the public that it will continue to provide health care and other essential services, Secretary Denis McDonough said at a press

the stigma and raising awareness about veteran suicide in recent years has been monumental. And family, we can’t stop. Not now, not ever.”

Although VA went on the record in September saying that the Veterans Crisis Line and essential health care services will not be impacted during a government shutdown, “we do know that the added anxiety that comes with a shutdown is something that veterans do not need.

“It is Congress that has the constitutionally mandated responsibility to pass a budget, it is the president who has the constitutionally mandated responsibility to sign a budget and it is The American Legion’s constitutionally protected right to raise heck when they don’t. If there is a shutdown, we really need to apply the pressure that Congress passes a Pay

Our Troops Act, one that will ensure our military and our Coast Guard are paid throughout the duration.” Seehafer encouraged Legionnaires to [sign up for the Legion’s Grassroots Action Center alerts](#) to stay informed on legislative issues that The American Legion supports. “Let’s make our voice known every single day.”

Seehafer added that a “gridlock in Washington is never good but particularly dangerous when our strong ally, Israel, is engaged in a full war against Hamas terrorists. We know the impact that the 9/11 attacks had on our nation. Ladies and gentlemen, this is exactly why America must always maintain a strong national defense and secure borders.”

More than a million PACT Act-related claims have been filed through the middle of September. According to [Military.com](#), one in three of the 570,000 approved claims have come back with zero percent ratings. “It is a safe bet that a good number of the zero-percent ratings and denied claims were not filed with the assistance of an accredited American Legion service officer,” Seehafer emphasized. “Doesn’t it make sense that a trained expert – and that’s what our service officers are – be at the side of the veteran or the surviving family member as they navigate this complicated process? Not a shark. Not a predator, but instead a lifesaver, a buddy, a true friend as they know how to navigate this complicated process.

The Legion’s service officers are specially trained to provide expert assistance, free of charge, to veterans and their families as they navigate the VA claims process. For assistance in filing a VA claim, [contact a Legion service officer](#). And it is The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation help make their work possible through training “that changes lives and saves

live,” Seehafer said. “I just know that I can count on each of you and your departments to continue to support this essential American Legion program with a financial gift.”

Seehafer also addressed the Legion’s new Base Assessment and Servicemember Experience program – BASE – that aims to address quality of life matters that affect servicemembers and their families. National staff will visit military installations to hear from servicemembers about areas of concern – housing and barracks, health care, day care, spousal employment opportunities, education, mental health, food, financial insecurity, commissary and exchange access, and more.

“We are not trying to fill the role of an Inspector General, but we are veteran advocates, and we offer a wealth of experience on what works well and what doesn’t,” Seehafer said regarding the BASE program. “We can carry the concerns and messages of the military community directly to Congress and the White House. Informed advocates are effective advocates!

“When I think of the many great programs that have been generated in this very room (the NEC Room at National Headquarters), it strengthens my belief, my conviction and my resolve that The American Legion truly changes lives and saves lives. That family is not just rhetoric. That is reality. Therefore let’s show the world who we truly are and what membership in The American Legion really means. And that’s service. Service that changes lives and saves lives.

“We continue to change and save lives with a mission like Be the One. Be the One. Saving one veteran, or even their family member, one at a time. Now that’s The American Legion. That is you. And even me.”

The American Legion  
Oct. 11, 2023

[The American Legion changes and saves lives](#)

## SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS



Winners of the Fall Sweepstakes Raffle drawn at Department Headquarters in Winslow on Sept. 23.

Grand Prize winner of \$1500 was awarded to Frank Damiata, Naples Post 155; \$500 to Gilbert Clapper, Westbrook Post 197; \$300 to Dana Barr, Sanford Post 19; and \$200 to HD Richardson, Skowhegan Post 16.

**CONGRATULATIONS!**



Subscribe To Our Emails and receive instant email updates including our bi-weekly newsletter "The Leadership Ledger" and The Maine Legionnaire newspaper by visiting <https://form.jotform.com/RachaelJ/maine-al-email-subscription-form>

## Ship Military Care Packages To Help Be The One

American Legion Family members Rob and Michelle Williamson simplified the process of shipping for individuals and businesses in 2017 when they founded ShipThrifty, allowing shippers a cost-saving and hassle-free way to create, purchase and print their own shipping labels online with major carriers. A year later, they provided those same ShipThrifty benefits with military families to make shipping care packages to servicemembers overseas and stateside easy. Since then, hundreds of thousands of care packages have been delivered to America's military men and women "to boost morale and bring those away from home a piece of home," Michelle said.

ShipThrifty's mission to support servicemembers, veterans and their families falls in line with The American Legion's mission. Together, they have formed a partnership to continue caring for servicemembers through the shipping of care packages and the Legion's Be the One suicide prevention initiative.

packages sent to our servicemembers have that you have heard?

**Michelle:** We've heard firsthand from chaplains that care packages are a tool for saving lives. Struggling service members go to chaplains to get shampoo, a toothbrush or snacks which provides an opportunity for conversations and support when needed. The chaplains also save full boxes for folks they know are struggling or don't get care packages from home to remind them others are thinking about them. With the Be the One initiative, sending care packages is the perfect way to spread the message and get information into the hands of those who need it both here at home and for those serving far away. When the community is asked to be part of the initiative, the message may touch others struggling.

The other thing is the connections from those care packages. We have groups who have sent care packages that are still connected to the service members who got them and communicate and do stuff with

gion Family members send care packages through ShipThrifty. Can you share a success story?

**Michelle:** Every year we do (a care package event) at the Cannon Falls (Post 142) here in Minnesota. They did almost 600 packages during COVID. With the (ShipThrifty) tools, they're not sitting there doing handwritten customs forms or waiting for hours at the post office. We probably had all labels done and printed in about 45 minutes total.

**Rob:** We're just super thrilled and proud of being able to help them do this. And that's what we do every day. We talk to people that are looking at doing this, are doing this, because it's all about getting the communities together and the servicemembers care packages, and that's a lot of fun.

**Michelle:** It's funny because everybody comes back and says if I would have known this existed, I never would have done it any other way.

We also do a manifest – one manifest take 500 labels. It's basically a scan, like a barcode that you see at the grocery store on your groceries. (For the Cannon Falls post they took) that to the post office, and it's a single scan and all 500 boxes are checked in. They don't have to wait in line.

The post office typically has them go to the back and put they call those big bins that they put the packages in pumpkins.

**Question: What are common questions with military shipping that you hear that ShipThrifty can answer?**

**Rob:** How do we get addresses for servicemembers and what do they need? What should I send right? Can I color the inside of the boxes or the outside of the boxes? If it's if school and young kids are involved, should I sort of filter what gets put into the box and read that before they send it? There's a great little nugget of a story this.

A school was doing notes (to put in care packages), and these kids were young and one of them wrote very sincerely, "Please don't die." And the group read this, and they were like I don't know if we should send it. Terry, who ran the group, said, "Nope. We're sending that note." She comes to find out months later that (the deployed servicemembers) loved it. They put it on the on the door going out of the base and every time they left, they said, "Not today, kid." And they'd smack that sign.

**Question: How does a Legion post get started with ShipThrifty?**

**Michelle:** To get started with ShipThrifty, a Legion post can create a free account today at [shipthrifty.com/rf/legion](https://shipthrifty.com/rf/legion). They can also call us at 800-544-4992 or send an email to [contactus@shipthrifty.com](mailto:contactus@shipthrifty.com). A lot of people use the flat rate boxes from the post office and it's one of the most expensive ways to ship packages, and so one of our first tips is let's talk about what you're sending.

**Rob:** One of the things we love to do is have conversations with groups and people about what they're thinking because we have this very unique perspective. It changes whether you're in Pennsylvania or California, and when we can talk to them sort of early and often, we can really make it simple and find them the best economical way to do it.

**Michelle:** People don't realize that there's base



Through this partnership, whether you are shipping one package or 1,000, Legion members and posts can:

- Save up to 60% on shipping with major carriers
- Cut shipping time by 90% (no waiting in line or handwritten customs forms)
- Protect servicemembers and collect addresses safely
- Earn funds to offset future shipping costs
- Reduce nonrefundable returned packages

To get started with ShipThrifty, create a free account today at [shipthrifty.com/rf/legion](https://shipthrifty.com/rf/legion). You also can call ShipThrifty at 800-544-4992 or send an email to [contactus@shipthrifty.com](mailto:contactus@shipthrifty.com).

The American Legion spoke with ShipThrifty about the benefits of shipping military care packages through them, how it works, and how ShipThrifty is supporting Be the One. With American Legion Be the One Days on the first of every month where posts are encouraged to raise awareness about Be the One, an idea is for posts to have a care package event and place Be the One brochures in the packages.

**The American Legion: What impact do care**

them, and it's just a huge opportunity that way.

**Question: How does ShipThrifty make shipping to military bases, stateside and overseas, easy?**

**Michelle:** One of the things that we realized when we were dealing with the families was they didn't always know what an APO was. They didn't know how to address a package, and so ShipThrifty is very different from other tools on multiple levels. We have two different address books (for stateside shipping and overseas). The location, city, state and ZIP code fields literally are drop-down menus so people can't type them wrong or make a mistake, and they're not mixed up with the domestic stuff even though they're domestic shipments. We just tried to think of what mistakes would somebody make and try to prevent those mistakes from happening.

And a lot of people don't realize that there are base specific restrictions. If you send a bigger box and you go over 20 pounds, it's going to cost you almost double. These are the tips and the resources and the information that we're able to share with the Legion members.

**Question: Many American Legion posts can Le-**

## ■ CARE PACKAGES" (Continued from Page 13)

specific restrictions. You know, they know that they can't send aerosols. They know that they can't send certain things, but they'll put hand sanitizers in the packages. Hand sanitizers aren't allowed because they contain alcohol. So we try to make sure that people understand what they can send.

### Question: Why ship through ShipThrifty?

**Michelle:** We've got the tools in place and the military expertise, and we know the process back and forth. We've done this with hundreds of different groups both remotely and in person. We actually can talk somebody through coming up with a budget for it, a plan.

**Rob:** And we help with preventing or reducing the likelihood of return packages. It's about saving the organization time and ideally, money. We have a customer that sends a lot of care packages to servicemembers, spouses when they're deployed, and the way she puts it is, "I feel like I've added you guys to my team." And that's true. We're right there with them.

### Question: Why are you passionate about ShipThrifty?

**Rob:** It's gratitude for me. It's support, its connection to home and then it's that intervention opportunity. Whether that intervention opportunity is talking about Be the One at a care packing event with all of those veterans at the post and their families or community members. We never know whether it's going to be a piece of paper that has Be the One that's in the care package, or whether it's somebody that you hear

talking about it at the mall or at a post or at a bake sale. But when you add all these up, the more opportunities there are to spread that word, the more likely it is we individually and collectively can change that and move that needle the other way. And that's why this is all just so important to us.

We were doing an event and one of the gentlemen that I was packing boxes with was one of the first tank commanders in Iraq, and he was telling a story. He said, "I'm reading the Cheeto bag and I'm wondering, where did this come from? Who put these Cheetos in the package?" It's a connection to home and then, he said by the time he left and came home, aside from signs on the base, he said he hadn't seen the written language English for months. So it is that connection to home that is so, so important.

**Michelle:** I always say we do the best thing in the world because not only do we get to see the notes that come back from the servicemembers, we get to experience the impact that we're having for the people that we're helping do the shipping.

And then the other thing is when I look at the whole Be the One program, this connection is ideal because you're getting to the people who need the information and we're able to spread that Be the One message through the care packages and provide support and that connection.

The American Legion, July 20, 2023  
[Ship military care packages to help Be the One](#)  
The American Legion

# BE THE ONE

## Attention Legion Members!

### Register a MyLegion Account Today!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Visit [www.mylegion.org](#) and click on REGISTER

## For God and Country: The Enduring Principles of The American Legion



In every corner of America, from the bustling streets of New York City to the serene landscapes of rural Montana, American Legion posts stand as living monuments to service, patriotism and camaraderie. These are not just places of gathering; they are sanctuaries where the principles that define The American Legion are celebrated and upheld.

### Upholding the U.S. Constitution: A nationwide commitment

In each American Legion post, everyone holds a commitment to upholding and defending the Constitution of the United States of America. Regardless of geographical location, every post in our great nation reveres the fundamental principles underpinning our democracy.

### Preserving the memories: A collective responsibility

Every member from coast to coast holds dear their duty: preserving the memories and incidents of those who bravely served in all wars. Walk into any American Legion post, and you'll find walls adorned with photographs, medals and memorabilia, each narrating stories of valor and sacrifice.

### Fostering personal duty: Local impact, national significance

From bustling metropolises to remote towns, The American Legion fosters a sense of personal duty to the community, state, and nation. Members understand that their service extends beyond borders; it reaches into the very heart of their neighborhoods, making a positive impact at the local level.

### A unified voice for justice and equality

In unity, American Legion posts nationwide stand as a collective voice against unlimited power, whether it

manifests in the classes or the masses. The commitment to fairness, equality and justice transcends geographical boundaries, echoing in every corner of our nation.

### Promoting peace and goodwill: A common mission

As they support national defense, American Legion posts also share a commitment to promoting peace and goodwill. Their efforts extend to humanitarian causes, disaster relief and community outreach, a testament to the belief that making the world a better place starts at home.

### Safeguarding principles for generations: A legacy preserved

American Legion posts resolve to safeguard and pass down fairness, freedom and democracy to the youth of our nation. This legacy, preserved in Legionnaires hearts and passed to future generations, strengthens our nation's principles.

### Mutual helpfulness: A nationwide bond

At the heart of every American Legion post is a profound sense of camaraderie, consecrated and sanctified by devotion to mutual helpfulness. Across state lines, this bond testifies to the enduring spirit of unity and support.

As we gather in the hallowed halls of American Legion posts nationwide, let's remember the shared principles guiding this organization for over a century. A living testament to commitment: upholding the Constitution, preserving memories, promoting justice, freedom and democracy. A beacon of hope for all, regardless of a post's location.

By Erin Bossen,  
American Legion training coordinator

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

## York Post 56 Supports Town Event And Welcomes US Navy

On Aug. 6 and 7, The York Town Parks and Recreation Department held their York Days Festival in the York Beach Ball Park. Continuing its great tradition, the Post 56 SAL provided all day meals for the vendors and the many guests visiting the fairgrounds.

This year the York American Legion Post welcomed the crew of the USS North Dakota to its food pavilion. York is the host town for the next 3 years to the Navy's Virginia class nuclear submarine. The crew's Morale team set up a section

of the booth to sell their merchandise to fund the submarine's Christmas Fund.

Post 56 also had an information and recruitment booth there for Veterans and their families. With active-duty service personnel in the booth, the vast scope of military life was on full display.

Special thanks went out to Joe Silvio, who led the SAL team, and Post 56 Commander, Paul Klebuar, who welcomed the North Dakota Crew.

Submitted by Wade Fox, Post 56



**York Days Festival Setup:** York Post 56 sets up a food pavilion and information/recruitment booth at the York Days Festival.

Photo by Wade Fox, Post 56



**Post 56 Sons Of The American Legion:** From left to right: William Keenan, Paul DiChiara, Philbert Thain, James Diley, William Ferrin, Martin Feuer and Dana Johnson.

Photo by Wade Fox, Post 56



**Welcoming The USS North Dakota:** York Post 56 Commander Paul Klebuar, left, welcomes STS 3 (SS) Peyton Tabor, right, of the USS North Dakota to the York Days Festival.

Photo by Wade Fox, Post 56

## York Post 56 Honors Local Fire Departments

For 107 years, the York, Maine fire departments have held the annual York Fireman Muster. It was a contest to improve skills that eventually turned into a yearly contest for bragging rights on who had the best fireman teams. Of course, this led to other communities like Eliot, Kittery, Ogunquit and South Berwick competing also. It has turned into a parade, town fair and competition that the entire town enjoys.

This year, due to the efforts of York

Post 56 Treasurer and Sgt.-At-Arms Jerry Allen, the York and York Beach Departments are receiving an official Certificate of Commendation for their years of dedicated service from The Legion. The award ceremony was held in the middle of the Muster so all could praise these first responders. After the presentation it was back to the contests, food and fun!

Submitted by Wade Fox, Post 56



**Post 56 Attends York Fireman Muster:** Left to right, Fire Marshall Dave Apgar, "Sparky the Fire Dog" aka Mike Brown, Post 56 Member Jerry Allen, York Fire Dept Chief Chris Ballentine, "Ms Flame" Caroline Bruno, Asst. Chief Mark Gay and York Beach Fire Chief Jeff Welch.

Photo by Wade Fox, Post 56

## Berwick Post 79 Leading the Front

In these challenging and difficult times, Post members have led the charge to reach out to their fellow veterans and their families whenever and wherever help is required. Whether it is helping to relocate a family whose rent was raised beyond their means, to completing overdue repairs to the home of a widowed spouse or purchasing hearing aids and medical supplies for local veterans, our members are consistently stepping up. But providing this assistance very often goes well beyond volunteering time and talent—it requires dedicated resources: money and people power.

As many of you know, these days the proverbial "long pole in the tent" is not so much \$\$, but people/manpower. It "takes a village," as the saying goes. Without our growing membership, we cannot provide for our fellow veterans. Post 79 has benefited from having a steady presence in the local community: setting up recruitment tables concurrent with federal, state and town elections; running the town's Memorial Day parade; hosting Vietnam War Veterans Day, Flag Day and Veterans Day observances; conducting Berwick's Citizenship Recognition program and dinner; presenting hand-crafted flag cases to families of departed veterans and having our Post Honor Guard render military funeral honors.



**Berwick Post 79 Commander Bryan English**

Through member contacts and initiatives, Berwick Post 79 teamed up with several area businesses and sponsors. That, combined with our annual community events, provides the resources required, allowing us to give direct aid to veterans and their families. These include a June Car Show, a September 5K Run, an October Veteran's Golf tournament, and on the horizon, a Toll Booth Poppy Drive conducted in town with the support and assistance of the Berwick Police Department.

In a continued effort to lead from the front, Post Commander Bryan English recently added to the list of post initiatives and accomplishments by writing and narrating a Public Service Announcement (PSA) video highlighting the work of Post 79. This professional quality recruitment tool, created by the local Berwick Community Media team, will help raise the public's awareness of The American Legion and this southern Maine post. The 1.27-minute PSA is available for viewing on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DOhvgkXWBF&t=5s> or can be accessed through the Post 79 website homepage: <https://www.berwicklegionpost79.org/>

Submitted by Rosanne Martin  
Post 79 Public Relations Officer

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 2

Portland Post 17; So. Portland Post 35; Gorham Post 60; Westbrook Post 62; Bridgton Post 67; Scarborough Post 76; Freeport Post 83; Gray Post 86; Yarmouth Post 91; Standish Post 128; Harrison Post 139; Peaks Island Post 142; Windham Post 148; Naples Post 155; Portland Post 161; Falmouth Post 164; Portland Post 168; Westbrook Post 197

### So. Portland Post 35 Enjoys 4th Annual Lobster Roll Lunch

Sept. 2 was a wonderful sunny day on the waterfront at Post 35 in South Portland. Past Commander and founder of "The Lobster Roll Lunch" was on hand with members and wives to serve up a delightful and inexpensive lunch.

The lunch started at 12:00 sharp and within the first half hour over 100 lunches were sold. Going from the experience of last year's sell-out, the Lobster Committee decided to go with 36 lbs of picked lobster meat, which will make 192 rolls. 134 total rolls were sold at full or reduced price. Extra meat was

sold at cost and 2 lbs were left over for a possible stew at a future date. Profits from the lunch came to around \$675.00, and although lower than in past years, a profit is a profit.

The more than ample lunch consisted of a 3 oz. Lobster Roll on a hot dog bun, chips, a soda, coleslaw, and a cookie for \$15.00. Plans are already in the works for next year's 5th Annual Lobster Roll Lunch.

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



4th Annual Lobster Lunch: So. Portland Post 35 members and wives attend 4th Annual Lobster Roll Lunch on the waterfront.

### Flags Flying Again at Post 35

After "Hurricane Lee" the flagpole and flags at S. Portland Post 35 took a beating. Having a post on the waterfront has its good and bad points. Wind and rain are the bad points. A large parking lot with a view of Portland is a good point, if you like looking at Portland. The flags wore out and after the storm was over, we pulled the state and POW/MIA down—well almost. The POW/MIA rope clip and flag came down leaving the rope hung up in the pulley. The two small flags fly from a yardarm that is 15" off the ground on a shaky flagpole. History with this flagpole has taught us not to lean a ladder against that pole unless you have a Sea Cadet, a very small Sea Cadet, to climb the ladder. Therefore Plan "B" goes into effect.



Flying Again After The Storm: The flagpole at Post 35 is back to its operating glory after minor damages from Hurricane Lee.

Plan "B" is the South Portland Fire Dept. ladder truck that parks in the

parking lot and extends its ladder halfway across the parking lot and yard. We did that a couple times, but it is a waste of time and taxpayer dollars to scramble a truck to fix a flag. Plan "C" goes into effect.

Plan "C" is the South Portland Parks and Recreation Bucket Truck. After a couple days and a call from a member who is a City Councilor, the truck arrived this morning at 9:05. The truck left at 9:15. It was a 10-minute job for two guys to replace both ropes, but that was the easy part. Machinists Mate/

Boatswains Mate Adjutant Michael Pock pre-attached the clips on one end of the "line" and the city worked to feed the bitter end through the pulley. Once the crew left, Adjutant Pock measured the line twice, cut it once and then attached the clip to the other end. Pock attached the flag, making sure it wasn't upside down, and ran it up the mast.

Thanks to the city workers and City Councilor Richard "Dicky" Matthews, the flags are flying again.

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

### Post 35 Mid-Term Installations

During the monthly meeting at S. Portland Post 35, two elected and one appointed post officers were installed. Jillian Kellough, the first woman Post Service Officer elected in recent history, was initiated and installed at the same meeting. Post Finance Officer Matt Johnson and Post Chaplain Robert Hughes were installed with warrants issued by 2nd District Commander Dave Tanguay in June, but were unavailable until this meeting to appear.

The installation was performed by Commander Werner "Wes" Spletstoesser and Adjutant Michael Pock using the short form installation ceremony. Jillian Kellough will be attending the service officer training session in Winslow on Oct. 28 and said she is looking forward to getting more active in the post. Jillian was a recent transfer from Post 178 in Winslow. Also attending as a guest was

Jillian's husband, Greg Kellough, who is a recently retired veteran. Adjutant Pock and other post members welcomed him to the post and handed him an application to join The American Legion and our post, which he took and filled out. Because of a recently approved motion that stated "All presently serving officers, in good standing, would have their dues paid by the post" Greg's dues were paid by the post, as his wife is now an officer and she had paid her 2024 dues prior to being appointed.

Post 35 has changed their meeting to the third Saturday of the month at 1:00 p.m. to make it easier for some of our older members to attend. Having a luncheon prior to the meeting is another way to draw more attendance.

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



So. Portland Post 35 Officer Installation: Left to right, Finance Officer Matt Johnson, Post Service Officer Jillian Kellough, Chaplain Robert Hughes, Acting Sgt.-at-Arms Michael Pock and Commander officiating Wes Spletstoesser.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 2 continued



**Westbrook Post 62 Gorham House Invocation:** Westbrook Post 62 member and retired USMC veteran, Philip Leclerc, reads an invocation for all the Gorham House veterans, staff and American Legion participating veterans at the Gorham House Recognition and Honor Ceremonies, Parade and Lunch on Thursday, Aug. 3.

Photo by Dennis Marrotte, Post 62



**Westbrook Post 62 Gorham House Parade:** US Navy veteran and Gorham House resident, John Vivian, is accompanied by retired USAF veteran and Post 62 Commander, Dennis Marrotte after the Parade Recognition Walk at the Gorham House grounds. Twenty-eight Gorham House resident veterans participated, each with an American Legion escort. All twenty-eight residents were recognized at a nice ceremony.

Photo Courtesy Vivian Family

## Westbrook Post 62 "First Wednesday" Meeting



**Westbrook Post 62 "First Wednesday" Meeting:** Guest speakers at the Nov. 1 monthly business meeting of Westbrook Post 62 were David Gowen and Michael Sanphy. They gave an enthusiastic presentation on the long, active history and activities of the Highland Grange Hall. Left to right, Post 62 Chaplain Richard Galipeau, Commander and Historian Dennis Marrotte, 1st Vice Cmdr. and Americanism Officer Phil Spiller Jr., Highland Grange President David Gowen, Post 62 Sgt.-at-Arms Michael Thomas, Post 62 Adjutant Gary York, and President of Westbrook Historical Society and Post 62 Member Michael Sanphy.

Photo Courtesy of Post 62



**Quilts:** Video screen shot showing a display of beautiful quilts by Highland Grange members.



**Grange Restoration:** Highland Grange President David Gowen describing the restoration of the grange's 2nd floor meeting hall with Michael Sanphy operating the projector.

Photo by Post 62 Commander Dennis Marrotte



**Westbrook Post 62 WAA Events:** The Wreaths Across America Ceremonies Display was a centerpiece at a Spaghetti Dinner Scholarships Fundraiser and Silent Auction, sponsored by Chapter 2 Rolling Thunder, held at Westbrook's Stephen W. Manchester American Legion Post 62 on Saturday, Sept. 16. Several of the pictures on the display were taken by Dennis Marrotte of Westbrook Post 62. The children placing wreaths on the 7 Wreaths are grandchildren of veterans from each of the military services.



**Westbrook Post 62 Guest Speaker:** Director of Economic Development for the City of Westbrook, Daniel Stevenson, gives a spirited presentation as the guest speaker at the "First Wednesday" monthly business meeting on Oct. 4 at the Stephen W. Manchester American Legion Post 62 in Westbrook.

Photo by Dennis Marrotte, Post 62

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

## The Plot and Denouement Success at Last

The noble deed, reported in numerous consecutive articles in previous Maine Legionnaire editions has finally come to a successful conclusion. In Greenwood, atop a flat rise opposite the Town Beach, the family cemetery known locally as the Cummings Plot has been fully restored. Three veterans, one from the Revolution, another from the War of 1812, and the third from the Civil war, all named Joseph Cummings, along with two other family members, whose graves were wiped out when the cemetery was inadvertently used prior to 1960 as a log landing, once again lie in eternal rest. Each is identified with a new granite gravestone, much like those which were obliterated, and are yet undiscovered.

By rights this report should be divided into three separate chapters, for before the final chapter, wherein a Rededication Ceremony was held, the first chapter was the delivery of the gravestones, and the second chapter, their installation. But let this suffice to tell the story.

The first and second chapters took place in a rush on a single long weekend, the first two days of which were bright and sunny, with high temperatures in the low 80s. The last day was in the high 60s, overcast, and with rain providentially

holding off until mid-afternoon, by which time our work was completed. On Friday, Sept. 8, Commander Orcutt met the representative from Collette Monuments of Lewiston to take delivery of two Cummings family grave markers, paid for by descendant Suzanne Nusbaum. Three period VA granite gravestones, each weighing approximately 300 lbs, had been stored in the Post 68 emergency generator shed and needed to be transported to the site. Fortunately, Oxford County businesses have a tradition of helping veterans' organizations, often at no cost. Thus our 1st Vice, Bill Bickford, secured the loan of a ramp delivery truck from his employer, Maine Energy Systems, which was used to transport the stones on Saturday, Sept. 9. This generosity was greatly appreciated. The following day, Sunday the 10th, Woodstock's Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) installed the stones.



**Delivering The Gravestones**



**Off-loading:** Locke Mills Post 68 1st Vice Commander Bill Bickford off-loads the VA gravestones.



**Arranging:** Gravestones at the plot arranged for installation.



**Setting The Gravestones:** Left to right, Post 68 Sgt.-at-Arms Timothy Twitchell, Suzanne Nusbaum, Clayton Bartlett, Blaine Mills, Margaret Mills (behind tree), and Bob Nusbaum observe the installation of the gravestones.



**Installing:** SUVCW members Larry and James W. Bonney install Civil War Joseph Cummings gravestone, along with the remaining four.



**A Job Well Done:** Left to right, James Bonney, Larry Bonney, Bob and Suzanne Nusbaum, Clayton Bartlett, Timothy Twitchell, and Harry G. Orcutt following the installation of the gravestones.

## The Rededication Ceremony

We arrive, finally, at the last chapter and denouement, the Rededication Ceremony. At the Locke Mills Post 68 Cummings Family Grave Rededication, held on Saturday, Sept. 23, key post members were away on vacation and others were attending Jefferson Masonic Lodge #100 in Woodstock for the raising of two sons of one of our post members to master mason. Despite that, our 1st Vice Bill Bickford, himself a member of Jefferson Lodge, got on the phone to constitute a credible firing detail. He also tried to once again borrow his employer's truck, but alas, it was fully loaded for

deliveries. He reached out to a neighbor and secured his Bronco and trailer. On the morning of the great day, Bill and fellow Greenwood firefighter Davey Goodwin transported chairs from the post for the audience and the Mahoosuc Band and emplaced the post colors and podium for the orations. Details of the history of the plot, how it came to be destroyed, and the military service of three of the five family members buried therein were shared. All in all, it was quite a day, and one that presented the American Legion as playing a positive role in the community.



**Master Of Ceremonies:** Cummings descendant Suzanne Nusbaum, who co-sponsored the Rededication Ceremony, presented her view of restoring her family's eternal resting place, and served as Master of Ceremonies.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 5 continued

### ■ "REDEDICATION" (Continued from Page 18)



**Support From The Town:** Selectman Amy Chapman, representing the Town of Greenwood, who had been introduced as "The Honorable", began her address by stating that "No one ever referred to me as Honorable before". She went on to assure those gathered that henceforth the town would maintain the cemetery.



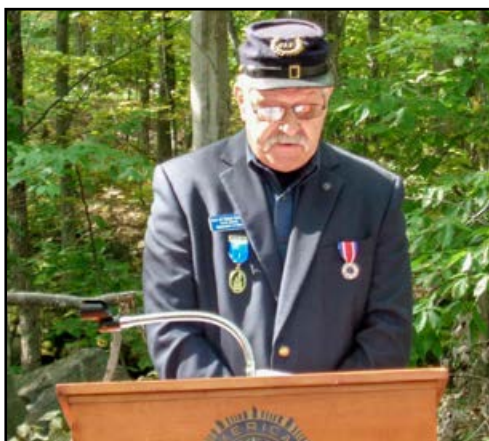
**Historical Context:** Vicky Myers of the War of 1812 Society and Jr. Vice President of DUVCW – Woodstock, presented remarks about that period of American history.



**Dedication Ceremony:** Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War (DUVCW) conduct their grave dedication ceremony and wreath laying. Left to right, Vicky Myers, Susan Kettinger, Elsie Bonney, Sally Sawyer, and Maine Dept. Chaplain (SUVCW) James W. Bonney, who reads the ceremony text.



**Oration:** Post 68 Commander Orcutt, in Revolutionary War Major General uniform, presented an oration detailing the history of the Plot, its rehabilitation, and an analysis of the conditions prevailing in Maine during the Revolution. The family requested and received a copy of his presentation.



**Civil War Flag Holder:** Past Dept. Commander, member of Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain Camp and Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW), Larry Bonney makes his presentation. His camp provided a Civil War flag holder for Joseph of that conflict.



**Post 68 Firing Squad:** Left to right, Leroy Patten, Richard Wakefield, Butch Fuller, Kelly Bickford, Harry G. Orcutt, and Firing Squad Commander William Bickford. Historian Al Lake had prepared the rifles at the post.



**Salute:** Post 68 Firing Squad salutes during Taps. Each is in a uniform of one type or another: left to right, Patten and Wakefield, standard Legion uniform; Fuller, Civil War; K. Bickford, Mahoosuc Band; Orcutt, Revolutionary War; W. Bickford, gentlemen's blue blazer, gray slacks and Legion cap. It should be noted that Kelly was a small arms instructor at West Point during a portion of her Army service. She is proficient with any instrument most suitable for the occasion.



**Band Plays Taps:** Mahoosuc Band's Ed Lovejoy stands behind Bickford's borrowed trailer and renders Echoing Taps. Brian Dunham was in the woods behind the Plot, out of range of the camera. Many guests and participants then adjourned to Jackson-Silver Post 68 for a buffet luncheon provided by the Nusbaum family, to which others donated to offset the cost. The remaining victuals were given to the Locke Mills Union Church, a partner in many post activities, for their fellowship following their Sunday service.

## Meet & Greet at So. Paris Maine Veterans Home

Returning after a three-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 protocols, on Aug. 15, District 5 was back at last fulfilling their obligations to elderly veterans and spouses residing at the Maine Veterans Home in South Paris. As the residents had been treated to a luncheon BBQ the month before, Home Administrator Brad Peck, himself a SAL, informed the district that the residents could only go off-diet so much, and not often. It was arranged that the district would host a Resident Meet and Greet in the multi-purpose room with soft drinks and water being the best we could provide. The district thanks proprietor of West Paris Provisions, Andelena Henderson, for her donation of the numerous cases of soft drinks and spring water. West Paris Provisions is a veteran woman-owned enterprise. The interaction between residents and district post/unit members was like a family gathering. The district then adjourned to the back patio, where two Buckfield Post 58 members displayed their skills in grilling hamburgers, hot dogs and browning buns on the Maine Veterans Home propane grill. The meat, buns and condiments were provided by the home, the cost for which District 5 had agreed to reimburse. Subsequently, Brad Peck, in consulta-

tion with the home's dietary supervisor, determined that given the small amount of the victuals, reimbursement was not necessary. Salads and desserts were provided by Units 68 and 151 members, and Post 58 provided potato chips and cheese for the hamburgers.

During the following district meeting, that never was due to the lack of a quorum of posts, reports were still given for the record. An excerpt from one should be noted. Department Historian Louis Marin, of Rumford Napoleon-Ouellette Post 24, stated that he had attended the burial on July 18, at 13:00 hours, of Bethel resident Ensign Stanley Willis Allen, who was killed at Pearl Harbor aboard the Battleship USS Oklahoma, after it was hit by several torpedoes. The burial took place at the Maine Veterans Cemetery in Augusta. Ensign Allen's remains had only been identified in Hawaii on May 24, having been exhumed from Oklahoma's unknowns. At the preceding Veterans Home District 5 BBQ, Louis explained why attending the burial had special meaning for him: Ensign Allen, one of the namesakes of Bethel Mundt-Allen Post 81, was his mother's great uncle.



**District 5 Hosts BBQ:** Attendees enjoy a meal at the District 5 BBQ held at Maine's Veterans Home in South Paris.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 5 continued



**Post 24 Flag Disposal:** American Legion Post 24 of Rumford held a Dignified Flag Disposal Ceremony on Sat., Aug. 19, led by Commander Ed Perry and Sgt.-at-Arms Mike Malik, assisted by Scout Troop 580. There were around 1600 American flags disposed of on this day. The ceremony is usually held near Flag Day, but rain caused it to be rescheduled. Left photo, Boy Scout Troop 580 Committee Chairman Richie Philbrick and Rumford Post 24 Commander Ed Perry dispose of a retired American flag. Right photo, Rumford Post 24 Sgt.-at-Arms Mike Malik disposes of a retired American flag.

## Buckfield Post 58: Celebrating 65 at 95

John D. Long Buckfield Post 58 Member, Merton Jones, was feted on Saturday, Sept. 16 in celebration of his 65th Year as an American Legionnaire. He apparently became a member when he was 30 years of age. Besides receiving his National and Department Certificates, he was also presented with a Bob Perry original, carved American Eagle.



**American Eagle:** Bob Perry carved Post 58 American Eagle



**Cake Cutting:** Korean War Veteran Merton Jones cuts his 65th Legion Year Cake.



**Post 58 Celebrates:** Among the celebrants, left to right, Post 58 Commander James Lowell, Toby Jones and his father Merton Jones, and Post 58 Adjutant Gloria Hall.

## 50 and 70 at 68

The title is not a mathematical formula, but rather a remembrance of national and department certificates presented to two members of Jackson-Silver Post 68. The first, 50-year certificates, were presented to Past-Post Commander Raymond "Ray" Tripp, Jr. at the Annual Post Charter Anniversary Pot Luck Supper on Thursday, Aug. 17. Ray served two terms as Post Commander: 1992-93 and 2007-08. He is presently the 2nd Vice at Post 68. His father was also a past-Post 68 commander. Shortly after the presentation, Ray entered an assisted

living facility.

The second presentation, 70-year certificates, were given to Past-Post Commander Richard "Dick" Melville at his assisted living facility by Post Service Officer and Past-Commander Kelly Bickford on Sept. 20. Dick also served two terms as commander, from 1974-76. The members of Jackson-Silver Post 68 salute both past-commanders for their outstanding contributions of service to the post during their long, active and fulfilling memberships.



**70-Year Certificates:** Post 68 Service Officer Kelly Bickford presents 70-Year Membership Certificates to Past-Post Commander Richard Melville.

**50-Year Certificates:** Raymond Tripp, Jr., left, receives his 50-Year Membership Certificates presented by Post Commander Harry G. Orcutt.

## Crafters' Supply Fair at Post 68

Locke Mills Unit 68 Sgt.-at-Arms Marie Bartlett organized yet another successful Great Hall and community outreach event at Jackson-Silver Post 68, featuring unit members and other crafters. Vendors sold their surplus craft items and members of Unit 68 divested themselves in a variety of fabrics and craft supplies at reduced prices. Other fabrics, as well as sewing machines in working order, were donated for the benefit of the post. The team spirit of Unit 68 was on full display. Besides Marie, Unit Secretary Susan Vacca and Chaplain/Kitchen Manager Marleen Twitchell had tables stacked with their surplus sewing materials. Both Unit Member Betty Christenson and Legionnaire Sara Pruyne assisted in the setup and sale.

Marie's next endeavor will be a pre-Thanksgiving/Christmas Craft Show for those seeking reasonably priced holiday gifts and decorations. That Craft



**Craft Fair Wares:** Craft vendors set up before the crowds descend to buy their excess wares.

Show will be held in the Great Hall the weekend of Oct. 28 and 29. Will the Great Hall be transformed into a Halloween-inspired venue? One never knows what will transpire when Marie's creativity is let loose.

As some of the donated fabric and sewing machines remained unsold at the end of this fair, they will be offered again at future events until they have all found a new home.



**Setting Up:** Left to right, Marleen Twitchell stands in the back left, a craft vendor is seated at the red table, and Susan Vacca is standing to the right.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 5 continued

### Happy 104th Birthday, Post 68

The Annual Pot Luck Charter Anniversary Supper was held at Jackson-Silver Post 68 in Locke Mills on Thursday, Aug. 17. This year, it celebrated 104 years of being an American Legion, Department of Maine post. The dining area was set up with the post's newly acquired,



**Dining Area:** Chairs and tables were set up for a dining area in the Great Hall.

round Texas Hold'em poker tables. There was also a huge buffet of member/guest supplied entrees, salads and desserts covering three serving tables. As reported in another article, 50-Year National and Department Certif-

icates were presented to Past-Commander Raymond Tripp. Pictured below, Unit 68 President Paige Crockett presented recognition gifts to our Poppy Girls, Madeline and Lily Lewis. Following a great meal and convivial social gathering, both the post and unit conducted their respective monthly meetings. There was no problem in getting a quorum for either meeting on this occasion.



**Serving tables** ready to satisfy the largest of appetites.



**Birthday Cake:** Post 68 Anniversary Birthday Cake.



**Preparing Meals:** The kitchen crew organized the victuals and prepared the punch and coffee. Left to right, Unit 68 Secretary Susan Vacca, Chaplain/Kitchen Manager Marleen Twitchell, Sgt.-at-Arms Marie Bartlett, and Unit Member Janice Bennett. Barely seen in the far back is Post Historian Al Lake, working his grill magic with the hamburgers and hotdogs provided by the post.



**Poppy Girls:** Left to right, Unit 68 President Paige Crockett and Unit 68 Poppy Girls: Madeline and Lily Lewis.

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 Eagle Scout Ceremony:** On Aug. 21, State Commander Al McKay, District 6 Commander and Camden Post 30 Member Ray Lewis and District 6 and Post 30 Adjutant Jeff Sukeforth attended the Eagle Scout ceremony for Matthew Clayton, Scout Troop 200 of Camden. Ray presented a Certificate and Eagle Feather to Matthew from Post 30 and Al presented a certificate from the Department of Maine. Left photo, left to right, Eagle Scout Matthew Clayton, Ray Lewis, and Al McKay. Middle photo, left to right, Matthew, Ray, and Al. Right photo, left to right, Ray, Matthew, and Al.

Photos by Jeff Sukeforth, Post 30 Adjutant

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 7

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

### Post 54 Remembers Service Members, Clara Wentworth; Praises Youth

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

The historian also provided the following flag facts:

During the American Revolution, a variety of flags were flown that would inspire the "Stars and Stripes" we know today, from the "Sons of Liberty" flag to the "Grand Union" flag, which was used by General George Washington's Continental Army.

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



**Faye Shea, Left, And Ann Scanlan.**

Photo by Susan Johns, Wiscasset Newspaper

The original 13-star version of the flag was first unveiled on June 14, 1777, and that is why June 14 is known as Flag Day.

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

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

The Battle of Baltimore inspired the lyrics of lawyer and poet Francis Scott Key in 1814. "O, say, can you see by the dawn's



### Wiscasset Memorial Day Gathering.

Photo by Susan Johns, Wiscasset Newspaper

early light what so proudly we hailed through the twilight's last gleaming..." The waving American flag before, during, and after the fight was seen as a source of inspiration and resilience. The red, white, and blue stars and stripes, also named "Old Glory," have long symbolized patriotism, unity, and the spirit of pride in our nation.

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

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

Here is what each fold of the flag means:

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



**Tom Stoner Plays "Taps."**

Photo by Susan Johns, Wiscasset Newspaper

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

[More on "POST 54," Page 22](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

**District 7 continued**

■ **"POST 54"**  
(Continued from Page 21)



**Ed Polewarczyk, Left, And Ben Rines Jr.**

Photo by Susan Johns, Wiscasset Newspaper

- The sixth fold symbolizes where people's hearts lie in keeping with the words of our pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.
- The seventh fold pays tribute to the armed forces. After all, through our armed forces, the United States is protected against all enemies.
- The eighth fold is a tribute to those

who died, and as Psalm 23 states, "entered into the valley of the shadow of death."

- The ninth fold honors womanhood.
- The 10th fold is a tribute to fathers.
- The 11th fold represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies, in Judaism, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
- The 12th fold represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in the eyes of Christians, God the Father, the Son and Holy Ghost.

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

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

By Susan Johns, Wiscasset Newspaper  
Mon, 05/29/2023 - 1:45pm



**Patty Bridgham. James Quinnam.**

Photo by Susan Johns, Wiscasset Newspaper



Photo by Susan Johns, Wiscasset Newspaper



**Attendees gather before the ceremony. Foreground inscriptions on a bench at the veterans wall.**

Photo by Susan Johns, Wiscasset Newspaper



**Wreaths placed at the Wiscasset Veterans Wall.**

Photo by Susan Johns, Wiscasset Newspaper

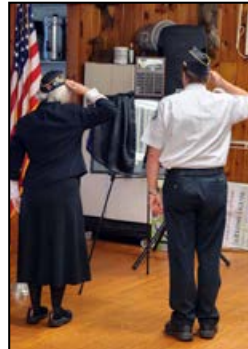


**Three-Gun Salute & Taps: From left, Cliff Hendricks, Bruce Poland, Mike Barnes and Tom Stoner.**

Photo by Susan Johns, Wiscasset Newspaper

**Post 216 Everlasting Ceremony For Comrade Daniel "Danny" Coombs:**

In August, we conducted Draping of the Charter and Post Everlasting ceremonies in honor of Comrade Daniel "Danny" L. Coombs, Master Sergeant, USA retired. Comrade Coombs joined the Legion and Post 216 in 2016. Many of Danny's family members were present to observe the ceremonies and visit with post members afterwards.



**In Memory Of Coombs: Left to right, Post 216 Financial Officer Debra Reddinger and Sgt.-at-Arms Larry Swizzdor drape the Post Charter in memory of**

**Comrade Danny Coombs.**

Photo by Chilloa Young



**Post Everlasting Ceremony Procedures: Post 216 Adjutant Mike Young posts Comrade Danny Coomb's legion cap on the brazier stand at the Post Everlasting Ceremony.**

Photo by Chilloa Young



**Transferring Service And Post Records: Left to right, Post 216 Chaplain Spear transfers Comrade Danny Coomb's service and post records to the Adjutant of Post Everlasting.**

Photo by Chilloa Young

**Post 216 Lobster And Clam Bake**

Also, in August we held our annual Legion Family Lobster and Clam Bake at the Riddleys Landing Dock in Sebasco. We were honored to have crew members of the USS John Basilone (DDG-122) from Bath Iron Works also attend. The post would like to thank the family of Comrade Rick Albertson, who was transferred to Post Everlasting in 2020, for allowing us to continue having this event.



**Opening POW/MIA Ceremony: Financial Officer Debra Reddinger conducts the POW/MIA Ceremony before the Post 216 Family Lobster and Clam Bake.**

Photo by Adjutant Mike Young



**Family Lobster And Clam Bake: Comrade Dick Soule and his family enjoy a great lobster meal at the Post 216 Family Lobster and Clam Bake.**

Photo by Adjutant Mike Young



**Enjoying The Company: Left to right, Navy Commander Carne Livingston from the USS John Basilone (DDG 122) and his children enjoy the comradeship of Chaplain Spear and his wife Shyla at the Post 216 Family Lobster and Clam Bake.**

Photo by Adjutant Mike Young



**Post 216 And Families: Post members and their families enjoying the Post 216 Lobster and Clam Bake.**

Photo by Adjutant Mike Young

[More on "POST 216," Page 23](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

**District 8**

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

**Phippsburg Post 216 Happenings & Events**

Phippsburg American Legion Memorial Post 216 had a very busy end of summer.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 8 continued

### ■ "POST 216" (Continued from Page 22)

#### Post 216 Popham Parade

At the last event in August, the post provided an Honor Guard to lead the annual Popham Parade. The parade started out dry, but within ten minutes the clouds opened up and it poured at the end. The parade and bonfire and flare night that followed is held to recognize the founding of Popham Colony in 1607.



**Preparing For The Parade:** Left to right, Post 216 Comrade Larry Swizdor, Comrade Bob Belben and Commander Ken Kellogg prepare for the Popham Parade.

Photo by Chilloa Young



**Rain Or Shine:** Left to right, Post 216 Adjutant Mike Young, Commander Ken Kellogg, Comrade Bob Belben, and Sgt.-at-Arms Larry Swizdor lead the Popham Parade during a downpour.

Photo by Chilloa Young

#### Post 216 September Meeting: 9/11 Ceremony & Post Officer Presentations

At the September post meeting, attendees conducted a 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony and presented officer cap patches and nametags to our recently elected officers.

During September, post members also removed veteran grave marker flags throughout the 42 public and private cemeteries in town.

Things will start to quiet down as we enter the fall and winter. Planned events include the decorating of the Phippsburg Town Hall and Veterans Memorial Park for Christmas and the post's annual Christmas Potluck Supper.



**Remembering 9/11:** First Vice Commander Tim Williams reflects on the events of Sept. 11, 2001. Post 216 conducts an annual ceremony each year during their Sept. meeting.

Photo by Adjutant Mike Young



**Judge Advocate:** Comrade Fred Libby, left, receives his "Judge Advocate" cap patch and name tag from Commander Ken Kellogg, right.

Photo by Adjutant Mike Young



**Past Sgt.-At-Arms:** Commander Ken Kellogg, left, presents Comrade David Barnes with his "Past Sgt.-at-Arms" cap patch, right.

Photo by Adjutant Mike Young

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 Rescue Group: Celebrating 20 Years:** 99-year-old Merchant Marine Veteran Captain Hugh Stevens talks about his ship's heroic efforts in rescuing 500 Norwegians during WWII. He was presented his American Legion 20 Year Certificate by Maureen Malley at a meeting on Aug. 25 in Hallowell.



Front row left to right, 2nd Vice Lewis Gipson, Hugh Stevens, Past Commander Robert Stubbs, and Historian Mike Madden. Back row left to right, 1st Vice John Mosher, Chaplain Joseph Moore, Service Officer Maureen Malley, Adjutant Gerald Stuart, Commander William Meehan, Troop 647 Scoutmaster Glen Glidden, and Troop 647 Eagle Designate Ryan Glidden.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 12

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



**Bar Harbor Post 25 Appreciation:** Bar Harbor Post 25 Commander Jeff Hanscom, left, presents the Post 25 Assistant Adjutant James Linnane, right, with a Certificate of Appreciation for his work as a docent at the George Edwin Kirk Foundation Museum this past summer. Post 25 also plans an open house in Bar Harbor on Veterans Day from 10 a.m. to noon.

**Post 25 Achieves 100% Membership:** Bar Harbor Post 25 Commander, Jeff Hanscom, left, receives a Meritorious Service Award for the post achieving over 100% membership from District 12 Commander Paul Blackstone, right.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 12 continued



**Bar Harbor Post 25 Annual Picnic:** The George Edwin Kirk Post 25 held their annual picnic down in Bar Harbor on Sept. 6. Left to right, Bar Harbor Post 25 1st Vice Commander Paul Maristany, Commander Jeff Hanscom. Across the table is Jeff's friend Bernie and the Auxiliary President Christine Harding. Eighteen people were present including members from Ellsworth Post 63 and Seal Harbor Post 103.



**Ellsworth Post 63 Hosts Legion Baseball Spaghetti Dinner:** Members in attendance at Ellsworth Post 63 spaghetti dinner event on Sept. 9 honor the Trenton Acadians who won The American Legion, Department of Maine Baseball State and Regional Championship, earning them a spot at the World Series. The event was supervised by Ellsworth Post 63 Commander Frank Butler, Adjutant Albert Scott and his wife Polly.



**SW Harbor Post 69 Meeting:** On Oct. 3, members of Eugene Norwood Post 69 in SW Harbor meet to plan an open house in the morning on Veterans Day. From left to right, 2nd Vice Commander John Williams, Service Officer James Harper, Sgt.-at-Arms Jess Morehouse, Chaplain Barry Thomas, Post 69 Commander Robert Kramp and 1st Vice Commander Frank Stanley.



**Stonington Post 102 Installation:** Rodney Stinson Post 102 Adjutant Deborah Alley and Commander Richard Eaton get sworn in during the District 12 meeting in Stonington on Sept. 12.



**Stonington Post 102 Generous Playground Donation:** In June, Post 102 on Deer Isle donated \$20,000 toward the completion of a new park and Veterans Memorial Playground in Stonington. The park is a multi-function facility that when completed will contain a ball field, combination basketball and pickleball court, movie screen with stage, a children's playground, as well as ample parking. Pictured in the photo of the formal gift presentation, left to right, Post Commander Richard Eaton, Vice Commander Ron Dahlen, Town Manager Kathleen Billings, Post Member and Park Coordinator Svend Olson, and Head Selectman John Robbins.



**Seal Harbor Post 103 Installation:** Post 103 officers were sworn in on Sept. 14 at the Lurvey Wright Post 103 in Seal Harbor. Left to right, District 12 Commander Paul Blackstone, Seal Harbor Post 103 Finance Officer David Bender, Commander Ernest Smallidge, and Adjutant Robert Moore.

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



**Corinna Days 2023:** The town of Corinna hosts the annual Corinna Days celebration which Post 73 enters a float in. Corinna Post 73 also served a pancake breakfast the following day.





WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

**District 13 continued**



**Corinna Post 73 Honors POW/MIA:** On Sept. 15, Corinna Post 73 had an event at the local high school (Nokomis) JROTC to celebrate our POW/MIAs with the Post 73 Color Guard. At this ceremony it was announced that Post 73 Legion Member, Alfred Howes, will be leaving for the Honor Flight on Friday, Sept. 22 to fly to Washington DC and have a grand time visiting Memorials throughout Washington.



**Brewer Post 98 BBQ:** The Daniel E Geagan Post 98 in Brewer held its annual BBQ to show appreciation for all the first responders who protect and serve our communities and veterans. The city of Brewer and the towns of Clifton, Dedham, Eddington, Holden and Orrington were all invited to attend and enjoy a meal of hotdogs and cheeseburgers.



**Newport Chapter 105 Sees Growth:** Newport has been building up their chapter for just over 2 years with no end in sight! They have been very active in the community and have added new members to the Legion, Auxiliary and the new Sons Squadron. From Aug. 25 – 27, the chapter hosted the State Rally at the Newport Post as Legion Riders came in from all parts of the state. Also joining them for this photo was Ron Wing, the new State Director of the Legion Riders (kneeling left) from Chapter 21 in Bath.

**Outgoing State Director Thank You At Post 105:** During the State Rally at Newport Post 105, the incoming State Director, Ron Wing, left, presents a plaque to outgoing State Director Mike Lallemand, right, for the outstanding job during his terms of office, including navigating the challenges during COVID-19. Thank you, Mike, for a job well done!



**Post 107 Recognizes Member:** Harrison Sylvester, left, is presented with his 50 Year Membership Award by Etna-Carmel Post 107 Adjutant, Don Candage, right.



**50 Year Membership:** Etna-Carmel Post 107 member Harrison Sylvester, left, is presented with a certificate of recognition for 50 years at the post by member Jim Thorne, right.



**Post 107 Recognizes Member:** Adjutant Don Candage, right, presents Russell Treadwell, left, with a commemorative award in recognition of Treadwell's 50-year membership at Etna-Carmel Post 107.



**50 Year Membership:** Etna-Carmel Post 107 member Russell Treadwell, left, is presented with his 50 Year Membership Certificate at the post by Commander Ryan Simpson, right.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

**District 15**

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



**Calais Post 3 Commissioning Event:** Calais Post 3 Commander Jim Myers and Past Commander Mike McLean in Eastport for the commissioning of the USS Augusta.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 15 continued



**Calais Post 3 Thanks Local Business:** Calais Post 3 thanks Orono/Calais IGA Owners, Bob Craft and David Pike (not pictured), for their generous donation for the Veterans Meet & Greet, which was held on Wednesday, Nov. 1 at 6:00 p.m. at Fitzgerald's Tavern. All veterans and their spouses were invited. The Veterans Assembly was also held on Thursday, Nov. 9 at 8:00 a.m. at Calais High School. Attendees showed support to the school's English AP students. Pictured left to right, Michael McLean, Orono/Calais IGA Owner Bob Craft and Commander Jim Myers.



**Legion Baseball, A Post 8 Success:** Cherryfield Post 8 became a new sponsor of Legion Baseball Downeast. Following a successful first season, Commander Jonathan Gay presents certificates to the Captains' coaches and team. The local legionnaires were very pleased to see a large banner and the post flag displayed at every home game on the Narragugus High School baseball field. To show their appreciation, the Captains honored a local veteran at the opening of each home game! Left photo: Cherryfield Post 8 Commander Jon Gay, right, presents recognition certificates to representatives of the team, Burren Absolom and Landon Cirone and to Coach Brad Cirone, left. Right photo: left to right, Post 8 Adjutant Peter Duston, Finance Officer Rob Gibbons (holding the opening game ball), team representatives Burren Absolom and Landon Cirone, and Post Commander Jonathan Gay.



**Cherryfield Post 8 Helping Our Community Smile One Child At A Time:** Narragugus Post 8 in Cherryfield recently announced the winner of a handmade, patriotic quilt called "Valiant Stars." It turned out to be 4-and-a-half-year-old Charlotte Stanley of Cherryfield. According to Charlotte's mother, the little girl just loves quilts. Charlotte's grandfather, the late Richard Pilloni, retired from the Navy and was a member of Post 8. Charlotte's grandmother bought her the raffle ticket. Post Member Jeanne Herman led the team effort to create this remarkable work of patriotic art.

**Post 8 Trunk or Treat:** Building Chair Glenn Russell and Vice Commander Dan Green pose with Adjutant Peter Duston's "Pumpkin Mobile" while getting ready to host the Scout's Trunk or Treat and Halloween Party.



## Pembroke Post 59 Unveils New Monument

The handy members of Pembroke Post 59 have been hard at work updating and maintaining our facility. In the last few years, we have built an outside storage shed (fashioned to look just like the post), installed new siding around the building, repaired the aging decks and handicap ramp, refinished the wood floors, painted the interior, updated the kitchen and cabinets, and even made wooden picnic tables. With all this amazing work achieved, the post wanted to add a new monument to the grounds. Post Member Richard Mealey donated the stone monument. A bronze plaque has been placed on the stone. Post Member Melissa MacDonald presented the idea of engraving the plaque with the "Veteran's Creed." As the project took shape, Americanism Officer Rickey Jamieson grabbed the reins and made the arrangements for the plaque to be created, attached to the monument, and for the stones to be put into place. After several months, and some issues with the soggy ground, the monument was finally placed prominently on the front lawn of

Post 59. The monument was unveiled at the monthly Post 59 meeting, which was held on Oct. 11. This beautiful monument is now available for all to enjoy.

Written by Darla George  
Post 59 Historian



**New Monument:** The Veteran's Creed is affixed to the new monument installed at Pembroke Post 59.



# Taps Column

POST	NAME	CONFLICT	POST	NAME	CONFLICT
Post 5 – Waterville	Leo J Quirion	WWII	Post 69 – Southwest Harbor	Henry Scherer	WWII
Post 13 – E. Millinocket	Alton N Daigle	Korea	Post 73 – Corinna	Kenneth R Buzzell	Vietnam
Post 15 – Caribou	John R Dixon	Vietnam	Post 74 – Kennebunk	Daniel J Donovan	Korea
Post 15 – Caribou	Roy O Green	Vietnam	Post 76 – Scarborough	Steven F Crocker Sr	Vietnam
Post 15 – Caribou	Frank D Payne III	Korea	Post 79 – Berwick	Kenneth W Poirier	Vietnam
Post 15 – Caribou	Darrell D Rouse	Vietnam	Post 81 – Bethel	Albert L Sumner Jr	Vietnam
Post 15 – Caribou	Thomas R Tomlinson	Vietnam	Post 82 – Norway	Ernest F Clifford	Korea
Post 15 – Caribou	Andre L Dumas	Vietnam	Post 83 – Freeport	Roland Foster	Korea
Post 15 – Caribou	David L Quimby	Vietnam	Post 88 – Presque Isle	J Rodney Lamoreau	Vietnam
Post 15 – Caribou	Byron Skidgel	Vietnam	Post 93 – Bucksport	Dana F Deans	Vietnam
Post 20 – Brunswick	Vernon A Bartz	Korea/Vietnam	Post 94 – Greenville	Clarence Laskey	WWII
Post 20 – Brunswick	Conrad J Lebourdais	WWII	Post 94 – Greenville	John P Owens	Vietnam
Post 20 – Brunswick	Steve A Zelinka	Other	Post 94 – Greenville	Lawrence W Budden	Korea
Post 24 – Rumford	Eugene A Groleau	Korea	Post 94 – Greenville	Lawrence T Horn	Vietnam
Post 24 – Rumford	James A Nicols	Korea	Post 94 – Greenville	Ronald F Macomber	Korea
Post 24 – Rumford	Richard G Theriault	WWII	Post 94 – Greenville	William A Fox	Vietnam
Post 25 – Bar Harbor	Stephen Montminy	Vietnam	Post 98 – Brewer	Thomas W Kelly III	Vietnam
Post 26 – Biddeford	Dwight Dean	Vietnam	Post 127 – Limestone	Ronald W Winsor	Vietnam
Post 28 – Farmington	Norman R Ferrari	Korea	Post 128 – Standish	Richard Heroux	Korea
Post 28 – Farmington	Thomas H Jones	Vietnam	Post 128 – Standish	Benny R Red	Vietnam
Post 34 – St. George	Frank E Taft	Korea	Post 133 – Fort Kent	Leland W Boucher	Lebanon/Grenada
Post 36 – Boothbay Harbor	Darren L Graves	Vietnam	Post 141 – Hartland	Richard L Weymouth	Vietnam
Post 47 – Houlton	Michael L O'Hara	Vietnam	Post 141 – Hartland	Elwin W Littlefield	Korea
Post 47 – Houlton	Neil E Cowperthwaite	Vietnam	Post 149 – Waldoboro	Arnold H Benner	Vietnam
Post 49 – Van Buren	Reno Lavoie	Vietnam	Post 149 – Waldoboro	William R Winslow	Vietnam
Post 49 – Van Buren	Daniel N Madore	Korea	Post 164 – Falmouth	Donald W Brigham	Vietnam
Post 55 – Limerick	Lloyd Burcham	Vietnam	Post 178 – Winslow	Dwight A Tate	Persian Gulf
Post 56 – York	William R Emhoff	Vietnam	Post 178 – Winslow	Fred A Glatzer Jr	Vietnam
Post 56 – York	Kenneth Gray (passed in 2022)	Korea	Post 178 – Winslow	Lawrence E Stanley	Korea
Post 58 – Buckfield	Shirley C Jones	Korea	Post 178 – Winslow	Reginald G McBean Jr	Vietnam
Post 59 – Pembroke	Thomas Riles	Vietnam	Post 197 – Westbrook	Carl Morrison	Vietnam
Post 63 – Ellsworth	John Coburn (passed in 2019)	Other	Post 201 – Dixmont	Richard E Tasker	Persian Gulf
Post 63 – Ellsworth	Dwight M Haslam	Korea	Post 207 – Trenton	Lee Berry	Vietnam
Post 65 – Lubec	Thomas Michaud	Vietnam	Post 210 – Lewiston	Roger P Blouin	Vietnam
Post 68 – Locke Mills	Frank Frazer	Panama	Post 210 – Lewiston	Lionel C Koss	WWII
Post 68 – Locke Mills	George R Hooper		Post 214 – Lebanon	Hans G Walter	Vietnam
Post 69 – Southwest Harbor	Frank W Gray Sr	Korea	Post 214 – Lebanon	Henry E Stewart	Vietnam
Post 69 – Southwest Harbor	Manual Silva Jr	Korea			

## Legion Family to Gather in Brewer for Winter Conference

The annual Mid-Winter McKay and 2nd Vice Commander Conference will be held Jan. 13, 2024 at Jeff's Catering & Event Center, 15 Littlefield Way, Brewer, ME 04412. The conference will be hosted by Commander Alfred McKay and 2nd Vice Commander Leroy McKenzie. Please watch future editions of the Leadership Ledger for further information regarding, meals, lodging and speakers.

### DIRIGO STATE PROGRAM



Colby College, Waterville  
June 16-21, 2024

## The American Legion 2024 Membership Renewal Schedule

Cutoff Dates	Renewal Mail Dates
October 18, 2023 .....	November 10-18, 2023
December 13, 2023 .....	January 6-12, 2024
February 14, 2024 .....	March 2-8, 2024
April 10, 2024 .....	May 4-10, 2024

### Membership Renewals

Membership in The American Legion is based on a calendar-year from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31. When a member pays their dues, they are paid up for that membership year. They will also receive twelve monthly subscriptions to The American Legion Magazine.

When a member renews, they are removed from future renewal notices for that year. There are times when a member pays their dues, but they still receive a renewal notice. If dues are paid to the local post, it takes a little longer for national to be notified about the renewal and the member may receive another renewal notice. If this occurs, please check with your local post to ensure they have received your dues.

## Attention: Next Deadline is January 20

The deadline for material, stories and/or pictures to be submitted for consideration for use in the **February 2024** issue of The Maine Legionnaire will be **January 20, 2024**.

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. **Please note: blurry or pixelated photos will not be accepted.**

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)

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

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### CHANGE OF ADDRESS CARD

Membership Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Post No. \_\_\_\_\_

Member's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Old Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street, Route or P.O. Box

Town/City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

New Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street, Route or P.O. Box

Town/City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Remarks \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Deadline for Submission May 10, 2024



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



simply scan the QR code below with your phone or visit [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org)

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

For more information, please call 207-873-3229 Ext. 2 or email [rachael@mainelegion.org](mailto:rachael@mainelegion.org)



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

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

## Local Woman Honored by American Legion Brass

Lewiston resident, former physician, and former legislator, Heidi Brooks, was presented a distinguished service award of excellence by National American Legion Commander Daniel J. Seehafer. The presentation occurred on the national commander's recent visit to the William J. Rogers Post 153 in Auburn.

Ms. Brooks was introduced by Retired Coast Guard Commander Patrick Eisenhart, pictured to the right

of Ms. Brooks, who worked with Ms. Brooks, who fought relentlessly to better the lives of disabled veterans. Ms. Brooks was cited by Commander Seehafer for serving as lead sponsor of a successful legislative bill which freed totally disabled active-duty veterans injured in the line of duty from paying state motor vehicle excise taxes.

Ms. Brooks served 4 terms in the Maine State Legislature.

Submitted by Patrick Eisenhart



**Auburn Post 153 Service Award of Excellence:** American Legion National Commander Daniel J. Seehafer presents Heidi Brooks a distinguished Service Award of Excellence at Auburn Post 153 during his official visit to the Department of Maine. Left to right, Maine State Department Commander Al McKay, National Commander Daniel J. Seehafer, Heidi Brooks, Retired Coast Guard Commander Patrick Eisenhart, and Auburn Post 153 Commander Michael Tardiff.

### 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.