

THE MAINE Legionnaire



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OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

AMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF MAINE

39 Pages

Michaud to Command Maine American Legion

Joseph "Joe" Michaud, newly elected American Legion Department of Maine Commander, has always carried his Van Buren roots with pride. Born in Van Buren, Maine, on March 5, 1954, Joe grew up in the small Northern Maine town he still calls home. After graduating from Van Buren District High School in 1972, he answered the call to serve by entering the United States Air Force. He completed Basic Training at Lackland AFB, Texas, and technical training at Sheppard AFB, Texas. His Air Force career took him from Loring AFB in Limestone, Maine, to Palgonsan, Korea; Eglin AFB, Florida, where he served as a Command Post Specialist; Kunsan, Korea; McChord AFB in Tacoma, Washington; and Castle AFB in Merced, California.



DEPARTMENT
COMMANDER
JOSEPH MICHAUD

Using the GI Bill, Joe continued building his future by earning an Associate Degree in Computer Science from Hesser College in Manchester, New Hampshire.

Over the next 42 years, Joe worked in a variety

of fields, including construction, retail sales, and commercial cleaning. No matter where life took him, his connection to home remained strong. Eventually, he returned to Van Buren, where he is now deeply involved in his community and local church.

Joe has been a proud member of The American Legion for 32 years, and his commitment to veterans, service, and community is evident in the many leadership roles he has held. He served three years as Post Commander of Post 147 in Madawaska and six years as District 17 Commander, providing guidance, support, and oversight to posts throughout the district. A graduate of the Department of Maine Legion College, Joe continues to demonstrate a strong commitment to leadership development and organizational excellence.

At both the department and national levels, Joe has given his time and energy to numerous committees, including the National Americanism Committee and four years on the National Security Council. His additional committee service includes Finance, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation (VA&R), Scholarship, and serving as an Advisor to the Americanism Committee. Joe is especially passionate about the Dirigo State Program and Legion Baseball, two programs that reflect one of The American Legion's Four Pillars: Children and Youth. Supporting these programs is close to his heart, and he intends to continue that dedication

throughout the remainder of his Legion career. Joe is also deeply grateful to his fellow Legionnaires and veterans for their dedication, support, and continued service.

Above all, Joe is a family man. He and his wife, Joyce, have been married for 41 years, and together they are blessed with four children, nine grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.



Commander Installation: With family by his side, Joseph "Joe" Michaud, right, is installed as 2026-2027 Department Commander on Saturday, June 13 at Jeff's Catering & Event Center, Brewer, by Past Department Commander/National Legislative Commission Chairman Matthew Jabaut, left, while Department National Executive Committeeman Alternate Kirk Thurston, back, looks on.

Support Maine Veterans With a Coin and/or Pin Purchase

Get Yours Today, While Supplies Last!

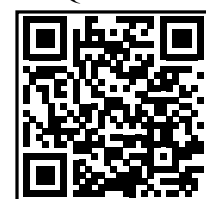


250th Anniversary Challenge Coins: \$20

Maine Be The One Challenge Coins: \$10

Lobster Lapel Pins: \$10

Coins and pins can be purchased online by visiting www.mainelegion.org, by scanning the QR code with your phone, or by check/money order. Make check payable to The American Legion, Department of Maine and mail to 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901-0727.



Please include \$7 shipping and handling. Coins and pins are also available for free pickup.

All proceeds go towards helping veterans in the state of Maine, their families, and various programs in The American Legion, Department of Maine.

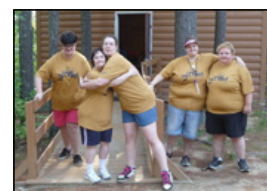
For any questions, please call the Department at 207-873-3229.

Commander's Project 2026: Special Olympics of Maine/Camp Tall Pines



Special Olympics
Maine

Help Support
Special
Olympics of Maine/
Camp Tall Pines
Led by Department
Commander Joseph
"Joe" Michaud.



See [Page 2](#) for more information on the Commander's Project and ways to donate.

Commander's Comments

My fellow Legionnaires, I am deeply humbled and truly honored to serve as your Department Commander for 2026–2027. To everyone who believed in me and placed your trust in me, please know how much that means.



JOSEPH "JOE"
MICHAUD

Your support makes me proud, and it also inspires me to work hard every day to make you proud of me, of our Department, and of the entire American Legion Family. The American Legion Family and this great nation mean so much to me. Our values, our Four Pillars, and especially our veterans, will be at the heart of everything I do this year.

I also want to thank my wife, Joyce, and my family. They have continually sacrificed their own wants and needs so I could pursue this passion and serve an organization I care so much about. They are a big part of why I am able to do this, and I am grateful for their love, patience, and support.

State Convention was just a couple of months ago, and I still think about how good it felt to see so many familiar faces and meet so many new ones. It was truly a blessing to reconnect, share stories, and be reminded of the strength of our Legion Family.

While not everyone met their membership goals, I know the effort was there, and I appreciate the work that went into it. I especially want to congratulate the posts that reached 100%. Thank you for a job well done. Membership is everyone's responsibility, but it is also one of the best ways we keep our mission alive and growing.

[More on "COMMANDER'S COMMENTS" Page 3](#)

Commander's Project 2026-2027 Special Olympics of Maine/ Camp Tall Pines

Department Commander Joseph Michaud asks for your help in fully supporting Special Olympics of Maine and Camp Tall Pines. [View the Brochure.](#)



Special Olympics
Maine

Special Olympics of Maine was deeded property on Lower Range Pond in 1993. They created Camp Tall Pines, 5 ½ acres of beauty to offer year-round vacationing experiences to persons with intellectual disabilities.

It is a traditional summer camp complete with cabins and waterfront activities. In fact, one of the cabins was provided by the Legion Family.

The Commander's Project is focused on raising funds to maintain The American Legion Cabin at Camp Tall Pines, support a new generation of campers, and highlight the importance of supporting the athletes of Special Olympics of Maine.

Some of the programs for Special Olympics of Maine:

- 19 Olympic style individual and team sports
- Unified Sports
- Special Olympics College Club
- Young Athletes Program
- Law Enforcement Torch Run
- Lobster Dip
- Golf Competitions

• Camp Tall Pines

Your financial support will fund year-round sports training, health screening, and leadership programs for people with intellectual disabilities.

Contributions to the Commander's Project will cover vital expenses like equipment, transportation, uniforms, and ensure no one is left on the sidelines.

Contributions to Special Olympics of Maine will also help fund The American Legion cabin at Camp Tall Pines and ensure our name proudly continues to support Maine children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

EASY WAYS TO DONATE:

Make checks payable to: The American Legion Department of Maine;
Memo line: Special Olympics/Camp Tall Pines - Commander's Project; **Mail to:** 5 Verti Drive, Winslow ME 04901-0727

By Card: Visit: www.mainelegion.org and click on the **DONATE** button OR scan the QR Code! Please make sure to type "Commander's Project" in the Note section.

To donate over the phone, please call 207-873-3229.



A 'First' Look

Legionnaires,
First, I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for allowing me the privilege of serving as your Department of Maine First Vice Commander.



RYAN
SIMPSON

The Fall Conference is approaching on Sept. 26 in Brunswick, and I will be unveiling my 2026–2027 Membership Plan. As in previous years, our primary focus will be membership.

We all need to work together to build and strengthen our membership. Let's not forget our long-time members who may simply need a phone call or friendly reminder to renew. Every post should be looking for opportunities to grow by holding membership drives,

keeping membership applications readily available, and talking with veterans we meet throughout our communities.

Remember, whether it is recruiting a new member or renewing an existing one, membership is everyone's responsibility. We are one family, and we all wear the same Legion cap, regardless of our post number.

Let's also encourage our families to become involved in The American Legion and our family organizations. Together, we can continue to strengthen our posts and ensure that our organization remains strong for future generations of veterans.

I look forward to working with all of you throughout the coming year. If you have any questions, or if I can be of assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Above all, remember why we are here: to serve our veterans, our communities, and one another.

For God and Country.

A 'Second' Look

Dear Legionnaires,
I would like to extend my sincere thanks to each of you for your confidence, your vote, and the opportunity to serve as your Department of Maine 2nd Vice Commander for The American Legion.



THOMAS
KUESPERT

It is truly an honor to serve this great organization and the veterans, families, and communities that make it so special.

I am committed to supporting Department 1st Vice Commander Ryan Simpson as he works toward achieving our membership goals, and I stand ready to assist Department Commander Michaud with any task asked of me to help ensure the continued success of The American Legion.

One of my personal goals for this year is to help create an even stronger Legion Family within each of our posts. When our members feel welcomed, valued, and connected, we strengthen not only our posts, but also our ability to grow membership and deepen our impact in our communities. Together, we can build an environment where veterans, families, and neighbors know they belong.

The American Legion has always been strongest when we work together with a shared purpose. By supporting one another and remaining focused on our mission of serving veterans, their families, and our communities, I know we can accomplish great things.

Thank you again for your trust and support. I look forward to working alongside each of you in the coming year. Together, we will continue to strengthen The American Legion and ensure that our organization remains a source of pride and service for generations to come.

For God and Country.

2027 Membership Now Open!

QUICKLY & EASILY RENEW
ONLINE TODAY!

Simply Scan the QR Code with the
camera on your phone or visit:
www.legion.org/renew



Note: If you have not paid your 2026 dues yet, please do so today to avoid a gap in your continuous years.

NEC Update

Hello fellow Legionnaires. I would like to congratulate all the newly elected post, district and department officers on your elections to the positions you now hold. I also



LLOYD WOODS

would like to thank all the members who attended the 107th Department of Maine Convention, and for your participation in the proceedings. Your participation is appreciated by all.

Last evening at my post meeting, a member presented information relating to decoration of veterans' graves on Memorial Day. This comes from:

Title 30-A: Municipalities and Counties,

Part 2: Municipalities,
Subpart 3: Municipal Affairs,
Chapter 131: History and Observances,

Subsection 2901. Titled Decoration of veterans' graves on Memorial Day.

1. Decoration of Veterans' graves. Each municipality, as directed by its municipal officers annually shall decorate on the day Memorial Day is observed the graves of veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States of America with an American flag and appropriate flag holders...

2. Erection of flagpole as alternative.

3. No effect on individuals' right to decorate. This section does not in

any way affect the right of any friend or relative of a deceased veteran to decorate the grave.

4. Bell ringing on Veterans Day. Each municipality shall, unless it will cause the municipality to incur an additional expense, cause any public bell or clarion within its possession or control to be rung at 11:00 a.m. on Veterans Day, and the municipal officers of each municipality shall request that any other bell or clarion within the municipality be rung voluntarily at 11:00 a.m. on Veterans Day, and shall take such steps as are necessary to properly coordinate public and volunteer events....

5. Unorganized townships. I veterans' graves as described in this section are located in an unorganized township, the county in which that unorganized township is located is subject to the provisions in this section...

6. Graves on land owned by Federal Government. Veterans' graves located on a site that was owned by the Federal Government as of January 1, 2000, are not subject to the requirements of this section.

I hope that this information is or will be useful when necessary.

As we are now starting into a new membership year, I hope we can build up our numbers over the previous year's total. I hope to see you soon, and always remember, if there is anything that I can do to assist you, please do not hesitate to contact me anytime. My cell phone number is 207-557-4971. May God bless you, your family, and our great organization so that we can serve our fellow veterans to the best of our ability.



Humanitarian Award: Steve & Erica Gray of the Thomas O. Cyr Post 147, Madawaska, were presented with the Humanitarian Award by National Executive Committeeman Lloyd Woods, left, at the annual State Convention on June 13 at Jeff's Catering & Event Center, Brewer.

On the Agenda

SEPTEMBER 2026 MEETINGS

- District 3 – Androscoggin:** Sept. 21, Livermore Falls Post 10, 6:30 p.m.
- District 9 – Kennebec:** Sept. 16, Oakland Post 51, 6:00 p.m., Cmdr. Jeffrey Flye and Adj. Tina Zabierek
- District 13 – Penobscot:** Sept. 13, Brewer Post 98, 2:00 p.m., Social Time 1:00 p.m.
- District 14 – Piscataquis:** Sept. 19, Guilford Post 116, 6:30 p.m.
- District 17 – Aroostook:** Sept. 20, Stockholm Post 136, 12:00 p.m., Meal with Meeting at 1:00 p.m.

OCTOBER 2026 MEETINGS

- District 3 – Androscoggin:** Oct. 19, Auburn Post 31, 6:30 p.m.
- District 9 – Kennebec:** Oct. 14, Winthrop Post 40, 7:00 p.m., Cmdr. Robert Dawson, Jr. and Adj. Doug Thomas
- District 14 – Piscataquis:** Oct. 17, Milo Post 41, 12:00 p.m. Lunch, Meeting 1:00 p.m.
- District 17 – Aroostook:** Oct. 11, Frenchville Post 145, 12:00 p.m. Meeting

NOVEMBER 2026 MEETINGS

- District 3 – Androscoggin:** Nov. 16, Turner Post 111, 6:30 p.m.
- District 9 – Kennebec:** TBD, Waterville Post 5, 6:00 p.m., Cmdr. Craig Bailey and Adj. Ernest Paradis
- District 13 – Penobscot:** Nov. 8, Old Town Post 75, 2:00 p.m., Social Time 1:00 p.m.
- District 14 – Piscataquis:** Nov. 21, Monson Post 116, 12:00 p.m. Lunch, Meeting 1:00 p.m.
- District 17 – Aroostook:** Nov. 1, Fort Kent Post 133, 12:00 p.m., Meal with Meeting at 1:00 p.m.

"CMDR'S COMMENTS" (Continued from Page 2)

Each one of us has a role in moving The American Legion forward. Whether we are supporting current members, reaching out to prospective members, or getting involved in the many programs we offer, every effort matters. If we continue to work together as one team, I believe our membership will continue to grow.

We have so many meaningful opportunities ahead of us this year, including American Legion Baseball from the last week of July through the first week of August, Be The One, Maine Legion College, Oratorical, and the Dirigo State program.

There is something in The American Legion for every Legionnaire and every post to stand behind. My hope is that each of us finds a program or cause that speaks to us and gives it our full support.

This year, my Commander's Project is Special Olympics and Camp Tall Pines. This project is especially meaningful to me because it supports

a vision of communities where people open their minds, accept one another, and include people with intellectual disabilities and anyone who may be perceived as different. Funds raised will support the programs of Special Olympics Maine and help provide upkeep for The American Legion cabin at Camp Tall Pines. I ask for your support, in whatever ways you are able to give. Please mail all donations to the Department of Maine headquarters.

I have already had the privilege of visiting several posts, and I have quite a few more visits on the calendar. If your post has a special function you would like me to attend, please reach out. I would be honored to join you if my schedule allows, and I look forward to spending time with as many of you as possible this year.

Thank you all for everything you do for our veterans, our communities, and one another. Please take time to thank the people around you as well. A simple thank you can go a long way and can remind someone that they are seen, valued, and appreciated.

Department Commander, Joseph "Joe" Michaud



Dirigo State Graduation: Newly-elected Department Commander Joseph "Joe" Michaud speaks at the Dirigo State graduation ceremony on Friday, June 26 at Colby College, Waterville.

THE MAINE

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The Adjutant Speaks

Your Post is Caught in the Chicken and the Egg Process



JASON
HALL

Your post is caught in a circular dilemma; it's sort of like:

Perhaps it became a remnant of an era that doesn't exist anymore.

Let's tackle the first potential problem.

GATEKEEPERS: You have been the post commander for 19 years; no new members are joining because the ideas have been the same for 19 years. In Maine, we all live in small towns. Everyone knows you, heck you may be related, dated, schoolmates, co-workers, etc. As a post officer, your only goal is to find a replacement. Your current position is not a lifetime appointment. I am not saying serve and then disappear, I am saying serve and then stay and mentor. You have experience you should be passing on to the next officer, and by not sharing, you are not thinking in the best interests of the post or organization.

CHANGE: If you are opposed to change, you are hurting the future of your post. Changing with the times ensures you stay relevant, unlock new opportunities, and avoid stagnation. The world constantly evolves—socially, technologically, and economically. Embracing this shift rather than fighting it prevents your post and membership from getting left behind. You are missing out on uncovering new opportunities for your membership.

ACTIVITY: Are you an asset to your community? You've heard it before, what would happen if your post didn't exist anymore? Would the community know you're gone? Does the post offer

you can't get history if you can't get granted a loan.

Your post is spinning round with: new members are not joining our post because there is nothing new or interesting; we can't do anything new or interesting because we don't have the members to help run it.

We continuously get questioned at conferences, State Convention, and daily communications at headquarters about how to get new members; let's look at the root problems that may exist:

- Gatekeepers - older members find it hard to allow new ideas or share post responsibilities.
- Change - or resistance to change. Members like comfort in familiar routines; they don't like anxiety about adapting to new systems (computers, MyLegion.org, communication via email or text, finance software, etc.), loss of control, or fear of the unknown.
- And the big one, Activity - your post offers nothing to the new member.

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

Oakhurst Presented National Employer of Veterans Award

A little late on handing out this National award. Juggling schedules isn't always easy. In 2025, Oakhurst Dairy was recognized at National Convention in Tampa, Florida for their incredible work and veteran hiring practices.

Oakhurst has demonstrated exceptional commitment to hiring, retaining, and supporting veterans. They were recognized after we got robust metrics proving their track record on their practices, retention, and transitional support.

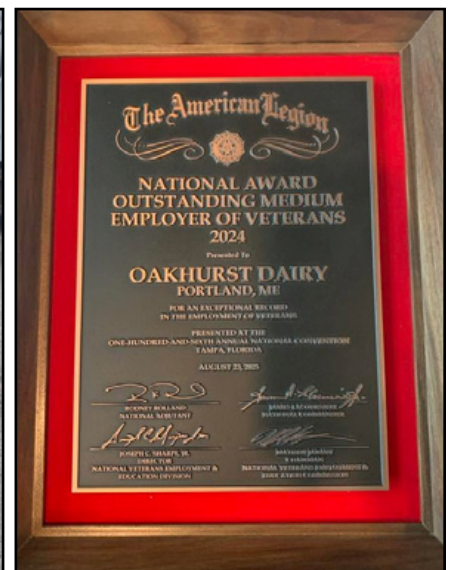
Department Adjutant Jason Hall was fortunate to crash their employee recognition event, which included haddock bites and onion rings from Schutt's Food Truck. Also, hanging out with Topsham Post 202 Legionnaire Davielle Hawks always makes for a fun day. Davielle is not only an Air Force veteran, she is the HR Director for Oakhurst. Also pictured is Oakhurst President Mark Page. (Note: photographer was also

an Air Force veteran.)

From the original Oakhurst Dairy, founded by the Bennett family on Woodford Street in Portland in 1921, to the modern 100% farmer-owned dairy on Forest Avenue in Portland, Oakhurst has stood for The Natural Goodness of Maine. All of their milk comes from local Maine farmers who took the first farmers pledge to keep artificial growth hormone out of their milk.

Oakhurst has made a commitment to reducing their environmental impact, keeping their footprint as small as possible, finding ways to support healthy active kids, fighting without compromise to keep artificial growth hormones out of their milk, and now...winning national recognition in their efforts to support veterans.

The American Legion is proud of Oakhurst, their Maine history, and their continued efforts. CONGRATULATIONS!!



Outstanding Employer Of Veterans Award: Oakhurst is presented with The American Legion National Award for Outstanding Medium Employer of Veterans at the company's employee recognition event. Left photo, left to right, Department Adjutant Jason Hall, Oakhurst HR Director Davielle Hawks, and Oakhurst President Mark Page.

SUMMER SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS

Congratulations to the Following Sweepstakes Winners!



Winners of the Summer Sweepstakes Raffle drawn June 7 at Jeff's Catering & Event Center, Brewer. Grand Prize winner of \$1500 was awarded to Charles H Stewart, Millinocket Post 80; \$500 to Paul D Roy, Mechanic Falls Post 150; \$300 to Willard V Sleamaker, Headquarters Post 178; and \$200 to Robert L Smith, Eliot Post 188.

■ "ADJUTANT SPEAKS" (Continued from Page 4)

something the community respects? Imagine being a young veteran out of the military and they come across your post, why would they join? Is it the post's involvement with scholarships? Youth sports or Scouts? Do you have a great service officer? Does your post have a willingness to provide volunteers at town events? Is it the patriotic events offered or members honoring comrades in the cemeteries? Are the programs available like DIRIGO State, Oratorical, or Baseball?

If you answered that your post offered nothing, or if you answered that the post has a lounge, we may have found the dilemma.

Maine has 170 posts, 30 have a lounge. How can the 140 dry posts function and attract new members? Do they concentrate on veterans, their families, and their communities?

Another question that is asked often is, "how do we get new members?" I usually follow up with, "What have you tried?" The answer 99% of the time is, "Nothing."

Let's think about some solutions.

FOCUS ON SERVICE: Host community events: flags on graves, roadside clean up, volunteer party at local non-profit, scholarship fundraiser for kids in community, etc. You can still socialize. Some posts with lounges forget to accomplish the mission prior to taking the cap off the bottle. You are representing your post, finish the mission first...then celebrate.

REPRESENT: You served your country; continue that service through your community. Invest some time each month to help put the flags out, cook the food for a community fundraiser, attend scholarship night at the local school to support the students, and place those flags on the poles.

HAVE A THEME: Are you the scholarship post? Are you the parade post? Are you the Legion Baseball post? Scout post? DIRIGO State post? What is your post's claim to fame in that community? New members want to be part of a winning team. Pick something your community needs. It may have been Legion Baseball 15 years ago, but now...they may need someone to run the Memorial Day Parade. Scouting may have been huge 30 years ago, but the post is needed to be lifeguards at local beach. Find your theme and listen to the demands of your community. Create the team people want to be a part of.

CHANGE: I personally held off a year when membership was first introduced on MyLegion.org. I would spend hours processing membership by hand, putting envelopes in the mail, etc. Twelve months later, I signed into MyLegion.org and completed hours of work in 10 minutes. I wasted a year due to my resistance to change. There are posts in Maine that held off on starting an American Legion Riders Chapter, but once they got one... membership increased and activity in the community increased significantly. A few posts had dying Scouting programs, that was their claim to fame. They started a Legion Baseball team, and the membership fundraises, supports, attends games, and the excitement of the post is off the charts. A few posts were not keen on allowing kids to be involved. The posts that adapted and created activities for the entire family grew immediately (egg hunts, trick or trunk, family days.)

You must stop the cycle. You have to change and your post must offer something the community wants. Host a family-friendly community event, such as a weekend barbecue, a Memorial Day/Veterans Day ceremony, or a flag-retirement drive. Make it about the community to show the post is active again. Re-evaluate meeting times: working-age veterans cannot attend traditional weekday morning meetings. Switch to a weekend or evening format, keep them short and action-oriented, and offer food.

EVERY MEMBER IS A RECRUITER. Do not wait for a member to walk through the door, go after them. Call the members, ask what they want the post to do (survey.) Call and directly ask members or local veterans to come to an event, volunteer, or support what the post is doing. Have applications at arm's length always.

Our mindset needs to shift. If a new veteran walks in with an idea—like starting a post gaming night, a riding group, or a community service project—do not drown them in committee bureaucracy. Immediately appoint them as the chairperson for that activity and say, "We have the building and the charter; you have the green light. How can we back you up?" This creates "buy in."

You can break this chicken and egg cycle; you must pivot away from waiting for a larger membership base and instead focus on micro-actions that require very little volunteer power but heavily broadcast that the post is alive.

Department Adjutant, Jason Hall

Judge Advocate

Legionnaires,
It is a profound honor to serve as your 2026–2027 Department Judge Advocate. I accept this responsibility with humility and determination.

A brief introduction: I am a 22 year Navy veteran who began my career as a Hospital Corpsman at MCAS Cherry Point, NC, transitioned to law enforcement, and retired from NCTCMS Cutler, ME. The steel decks of Navy ships, physical rigors of law enforcement, and training military dogs have taken their toll on my body, yet it is the unseen moral injuries that trouble me most. I am forever grateful to the VA for steadying me when I felt broken and alone. That gratitude fuels my commitment to ensure no veteran walks alone. But enough about me—let's move forward together.

The role of Judge Advocate is mostly advisory. Traditionally, the Judge Advocate is supposed to be like a 50's child, seen but not heard, unless spoken to. Well, those who know me are already laughing at that one. But seriously, the role is advisory. I value conversation. Please do not hesitate to contact me with your questions, concerns, or opinions. I don't know everything; I don't even know half of everything, but I will research with you so we can find the best course. There is a wealth of knowledge and experience within our department. Namely our Department Adjutant and the cadre of Past Department Commanders. "I never did anything alone. Whatever was accomplished by this country was accomplished collectively," Golda Meir, 4th Prime Minister of Israel.

Although mostly advisory, my role may sometimes require an official ruling. I would much prefer discussion leading to consensus over making a ruling. Like all good Judge Advocates before me, my first question will be, "What does your Constitution and By-Laws say?" Please review your Post and District Constitution and By-Laws. Everyone should be doing

this. Members, ask your post and district officers for copies and read them yourself. Are they compliant with current national and department guidelines? Do they accurately reflect how your post/district functions? Is your post/district following them correctly? If not, raise the question and correct them. If you need assistance interpreting or updating them, or a neutral ear to listen to all points of concern, I am here to help. There is a sample for Post Constitution and By-Laws on page 133 of the 2026 Officer's Guide.

Your Constitution is your foundational framework. It outlines your core purpose and basic structure. The By-Laws are more specific and actionable. They outline your operating rules and day-to-day affairs. Your By-Laws should be detailed enough to provide clear and concise guidelines for your post or district. But remember, this is not a legal brief or dissertation. Clear and concise is key. If members do not understand, or if there seems to be conflicting direction, confusion ensues. Skip the legal jargon and keep it simple but clear. If you want to establish specific orders for specific events or occurrences, consider standing rules or standing operating procedures (SOPs.) In short, a standing rule is a directive that grants pre-approval for action whereas a SOP is a more detailed step-by-step "how to" guide.

A final thought on leadership and character: controversy tests us. Will you be a carrot, an egg, or a coffee bean? Place each in boiling water and watch their reaction. The carrot went into the boiling water hard, strong, and unrelenting. However, after facing the adversity, it became soft, mushy, and weak. The egg started fragile with a thin protective shell enclosing a liquid interior. After sitting in the boiling water, the inside of the egg became hardened. The coffee bean was unique. When placed in the boiling water, it actually changed the water itself, releasing fragrance and flavor to create something entirely new.

Don't forget your IRS 990N and State of Maine filings. Please remember that each time you look in the mirror, you are looking at The American Legion's most valuable asset.



JOYCE A.
GADDIS

Service Office Update



**SERVICE OFFICER
CARL CURTIS**

Hello from the Service Office. In the previous article I talked about the different ways a Veteran can get service connected for injuries related to their time in service. In this article I will go over the five ways to appeal a rating decision. Each has its own requirements and deciding which appeal to use is very important. I would suggest that you seek out a VSO if you

want to appeal a rating decision.

Before I get into the different appeals, I want to touch on a part of the decision letter that was added through the Appeals Modernization Act of 2019. It is called the favorable findings section, and it really confuses a lot of veterans. This section tells you what parts of the claim were met. This is important because it tells you what needs to be fixed on appeal for the condition.

The first way to appeal is called the Supplemental Claim. It is used for any condition that has been previously denied. The key to using this appeal is to submit new and material evidence. Which is something related to the claim that has not been seen before. This can be a personal statement or a nexus letter from a doctor.

The second way to appeal is with a Higher-Level Review. The key to using this appeal is that they can only look at what is on record at the time of the decision. You are not allowed to add any new and material evidence. It does allow for an informal conference between yourself, and the senior rater assigned to the appeal. This is so you can explain what you believe to be a mistake in the original claim decision.

The next three ways to appeal are all through the Board of Veterans Appeals. The first option on the Board is for a Direct Review by a Veterans Law Judge. This option does not allow you to submit any new evidence.

The second option is Evidence Submission Reviewed by a Veterans Law Judge. In this option you can submit new evidence to be considered.

The third option is a hearing with a Veterans Law Judge. This option has three ways to conduct the hearing. The first is for you to travel to attend the hearing in Washington DC. The second way is a video conference at the local regional office. The third way is virtual telehearing, which you can attend via your smart phone or laptop.

The last appeal of a decision is due process for a purposed reduction. If a veteran asks for a reevaluation of a service-connected condition. That claim opens the possibility of a reduction of the rating for that condition. If this occurs, the VA must send the veteran a due process letter. This gives the veteran 30 days to submit a statement requesting a hearing, which will stop the reduction until a hearing can be set up.

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. Due to my current schedule, I will not be able have a seminar until September. Look to Facebook and the leadership Ledger for more information. **PSO Contact Information.** Post Service Officers, as a minimum, please send us your full name, Post, telephone number (your phone number will not be released) and email address. The purpose is so that members of your post can contact you for local assistance and also so that I can contact you, by phone or email, if we hear from a member in your post that needs assistance.

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

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

NEW WAYS TO APPLY FOR VA HEALTHCARE

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

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

1. Paper - VA Form 10-10 EZ.
2. Call 1-877-222-VETS (8387), Mon-Fri between 8 am and 8 pm, EST.
3. Online at www.vets.gov!

TOGUS VA WOMEN'S CLINIC. If you haven't already heard, there is a Women Veterans Clinic here at Togus. It specializes in women's health issues.

Please keep in mind that there are medical conditions that may be claimable for the children of women veterans who served in certain areas and/or on certain ships that are presumptive for Agent Orange. If you are a woman

veteran, it is a good idea to give us a call or look for more information on www.va.gov.

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

DSO CONTACT INFORMATION. We are located at Togus VA Medical Center, Building 205, Room 318. You can contact us by telephone at 207-623-5726, Fax at 207-621-4821, or by email at carl.curtis2@va.gov, or julie.kern@va.gov. We are here to assist you Monday through Thursday, 9:00 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 Of The Year is awarded to Portland Post 17 Service Officer Darnell Williams, front right, by Dept. Service Officer Carl Curtis, at the podium, and Dept. Commander Leroy McKenzie, left, at the annual State Convention on June 13.

Americanism

Take me out to the ball game, take me out to MANSFIELD, BANGOR! Yes folks, the games are now complete.

Maine Baseball Championships: Congratulations to the Maine State Senior Legion Baseball Champions,



**MAUREEN
MALLEY**

the Greater Southern Maine Riders, and the Maine State Junior Legion Baseball Champions, Hampden Riverhawks-White.

Yes, there was popcorn, maybe Cracker Jacks, and lots

to eat and drink at the games. Legion baseball is a Legion Family affair for Legionnaires, Auxiliary, SAL, and Riders. Not only are we supporting the players, the coaches, and parents; WE the Legion appreciate them. Maine Legion Baseball is the largest Maine Legion youth program with over 420 participants. One day you will see them playing in college leagues, semi and professional games. You can say, "I watched him as a kid and look at him now."

Despite the rainy weather, the Maine American Legion Family just finished another year of **Dirigo State**, held at Colby College, with 159 graduates. We had a great year with Bill Jack, our new Director, running the ship. Junior and Senior counselors did a fantastic job guiding our student candidates along the way, while having rec time fun outdoors. This year's Dirigo State Governor was Rose Lehane Tureen of

Falmouth, who attended Girls Nation. Carter Bennett of Wayne, was selected to attend Boys Nation. To see all our winners, go to www.mainelegion.org under Programs > **Dirigo State** to look for winners.

The Blind Camp Talent Show was held July 30 at Camp Lawroweld, 288 West Side Road, Weld. Brian Knowlton presented the donations received for this year. I hear it is a good time to see the creations of these campers.

Did you know the **Oratorical** four amendments are already listed for 2027? Visit www.legion.org/get-involved/youth-programs/oratorical-contest to view the assigned topics. You can contact students in 9-12th grade and get them researching now for our December through February competitions.

Let's not forget the **Junior Shooting Sports**. Check with David Watson for details. Their competition is being held in February.

We have a new chairperson for this year's **Oratorical**, Debra Couture. Debra is no stranger to this program. I thank all the volunteers over the last five years for your support and dedication to this amazing high school scholarship program; please continue your support. Perhaps you too can be a volunteer.

Another newcomer is chairperson Timothy (Tim) Tiess for **Scouting**. He has already hit the ground running, learning, and developing a resource and operating procedure booklet for all members to use at your post and with your Scouts. Do you have a Scout group, cub pack, or troop? Let Tim know! This will help him and your Scouting groups grow if the community knows you're out there.



Americanism Awards: Dept. Americanism Officer Maureen Malley, right, alongside Dept. Commander Leroy McKenzie, left, presents Americanism Awards and announces scholarship recipients at the annual State Convention on Friday, June 12 in Brewer.

Past Commander's Club Reminder!

Please remember to submit your Past Commander's Club dues to cover the James V. Day Scholarship!

Annual dues for Past Commanders Club are \$5.00 per member. Visit www.mainelegion.org under Forms/Application to download an



**PAST
COMMANDERS
CLUB**

application. If you haven't paid your Past Commanders Club dues yet, please do so today!

The Historian's Journal

Preserving Our Legacy

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Department Historian. I look forward to recording, preserving, and protecting our Maine American Legion Family history for the 2026 - 2027 year.

Every American Legion post has a unique history. It is written not only in meeting minutes and official records, but also in the lives of the veterans who have served, the families who have supported



**TOMMY
SOMERVILLE**

them, and the communities we continue to strengthen through service. Each ceremony, volunteer project, scholarship presentation, flag retirement, memorial observance, and for the good of the Legion act of kindness, becomes part of our Maine American Legion Family state history. Even a single photograph with names and a date can become an invaluable historical record for future generations.

The role of the Department Historian is more than collecting old photographs or storing documents. It is about ensuring that today's accomplishments

become tomorrow's history. It's about ensuring future American Legion Family members will be able to look back and understand who The Maine American Legion Family of 2026-2027 was. We celebrate the accomplishments, significant milestones, distinguished members, military anniversaries, and the traditions that have shaped The American Legion since its founding in 1919. Our history records show how strong our veterans volunteer organization is and what it has accomplished.

I encourage all historians to copy their history records for safe keeping, please provide a copy to Department Headquarters, your local library, or historical society so that records are not ever permanently lost.

As Department Historian, I look forward to providing any assistance I can to help you and your post continue or create a well-organized history record, storybook, or newsletter. I look forward to visiting as many American Legion posts as possible this upcoming year and meeting more comrades and documenting and recording the wonderful volunteer work accomplished by the Maine American Legion Family.

History belongs to all of us. Together, we can ensure that the service and sacrifices of our veterans—and the continuing work of every post—are preserved with accuracy, dignity, and pride for future generations.

Sergeant-At-Arms

Guarding Our Traditions, Leading With Purpose

Good Day Fellow Legionnaires! A new Legion year is upon us, and



**JEFF
SUKEFORTH**

as we move forward into this new Legion year, I want to extend my gratitude to all the post and district sergeants-at-arms across our department. Your dedication to your position keeps our meetings running smoothly and our ceremonies dignified.

Be ever mindful that our role as the sergeant-at-arms goes far beyond managing the door. You are the keepers of Legion tradition, the guardians of safety, and the very first face people see when they walk into our halls.

Here are a few focus areas for our teams in the coming months:

- **The "Stranger" Factor:** Acting as the primary host by greeting visitors, verifying their credentials, introducing them to the commander, and making them feel welcome. Too many times, I have seen a new face come through our doors, and no one goes up to greet them. Take the lead and ensure our guests are greeted properly and made to feel at home. Simply put: ensure no new veteran or guest remains a stranger.

- **Membership Verification:** Always check membership cards at the door to maintain the integrity of our executive meetings and ensure all attendees are in good standing. This is especially valid if any voting takes place at your meetings.

- **Dignitary Escorts:** Make yourself aware of the "Legion rank" and names of any VIPs to ensure you escort them in proper order of precedence

[More on "SGT-AT-ARMS" Page 15](#)

Chaplain's Corner

"For God and Country:" Glory, Patriotism, and the Work of Our Hands.

When we hear the word *glory*, many of us instinctively think of songs, ceremonies, or the bright language of praise. And when we hear *patriotism*, we often imagine parades, flags, or debates about what is "right" for the nation. But in Scripture, *glory* means something far deeper than applause, and *patriotism*, at its best, is something far more demanding than sentiment.

In the Bible, *glory* refers to the revelation of the **true nature** of a thing—its weight, its character, its essence revealed. When the psalmist says, "The heavens declare the glory of God," he is not describing a cosmic choir. He is saying that creation itself—its order, beauty, and steadfastness—reveals who God is. Glory is not noise. Glory is **truth made visible**.

Patriotism, in its healthiest form, works the same way. It is not primarily a matter of speeches or slogans. It is the steady, lived expression of the values we claim to cherish: service, sacrifice, responsibility, and care for our neighbors and fellow veterans. Patriotism is not simply what we say about our country. It is what we *do* for the people who share our nation with us.

This is where the two ideas meet. We give glory to God through our patriotism when our civic life

reflects God's own character. When our actions reveal justice, mercy, humility, and steadfast love, we are not only strengthening our nation—we are bearing witness to the One whose image we carry.

A Legionnaire who is willing to "Be The One" and help a fellow veteran through unimaginably rough times is giving glory to God. A Legion post that enriches its community by sponsoring programs for youth and older citizens or solemnly honors the sacrifices of the forgotten dead is giving glory to God. A citizen who votes thoughtfully, listens respectfully, and works for the common good is giving glory to God. These are not just gestures. They are powerful acts that reveal the weight and truth of the values we profess.

In a time when patriotism sometimes seems to be reduced to arguments or accusations, The American Legion continues to model a better way. Its commitment to service, community, and mutual responsibility reflects the biblical understanding that glory is not performance—it is character. It is the quiet, steady radiance of people who live what they believe.

To give glory to God through patriotism is not to wrap faith in a flag. It is to let our love of country be shaped by the God who calls us to love our neighbor. It is to let our service reflect His justice, our compassion reflect His mercy, our perseverance reflect His faithfulness, and our lives reflect our gratitude for the blessings of our nation.

When we do that, our patriotism becomes more than sentiment. It becomes testimony. It becomes light. It becomes glory.



DAVID P. COTE



2026 AMERICAN LEGION FALL CONFERENCE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2026

 POST 20 BRUNSWICK LEGIONNAIRES	9:15 START
 POST 21 BATH AUXILIARY	9:00 START
 POST 202 TOPSHAM SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION	9:00 START



There will be coffee, donuts, fruit available at each location.



There will be an optional bag lunch prepared to be delivered to each location.

\$10 BAG LUNCH

ACCOMMODATION

 Rodeway Inn 287 Bath Road Brunswick, ME 04011 207-261-1223	Wiscasset Woods Lodge 596 Bath Road Route 1 Wiscasset 207-882-7137	Best Western Plus 71 Gurnet Road Brunswick, ME 04011 207-725-5251
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- 2 Full Beds kitchenette \$150.00 plus tax
- 2 Queen Beds with kitchen \$199.00 plus tax
- Breakfast included

- Cottage \$245.00 plus tax
- Room \$195.00 Plus tax
- Both have microwave. Mini fridge
- Breakfast not included

- Room \$134.00 plus tax
- Breakfast included

These are all under The American Legion as a group rate.
THERE IS LIMITED AVAILABILITY AT EACH LOCATION.

Legion, Auxiliary, and Sons members are invited to the following events:

Meet & Greet | Friday Sept. 25: Bath Post 21, 200 Congress Ave, Bath. Doors open at 3:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

Dinner & Karaoke | Saturday Sept. 26: Bath Post 21, 200 Congress Ave, Bath. Dinner runs 4:30 - 6:00 p.m., karaoke to follow.

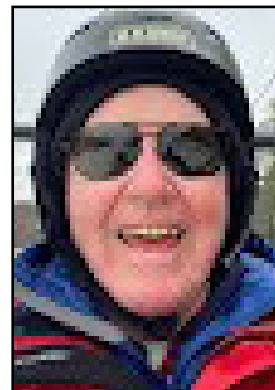
[Click Here to View Tentative Fall Conference Agenda](#)

Scouting Corner

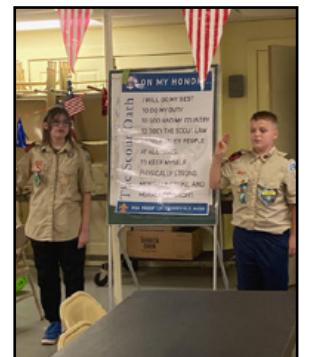
The American Legion's relationship with the Boy Scouts of America goes back almost 100 years to the founding of both organizations. Following the First World War and the founding of The American Legion, as our "boys" came back from overseas, many of these veterans started Boy Scout troops and served as leaders. The early scout uniforms were basically WWI style military uniforms, complete with Smokey the Bear hats. Here in Katahdin Council, it was WWI

veterans who established and built Camp Roosevelt in E. Eddington. In fact, there is a WWI grave flag and holder in front of the original Pamola Lodge Hall to remember these doughty veterans who established one of the premier scout camps in the northeast. Right from the beginning, as Legion posts were chartered and developed, they sponsored Boy Scout troops and still do. Many Legion posts have given up sponsorship in recent years, as interest in scouting diminished, and adult

[More on "SCOUTING CORNER" Page 17](#)



PETER DUSTON



President's Message

Well, here we are at the start of another year, and we are already off and running. This year, my president's project will work a little bit differently than ones in the past. This is because I have chosen a project as well as a platform to build upon. My platform is Wreaths Across America. Many of us know who they are, but little know what they do. They are more than the wreathes; they are education for K-12, teaching our youth the same principles that The American Legion's Four Pillars are built on. You can access all of their educational information free of charge from their site, or contact them and have their mobile education unit at one of your events. They preserve history through their 1800 sq. ft. museum, which houses memorabilia that families across the country have sent to them. They operate the Gold Star Family History and Hospitality House. A place where Gold Star families can stay to visit the area. And as I mentioned, they are the wreathes. I am hoping that by sharing information about their wreath programs, that more Legion Families (Legion Posts, Auxiliary Units, Sons Squadrons, and Riders Chapters) will join together and adopt a local cemetery to honor every year. I find it both sad and ironic that they are in our backyard and yet Maine has the lowest participation across the country. If you check it out, there are even more ways that you can not only honor the fallen, but raise money for your post/unit while doing so.

As I said earlier, I have a platform and a project; my project for homeless veterans, and I think we can all agree



**STELLA
TRAHAN**

that even one veteran without a roof over their head is too many. At any given time in the state of Maine there are 165-175 veterans living on the streets or in a car, or some other makeshift arrangement. That means that there are 165-175 men or women that can't get out of the heat, or the cold. They cannot shower when they need to, eat a hot meal, or do

all the things we take for granted. That is why I have chosen Boothbay Vets Inc., to build mobile units for homeless veterans. At this time, Mr. Harmon is working with the town of Wiscasset to gain approval for land development that he has been gifted, to build a village of sorts. He is also working with Michael Kennedy at the VA to be able to connect the veterans they help with needed services at Togus. It costs approximately \$16,000 to build one unit. My goal is to build 2 units. This will not only provide more mobile houses to eventually be moved on to the property, but it is also providing rehabilitation and training in a trade. Mr. Harmon is now also working with the prison system. He is working with inmates that are becoming eligible for parole, to be able to come out and learn a trade and work on the structures. Thus, providing a skill to re-enter the work force. At this time, most of his skilled laborers are veterans, working to get their lives back together. And of that number, most are women veterans. I hope to meet many of you as I travel the state and I hope to be able to share more information about both my platform and project.



Department Auxiliary President Installation: Stella Trahan, left, is installed as Auxiliary Department President on Sat., June 13 at Jeff's Catering & Event Center, Brewer, by Installing Officer Debra Rumery, right. Also assisting with the installation are Auxiliary Chaplain Ginny Chaput and Sgt.-At-Arms Veronica Gurney.



Legion Riders Director Award: Thomas Kuespert, right, is awarded for his service as Legion Riders Director for 2025-2026 by Department Commander Leroy McKenzie, left, at the annual State Convention on June 13.

Detachment Commander's Message

Greetings American Legion Family Members,

For those who do not know me, my name is Steve Amergian and I am a proud 14-year member of Squadron 86 in Gray, Maine. My grandfather answered the call to duty in 1942 and served in the Army until shortly after the conclusion of WW2. He was a proud veteran, husband, father & businessman until his passing. He served on the civic level as a member of the Portland City Council, Interim Mayor of Portland and Cumberland County Commissioner. As a Mason and member of Post 17 in Portland he devoted his free time to helping others and from his example I began my journey with Squadron 86. During my time with the Squadron, I have held the position of Assistant Adjutant, First Vice Commander and Commander. Past Commander Doyle approached me a few years ago and told me of his plans for The Detachment and asked if I would fill the role of



**STEVE
AMERGIAN**

First Vice Commander. Until last Saturday, I held that position and worked to learn & grow under his leadership. The Detachment is in a very strong position, and it is an honor to be at the helm.

My Commander's Project for the upcoming year is Guitars For Vets. This project provides lessons and instruction on the skills needed to

begin playing guitar. Upon completion of the course the graduation present is the guitar the veteran has been learning on for the previous weeks. Each guitar costs roughly \$350 and, as ambitious as it sounds, I would like to raise \$17,500 in funds to provide 50 guitars for the program in the next 52 weeks. Any and all help in achieving this goal will be greatly appreciated at all levels! Thank you for taking the time to read this and learn about me as I continue to learn about all of you and this great organization that brings us all together. Thank you all.



Sons Of The American Legion Commander Award: Steve Doyle, left, is presented with an award for his service as Detachment of Maine Commander for 2025-2026 by Department Commander Leroy McKenzie, right, at the annual State Convention on June 13, held at Jeff's Catering & Event Center, Brewer.

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 www.legion.org/about/american-legion-family/sons-of-the-american-legion/join-sons-of-the-american-legion

* 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.

Meet the Officers 2026-2027



**JOSEPH
MICHAUD**
Commander
Madawaska Post 147



**RYAN
SIMPSON**
1st Vice Commander
Etna-Carmel Post 107



**THOMAS
KUESPERT**
2nd Vice Commander
Newport Post 105



**JASON
HALL**
Adjutant
Gray Post 86



**MARY T
BROWN**
Finance Officer
Topsham Post 202



**MAUREEN
MALLEY**
Americanism Officer
Hallowell Post 6



**TOMMY
SOMERVILLE**
Historian
Gray Post 86



**DAVID P.
COTE**
Chaplain
Van Buren Post 49



**JEFF
Sukeforth**
Sgt.-At-Arms
Camden Post 30



**JOYCE A.
GADDIS**
Judge Advocate
Hampden Post 213



**LLOYD
WOODS**
NEC
Madawaska Post 147



**KIRK
THURSTON**
NECA
Rumford Post 24



**CARL
CURTIS**
Service Officer
Brunswick Post 20



Department Commander's Plaque:
Outgoing Department Commander Leroy McKenzie, left, receives the 2025-2026 State Commander Plaque. McKenzie's wife Heather, center, and daughter, Lux, show their support and appreciation for the outgoing Commander.



Quilt of Valor is presented to Oxford County District 5 Commander Randall "Randy" Jack, by Quilts of Valor District Coordinator Teresa Drag (not pictured) at State Convention on June 13. Draping the quilt are Auxiliary President Linda Jack, left, and Rumford Post 24 member Louis Marin, right.



Department Officer Installation Ceremony: Past Department Commander/National Legislative Commission Chairman Matthew Jabaut, left, performs the Department Officer Installation Ceremony at the Annual State Convention in Brewer on June 13 while National Executive Committeeman Lloyd Woods, back left, and National Executive Committeeman Alternate Kirk Thurston, back center, observe. Dept. Officers being sworn in, front row, from left to right, Sgt.-at-Arms Jeff Sukeforth, Historian Tommy Somerville, Americanism Officer Maureen Malley, 2nd Vice Commander Thomas Kuespert, 1st Vice Commander Ryan Simpson, Outgoing Dept. Commander Leroy McKenzie, and Department Commander Joseph "Joe" Michaud. Back row, District Commanders are sworn into their positions.



2026 Resolutions Action

Resolution 1: Post Revitalization Time Limit

Disposition: RETURN TO COMMITTEE – Posts will have a 6-month time limit from the start of a revitalization process.

Resolution 2: Article XI Convention Committee

Disposition: REJECTED – The Commander of the Department of Maine, along with the Department Adjutant, has the authority to appoint a team to be temporarily assigned to select the convention site, plan the agenda, set up the meeting space, and finally take down the meeting space.

Resolution 3: Post Minimum Membership Requirement

Disposition: Posts with membership under ten (10) will be given the choice of starting the revitalization process or disbanding. **AMENDED MOTION PASSED** - *Amended: Posts with membership under fifteen (15) will be given the choice of starting the revitalization process or disbanding.*

Resolution 4: Article X, Internal Affairs Committee

Disposition: CONSOLIDATED WITH RESOLUTION 5* - Internal Affairs Committee, Article X, be

eliminated from the Department of Maine's Constitution and By-laws.

Resolution 5: Department Investigative Team

Disposition: CONSOLIDATED WITH RESOLUTION 4* - The Commander of the Department of Maine has the authority to appoint a three(3) person team to be temporarily assigned as an investigative body of the Department.

***Consolidated Resolution 5:** The Commander of the Department of Maine has the authority to appoint a three(3) person team to be temporarily assigned as an investigative body of the Department. The Investigative Team, in conjunction with the Department Adjutant and Department Judge Advocate, may investigate such complaints that could have legal implications, constitution and by-laws violations, or such instances where the reputation of The American Legion could be harmed. The Investigative Team will not typically investigate individual complaints at the District or Post levels unless it can be proven that their constitutional rights were violated by the District or Post, which would require a ruling by the Department.



Welcome Address: Past National Commander Anthony "Tony" Jordan addresses the 107th Department of Maine delegation during the June 12 opening ceremony at the annual State Convention in Brewer.



Report To The Assembly: Department National Executive Committeeman Lloyd Woods, seated right, speaks to the assembled delegates, members, and guests during the 2026 State Convention on June 12 in Brewer. Seated left is Department Judge Advocate Julie Flynn.

State Convention Awards

Brewer, Maine June 12-13 2026

Convention Awards

2026 Children & Youth Scholarship - \$500 scholarships: Piper Aube of Gray, Kaylee Bagley of Hancock, Lucy Fullerton of Kittery Point, Jillian Muller of Norway, Julia Richards of Montville, and Norah Young of North Berwick.

2026 Daniel E. Lambert Scholarship - \$1000 scholarship: Carina Castagna of Turner.

2026 James V. Day Scholarship - \$500 scholarships: Jonas Holmes of Dixmont.

2026 Post Americanism & Youth Program Award to Field-Allen Post 148, Windham.

2026 Humanitarian Citizen Awards to Paige Michaud, Brunswick, Daniel MacCaffray, St. George, Lydia Anne Brown, Brewer, Evan Hunter, Frankfort, and Camden Leon Paquin, Lisbon.

2026 Humanitarian Legionnaire Awards to Steve & Erica Gray, Thomas O. Cyr Post 147, Madawaska, Paul Miller, Daniel E. Geagan Post 98, Brewer, and Kerry Wayne Spofford, Daniel E. Geagan Post 98, Brewer.

2026 Border Patrol Agent of the Year to Border Patrol Agent Matthew Day, Houlton Sector.

2026 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year to Officer Celjeta "Jeta" Bixhaku, Warren.

2026 Firefighter of the Year to Firefighter Jeffrey Stevens, Belgrade Fire Department.

2026 EMT/Paramedic of the Year to Captain Anthony Thibodeau, Oakland.

2026 Outstanding Post Commander (Tony's Tiger Award) to Thornton Batty, Jr., Kinney-Melquist Post 34, St. George

2026 Outstanding District Commander (Roger's Rangers Award) to Patrick Linehan, Kennebec County District 9.

2026 Adjutant of the Year Award to Richard Vargas, Winslow-Holbrook-Merritt Post 1, Rockland.

2026 Legionnaire of the Year Award to Yvonne Johnson, Field-Allen Post 148, Windham.

2026 Post Service Officer of the Year Award to Darnell Williams, Harold T. Andrews Post 17, Portland.

2026 1st Place Post Narrative Award to David Tanguay, Field-Allen Post 148, Windham.

2026 Post History Yearbook - Medium Category to Rodney Lynch, War Memorial Post 30, Camden.

2026 History Yearbook - Small Category to Kinney-Melquist Post 34, Tenants Harbor.

2026 1st Place District Newsletter to Kimberly A. Richards, District 1, York County.

2026 1st Post Newsletters - Medium Category to David Tanguay, Field-Allen Post 148, Windham.

2026 2nd Place Post Newsletters - Medium Category to Jeff Sukeforth, War Memorial Post 30, Camden.

2026 1st Place Post Newsletters - Small Category to Kimberly A. Richards, Eliot Memorial Post 188, Eliot.

2026 1st Place Post Article - Medium Category to War Memorial Post 30, Camden.

2026 2nd Place Post Article - Medium Category to Field-Allen Post 148, Windham.

2026 Legion Family Awards: American Legion Auxiliary to Auxiliary President Linda Jack; Sons of The American Legion to SAL Detachment Commander Steve Doyle; Legion Riders to Riders Director Thomas Kuespert.

[More on "CONVENTION AWARDS"](#)
Page 12



Legionnaire Of The Year Award: Yvonne Johnson of Windham Post 148, left, is awarded Legionnaire of the Year by Past Department Commander Patricia "Tricia" Thurston, right.

State Convention Awards (cont.)

Brewer, Maine June 12-13 2026

■ "CONVENTION AWARDS" (Continued from Page 11)

2025 Goal to Grow Awards to District 1: Tighe-Beaudoin-Farley Post 26, Biddeford; **District 2:** Stewart P. Morrill Post 35, So. Portland; Gray Post 86, Gray; Kenison-Hooper Post 128, Standish; **District 5:** Ring-McKeen Post 151, West Paris; **District 6:** Baird-Calderwood-Morrison-Parson Post 33, North Haven; **District 9:** Monmouth Post 204, Monmouth; **District 13:** Tedd-Lait Post 75, Old Town; Daniel E. Geagan Post 98, Brewer; Dow-Lougee Post 115, East Corinth; **District 14:** Poulliot-Seavey Post 53, Dexter; and **District 17:** Levasseur-Farrell Post 49, Van Buren; Perkins-Plourde Post 136,

Stockholm.

2026 Post Excellence Awards to Bernard Jones Post 92, Brownville; Poulliot-Seavey Post 53, Dexter.

100% Post Membership by Dec. 31, 2025 – Honor Ribbons to Feeney-Groves Post 13, East Millinocket; Duffy-Wescott Post 85, Blue Hill; Bernard Jones Post 92, Brownville Junction; Barrows-Skidgel Post 105, Newport; Dow-Lougee Post 115, East Corinth; Kennebunkport Memorial Post 159, Kennebunkport; Bush-Batcher Post 192, Athens; Veterans Memorial Post 205, Augusta.

Outgoing Department Commander to Leroy McKenzie, Thomas O. Cyr Post 147, Madawaska.

Tony's Tigers Award (Post Commander Of The Year) is presented to Thornton Batty Jr., St. George Post 34, center, by Dept. 2nd Vice Commander Ryan Coffin, left, and Dept. 1st Vice Commander Joseph "Joe" Michaud, right.



Commander Ryan Coffin, left, and Dept. 1st Vice Commander Joseph "Joe" Michaud, right.

Roger's Rangers Award (District Commander of the Year) is presented to Patrick Linehan, District 9 - Kennebec County, center, by Dept. 2nd Vice



Humanitarian Legionnaire Awards: Left photo, Humanitarian Award recipient Paul Miller, Daniel E. Geagan Post 98, Brewer, speaks after accepting the award presented by Past Dept. Commander Patricia "Tricia" Thurston, right. Right photo, Kerry Wayne Spofford, Brewer Post 98, left, is presented with the Humanitarian Award by Past Dept. Commander Patricia "Tricia" Thurston, at the podium, and is congratulated by Post 98 Commander Gary Freeman, right.



Border Patrol Agent Of The Year Award is presented to Agent Matthew Day, Houlton Sector, right, by Dept. Commander Leroy McKenzie, left.



Firefighter Of The Year Award is presented to Firefighter Jeffrey Stevens, Belgrade Fire Department, right, by Dept. Commander Leroy McKenzie, left.



Post Americanism Children & Youth Program Award is presented to Field-Allen Post 148, Windham. Left to right, Dept. Commander Leroy McKenzie, Post 148 member Tom Theriault, and Dept. Americanism Officer Maureen Malley.



Law Enforcement Officer Of The Year Award is presented to Officer Celjeta "Jeta" Bixhaku, Warren, right, by Dept. Commander Leroy McKenzie, left. Not pictured is National Executive Committeeman Alternate Kirk Thurston.



Educator Of The Year Award is presented to Beckie Delaney, St. George Municipal School Unit, center, by Dept. Commander Leroy McKenzie, left, and Dept. Americanism Officer Maureen Malley, right.



1st Place Post Yearbook & (Medium Category) is presented to Rodney Lynch, War Memorial Post 30, Camden by Dept. Commander Leroy McKenzie, left, and Dept. Historian Tommy Somerville, not pictured.

Humanitarian Citizen Awards:

Dept. Commander Leroy McKenzie and Past Dept. Commander Patricia "Tricia" Thurston present Humanitarian Citizen Awards. Top left photo, Award recipient Evan Hunter of Frankfort. Top right photo, Award recipient Lydia Anne Brown of Brewer. Bottom left photo, award recipient Camden Leon Paquin



of Lisbon. Bottom right photo, award recipient Daniel MacCaffray of St. George. Not pictured is award recipient Paige Michaud of Brunswick.



2026 Dirigo State Winners

Award	Delegate's Name	Dirigo Town	Maine Town
Boys Nation Delegate #1	Carter Bennett	Muskie	Wayne
Boys Nation Delegate #2	Sawyer Durant	Blaine	Rumford
Boys Nation Alternate #1	Parker Moore	Snowe	Limington
Boys Nation Alternate #2	Fredrick Whitmore	Baxter	Turner
Girls Nation Delegate #1	Rose Lehane Tureen	Talbot	Falmouth
Girls Nation Delegate #2	Lila Ouellette	Pinkham	Orono
Girls Nation Alternate #1	Elle Foley	Pinkham	Falmouth
Girls Nation Alternate #2	Ana Valenzuela	Blaine	Bucksport
The American Legion Scholarship Winner	Colby Keene	Blaine	Farmingdale
The American Legion Scholarship Alternate	Noah Habtetsion	Talbot	Bangor
ALA Scholarship Winner	Phoebe Evans	Chamberlain	Cape Elizabeth
ALA Scholarship Alternate	Scarlette Tremblay	Pinkham	Cornville
Samsung Scholarship - Boy	Carter Bennett	Muskie	Wayne
Samsung Scholarship - Girl	Ahliva Roy	Chamberlain	Wallagrass
Governor	Rose Lehane Tureen	Talbot	Falmouth
Senate President	Phoebe Evans	Chamberlain	Cape Elizabeth
Speaker of the House	Lila Ouellette	Pinkham	Orono
Chief Justice	Varada Nguyen	Daggett	Falmouth
Municipal Outstanding Citizens - Citizen Spirit Awards			
Baxter	Fredrick Whitmore		Turner
Blaine	Evelyn Petrak		Unity
Chamberlain	Phoebe Evans		Cape Elizabeth
Daggett	Kaitlyn Caron		Van Buren
Muskie	Lailah Sher		Chelsea
Pinkham	Lucas Lane		Gorham
Snowe	Trevor Hamlin		Wiscasset
Talbot	Sarah Mansir		Gardiner
Talent Show			
Talent Show 1	Naomi Fairbanks	Baxter	Gray
Talent Show 2	Paloma Killoran	Pinkham	Pittsfield
Talent Show 3	Scarlette Tremblay	Pinkham	Cornville



Congratulations to the 2026 Dirigo State Delegates and Alternates. Top row, left to right, Boys Nation Delegate #1 Carter Bennett, Boys Nation Delegate #2 Sawyer Durant, Boys Nation Alternate #1 Parker Moore, and Boys Nation Alternate #2 Fredrick Whitmore. Bottom row, left to right, Girls Nation Delegate #1 Rose Lehane Tureen, Girls Nation Delegate #2 Lila Ouellette, Girls Nation Alternate #1 Elle Foley, and Girls Nation Alternate #2 Ana Valenzuela.



Dirigo State Governor Rose Lehane Tureen speaks at the Dirigo State graduation ceremony at Colby College in Waterville on Friday, June 26.



An Eventful Week: Students experienced an action-packed week at Dirigo State. They participated in municipal meetings, breakouts into legislative, judicial, and executive branches, passing bills and the budget, judging cases, hearing from guest speakers, a talent show, and much more!



2026 Dirigo State Program, held June 21 - June 26 at Colby College, had an excellent turnout. Thank you to all attendees, sponsors, volunteers, and speakers for another successful year.

Honor Guard: The 2026 Dirigo State Honor Guard and Department Americanism Officer Maureen Malley, left, lead the way into the graduation ceremony.



A Week That Shapes a Lifetime: Dirigo State 2026

Dirigo State had its fifth-annual successful session in June, hosted at Colby College in Waterville. The 33 volunteer staff members welcomed 175 delegates from across the state on Sun., June 21, and set the tone for a week of collaboration, adaptability, hard work, and fun.

Dirigo State is The American Legion Family's apolitical, experiential learning program focused on teaching rising high school seniors about the operations of local, county, and state government. Delegates are split into two parties—Nationalists and Federalists—based on their real beliefs and, throughout the week, plan and run their own government, including electing leadership at all levels and passing legislation.

Programming for the first day included a general orientation to better situate the delegates. They met with their municipalities for the first time—groups which serve as their homebase for the week. Delegates had their first round of elections in the evening, electing Municipal Party Chairs, State Committee-people, and State Party Leadership.

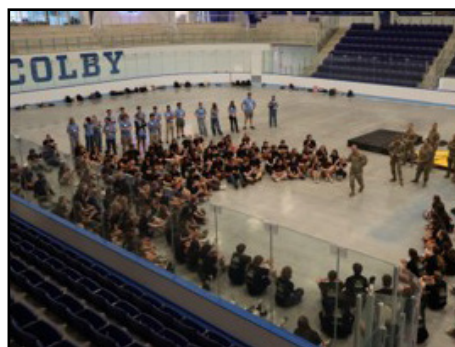
On this day, Legionnaire Julie Flynn gave a powerful presentation about Be The One, engaging delegates to discuss and share additional mental health resources they know. Delegates received handouts summarizing the

information as well as the signature Be The One pins.

Monday and Tuesday consisted of many activities. Municipalities defined their respective city or town, and the parties finalized their platforms ahead of the gubernatorial debates and elections. Recreation time served as an exciting break amidst the political activities, with delegates participating in a range of pastimes including sports, trivia, board games, and writing for the newspaper.

Delegates watched a video from Senator Susan Collins on Monday and learned about the impact of Dirigo State. She encouraged the delegates to take advantage of the opportunities the week holds and cherish the memories.

The program welcomed members of the Maine Army National Guard on Tuesday for activities including inflatable jousting, a push-up contest, and an obstacle course. Delegates had a great time socializing, competing, and learning about paths and opportunities within the National Guard.



National Guard: Dirigo State delegates and staff learn about the National Guard on June 23.

Maine Secretary of State and Girls State alum Shenna Bellows joined delegates later on Tuesday to speak about her political journey and current role. She shared insight into challenges she's faced along the way and talked about the importance of believing in yourself.

Wednesday morning marked a shift in the program, transitioning from the party-formation part of the week to

the executive, judicial, and legislative branch portion. Dirigo State Supreme Court Chief Justice Varada Nguyen swore in Rose Lehane Tureen of the Federalist party as Governor before all delegates broke off into their respective branches. They swiftly got to work debating court cases, legislation, and the best way to balance the budget.

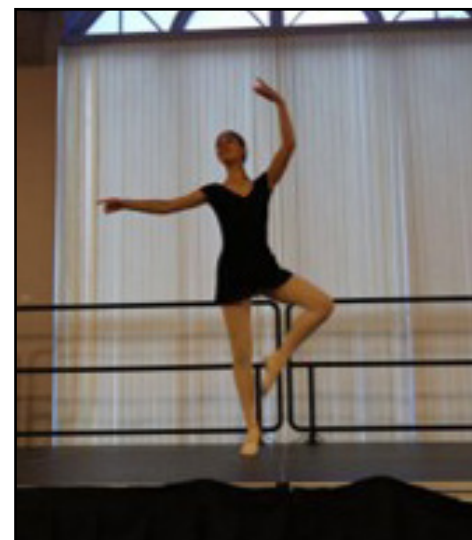


Dirigo State Governor: Varada Nguyen, left, swears in Rose Lehane Tureen, right, as Dirigo State Governor on June 24, assisted by Executive Branch Advisor, Adora Olise, center.

Delegates heard from Hannah McLain of the Maine Historical Society on Wednesday. She educated the group on Maine's role in the Revolutionary War as delegates portrayed the involved parties in the Battle of Machias and learned about the Burning of Falmouth.

In the final days of the program, delegates spent most of their time in their respective branches, debating a mixture of hard-hitting and light-hearted topics. Thursday night was the talent show, an annual Dirigo State event that fosters much excitement within the program. This year there were 19 acts, including solo, small-group, and municipality-wide routines. Talents included dancing, singing, acting, playing an instrument, and magic tricks. Naomi Fairbanks received 1st place for her ballet routine.

The program concluded on Friday, June 26 with a graduation ceremony. Graduation speakers included The American Legion Department of Maine Commander Joseph Michaud

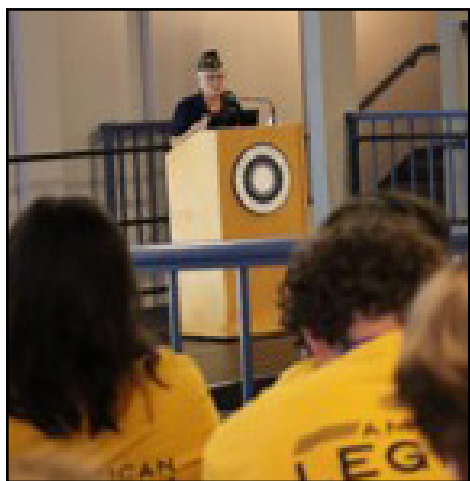


Talent Show: Naomi Fairbanks with her winning ballet routine at the Dirigo State Talent Show on June 25.

and The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Maine President Stella Trahan. Carter Bennett and Ahliya Roy received the Samsung Scholarship. Colby Keene and Phoebe Evens were awarded The American Legion Scholarship and the ALA Scholarship, respectively. Carter Bennett and Sawyer Durant were selected to attend Boys Nation and Rose Lehane Tureen and Lila Ouellette were selected to attend ALA Girls Nation.

"Dirigo State is an incredible opportunity for young Mainers to learn about the workings of the government and experience what it's like to be in that world," says Dirigo State Director, Bill Jack. "We thank The American Legion Family for hosting such an impactful program."

Not all students who attend Dirigo State have a desire to enter politics, but all of them leave the program knowing how to be civically engaged at various levels. Moreover, it's an incomparable opportunity for students to meet their peers from all over the state, fostering skills in social etiquette, compromise, and perseverance. The combination of dedication from staff, support from The American Legion Family, and engagement from students truly makes Dirigo State a week that shapes a lifetime.



Be The One: Legionnaire Julie Flynn addresses Dirigo State delegates regarding Be The One on June 21.



Maine Delegates Attend Girls And Boys Nation:

The week of July 17-25, four delegates from Dirigo State 2026 flew to our nation's capitol as Maine Senators at Girls Nation and Boys Nation. Over the course of the programs, the Senators created Federalist and Nationalist party platforms, ran for offices, elected their leaders, debated bills, and went on many memorable excursions. Carter Bennett, Sawyer Durant, Rose Lehane Tureen, and Lila Ouellette were extraordinary representatives of Maine and we couldn't be more proud of their accomplishments. Left photo, left to right, Rose Lehane Tureen, Lila Ouellette, Sawyer Durant, and Carter Bennett. Middle photo, Sawyer Durant and Carter Bennett representing Maine at Boys Nation. Right photo, Rose Lehane Tureen and Lila Ouellette at the WWII Memorial.

■ "SGT-AT-ARMS" (Continued from Page 7)

and introduce them properly to the commander.

- **Protocol Excellence:** Ensure the Colors are always advanced, retired, and displayed with the utmost respect according to the Officer's Guide.

- **Electronics Control:** Before the gavel drops to open your meetings, remind all members to silence their mobile devices.

- **Meeting Order:** Help your commanders maintain a professional and respectful environment during meetings so every member's voice can be heard.

- **Mentorship:** Reach out to newer members who show leadership

potential. Teach them the rituals that make our organization unique.

- **Proper Legion Cap Etiquette:** Remind all members that The American Legion cap is considered our official uniform. It must be worn during meetings, except when a member is offering a prayer, during the posting or retiring of the Colors, or when eating.

Thank you for your sustained attention and service to your duties. Let us all continue to set the standard of professionalism and hospitality for our posts and department. Remember, if any of you have a question on your duties, please reach out at 207-691-2270 or jeffandconnie79@gmail.com.

For God and Country,

Department Sergeant-at-Arms, Jeff Sukeforth

The Old American Legion Post

Special to The Maine Legionnaire

A teenager learns about The American Legion and asks important questions.

Part One: What is The American Legion and its Preamble

In class today, we talked about our family history or "genealogy" as our teacher called it. The teacher said that our ancestors influenced who we are today because of something called DNA—which was a word too big for me to say.

He further said something like, "We are the way we are today for two reasons. It is because of our nature, or physically inherited traits from our parents and ancestors. It's also because of the way we were nurtured, or the way we were brought up by our parents, and the things we learned by living."

That made me really curious about my family history. So, I asked my dad, and he sat me down in the kitchen and brought out some old picture books. The pictures were so old—some of them were in black and white and faded. There were different sized pictures. I really liked old cars in the pictures.

I recognized some of the pictures of my aunts and uncles and I laughed at how young everybody used to look. When it came to my grandfather, there was a picture of him as an older man. I asked my father about it. He said that was my grandfather and great grandfather. I noticed they were in uniform, like they were in the army or something, so I asked about that. My father told me that his dad was in the Navy and my great grandfather, he thinks, retired from the Army.

He surprised me by saying; "The uniform was The American Legion uniform".

"American Legion, what's that?" I asked.

"Well, it's a veteran's group. Veterans

got together after the war to help other veterans. It was a social club too. Some posts had bars, sponsored sports and dinners, and the veterans would go there to socialize. I know they had business meetings too."

"Wait a minute," my dad said, and he disappeared into his bedroom. He brought out a card with a pin on it. The pin was gold and blue, kind of round with pointy parts, had a star in it, and it said, "American Legion" on the top and bottom. Oh, yes, and the U. S. was big in the middle.

On the card was printed The American Legion preamble:

**FOR GOD AND COUNTRY,
WE ASSOCIATE OURSELVES
TOGETHER**

**FOR THE FOLLOWING
PURPOSES:**

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America;

To maintain law and order;

To foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism;

To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars;

To inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation;

To combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses;

To make right the master of might;

To promote peace and goodwill on earth;

To safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy;

To consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

"What does all that mean?"

My dad thought for a minute and said, "Well, tell you what; I know someone you can talk to about it. He was an old

friend of your grandfather, and he still lives in town. I'll will give him a call."

Part Two: Uniforms and Parades

At 13, almost 14 years old, my prized possession is my bike. I clean it every week just like my dad cleans his car. I keep it oiled and make sure I lock it wherever I go. Today, I rode my bike across town to see my grandfather's friend.

I had not been in this neighborhood before. The houses were nice, but you could tell they were older than the one I lived in. I locked my bicycle to a tree and knocked on the door.

When the door opened, it was an old man with bright blue eyes. He had a lot of wrinkles and full head of grey hair. He also had a really nice smile.

"You must be the Alder's boy, Robert's great nephew."

"Well, yes I am."

"You look like him. I can see the family resemblance. Well, I'll get the keys and we will go out back."

He disappeared from the doorway for a moment and came back with a set of keys jingling in one hand and a cane in the other. It was funny—he seemed to walk well without the cane.

"Follow me." He said.

We walked behind the house only to see another building you couldn't see from the road. It was just one floor and not very big. It had peeling paint and looked like nobody lived there anymore. I think it was abandoned and wondered why I needed to see it.

Then I noticed the faded sign over the door which had some names on it and said under them, American Legion Post 336.

He tried a few keys till he had the right one and the door opened with a creaking sound. Obviously, those door hinges needed some oil.

The room smelled a little musty and was dusty. He explained that it had been a "long time" since anyone had been in the building. He asked me to help him open some windows to air it out.

I looked around the room. There were about 25 or 30 old chairs set up. One end of the room had two doors. The room we were in had a desk in a corner and a podium centered near that same wall. There was a star-like thing on the podium.

"What the star thing on the podium?" I asked.

"That star thing," he answered, "is The American Legion emblem. It was based on the original World War One discharge pin."

"What's a discharge pin?"

"It's what they gave the soldiers and sailors after the war to show that they were out of the service. Most people wore them in parades and sometimes in

church or other special occasions, like memorials."

I saw behind the podium an American flag and another flag. They had a gold fringe and were really dusty.

"What is the other flag?" I motioned to the one on the right.

"Oh, that?" He answered as he walked over to spread the flag out so I could see it. "That," he paused, "is The American Legion Flag. See, it has The American Legion emblem, and the post name and number on it."

"What is a post anyway?"

"The post is the place the Legionnaires, that's what post members were called, would meet, and the post was usually named after the town it was in, or some battle, or the first person from the town who died in the war."

"So, who is this post named after?"

"I thought you would ask and am delighted to tell you. This is the Cowell-Alderman Post."

"So, this is Cowell-Alderman Post 336?"

"Yes, it is," he paused. "Or was."

"Cowell Alderman—his last name is a lot like mine."

"They were two different persons. One died in the World War One and the other in World War Two. Alderman was Robert J. Alderman, a lieutenant in the U. S. Army and your ancestor. He was your uncle."

"But his name is different."

"Well, sometimes names change over time—ask your parents."

"Here, here's something you may want to see. You told me your grandfather and great grandfather were wearing a uniform."

He opened a closet door and there was a rack of blue uniforms with gold trim on the sleeves and a gold stripe on the pants. He picked one out.

"This is The American Legion uniform. They don't wear them anymore, or I don't think they have to. You can see here The American Legion emblem and post number on the collars." Also, he pointed out, "The state of Maine emblem was on one shoulder. Some servicemen put their unit patch on the other shoulder."

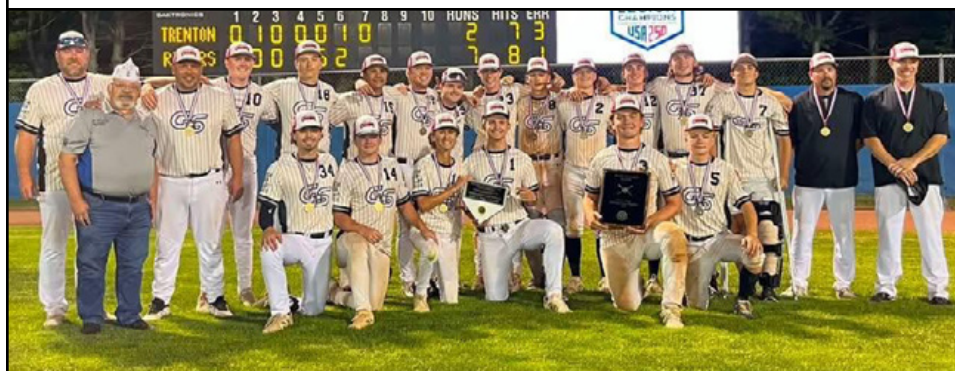
"What's a unit patch?"

"That is a patch that identified what service they were in and where they were stationed." He brought out a few more uniforms and me unit patches. Some were from the Army and some were from the Navy. Some had boats on them and others just numbers or letters and fancy symbols.

"Here is a uniform with a World War One discharge pin on it. You see how it is similar to The American Legion emblem."

[More on "OLD LEGION POST" Page 19](#)

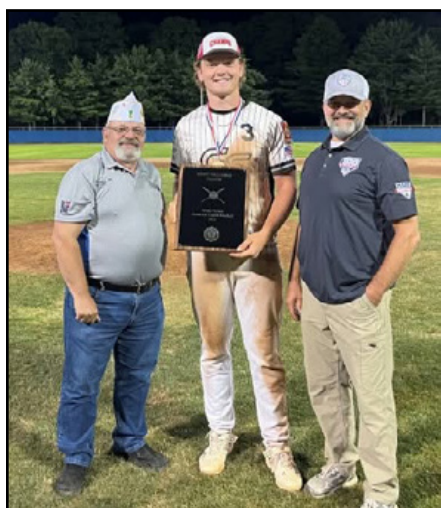
Congratulations Maine American Legion Baseball 2026 State Champion Winners!



Senior State Championship Winners: Congratulations to the 2026 Maine Senior American Legion Baseball State Champions, the Greater Southern Maine Riders, American Legion Sanford Post 19. Front row, left to right, #34 Noah Corliss, #14 Landen Richard, #11 Kasey Bean, #1 Parker Bjorklund, #3 Parker Soule-Parent, and #5 Henry Marcotte. Back row, left to right, Asst. Coach Christopher Stokes, Department Commander Joe Michaud, Asst. Coach Kevin Do, #10 Ryan Clark, #18 Brody Baron, #15 Dante Cuesta, #79 Baxter Flagg, #13 Noah Lachance, #23 Donovan Harvey, #8 Tyler Do, #2 Patrick Jones, #12 Trent Tyler, #97 Liam Kalakowsky, and #7 Ethan Stokes.



Junior State Championship Winners: Congratulations to the 2026 Maine Junior American Legion Baseball State Champions, the Hampden Riverhawks-White, American Legion Hampden Post 213! Left to right, Department Commander Joseph Michaud, Head Coach Ryan Lincoln, Asst. Coaches Jaedean Folster, John Frye, and RJ Robertson, Players: #21 Michael Carroll, #1 Nathan Gaige Farrar, #24 Jackson Harris, #4 Samuel Leander Hood, #17 Jack Kowalski, #15 Collin Mehrhoff, #13 Blaze Morris, #10 Drake Nash, #9 Joseph Newell, #14 Alton Potter, #2 Emmett Salley, #8 Layton Shaw, #3 Carson Stanley, #7 Noah White, #22 Westyn Wyatt, and Team Manager Andy Newell.

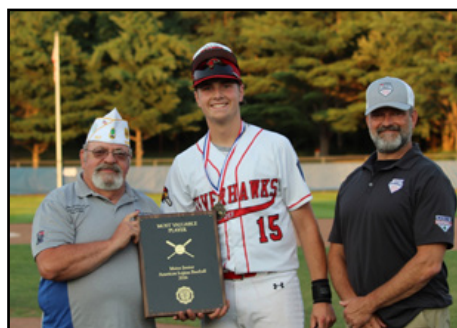


2026 Maine Legion Baseball Senior MVP Award:

Congratulations to Parker Soule-Parent for winning the 2026 Senior MVP Award. Representing Thomas W. Cole Post 19 and pictured with Commander Joseph Michaud, left, and Baseball Director Scott Bishop, right, Parker played for Greater Southern Maine Riders, Sanford.

2026 Maine Legion Baseball Junior MVP Award:

Congratulations to Colin Mehrhoff, for winning the 2026 Junior MVP Award. Representing Hampden Post 213 and pictured with Commander Joseph Michaud, left, and Baseball Director Scott Bishop, right, Colin played for the Hampden Riverhawks-White.



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

Thomas College

180 West River Rd., Waterville, Maine 04901

February 13, 2027 at 9:00 a.m.

(Snow Date: Feb. 20, 2027)

The American Legion, Department of Maine High School Oratorical Scholarship Contest will be held at Thomas College in Waterville on Feb. 13, 2027 at 9:00 a.m. Snow Date: Feb. 20, 2027 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 \$125 - \$1,500.

At the national level, each department (state) winner who is certified and participates in the National Oratorical Contest's 1st round receives a \$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 2026 and all district contests completed by the end of January 2027.

The 2027 National Finals dates

will be held May 14-16 in Hillsdale, Michigan.

For additional questions and/or information pertaining to the Oratorical Contest in Maine, please contact Oratorical Chairperson Debra Couture at navycaptpomi0031@gmail.com.

More information can also be obtained by visiting www.mainelegion.org, your local American Legion post, or The American Legion, Department of Maine Headquarters at 207-873-3229.

Please check out the state and local Oratorical contests by visiting national's website at www.legion.org/oratorical.

Help Support The Maine American Legion Oratorical Scholarship Program by Donating Today!

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



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

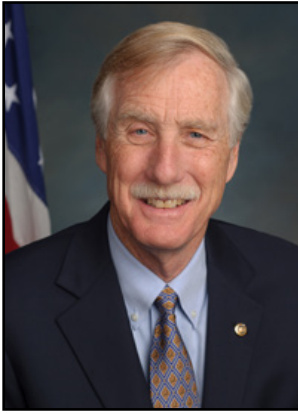
**THANK YOU IN ADVANCE
FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

Strengthening Support for Maine Veterans

Whenever I spend time in communities across Maine, I'm reminded that our veterans' service doesn't end when they leave the military. They continue serving as leaders in our neighborhoods, volunteers, mentors for young people, and business owners.

I am proud of their accomplishments and strive to serve them well as a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee (SVAC). In this role, one of my most important jobs is making sure the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is working just as hard for our men and women who wore the uniform as servicemembers did when they answered the call. For example, I teamed up with a group of my colleagues to help protect the benefits veterans earn through their service. Unfortunately, too many bad actors prey on veterans by charging excessive fees for help filing disability claims, even though accredited veterans service organizations already provide those services at no cost. Our legislation, the *SAFEGUARD Veterans Act*, would crack down on these predatory practices and help ensure veterans receive honest guidance instead of being taken advantage of.

I also continue working to make sure veterans' benefits keep pace with the rising cost of living. Inflation affects everyone, but veterans living on fixed incomes often feel those increases most acutely. My bipartisan Veterans' Compensation *Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2026* would provide an annual cost-of-living adjustment for veterans' disability compensation so that the value of these earned benefits is not eroded over time.



SENATOR
ANGUS KING

I have also been closely monitoring staffing decisions at the Togus VA Medical Center. After raising concerns about reports that police positions could be eliminated, I received confirmation that those positions remain under review and have not been permanently cut. Maintaining a safe environment for veterans, employees, and visitors at Togus is essential, and I will continue pressing the VA for answers as that review moves forward.

Additionally, I recently joined SVAC Chairman Senator Jerry Moran (R-Kansas) in introducing the bipartisan *Optimizing the VA Workforce for Veterans Act*, legislation that would require the VA to develop a long-term workforce strategy based on current and future demand for services, local staffing needs, and industry best practices. By improving how the VA recruits, retains, and deploys its workforce, we can help ensure veterans receive timely, high-quality care regardless of where they live. Strong planning today means better outcomes for the veterans who depend on the VA tomorrow.

Lastly, on Memorial Day, I released a new episode of my "Answering the Call: Maine's Veteran Voices" series featuring retired U.S. Coast Guard Chief Warrant Officer Leo J. Deon, Jr. of Industry. In partnership with the Library of Congress Veterans History Project, the series ensures the experiences of Maine veterans are preserved for future generations while highlighting the extraordinary ways they continue serving after leaving the military. After a distinguished Coast Guard career that included responding to both the September 11 attacks and the anthrax attacks in Washington, Leo dedicated himself to helping fellow veterans transition to civilian life through the Maine Department of Labor, the Maine Military Community Network, and Vet2Vet Maine. His story is a powerful reminder that service to our country doesn't end when the uniform comes off.

Supporting veterans should never be a partisan issue. Whether it's strengthening oversight of the VA, protecting veterans from scams, preserving the value of their earned benefits, or ensuring quality care here in Maine, I will continue working with any colleague who shares the goal of honoring the promises we have made to those who served our nation. Thank you.



State Convention Speaker:
U.S. Senator Angus King speaks at The American Legion Department of Maine State Convention on Saturday, June 13 at Jeff's Catering & Event Center, Brewer.

■ "SCOUTING CORNER" (Continued from Page 8)

volunteers became harder to find. It is now more important than ever to support organizations, such as Scouting, to help our young people and future leaders cope with the challenges in today's life that most of us older Legionnaires seldom faced. Drugs, alcohol, abuse, poverty, hunger, lack of family love, etc. You all know what we mean. The news is full of it. We, The American Legion, have a mission commitment to children and family. We also have the mission of sharing patriotism, traditions of selfless service to community and nation, and remembrance to those who made the ultimate sacrifice to preserve our democratic institutions. Your strong commitment, support, and partnership with local Scout units is called for.

We need to adapt to today's world and respond to the needs of family and children in proactive ways. Scouting is one of those vehicles of support. Boy Scouting is changing. We are now Scouting America and we have girl (yes, girls!) troops in "Scouting" (ages 11-18), girls in Cub Scouting (grades K-6), and we have always had girls in Venturing (ages 14 – 20). A past female president of my Venture Crew is assigned to Coast Guard HQ in Washington, DC as an officer and graduate from the Coast Guard Academy. Many of our leaders for both boys and girls are women—and outstanding leaders. Just as we in the Legion have accepted women veterans into our membership and leadership, we



need to accept girls and women into our (Boy) Scouting programs.

Now! What can your post do to advance your relationship with Scouting?

1. If you sponsor a Scout troop or pack:

- Meet with the Scout committee to improve communications. As sponsor, a member of your post must be a charter representative on their committee. Is yours actively involved?

- Teach the Scouts about flag etiquette, the meanings of Memorial Day, veterans' funerals, the constitution, and respect for veterans, for instance: visiting nursing homes.

- Actively include Scouts in your events: color guards, ushers at dinners, placement of grave flags and wreaths, flag disposal efforts, Memorial Day, and Veterans Day events.

- Help financially! My post sponsors my troop's attendance at the annual Klondike Derby at MMA. Help with Scout Camp or help with fundraising events!

- Sponsor BSA shooting programs and encourage and sponsor Scouts for Dirigo State.

- Encourage and assist your Scouts to follow the Scouts promise and law: do a good deed daily, create emergency preparedness plans, etc.

3. Don't overlook Girl Scouts:

- They are much more than Girl Scout cookies. Although the Legion does not have a formal relationship with Girls Scouts of the USA, Legion posts should be supporting local Girl Scout Troops just as they would Scouts USA. We Legionnaires are called to support all children, no matter their affiliation or lack of affiliation.

Peter Duston is an Eagle Scout with a 55-year pin and a leader with Troop 139, Cub Pack 139, and Venture Crew 139 in Cherryfield. Duston is also Cherryfield Post 8 Adjutant and Bugler with the 101st Air Refueling Wing, Maine ANG.

Department Scouting Chairman, Peter Duston
Contact: dkassociates20@gmail.com
207-460-2499

Honor Flight Maine

All Maine Veterans interested in going on a trip should go to HonorFlightMaine.org to apply. The site also contains applications for those wishing to be Guardian for a Veteran and for Volunteers.

Honor Flight Maine is an all volunteer organization. Over 300,000 veterans have participated in their Honor Flight, and not one of them has paid a penny for their seat.



Upcoming 2026 Honor Flight Dates:

Flights are all charter flights on Allegiant:

- Sept 18-20 Portland Jetport
- Oct 16-18 Bangor Int'l Airport



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We understand military life is unique. That's why we offer tools and guidance tailored to your needs.

Trusted professional guidance

Our advice articles are created by professionals with a military background. They know how to account for the unique financial challenges military members and their families face.

Tools for every stage of life

We have a robust set of resources that includes a free job finding service, military and deployment pay calculators, checklists for major life events and more.

Guidance when you need it

We use predictive modeling to anticipate our members' life events and give relevant advice when it's needed most.

Caring for military families and our local communities is core to who we are.

Mental health in the military community is top of mind. We support programs that champion well-being.

We're committed to ending veteran homelessness.

We're starting in 'Military City USA' - San Antonio, Texas - where we've donated millions to support this cause.



USAA is proud to be the Preferred provider of Insurance and Financial Services to The American Legion.

Please visit usaa.com/legion or call 877-699-2654.

■ "OLD LEGION POST" (Continued from Page 15)

"Yes."

"By the way, during World War One, it wasn't called World War One. Nobody knew there was going to be another war. In fact, they called it the 'War to end all wars' or the 'Great War.'"

"What was so great about it?"

"I guess the great sacrifices the people made and the great causes they were fighting for."

"Oh."

He pulled out another uniform. "This one has a ruptured duck."

"A ruptured duck?"

"Well, that's what the servicemen used to call it. It is actually the World War Two discharge pin."

I looked at it. It was a bird with wings spread on a circle.

"So, the Legion people were in the Military."

"Well, yes and no. They were veterans—that means that they were in the military, and got out, or as we say, were discharged."

"If they weren't in military anymore, then why did they have uniforms?"

"I guess to show they shared the bond of The American Legion. To show that they were proud of their service. You know, to be uniform, or as one."

I walked around and looked at some of the pictures on the walls. There were some group pictures, individual pictures, and then I noticed some parade pictures. The parade pictures had people in uniform playing horns and drums like the high school band.

"I see parades."

"Yes, The American Legion had many parades. Usually Memorial Day and Veterans Day. During wartime they had a lot of parades." He went back to the closet and brought out a small suitcase. He opened it and pulled out a horn. On the bell of the horn was The American Legion symbol.

He continued, "Many legionnaires were in the Drum and Bugle Corps parade group. Some had different, fancier uniforms and vied for medals and ribbons in competitions."

"Do they do that anymore?"

"Maybe in the big cities, but not around here. In fact, this post has been closed since the late 1980s or early 1990s."

"So, The American Legion was all about the parades and the uniforms?"

"No," he answered, "not at all. It is about four pillars of the Legion."

I thought for a moment, "What are the four pillars?"

Part Three: The Four Pillars

"No, no, no. Parade and uniforms were important, but The American Legion isn't all about the parades or uniforms. It was, and is, all about the

veterans and supporting our way of life as Americans. The parades showed the public the Legion, but there was a lot that went on behind the scenes."

"Like what?"

"Look here," he handed me a pamphlet entitled The Four Pillars.

"What do they mean by pillars?"

"Pillars are the large stone structures that hold up the roof. In this case, it means the beliefs and the missions of The American Legion."

"Oh."

I see the first one is, "Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation. What is that all about?"

"Keep reading," the man urged.

I read out loud, slowly trying to understand it all.

For more than 90 years, The American Legion has acted as the nation's leading advocate for proper health care, economic opportunity and legal benefits for U.S. military veterans. The Legion was instrumental in the creation of the Veterans Administration in 1930, and an ardent supporter of its elevation to cabinet status when it became the Department of Veterans Affairs in 1989. The relationship between VA and The American Legion continues to evolve today. As it has for decades, The American Legion continues to aggressively lobby for adequate funding of VA health care, timely access to facilities, fair rulings on benefit claims, and economic opportunities for those who have come home changed by their military experiences. A nationwide network of American Legion department service officers works diligently to assist veterans as they pursue benefits and care they earned and deserve. At the local, state and national levels, thousands of Legionnaires provide countless hours to help veterans obtain their benefits. The American Legion provides professional representation in claims appeals, discharge disputes and transition assistance from active-duty to civilian status throughout the country.

The second pillar is "National Security."

The National Security Division of The American Legion represents the organization's positions on national defense, homeland security and quality of life for our service members and their families. Since its inception, The American Legion has steadfastly supported a strong national defense. The American Legion closely monitors issues that are most relevant to our nation's vital security interests. The American Legion works closely with each branch of the U.S. Armed Forces in an effort to stay well informed about issues that affect our troops and our military families. As such, The American Legion continues to make troop strength and military quality of life a top priority. The American

Legion's national-security position is multifaceted. Key aspects include:

- A well-funded, well-equipped and well-trained military.

- Awareness and surveillance of rogue nations, terrorist groups and global threats to U.S. security around the world.

- Support for the Department of Homeland Security and urging protection of U.S. borders, ports and other points of access.

- Comprehensive disaster preparedness.

- Decent quality of life for troops and their families – active-duty and reserve components alike – that includes reasonable compensation, benefits, health care, child care and family-support programs; and an efficient and compassionate healing and transition program for wounded and ill warriors.

- Matters such as transition to civilian life and using the VA health-care system, TRICARE or TRICARE for Life also fall within the realm of national security. The American Legion represents military members during the medical-discharge process and assists in their pursuit of education benefits, employment counseling, training and health care.

- The American Legion works as an advocate for an improved disability-evaluation system within the Department of Defense by providing counseling, guidance and representation for service members through the proceedings of the medical-evaluation and physical-evaluation boards. Staff regularly meets with military personnel one-on-one and in group settings to alert them about the resources and opportunities available as they prepare to return home.

The third pillar is "Americanism."

Many cultural, moral and patriotic values have come under serious attack in the United States in recent years. Prayer has been removed from schools. The U.S. flag is no longer protected from anarchists. Boy Scouts of America faces serious legal duels in the communities it serves. The institution of marriage is under siege. Immigration laws are defied. References to God have been challenged on U.S. currency, in the Pledge of Allegiance and in the public square, all by a minority of voices whose vision for America is far different from that of our Founding Fathers. Our nation's very identity is at stake as more and more values are driven toward extinction. As an organization dedicated to God and country, with a membership of military veterans that takes deep pride in the U.S. flag and all it means, The American Legion has always been a stalwart champion of patriotism, morality and citizenship. Upon the pillar of Americanism is The American Legion's devotion to law and order, the raising of wholesome

youth, respectful observance of patriotic holidays and remembrances, education and law-abiding citizenship. Among The American Legion's highest Americanism priorities are:

The fourth pillar is "Children and Youth." Hey, that's me.

The American Legion's Commission on Children & Youth manages a pillar of service guided by three main objectives: to strengthen the family unit, to support quality organizations that provide services for children and youth, and to provide communities with well-rounded programs that meet the physical, educational, emotional and spiritual needs of young people. The commission works to provide hope for children who face health, safety, discipline or home-life challenges, and provides opportunities for young people to succeed. The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation provides more than \$500,000 in grants each year to nonprofit organizations that work to improve the lives of young people. These grants have aided organ-donor campaigns, supported efforts to help military children cope with deployment or the loss of a parent, and funded projects that increased public awareness of Huntington's disease, autism, Reye's syndrome, meningitis, spina bifida, diabetes, cancer and other conditions. The Commission on Children & Youth has focused recent attention on several important national programs, including the Children's Miracle Network, Ronald McDonald House Charities, Special Olympics, youth-suicide prevention, Halloween safety, the Family Support Network, Temporary Financial Assistance, Operation: Military Kids, and others. The American Legion has been a staunch supporter of the children and youth of our nation since its founding in 1919. The commitment continues today for the National Commission on Children & Youth as it seeks to improve the well-being of all children. Every generation of veterans knows that the key to the future of a free and prosperous country is held by the children and youth of today. The Legion strongly supports traditional family values, assistance for at-risk children, and activities that promote their healthy and wholesome development. While there is no way of knowing what issues will face our youth tomorrow, our survival may well depend on the quality of care, education and training that we, as parents and citizens, provide for young people today.

"So, you see, there is room for everyone in the Legion family."

"The Legion family—what do you mean by that? I'm not related to everybody."

"Of course, not," he answered. "But you can share priorities that all

[More on "OLD LEGION POST" Page 20](#)

■ "OLD LEGION POST" (Continued from Page 19)

Legionnaires have. Priorities like the Four Pillars."

"There are other groups that are part of the Legion family"

"Who are they?"

Part Four – The Legion Family

"Well, of course, the Legionnaires are part of the Legion family. They started the group. Actually, the idea for the Legion started in France with the American Expeditionary Forces of AEF. Some military members met and decided there should be a veteran's group."

He further explained; "Then there is the Auxiliary. The women's group. The idea of a women's group was considered as early as the first convention, and that was back in 1919."

"That was a long time ago."

"Yes, almost a hundred years now. Anyway, as I was saying, at the first convention there were women's groups that wanted to be associated with The American Legion. The Legion didn't want to alienate any of the groups because the groups all had some merit, but if the Legion accepted one and not the other, well then some worthy ladies would be left out. It was finally decided that The American Legion would have its own ladies group called the "Women's Auxiliary of The American Legion. Now it's called the 'American Legion Auxiliary.'"

Founded in 1919, the American Legion Auxiliary is the world's largest women's patriotic service organization. The American Legion Auxiliary's mission is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad.

For God and country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

Mission Statement

In the spirit of Service, Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

Vision Statement

The vision of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion while becoming the premier service organization and foundation of every community providing support for our veterans, our military, and their families by shaping a positive future in an atmosphere of fellowship, patriotism,

peace and security.

Purposes

In fulfillment of our Mission, the American Legion Auxiliary adheres to the following purposes:

- To support and advocate for veterans, active military and their families
- To support the initiatives and programs of The American Legion
- To foster patriotism and responsible citizenship
- To award scholarships and promote quality education and literacy
- To provide educational and leadership opportunities that uphold the ideals of freedom and democracy and encourage good citizenship and patriotism in government
- To increase our capacity to deliver our Mission by providing meaningful volunteer opportunities within our communities
- To empower our membership to achieve personal fulfillment through Service Not Self

Values

Our statement of values is predicated on the founding purposes:

- Commitment to the four founding principles: Justice, Freedom, Democracy, Loyalty
- Service to God, our country, its veterans and their families
- Tradition of patriotism and citizenship
- Personal integrity and family values
- Respect for the uniqueness of individual members
- Truthful open communication in dealing with the public and our members
- Adherence to the adopted policies and rules

"Then, there is a group called the Sons of the American Legion."

The Sons of The American Legion was created in 1932 as an organization within The American Legion. The S.A.L. is made up of boys and men of all ages whose parents or grandparents served in the United States military and became eligible for membership in The American Legion. Together, members of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion make up what is known as The Legion Family. All three organizations place high importance on preserving our American traditions and values, improving the quality of life for our nation's children, caring for veterans and their families, and perhaps most importantly, teaching the fundamentals of good citizenship.

Sons have always assisted Legionnaires with Legion Family programs. Our Family boasts a combined total membership of nearly 4.2 million members. This year, Sons attained an all-time high national membership of over 365,000. The largest Detachment, Pennsylvania, has over 61,000 members. Trophies and

awards are given to Detachments and Squadrons for the largest membership and the largest increase in membership. Just as each Legion post determines the extent of its service to the community, state and nation, each S.A.L. squadron is permitted flexibility in planning programs and activities to meet its own needs. The S.A.L. has study programs recommended for younger members. One such program, called "The Ten Ideals," teaches the elements of patriotism, health, knowledge, training, honor, faith, helpfulness, courtesy, reverence and comradeship. If a member completes the Ten Ideals program, he is eligible to continue with another program called the "Five-Point Program of Service." This program covers patriotism, citizenship, discipline, leadership and legionism.

Sons focus on much more than just membership. At all levels, Sons support The American Legion in promoting a wide variety of programs. Sons assist their posts in other activities such as Veterans programs, Veterans Administration home and hospital volunteerism, Children Youth projects and fundraising. Since 1988, The Sons have raised more than \$6.9 million for The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. Members have volunteered over 1.3 million hours to date in Veterans Hospitals throughout the country and raised over \$2,500,000 that has gone directly to VA hospitals and VA homes for a variety of items including TVs, radios, medical equipment and clothing for the patients.

"The newest group is The American Legion Riders".

The National Executive Committee officially adopted The American Legion Riders (ALR) as a national program with Resolution 35 (October 2007) and Resolution 32 (May 2011).

- Members must hold membership in and be in good standing with The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion.

- Members must be legally registered motorcycle owners or be the legally registered owner's spouse within the state of registration.

- All operators must be properly licensed and insured per state laws.

- All members must obey motor-vehicle laws in the state in which they are operating a motorcycle or riding as a passenger.

American Legion Riders chapters are well known for their charitable work, which has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for local children's hospitals, schools, veteran's homes, severely wounded service members and scholarships.

"So, if you were in the military before, or related to someone in the military, then The American Legion has a group you could join."

"Hey, that means I could join because my grandfather was in the Army."

"Yes, you would be in the Sons of the American Legion, unless of course you entered the military yourself. But," he added, "either one of those possibilities are several years down the road."

"Come to think of it," He paused for a moment. "I seem to remember that there were some kids your age in the parades. Yes, there were. They were involved as juniors. They were marching too. There were baton twirlers, baseball players, and others." It sounded as if he was talking to himself.

"Wow," I answered. "That is a full family. Something for everyone in The American Legion. The pictures I see on the walls, and ones my dad shows me are old. How old is The American Legion?"

"Well," He answered, "remember the 'Great War' or 'World War One' we talked about?"

"Yes."

"There were some soldiers in the AEF (American Expeditionary Forces) in Paris who wanted to start a veteran's organization. They planned it. They had their first convention in the United States 1919.

"That means The American Legion is almost 100 years old. I'll bet they must be celebrating."

"You know what, I just read something in the paper about that. It's The American Legion's 'Centennial.' They are planning a parade, a big convention, a memorial at the statehouse, Museum displays, and historical speeches. They even have a coin."

"The American Legion makes money."

"No, it's a commemorative, which means it is made to celebrate the occasion of the 100th Anniversary."

"Oh, I'll bet my dad would want to know more about this."

"He could always contact The American Legion Department of Maine. They are in Winslow now. They have a website too; I saw it in the newspaper, but I don't remember what it's called. I'll bet your dad could find it easy enough with any search engine."

"By the way; where is the post now?"

"This town doesn't have one anymore." He answered.

"Then, who will do all the work for the veterans and where is my opportunity to be a part of The American Legion family?"

By Eliot Post 188 Historian (and Past Post Commander & Historian of York Post 56)
Donald G. Hands

Legionnaire Insurance Trust

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

2026-2027 National Membership Target Dates

Early Bird/NEF Kickoff	September 10, 2026	50%
Fall Meetings	October 14, 2026	55%
Veterans Day	November 12, 2026	65%
Pearl Harbor Day	December 9, 2026	75%
Mid-Winter	January 13, 2027	80%
Presidents Day	February 10, 2027	85%
Legion Birthday	March 10, 2027	90%
Children & Youth	April 14, 2027	95%
Armed Forces Day	May 12, 2027	100%
Delegate Strength	30 Days Prior to National Convention	

2027 Membership Renewal Schedule

Cutoff Dates	Renewal Mail Dates
May 13, 2026	July 1-8, 2026
September 9, 2026	October 3-9, 2026
October 14, 2026	November 7-13, 2026
December 9, 2026	January 2-8, 2027
February 10, 2026	March 2-9, 2027
April 14, 2027	May 1-7, 2027

Transmittals not received by the cutoff date may not prevent a subsequent renewal notice from being delivered at or around the renewal date. Please note, renewals transmitted and received by the cutoff (which is also a National Target Date) will be updated prior to printing renewal notices, assuming they can be successfully scanned. Membership that must be hand-keyed (new members and renewals that can't be scanned) will take longer to process. Please transmit as early and as often as possible in advance of the Target Dates to help avoid delays in processing.

Membership Management in MyLegion.org: Register Today for a MyLegion.org Account

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.

Attention District Commanders and Post Adjutants

MyLegion.org training lessons are available at State Headquarters.

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

Training lessons last between 1-2 hours.

Homeless Veterans Stand Down Event Held in Lewiston



Free Haircuts For Veterans: Julia Gomez of Sport Clips Haircuts gives Vietnam veteran Craig Chicoine a free haircut Wednesday afternoon at the Homeless Veterans Stand Down event at Veterans Memorial Park in Lewiston. It was one of dozens of tents where veterans received support and assistance.



Lewiston-Auburn Veterans Council: Jerry DeWitt, executive director of the L/A Veterans Council, middle, talks with Lewiston City Administrator Bryan Kaenrath, left, and Mayor Carl Sheline in front of a giant inflatable eagle the L/A Veterans Council setup for Wednesday's Homeless Veterans Stand Down event at Veterans Memorial Park in Lewiston. It's the 10th year of the annual event sponsored by the Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services in partnership with the Department of Veterans Affairs and community organizations, including L/A Veterans Council. Dozens of vendor booths were set up where veterans received assistance and support.

Vendor Booths: One of dozens of vendor booths taking part in Wednesday's Homeless Veterans Stand Down event at Veterans Memorial Park in Lewiston.



Inflatable Eagle: Jerry DeWitt, executive director of the L/A Veterans Council, looks at the giant inflatable eagle the council recently purchased that was setup for Wednesday's Homeless Veterans Stand Down event at Veterans Memorial Park in Lewiston. It's the 10th year of the annual event sponsored by the Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services in partnership with the Department of Veterans Affairs and community organizations, including L/A Veterans Council. Dozens of vendor booths were set up where veterans received assistance and support.

Your Letters

Appreciated Membership Table Swag

Thank you to the Department of Maine for 2nd year supply of a small box of swag to support our 2nd annual membership table at the National Guard Resource Fair on Family Day. We are trying hard to find a new generation to join the great Legion organization.

Sincerely,
Brewer Post 98 1st Vice, Ellen Murphy

Grateful Scholarship Recipient

Dear Scholarship Committee,
Thank you for awarding me The American Legion Department of Maine Children & Youth Scholarship. I am truly honored to receive this award and appreciate your generosity.

This fall, I will attend the University of Tampa to study Biochemistry. Your Scholarship will help ease the financial burden of college and allow me to focus on my studies.

Thank you for supporting students as they pursue higher education and for making a lasting impact on my future.

Sincerely,
Kaylee Bagley

Dirigo State Governor Thankful for Experience

Mr. Hall and esteemed members of the Maine Department of The American Legion,

Thank you for funding DIRIGO STATE and sponsoring me as a delegate to Girls Nation.

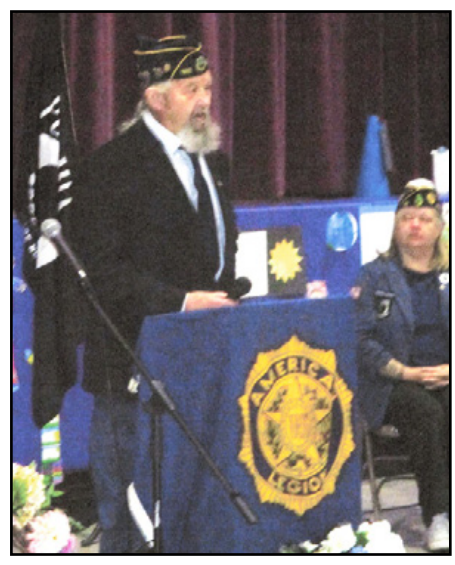
At DIRIGO, I learned so much about governance, met amazing kids from across the state, and grew as a leader. I met lifelong friends who I hope to work with in the future to make Maine even better.

In my graduation address, I thanked the Legion and all who have served from Maine. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your service to our Country.

Girls Nation was an incredible opportunity to draft and present legislation, work with girls from all 50 states, and meet with Senator Collins, Senator King, and Congresswoman Pingree. Moreover, I had a great time, including trading my pins.

Thank you so much for all you do to support Americanism, youth service, and democracy.

Sincerely,
Rose Lehane Tureen
5th Governor of Dirigo, Girls Nation Senator



Post 188 Memorial Day Address: Dana Norton addresses the Eliot Memorial Day group while Eliot Post 188 Adjutant Kim Richards, right, looks on.

Photo Courtesy of Eliot Post 188 Historian Donald G. Hands

Master Of Ceremonies Paul LeBlanc opens the Kittery Memorial Day Ceremony at Orchard Grove Cemetery on May 23.

Photo Courtesy of Eliot Post 188 Historian Donald G. Hands



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 130; Alfred Post 134; Wells Post 143; Kennebunkport Post 159; Dayton Post 177; Eliot Post 188; Lebanon Post 214



Eliot Post 188 Attends Kittery Block Party: On June 20, three members of Eliot Post 188 were set up at the Kittery Block Party. It was the first time for this group, and we made several

contacts and received some donations. Our thanks to the Dept. of Maine for its support. Left to right, Post 188 Commander John Richardson, Lobster mascot, Legionnaires Donald G. Hands and Gordon Smith.

Submitted by Eliot Post 188 Historian Donald G. Hands



Memorial Day Ceremony Guest Of Honor: Left photo, Gweneth Wykes, left, and Eliot Post 188 Commander John Richardson, right, lay a wreath at Kittery Memorial Day Ceremony on May 23. Wykes was a teenager living in Coventry, England during WWII and experienced Germans bombing in her hometown. Right photo, Post 188 Commander John Richardson assists Gwyneth Wykes in her presentation at Eliot's 2026 Memorial Day Ceremony.

Photo Courtesy of Eliot Post 188 Historian Donald G. Hands

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

Portland Post 17 Officer Installation and History

Harold T. Andrews Post 17 in Portland held their installations for newly elected and returning officers on Saturday, May 16. Post 17 is the state-famous historical post named after the first Maine casualty of World War I, Harold T. Andrews. Corporal Andrews passed on Nov. 30, 1917; he served in the American Expeditionary Forces. The son of a prominent Portland educator, Corporal Andrews died when his engineering unit was called into combat to fight a German offensive on the Cambrai front in France.

America entered the war in April 1917. A month later, young Andrews volunteered and joined a New York-based engineering unit. American engineers were badly needed to improve a French railroad system that was woefully inadequate and badly needed for moving incoming American troops from French coastal

ports to the inland battlefields.

Harold Andrews reflected service by "the best" of young Americans in the war. That included both volunteers like Andrews, and thousands of draftees who followed him. A plaque of Andrews hangs in the Hall of Flags at the Maine Statehouse.

Harold T. Andrews Post 17 honors the memory of its namesake by securing military and Legion history in its beautiful post in Portland. The house was built in 1898 for Fred E. Allen, a sugar merchant, and later with Fidelity Trust, designed by John Calvin Stevens. In 1926, it became the Harold T. Andrews Post home, and shortly thereafter, affiliated with The American Legion.

Submitted by Department Historian Tommy Somerville

[More on "POST 17 INSTALLATION"](#)
[Page 24](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 2 continued

■ "POST 17 INSTALLATION" (Continued from Page 23)



Portland Post 17 Installation: Top left photo, Post Commander Paul Avery returns with a wealth of experience. Top right photo, newly elected Post 1st Vice Commander Darnell Williams, left, and returning Post Adjutant Owen Woods, right, are sworn in. In the background, Post Finance Officer Joe Rich joins in on the oath. Bottom left photo, Department 1st Vice Commander Joseph Michaud, left, joins Post 1st Vice Commander Darnell Williams and his wife in celebration after the installation. Bottom right photo, Department Adjutant Jason T. Hall is honored to install the new and returning officers of Portland Post 17.

Photos by Department Historian Tommy Somerville



Standish Post 128 Sponsors Dirigo State Students:

Standish American Legion Post 128 sponsored four outstanding Boney Eagle High School students who attended Dirigo State this year. Left to right, Post 128 Vice Commander Richard Jacobs, students Parker

Moore, Logan Varney, Wesley Pinlham, not pictured are Wyatt Cyr and Post Commander Bryan McManus.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 3

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



Lewiston Post 22 Flag & Blanket Winners: A flag and blanket are presented to winners at Lewiston Post 22 on May 21. Left photo, Karen Ouellette, winner of the flag, which was donated by Flag & Sign Store, with Jerry DeWitt. Right photo, George Bourgoine, winner of the blanket which was donated by Madam President Gwen Denny.

Submitted by Dani Berube

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

John D. Long Post 58 Memorable 250th July 4th

The celebration of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in Buckfield will be long remembered in that Revolutionary War town, also founded in 1776. John D. Long Post 58 in Buckfield dedicated a monument in the Damon Cemetery, the central burying ground, that honors all of the Martial Services of the United States. The project began some months ago with the announcement that funds would be raised for the project. That was a short-lived effort when a resident stepped forward and made the commitment to fund the monument. It was originally installed in time to be dedicated for Memorial Day, but "Maine sunshine," an untimely downpour lasting all morning, curtailed that effort.

In a solemn ceremony, on a beautiful summer July 4th day, Post Chaplain James Newton offered an invocation at the monument's dedication.

A longstanding tradition in Buckfield is to take a gifted 1683 British Flintlock Army musket down from its honored place in the town library, load it with black powder, and fire it, especially on the 4th of July. The history of how the town came into possession of the firearm is related as reported in the following:

"When news of the formal adoption of the Declaration of Independence reached Pembroke, Massachusetts, in 1776, a 93 year old musket nicknamed "The Old Gun" by its owner was fired

in celebration of the news.

According to a letter written in 1950 by Marion Parris Smith of Norway, Maine, the musket was brought from England in 1683 by one of Smith's ancestors, Thomas Parris. It was reportedly used by the Parris family in the French and Indian Wars.

In 1775, Captain Parris, the great grandfather of Marion Parris Smith, enlisted in the Army along with his brother and father. Although Capt. Parris owned the musket, he left the gun in Pembroke, claiming that "The Old Gun" was too old to be serviceable. It was just a year before, however, that the gun was fired in celebration of the Declaration of Independence.

Marion Parris Smith bestowed the musket to the Zadoc Long Free Library in 1950 on condition that Gilbert Tilton would care for the weapon and see to it that it was fired every Fourth of July.

Mr. Tilton remarked that he had sent the gun to a gunsmith on two occasions.

It has been the custom, over the years, for members of The American Legion to do the firing, and in 1987, after having fired the three hundred and four year old gun on twenty-five occasions, Mr. Tilton, at age seventy-three, turned the task over to the members of The American Legion Post 58, who continue the tradition of firing the 316 year old (in 1999) musket."

Submitted by Locke Mills Post 68 Commander, Harry G. Orcutt



Buckfield Post 58 Monument Dedication: Left photo, left to right, Harry Gotham, James Newton, Jim Lowell, Gloria Hall, David Strout, Ralph Hart, and Richard Batchelder II stand before the new monument installed at Damon Cemetery. Right photo, a closer view of the monument.



Buckfield 4th Of July Musket Firing: About to occur is the shot heard all around Buckfield. Left to right, Harry Gotham, Jim Lowell, who presented custodian of the musket, Chris Donovan (10th generation of the Parris family) about to fire the musket, Ralph Hart, and Dave Strout.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 5 continued



Buckfield Post 58 Presents 50 Year Certificate: At the John D. Long Post 58 monthly meeting held on July 16, a 50-Year National Certificate was presented to Robert "Bob" Perry. Left photo, Buckfield Post 58 Adjutant Gloria Hall, center, reads the 50-Year Member Certificate presented to Bob Perry, left, as Post Commander Jim Lowell observes. Right photo, certificate recipient Bob Perry with Gloria Hall and Jim Lowell.

Greenwood Historical Society at Jackson-Silver Post 68

Despite the need to raise substantial sums to continue post efforts in refurbishing years of wear evident throughout its spacious structure, Jackson-Silver 68 of Locke Mills continues to reach out to worthy community programs to utilize its still functional Great Room. In air-conditioned comfort, the Greenwood Historical Society conducted its first summer program in the hall on Wed., July 8. Society President Andrew Wheeler, in his first effort, presented a concise overview of the history of Patch Mountain, and the initial development of Greenwood in the early 1800s. He was assisted with computer generated images of the area projected on a movie

screen, by Past President Will Chapman, present director of the Bethel Historical Society. All in all, the audience sat at ease on the post's newly purchased chairs.

The post will again be utilized in like manner on Wed., Aug. 5, when the presentation will be conducted by residents of Greenwood, who grew up in its neighborhoods, and who will bring a perspective of life as it was in the township in the mid-20th century. Among the presenters will be Post 68's Finance Officer Raymond Hakala, and James Bennett, whose boyhood home is now one of two of the Historical Society's museums.

Submitted by Locke Mills Post 68 Commander, Harry G. Orcutt



Greenwood Historical Society Summer Program: Top left photo, the Greenwood Historical Society's Summer program, held at Locke Mills Post 68, was well attended. Top right photo, Historical Society President Andrew Wheeler begins his presentation of early Greenwood history. Bottom photo, Will Chapman, far left, projects images supporting the presentation from his laptop to a movie screen.

On the 250th Year of American Independence:

Is there a Revolutionary War Veteran in Your Family History Who Deserves to be Recognized?



to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness."

It took eight long, bitter years of sacrifice and struggle before the free government spoken of in the Declaration became a reality. And it took another four years to create and approve the instruments of government under which we yet abide. With the exception of those enslaved, an institution that had existed in governments, kingdoms, tribes, and other organized bodies of the world, since before the beginning of recorded history, a new class of being was inaugurated in the US Constitution. Those born free were now citizens, which empowered them to be sovereigns unto themselves.

As citizens they could pursue the vocations of their choice, only limited by their abilities and knowledge. Through casting their vote, they chose their own leaders, and if so inclined, could place themselves in contention for election by their fellow citizens. They were entitled to own property, if they could accrue the means of purchase, or for many decades at the birth of the Republic, settle and earn title to lands acquired by the government as the nation expanded. They enjoyed the privilege of choosing their own spouse and raising their children as they deemed fit.

The proclamation that "All men are created equal" was still not fully realized, however, when nearly 85 years after that declaration, the great struggle between slave holding and free born states, ensued. According to the best statistical analysis, 750,000 Americans, military and civilian, made the ultimate sacrifice that led up to, in the third year of the war, Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation stating that "all persons held as slaves" within the rebellious states "shall be thenceforward and forever free."

To cut to the chase, in every conflict, Maine has contributed more than its fair share in military personnel from the Revolution to the present. Though few conflicts took place on Maine soil in the Revolution, a handful of sites suffered ravages during the struggle. The first American Naval victory took place in June 1775 in Machias with the taking of the British warship *Margaretta*; the British burned

It has frequently been stated in these proceedings in years past, that the present commemoration of Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, was the inspiration of Civil War General Logan in his General Order Number 11, which called for:

The 30th day of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet churchyard in the land. In this observance no form or ceremony is prescribed, but posts and comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit.

Besides the soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice of freely giving their own futures in defense of the freedoms and mode of government guaranteed in the United States Constitution in the period of the Rebellion, the loved ones they left behind should be counted as equally having made a sacrifice, as their lives were adversely affected, as well.

So, it came to be that, though the Nation's departed warriors are honored with flags placed upon their graves on this occasion, it also evolved that families place flowers or other remembrances on the graves of those who no longer sit with them at the table of life. Mostly, those so remembered are recent family, personally known and loved. Yet, there may also be family members among their ancestors whose service and sacrifice led to the Declaration of Independence, whose 250th Anniversary we are about to celebrate. It stated:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.—That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, —That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People

[More on "INDEPENDENCE" Page 26](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 5 continued

■ "INDEPENDENCE" (Continued from Page 25)

Falmouth (now Portland) in October 1775; the Benedict Arnold expedition of 1,000 Continentals transversed Maine on the Kennebec River in late 1775; Belfast was forced to evacuate for five-years; and the ill-fated (for the patriot cause) Naval Battle of the Penobscot occurred in 1779. Locally, there was the six-man Indian raid from Canada on Bethel, in 1781, now remembered as a rather nasty skirmish.

It is safe to say that every living person currently on the planet had ancestors who were alive during the American Revolution. According to Google, today, 55% to 60% of those residing in the United States today had ancestors living in the Colonies at that time, but of that, only 2.6%, or approximately 1 in 40, are descended from those who actually served in the military.

Maine, however, has a higher percentage (70% to 80 %) who lived in the Colonies during the time of the Revolution. Because Maine, in the colonial period, was a province of Massachusetts, the Commonwealth, following the Revolution, paid promised bonuses to its soldiers and sailors in land grants. This expanded the occupation of Maine from the coast, through the interior, and to the western strip of towns that then existed, including Fryeburg, Waterford, Paris, Bethel, and Rumford. For that reason, more Maine residents are descendants of Revolutionary War military personnel than would otherwise have been the case.

In my local research, I discovered that Greenwood was initially settled by four

Revolutionary soldiers of the North Bridgewater Company in about 1800. Before the last of the Revolutionary military personnel entered the Post Everlasting here, the number had risen to twenty. All, or almost all, had descendants who married the children of more recent arrivals, including those of foreign birth. In some places, genealogical research is very difficult because records have been lost due to war, natural disaster, fire, or inadequate care. Not so in Greenwood, Woodstock, Milton Township, and other nearby communities. A resident who is not certain of his or her Revolutionary War heritage, but who knows that the family has resided in these places for at least four generations, would likely find it worth doing the research.

Regardless of their ancestry, however, all Americans, whether native born or naturalized citizens, can justly claim their inheritance of the freedoms bequeathed by those who came before. These freedoms were purchased for them by the patriots who fought and died in the Revolutionary War and have been maintained by all who served in the Nation's subsequent conflicts.

In keeping with the spirit of General Logan's Order Number 11, let us remember to always honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice with fitting services and testimonials of respect. As I have frequently ended these remarks: NEVER FORGET.

The above Memorial Day Speech was presented at The American Legion Jackson-Silver Post 68 in Lockes Mills by 2026-2027 Post Commander Harry G. Orcutt.

Submitted by Locke Mills Post 68 Commander,
Harry G. Orcutt



Locke Mills Post 68 Memorial Day: Post 68 Commander Harry G. Orcutt speaks at the post's Memorial Day ceremonies.

Remembering the Fallen at Jackson-Silver Post 68

Remembering the valor of those who gave the last full measure of devotion in American conflicts, like that of Pvt. William Silver, and Cpl. Harold Jackson in WWI, for whom Post 68 in Locke Mills is named, is what Memorial Day is all about. The downpour of tears from the heavens caused the ceremonies planned for the East Bethel cemetery to be canceled. Post 1st Vice William Bradford and the Unit 68 Flag Detail went there to

ascertain whether those who usually attended were awaiting our arrival. One stalwart was encountered and the ceremonies were suspended until better weather next year.

The sun burst forth at noon, and after an earlier lunch of meats, cheeses, Italian bread, with condiments, ripple potato chips, and beverages. It was on to Woodstock at 12:30 hours.

Submitted by Locke Mills Post 68 Commander,
Harry G. Orcutt



Post 68 Memorial Day Ceremonies: Left photo, Locke Mills Post 68 Commander Orcutt opens the ceremonies in the Post 68 Great Hall. Right photo, following the Benediction by Post Chaplain Timothy Twitchel, US Naval League Cadet PO 1 Teddy Crockett recites the Soldiers Prayer, the 91st Psalm.



The Mahoosuc Band opens with the National Anthem. As the ceremonies progressed, the band performed the Armed Forces Medley and the Navy Hymn. They ended the ceremonies with God Bless America.



Locke Mills Unit 68 Poppy Girl: Top photo, Unit 68 President Paige Crockett introduces the 2026 Poppy Girl. Bottom photo, honoring the Naval Services, the Poppy Girl casts flowers upon the waters of North Pond.

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 5 continued

■ "REMEMBER"
(Continued from Page 26)



Flag Ritual:
Locke Mills Post 68
Commander Orcutt,
left, recites the
placement of the flag
ritual.



Flag & Wreath Placement:
After placing a flag, 1st Vice
William Bickford stands by with an
umbrella while Unit 68 President
Paige Crockett places the Auxiliary
Wreath at the base of the Post
Veterans Monument.



Firing Detail & Taps: Top
photo, Unit 68 Firing Detail, left to right,
Timothy Twitchell, Al Lake, Ray Hakala,
and William Bickford. Bottom photo,
Mahoosuc Band members Ed Lovejoy and
Brian Dunham perform Echoing Taps.



**Memorial
Day
Speech:**
Locke Mills
Post 68
Commander
Harry Orcutt
renders his
Memorial Day
Speech. [See
Pages 25-26](#)
for the speech

titled, "On the 250th Year of American Independence: Is there a Revolutionary War Veteran in Your Family History Who Deserves to be Recognized?"



Locke Mills Post 68 Memorial Day Service: Top photo, Daughters
of Union Veterans conduct their Memorial Day service at the town Veterans
Monument. Looking on in the background is the Locke Mills Post 68 Firing and
Flag Detail. Bottom photo, the Mahoosuc Band performs their program. Last year
the band was seated on chairs loaned to them by Post 68. With the recent purchase
of new chairs, the post donated a sufficient stock of their former chairs, which the
band selected for their use.



Lakeside Cemetery: Top photo, Locke Mills Post and Unit 68 gather in
Woodstock at the Lakeside Cemetery. Bottom right photo, Unit 68 Flag Detail.
Bottom left photo, Post 68 1st Vice William Bickford commands the Post 68 Firing
Detail in their final salute on the banks of Lake Christofer in Lakeside cemetery.

**Collecting Poppy
Donations:** Woodstock is the
last chance to receive donations
for poppies.



They Will be Back

In the May *Maine Legionnaire* Jackson-Silver report titled, "Locke Mills Post 68 Cornhole, Reading, and Earning Bikes" detailed a collaboration between Post 68 and the local Masonic Lodge, Bryant Pond's Jefferson Lodge 100 AM & FM, to raise funds through a Post Cornhole Tournament to purchase bikes and safety helmets for Woodstock school children through the Lodge's Bikes for Book Program. The Tournament raised \$850, and a matching grant from the Grand Lodge of Maine brought the total available to \$1,700. The cost of the awarded bikes and safety helmets this year was about \$1,500. The remaining \$200.00 will be

[More on "FUNDRAISING" Page 28](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 5 continued

■ "FUNDRAISING" (Continued from Page 27)

used for another charitable purpose.

The Lodge indicated they will be back next year, starting a new tradition similar to the post's collaboration with Kora Shrine's Oxford County Shrine Club, another Masonic body. The Club's hugely successful *Festival of Trees* is held annually each December at Jackson-Silver Post 68. In like manner, the post looks forward to adding Jefferson Lodge 100 to the annual calendar of charitable events.

Even though Jackson-Silver Post 68 is presently raising tens of thousands of dollars for much needed upgrades in equipment and building enhancements

and maintenance, its community charitable endeavors continue apace. The post recently replaced the decades old chairs in the Great Hall, and donated 40 of the old chairs to Jefferson Lodge for their functions and meetings. The post also donated 20 chairs to the Mahoosuc Band, which provides music at the post's patriotic commemorations (see *Remembering the Fallen at Jackson-Silver Post 68* in this issue of the *Maine Legionnaire*) for use on their trailer band platform. The post will retain another 200 of the chairs in the best condition in reserve and offer the remainder for public sale.

Submitted by Locke Mills Post 68 Commander,
Harry G. Orcutt



Post Commander Harry G. Orcutt, Jefferson Lodge 100 Chaplain VW Stephen Hakala, Post 68 Finance Officer Ray Hakala, Post Sgt.-at-Arms Al Lake, and Post Adjutant Sara Pruyne.

Post 68 Thank You Plaque:

Jefferson Lodge 100 Chaplain VW Stephen Hakala awards a Thank You Plaque to members of the Post 68 Executive Committee, who were present at their general meeting on Thursday, June 18. Left to right, Post 68 Chaplain Timothy Twitchell,



Officer Installation Ceremonies: Officers for Buckfield Post 58, Bethel Post 81, and Locke Mills Post 68 are installed at Jackson-Silver Post 68 in Locke Mills by District 5 Commander Randall Jack. Top left photo, Installing Officer and District 5 Commander Randall Jack, Buckfield Post 58 Adjutant and Finance Officer Gloria Hall, and Post 58 Commander and Chaplain James Lowell. Top right photo, Installing Officer Randall Jack, Bethel Post 81 Finance Officer Scott Cole, and Post 81 Commander George Angevine. Bottom photo, Installing Officer Randall Jack, Locke Mills Post 68 Finance Officer Raymond Hakala, Post 68 Commander Harry G. Orcutt, and Post 68 Chaplain Timothy Twitchell.

It's Becoming an Institution 6th Annual Post 58, 68, and 81 Installation

Preceding the 2026-27 Installation of Officers of Buckfield Post 58, Locke Mills Post 68, and Bethel Post 81 was a buffet supper, commencing at 18:00 hours (6:00 pm). The entrée of meats, cheeses, sliced Italian bread, condiments, and beverages were provided by host Post Jackson-Silver 68. Attendees contributed a medley of salads and desserts.

The installed officers will have the honor of serving in the 250th

Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence when, *"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."* announced the promise to the world that a new form of government was about to be inaugurated.

Submitted by Locke Mills Post 68 Commander,
Harry G. Orcutt



Buffet Table: Everything looked and was so good on the buffet table at the installation ceremony, held at Locke Mills Post 68 home, for Posts 58, 68, and 81.

Third Annual Children's Flagging of Greenwood Veterans Graves

The efforts put forth by Paige Crockett, President of Locke Mills Unit 68, continue to build, year by year, the number of children participating in Jackson-Silver Post's road-accessible cemetery veterans flagging program. Twenty-eight children, ranging in age from the barely walking (2), to middle school age, participated. At the request of some parents, not all participating children were photographed.

On Friday, May 22, at 09:00 hours at Jackson-Silver Post 68, participants met, signed-in, and indicated their choice of pizza. Procedures for flagging veteran graves were reviewed. Many of the children, some of whom had flagged 200 graves in Bethel that Wednesday, and others who had flagged in Greenwood last year, were already versed in the procedure. Before heading out in two groups, Paige with seven children and two adults to flag the Richardson Hollow Cemetery, and

Commander Orcutt with the remainder to flag the three cemeteries along the Greenwood Road, all to meet up at the largest of them, Mt. Abram Cemetery, next to the Locke Mills Union Church. At Mt. Abram Cemetery, Commander Orcutt addressed the group. He informed the children that by being born in the United States, they had won the lottery of life, something he truly believed after having been on a number of continents and experiencing how other people lived. He also spoke of the importance of proficiency in reading skills, with which they could explore any interest they might have, and attain knowledge of any vocation they might eventually pursue.

Post 68 accords special thanks to the parents who participated: Paige Crockett, Jann D., Whitney McP., Lauren T., Amanda T., Kaitlin W., Renee W., Tracia Y., and Neil Clausen,

[More on "FLAGGING" Page 29](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 5 continued

"FLAGGING"
(Continued from Page 28)

principal and head teacher of the Woodstock Forestdale Christian School and wife Kate. But special thanks go to the children: Andie, Annie, Asa, Ash, Bowen, Brady, Brandon, Delilah,

Foster, Halleigh, Henry, Ian, James, Leah, Niall, Nathan, Olive, Robby, Sawyer, Scarlett, Sedona, Sophie, Sydney, Tracen, TT, Wilder, Willow, and Wyman.

Submitted by Locke Mills Post 68 Commander, Harry G. Orcutt



Youth Volunteers Assist Post 68: Youth volunteers flag veterans' graves at Richardson Hollow Cemetery, top left photo, at Martin Cemetery, top right photo, and at Hicks Cemetery, in front of the well-hidden Orcutt/Vacca granite bench, bottom photo.

Post 68 Flag Placement:

Top photo, members of Locke Mills Post and Unit 68, along with youth volunteers, place flags at the Cummings Plot, the cemetery of the "three Josephs" who served in the Revolution, War of 1812, and Civil War. Bottom photos, flags are placed on veterans' graves at Mt. Abram, the largest Greenwood cemetery.



Call To Pizza: Pizza is served at the Locke Mills Union Church Fellowship Hall following the placement of flags on veterans' graves.



Poppy Fabrication: Top photo, Locke Mills Unit 68 President Paige Crockett, standing right, gives instruction on how to fabricate Memorial Day Poppies, a necessary project as the Unit 68 Poppy Girl had already distributed all the Poppies she had. Bottom photo, volunteers assemble poppies.

Leroy Patten – A Patriot Has Entered the Post Everlasting at Jackson-Silver 68

US Army Vietnam veteran, patriot, and 50-year post-member Leroy Patten, has entered the Post Everlasting at Locke Mills Post 68. The post held a ceremony for friends and family of Leroy. After the ceremonies, Leroy's wife Ann related that before a recent Memorial Day, Leroy had experienced a medical procedure that resulted in his having a trachea incision. Despite the

incision, he insisted that he was going to participate in the firing detail, as he did every year. Realizing that arguing was pointless, Ann devised a cover that was hidden beneath his bloused scarf. Nobody else was aware of this. This is just one example of how much Leroy truly believed in America and its traditions; he was most certainly a Patriot!

Submitted by Locke Mills Post 68 Commander, Harry G. Orcutt



Leroy Patten
April 17, 1947 – April 1, 2026. Vietnam War veteran, an active member of the Jackson Silver Post 68, and devoted his life to his family.



Funeral Service: Rev. Charles "Chuck" Mason, Leroy's longtime friend, presided the service. Rev. Mason was probably most familiar with Jackson Silver Post, as his father, a Korea Conflict veteran, was a Past Post Commander, as was his first cousin Eldon Bartlett, a Vietnam veteran, who succeeded his uncle as Post Commander.



Post 68 Firing Detail: Taps, followed three volleys by the Post 68 Firing Detail, Commanded by Post Commander Harry G. Orcutt. Firing detail, left to right, Post 1st Vice William Bickford, Post Chaplain Timothy Twitchell, and Post Sgt.-at Arms Al Lake.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 5 continued

■ "POST EVERLASTING"
(Continued from Page 29)

Burial Flag: Left photo, a Sergeant and Sgt. First Class of the US Army Funeral Detail, stationed at Camp Chamberlain, folds the burial flag. Right photo, the folded flag is presented to Mrs. Patten, with a sympathy message from the President of the United States.

Ceremony Speech:

Top photo, Locke Mills Post 68 Commander Orcutt, after welcoming the mourners to the post, first described the meaning of the flag folding ceremony, then stated it was not that long ago that Leroy had received his fifty-year star along with his post and national continuous membership certificates. He said that Leroy would have been immensely proud of his great granddaughter having raised over \$750 as the Unit 68 Poppy Girl, especially as all of the funds will be expended to meet veteran needs. Bottom photo, attendees, both local and from out of state, demonstrate how Leroy touched numerous lives.

Bethel 4th of July
250th of Declaring Independence Parade

Bethel, styled "Maine's Most Beautiful Mountain Village," held a 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence Parade on July 4. Bethel is a central location in Oxford County, a cultural hub of sorts to surrounding communities, many of whom sent their emergency vehicles, and local community groups and businesses as parade participants. One organization that elicited numerous cheers all along Maine Street (Rt. 26), was that of the command vehicle of American Legion Jackson-Silver Post 68 in Locke Mills, and Mundt-Allen Post 81 in Bethel. The "Jeep-like" vehicle, provided by Chuck Gutterer, was arranged through Kim Sparks, Town Manager of Greenwood.

Unlike the majority of Maine municipalities, Bethel existed before the Revolutionary War. Authorized to be created as Sudbury-Canada by the Massachusetts Great and General Court in 1769, with lands granted for the descendants of those that served in the Battle of Quebec in 1690, it began

to be occupied in 1774. By 1781, some months before the Battle of Yorktown, with ten households having settled, there occurred on Aug. 3, 1781, the last skirmish in the Northern Department of the Continental Army in New England. Six Canadian first nation tribal members and heavily armed British loyalists all raided townships along the New Hampshire-Maine border, selecting and attacking unarmed American families. For a rather nasty slight incursion, quite a bit of information exists for anyone to peruse in texts created by those who survived or is remembered by their immediate offspring.

Most of the settlers were veterans of America's War of Independence. Their farms in the grant were separated from five to eleven miles apart. So it was purely bad luck that the farmstead of the communities acknowledged leader, Captain Eleazar Twitchell, was raided. Though Twitchell was captured along with his friends, Lt. Nathaniel Segar, Lt. Jonathan Clark, and Benjamin

Clark, he managed to escape and hid in the forest. Two of his friends were taken to a Canadian Catholic Mission, where a conglomerate of Indian villages were situated. They released Lt. Clark during their journey north, but he, knowing that one of their number was trailing a mile behind the group, realized they intended to slay him as he fled south. Instead, as soon as he was out of sight of the group, he left the trail and fled into the woods, thus circumventing the ambush.

When the Indians and their captives arrived in Canada, the nearby British Army garrison paid the raiders \$8 for each of the captives, and an equal amount for the scalps taken from those they had murdered. Lt. Segar must have possessed the personality of a natural influencer, as after they reached the Mission, the tribe wanted to adopt him and make him their chief. But the British would have none of it, and he and Clark spent two years in miserable conditions as prisoners of the garrison

until the Peace Treaty was signed in Paris in 1783, with the United States being recognized among the nations of the earth.

As we drove past the world class Bethel Honor Roll Monument, on which is inscribed the 1,335 names of those that have served in all the conflicts involving the United States from Albany, all of Bethel, Grafton, Mason, and Riley, a veteran Sergeant of a long past war, in uniform, saluted the Betsy Ross flag draped across the hood of our vehicle. If he had been born in any of those named communities, his name would be on the monument. Of those first veterans who settled in what is Bethel today, conflict by conflict, down through the ages, the surnames of their progeny and descendants are also inscribed, "Duty, honor, country," is not just a catchy slogan in Maine, it has been, and hopefully will remain, a sacred obligation.

Submitted by Locke Mills Post 68 Commander,
Harry G. Orcutt



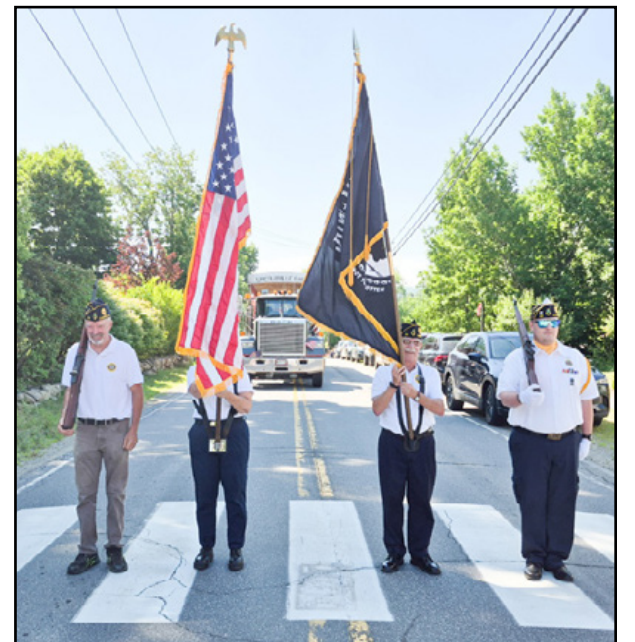
Bethel Post 81 4th Of July: Left photo, left to right, Locke Mills Unit 68 Secretary Susan Vacca and her husband, Locke Mills Post 68 Commander Harry G. Orcutt, Post 81 Commander George Angevine, and Chuck Gutterer in the driver's seat. Right photo, The Revolutionary War couple, Harry G. Orcutt, in the uniform of Major General Henry Knox, and his Lady Susan Vacca, whose skills provided both attires.

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; Warren Post 218

Camden Post 30 Color Guard: Post 30 provided a Color Guard for the annual Lincolnville Strawberry Festival parade on July 11. Left to right, Post 30 Commander Brent Wucher, Post 1st Vice Stephanie McLain, Post Sgt.-at-Arms John Hyssong, and Post Americanism Officer Scott Bergey.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 6 continued



Camden Post 30 Celebrates America's 250th: On July 3, Post 30 celebrated USA 250 by providing the community with a program on Revolutionary War soldiers from the Camden Area. The event was held on the Camden Village Green in front of the War Memorial. Top photo, post members take a group photo on the Camden Village Green. Front row, left to right, Stephanie McLain, Skip Pierce, John Hyssong, Hank Lunn, Rodney Lynch, Rev Dave Franclemont, Brent Wucher, Jaime Ward, Owen Casas & Horace Benner. Back row, left to right, Scott Bergey and Rosey Gerry. Bottom photo, Channel 6 WCSH News representative Akua Duvall, left, interviews Post 30 Historian Rodney Lynch, right.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 7

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



Wiscasset 4th Of July Parade: Left to right, Wiscasset Post 54 Chaplin Bob Hersom, Post Sgt-At-Arms/Bugler Tom Stoner, and Bob Lear participate in the Wiscasset 4th of July celebrations.

Photo by Bob Bond, 40 Federal Studio
Published Wiscasset Newspaper
July 6, 2026
www.wiscassetnewspaper.com/article/wiscasset-s-july-4/272017

Post 54 Honors Wiscasset's Military Veterans on Memorial Day

Memorial Day dawned gray and rainy Monday, May 25 forcing members of Bradford-Sortwell-Wright Post 54 of the American Legion indoors for their Memorial Day observances. Inside Wiscasset municipal building's hearing room, William Cossette, Post 54 commander, welcomed fellow veterans and community members who had gathered in remembrance of the men and women who served in the armed forces and gave their lives in service to our country.

Cossette began by thanking those attending, saying the Legion appreciated the community's continued support of Post 54, which was organized over 80 years ago. "What we need more than anything else is for younger veterans to become more involved in the American Legion. As our membership gets older it's getting harder for us to carry on traditions like placing American flags on the graves of veterans," he said. Post 54 is also responsible for placing American flags on utility poles downtown, and along routes One and 27.

Following Cossette's remarks, Post 54's Honor Guard Rifle Squad marched outdoors to carry out a ceremonial rifle salute. Three shots are fired simultaneously – three volleys in all – to symbolize fallen armed services members who have been properly cared

for and honorably laid to rest. This year's rifle salute was followed by the playing of "Taps" by Post 54 bugler Tom Stoner of Woolwich, after which two evergreen Wreaths of Remembrance were placed in front of the veteran's wall which faces Route One. The wreaths symbolize "remembrance, respect, and enduring life" for military members who gave their lives in service to our country. Post 54's hall, about a mile south of the municipal building on Route One, opened its doors to guests for coffee and pastries following the ceremony.

Wiscasset's veterans' wall bears the names of local men and women who have served in America's armed forces during times of war. The wall and Remembrance Walkway have been the focal point of Wiscasset's Memorial Day and Veteran's Day ceremonies for many years. The community's other veterans' memorial is a large boulder with a bronze plaque affixed to it on the town common off Main Street. Known as the "Sons of Wiscasset Memorial," it was dedicated in 1919 in honor of those who served in the armed forced during World War I.

Phil Di Vece, News Contributor
Wiscasset Newspaper
May 25, 2026

www.wiscassetnewspaper.com/article/post-54-remembers-wiscassets-military-veterans-memorial-day/270550



Pledge Of Allegiance: Wiscasset Post 54 Commander William Cossette leads the Pledge of Allegiance at Monday's Memorial Day service.

Photo by Phil Di Vece, Wiscasset Newspaper



Taps: Wiscasset Post 54 Bugler Tom Stoner plays "Taps." Stoner, of Woolwich, is a veteran of the U.S. Navy.

Photo by Phil Di Vece, Wiscasset Newspaper



Post 54 Rifle Squad: Wiscasset Post 54's Honor Guard Rifle Squad fires the ceremonial rifle salute.

Photo by Phil Di Vece, Wiscasset Newspaper

[More on "MEMORIAL DAY" Page 32](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 7 continued

■ "MEMORIAL DAY" (Continued from Page 31)

Wiscasset Post 54 Group Photo: Wiscasset Post 54 members, including American Legion Auxiliary member, Diane Munsey, pose for pictures in front of Wiscasset's veterans' memorial.

Photo by Phil Di Vece, Wiscasset Newspaper



Wreath Placement: Neil Page of Wiscasset places a wreath at the Wiscasset veterans' memorial.

Photo by Phil Di Vece, Wiscasset Newspaper

Memorial: People gathered in front of the Wiscasset veterans' memorial after the rain slackened.

Photo by Phil Di Vece, Wiscasset Newspaper



Wiscasset Post 54 Commemorates Memorial Day: Top photo, members of American Legion Bradford-Sortwell-Wright Post 54 stand in front of the Wiscasset veterans wall after commemorating Memorial Day on Monday, May 25. Left to right, Tom Stoner, 3rd Class, U.S. Navy; Robert Hersom Jr., Spec 4, U.S. Army; Bob Lear, Sergeant First Class, U.S. Army; Bob Milligan, Army 5, U.S. Army; Bruce Poland, Sergeant E5; Post 54 Commander William Cossett, U.S. Navy, EM2; John Kennedy, U.S. Army, Mast Sign; Neil Page, lieutenant, U.S. Navy; and Diane Savage, Post 54 Auxiliary president. Bottom photo, U.S. Army veteran Robert Hersom Jr., of Wiscasset, takes a solemn moment at the veterans' memorial wall in Wiscasset. He said that for him, honoring Memorial Day was about having respect for the veterans made the ultimate sacrifice.

Poland, Sergeant E5; Post 54 Commander William Cossett, U.S. Navy, EM2; John Kennedy, U.S. Army, Mast Sign; Neil Page, lieutenant, U.S. Navy; and Diane Savage, Post 54 Auxiliary president. Bottom photo, U.S. Army veteran Robert Hersom Jr., of Wiscasset, takes a solemn moment at the veterans' memorial wall in Wiscasset. He said that for him, honoring Memorial Day was about having respect for the veterans made the ultimate sacrifice.

Photos by Christine Simmonds
The Lincoln County News, Damariscotta
May 28, 2026



Monument Installation: Wiscasset Post 54 recently installed this U.S. military monument in front of the post's hall on Route One. Left to right, Post 54 officers Bob Hersom, Larry Rines, Bill Cossette, Bob Milligan, Tom Stoner, and John Kennedy.

Photo by Clifford Hendricks
Boothbay Register/Wiscasset Newspaper
May 7, 2026

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 8

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

Brunswick Veteran's Expo

Tractor Supply Company of Brunswick hosted this year's Veteran's Expo on Saturday, Jun 20.

There was wind (lots of wind), rain, and plenty of sunshine this year in the Brunswick Tractor Supply Co. parking lot. Groups from The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Veterans Resource Center, Boothbay V.E.T.S. Inc., Martins Point, Honor Flight Maine, United Way, American Red Cross, and Maine Paws for Veterans gathered.

I suddenly realized something. This

Legionnaire wants every qualifying veteran become part of The American Legion Family, when it comes to helping veterans and their families, we all come together as one group of brothers and sisters. This year was no different. It was a central area for veterans to come and ask questions, to ask for help, and to get help.

There were tractors for children to ride, a few goats that came to visit, and even a giant chicken or three.

Submitted by Department Finance Officer and Topsham Post 202 member, Mary "Tally" Brown



Veteran's Expo Activities: Left photo, the Brunswick Veteran's Expo is held at Tractor Supply Company in Brunswick on June 20. Right photo, tractors were available to ride.

More on "VETERAN'S EXPO" Page 33

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 8 continued

"VETERAN'S EXPO"
(Continued from Page 32)



Farm Themed Fun: Left photo, children and veterans alike enjoyed the goats to pet at the Veterans Expo. Right photo, who doesn't need a giant chicken?



Topsham Post 202 Booth: Corey E. Garver American Legion Post 202 of Topsham offers information at the Veteran's Expo in Brunswick, discussing how The American Legion helps veterans.

Veteran's Expo Booths: Top left photo, Maine Paws for Vets help veterans train their service dogs. Top right photo, Honor Flight of Maine provides senior veterans with a free weekend trip



to visit the memorials built in our veterans' honor in Washington, DC. Bottom left photo, Martin's Point helps veterans and their families navigate our local medical system. Bottom right photo, The United Way is a great resource for veterans.



V.E.T.S Inc. Temporary Shelter: Ed Harmon of Boothbay V.E.T.S. Inc. brought one of his homes on wheels, which serve as temporary shelters for homeless veterans, to the Boothbay Veteran's Expo on June 20.



VFW Booth: Rev. Joseph Lamarre Memorial VFW Post 2197 in Topsham offers information for brothers and sisters who have participated in the wars on foreign soil.



Helpful Information: VFW State Commander and Topsham Post 202 Legion member, Roger Stevens, a.k.a. "The RAMN8R," joined in with a lot of information for helping veterans.



Veterans Resource Center: Mid-Coast Veterans Council Director Nancy Hamlin attends the Veteran's Expo. The Mid-Coast Veterans Council assists Maine veterans by providing assistance obtaining benefits, services, and resources to meet their needs.



American Red Cross representative Katie Cunningham stands in to answer questions from our biggest national disaster organization at the Veteran's Expo in Brunswick on June 20.

Phippsburg Post 216 Has a Busy Spring & Summer!

Phippsburg American Legion Memorial Post 216 had a busy spring and summer.

On May 9, members of the post completed their annual yard cleanup fundraiser at a local business, and the next day they spent the morning at the town's Veterans Park cleaning up the gardens, mulching, planting flowers, and mowing in preparation for Memorial Day.

As Memorial Day approached, the post members divided up into five groups and placed over 240 U.S. flags on veteran graves in 42 public and private cemeteries.

On June 3, Post 216 Adjutant Mike Young, USCG retired, dressed in his Coast Guard uniform and conducted a Burial at Sea ceremony for veteran George Wibberly, who had served for 20 years in the Air Force and then the Navy. His family spread his ashes off Mark Island in Casco Bay from the lobster boat Sara C.

Post 216 held its installation of officers ceremony on June 11, which was presided over by post members Nick Hamlin and Nancy Hamlin (Past District Officers.) The same post officers were elected as the prior year.

On June 13, Post 216 held its annual Flag Day ceremony at the town office parking lot/Veterans Memorial Park to retire unserviceable U.S. Flags with dignity. This year, we included the local Cub Scout Pack in the ceremony.

Post 216 conducted a Draping of the Charter and Post Everlasting Ceremony on July 9 for Comrade Alice W. Kolczynski who passed away on March 12. Alice was an Air Force veteran and served as a surgical nurse during the Vietnam War era. She was a founding member of Post 216 in 2010 (plank owner.) We had fourteen family members and friends join us at the ceremony.

On July 11, Post 216 partnered with VFW Post 7738 and held our 11th Annual Veterans Appreciation Day Ceremony and BBQ. Over 40 veterans and their family members attended and were honored. New attendees were presented with Legion Honor Certificates, Vietnam War Commemorative Pins, and Blue Star Banners. The VA Mobile Veterans Center was available on site. ABBQ and fellowship followed the presentations.

[More on "POST 216" Page 34](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 8 continued

■ "POST 216"

(Continued from Page 33)

Post 216 Tax Bracket Fundraiser:

Left to right, Comrade Nancy Hamlin, Comrade Bob Belben, Post 216 Adjutant Mike Young, Post Chaplain Richard Spear, Post First Vice Commander Jim Wallace, and Comrade Nick Hamlin clean up at a local business to raise funds for veteran programs in May.

Photo by Chilloa Young



Phippsburg Post 216 Veterans Memorial Park Cleanup: Left photo, Comrade Bob Belben plants flowers at the Phippsburg Veterans Memorial Park in preparation for the Memorial Day celebration. Middle photo, Comrade Nancy Hamlin plants flowers. Right photo, Chaplain Richard Spear rakes the park.

Photos by Mike Young



Burial At Sea Ceremony:

Left photo, Phippsburg Post 216 Adjutant Mike Young, USCG Ret., conducts a Burial at Sea Ceremony for veteran George Wibberly in May. Right photo, Post Adjutant Mike Young helps Won Wibberly spread the ashes of her husband, Navy veteran George Wibberly, at the Burial at Sea Ceremony.

Photos by family of George Wibberly

Post 216 Flag Disposal Ceremony:

Left photo, left to right, local Cub Scout and his father assist Comrade Nick Hamlin and Post Sgt-at-Arms Larry Swizdor at the Phippsburg Post 216 Annual Flag Disposal Ceremony held in June. Right photo, Post Adjutant Mike Young burns flags with the help of Mr. Roberts who was attending the event.



Photos by Chilloa Young



Group Photo: Phippsburg Post 216 members pose for a group photo at the Flag Disposal Ceremony in June, with the local Cub Scout pack also participating.

Photo by Chilloa Young



Post 216 Officer Installation Ceremony:

Left to right, Post Commander Ken Kellogg, Post First Vice Commander Jim Wallace, Post Second Vice Commander Harvey Munsey, Post Adjutant Mike Young, Post Sergeant-at-Arms

Larry Swizdor, Post Chaplain Richard Spear, Post Finance Officer Deb Reddinger, and Post Service Officer Fred Libby, receive their Warrants at the Installation of Officers Ceremony held in June. The ceremony was conducted by Past District 8 Commander, Comrade Nick Hamlin.



Post Everlasting Ceremony:

Top left photo, left to right, Phippsburg Post 216 Commander Ken Kellogg orders the Brazier to be posted by Post Sergeant-at-Arms Larry Swizdor and Post First Vice Commander Jim Wallace for Comrade Alice Kolczynski's post Everlasting Ceremony held in July. Top right photo, Post Chaplain Richard

Spear burns the Military and Legion History of Comrade Alice Kolczynski, transferring her to Post Everlasting. Bottom photo, family, friends, and Post 216 members attend the Draping of the Charter and Post Everlasting Ceremony for Comrade Alice Kolczynski.

Photo by Chilloa Young



Veterans Appreciation Day Group:

Phippsburg Post 216 Commander Ken Kellogg presents veterans with Honor Certificates for their service to our country. Left to right, Lt. Karl Steiner (Navy), Ken Kellogg (Post CDR), PR2 Eric Bryan (Navy), Spec 4 Nancy Hamlin (Army), Sgt. Nick Hamlin (Army), and Spec 5 Ron Mitchell (Army). Post Sgt.-at-Arms Larry Swizdor looks on in the background.



Photo by Chilloa Young

[More on "POST 216" Page 35](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 8 continued

■ "POST 216"
(Continued from Page 34)

Honor Certificate Presentation: Left to right, Cpt. Robert Sheehan (U. S. Army, Korean War veteran) receives his Honor Certificate from Post 216 Commander Ken Kellogg at the post's Veterans Appreciation Day Ceremony & BBQ in July.

Photo by Chilloa Young



Blue Star Banner Presentation: Comrade Nick Hamlin, center, and wife Comrade Nancy Hamlin, left, are presented with a Blue Start Banner from Post Commander Ken Kellogg, right, in honor of Nick's son's service in the U. S. Army at the post's Veterans Appreciation Day Ceremony & BBQ in July. Nick's son, Sgt. Damian Hamlin, is on his second enlistment and is serving in the middle east.

Photo by Chilloa Young

Post 216 Presents Commemorative Pin: LTC Nick Nichols (U. S. Army), left, receives a Commemorative Pin for his service in Vietnam from Post Commander Ken Kellogg during the Post 216 Veterans Appreciation Day Ceremony & BBQ.

Photo by Chilloa 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



District 9 Cheers On Central Maine Hurricanes: Kennebec County District 9 Commander Patrick Linehan, left, wishes General Manager Ray Bernier, right, and the Central Maine Hurricanes team well before their evening game on Monday, June 22 at the team's home field of Colby Field in Waterville.

Goodrich-Caldwell Post 6
Memorial Day Ceremony

Monday, May 25, like most everyone experienced in the great state of Maine, was a wet one, as weather failed to cooperate, but that didn't dampen the spirits of the members and guest of the Goodrich-Caldwell Post 6 in Hallowell.

For the first time in quite a few years, the post had to go with a 'plan B' and conduct their ceremony inside the post. Many members, along with their families and guests, attended.

With 'plan B' in place, there was also a little bit of ad-libbing along the way, but still, everything went on without a hitch.

U.S. Navy Second Class Battle Ship, USS Maine

The *USS Maine* was a U.S. Navy second class battleship, sunk in Havana Harbor, Cuba on Feb. 15, 1898. 267 crewmen died in that explosion, which caused the sinking of the *USS Maine*. This in turn led to the Spanish-American War. For six of those crewmen, the

United States government had no home of record listed for them. On this date, May 25, 1998, 28 years ago, the Goodrich-Caldwell American Legion Post 6 in Hallowell signed a resolution, adopting those six crewmen with no home of record, and have since been honoring them on Memorial Day with the laying of a wreath or flowers at the edge of the Kennebec River in downtown Hallowell. Those Crewmen were: Apprentice 1st Class John P. Barry, Cabin Steward John R. Bell, Mess Steward Luke Chingi, Fireman 2nd Class William Cosgrove, Seaman George Edler, and Landsman John W. Johnson.

The weather cleared just enough to progress to the river and complete the day's ceremony with a prayer and presentation of the bouquet of flowers in honor of the adopted six crewmen of the *USS Maine*.

Submitted by Hallowell Post 6 Sgt.-at-Arms & Historian John Mosher



Hallowell Post 6 Memorial Day Speech: Left photo, Acting Commander and 1st Vice Commander William Meehan

prepares for his opening Memorial Day speech. Right photo, post members and guests listen in on Meehan's speech.



Songs For The Ceremony: Left to right, 1st Vice Commander William Meehan, Joan Morgan, Jean Davenport, and Don Sweeney sing during the Memorial Day Ceremony at Hallowell Post 6. Everyone else joined in for the singing.

Honoring The Six Crewmen: At Hallowell's bulkhead at Granite City Park, members of the Goodrich-Caldwell American Legion Post 6 attended the ceremony



for the six adopted crewmen of the *USS Maine*. Left photo, left to right, Post 6 1st Vice Commander William Meehan, Post Sgt-at-Arms/Historian John Mosher, Post Chaplain Daniel West, Post Service Officer Timothy McGuire, Post Americanism Officer Glen Glidden, Post Adjutant Gerald Stuart, and Post Executive Officer Lewis Gipson. Right photo, Post Sgt-at-Arms and Historian John Mosher tosses the flowers into the Kennebec River in honor of the six adopted members lost from the sinking of the *USS Maine*.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 9 continued

Installation of Officers at Hallowell Post 6

Officer installation and certificate presentation was conducted at the Goodrich-Caldwell American Legion Post 6 in Hallowell on May 11.

The presentation was performed by Department Americanism Officer and

Past Post Commander Maureen Malley, assisted by Post 6 Service Officer and Past Post Sgt-at-Arms Timothy McGuire.

Submitted by Hallowell Post 6 Sgt.-at-Arms & Historian John Mosher



Hallowell Post 6 Officer Installation: Newly elected post officers, left to right, Chaplain Daniel West, 1st Vice Commander William Meehan, Finance Officer Phillip Lindley, Executive Officer Carroll Whitman, Department Americanism Officer Maureen Malley, Adjutant Officer Gerald Stuart, Service Officer Timothy McGuire, and Executive Officers Lewis Gipson and David Dodge. Excused officers that night were Americanism Officer Glen Glidden and Sgt-at-Arms/Historian Officer John Mosher.

Photo by Daniel West



Oakland Post 51 Memorial Day Color Guard:

This year's performance, both at the cemetery and the Memorial Day parade, were outstanding!

A huge thank

you to all that made this year's parade one of the best. Having an hour delay was the best move. The sun came out, dried up the street, and it turned out to be a fabulous day! Left to right, Post 51 Sergeant-at-Arms Wally McKenney, Post Service Officer Mark Spence, Post Adjutant Tina Zabierek, Post Commander Jeffrey Flye, District 9 Commander Patrick Linehan, Post Chaplin David Vines, SAL member Jeff Stevens, and Post 1st Vice Commander John Palmar.

**Litchfield Post 181
Evaluation:** District 9 Commander Patrick Linehan conducts an unannounced evaluation of Litchfield Post 181 on July 22. The post passed the inspection with flying colors. We look forward to the continued success of this established post in its new location. Left to right, Litchfield Post 181 Adjutant Gregory Couture, Past Department Commander and Litchfield Post 181 Finance Officer Debra Couture, and District 9 Commander Patrick Linehan.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 10

Fairfield Post 14; Skowhegan Post 16; Pittsfield Post 32; Madison Post 39; Bingham Post 99; Jackman Post 122; Hartland Post 141; Athens Post 192



Athens Post 192 Officiates Funeral Ceremony: Reporting a great loss to Athens Post 192, Garwood Howell passed away on June 13 after 76 years of service to the post. Rev. Tanner officiates the honors along with The American Legion Honor Guards and Chad Steward.

Submitted by Post 192 Service Officer, Gerald Boulette

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 11

Belfast Post 43; Unity Post 50; Winterport Post 138; Stockton Springs Post 157; Palermo Post 163; Brooks Post 183

Stockton Springs Post 157 Annual Yard Sale

On behalf of American Legion Post 157 Stockton Springs I would like to Thank everyone who helped or donated to the Annual Yard Sale this past weekend. The Yard Sale is held the first weekend in August and is our biggest fund raiser to help with Scholarships for Seniors Graduating the following June and other community needs that might arise. The turnout was unbelievable and I would like to say that we have the best of the best helping us, and that includes family

members, friends and others who show up to help. The amount of hard workers despite age or disability put their heart and soul into this event. Giving up an entire weekend and being there at 4:00 a.m. is truly remarkable.

I want to thank everyone by name, but that would take awhile, so I will end this...just know you are all an incredible asset to our post. We also remember and are grateful to those who have come before us.

Submitted by Past Post Commander, Stockton Springs Post 157, Judy L. Otis

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

Bucksport Post 93 Happenings & Events

This year, Bucksport Post 93 sent four students to Dirigo State and received very positive feedback. Electrical and plumbing upgrades to the post building are now complete, and the new heat pump was installed and used at the July meeting.

On July 25, the post hosted a yard sale and bake sale collaborative event with Evans Veterans Project. Between

20 and 22 volunteers, members, and guests filled out 775 Christmas cards, which was a huge success, while others were busy throughout the day selling baked treats and yard sale goodies.

Submitted by Bucksport Post 93 Commander Vincent Christinziano

[More on "POST 93 HAPPENINGS"](#)
Page 37

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 12 continued

■ "POST 93 HAPPENINGS"
(Continued from Page 36)



Evans Veterans Project: Bucksport Post 93 hosts a yard sale and bake sale event with Evans Veterans Project on July 25.

Post 93 and Me

There are many American Legion posts
In this wonderful state
Most are very good
While others are great
There is a post
In a town so sweet
Their "refurbishment" is amazing
Their members refuse to retreat
Their building is "vintage"
To say the least
Their goal is to resurrect
This centuries old beast
Their commander is energetic
And listens to his members

Old-timers and middle-aged alike
Live with war's burning embers
Veterans must unite
So their voices are heard
By our fellow citizens
Who need to hear every word
Veterans need help
To remember comrades lost
And ease the pain of broken souls
No matter the cost
So veterans of Bucksport
And towns nearby
Please join Post 93
Life gets shorter as the years fly by

By Bucksport Post 93 member Jay S. White, Sr.

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 Flag Placement: Post 3, with the help of local Girl Scouts, places flags on veterans' graves at Calais Cemetery on Sunday, May 17. Left photo, Past Post Commander Mike takes a photo with the Girl Scout troop during the flag placement.

WOMEN VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mission: To ensure women veterans are providing the Department of Maine with their concerns, recommendations, and are being properly considered as equal veterans. To mentor women veterans seeking camaraderie and resources.



Calling all Posts, Auxiliary Units and Sons Squadrons, we need your help. Please scan the QR Code to contact the WVAC Committee on Facebook or send an email to wwacmaine@gmail.com for information and guidance on planning a gathering for women veterans.



Women Veteran's Advisory Committee
Dept. Of Maine American Legion
Facebook Group Link:

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New Resource:
Women Veterans Luncheon
Checklist Guidelines

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T a p s C o l u m n

<u>POST</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>CONFLICT</u>	<u>POST</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>CONFLICT</u>
Post 2 – Augusta	Roger H Willette	Vietnam	Post 88 – Presque Isle	David L Cyr	Other
Post 5 – Waterville	Douglas J Cooper	Vietnam	Post 88 – Presque Isle	Joseph H Roe Jr	WWII
Post 6 – Hallowell	Clyde H Williams	Vietnam	Post 88 – Presque Isle	Galen R Lyons	Korea
Post 13 – E. Millinocket	Philip J Mitchell	Vietnam	Post 88 – Presque Isle	G Melvin Hovey	Korea
Post 15 – Caribou	Ivan Shaw	Vietnam	Post 108 – Jonesport	Ferdi I Gunduz	Vietnam
Post 16 – Skowhegan	Roger A Clukey	Unknown	Post 111 – Turner	John R Arsenault	Vietnam
Post 16 – Skowhegan	Margaret A Williams	Persian Gulf	Post 112 – Oxford	William L Herrick	Vietnam
Post 18 – Vinalhaven	Kenneth W Webster	Vietnam	Post 123 – Kezar Falls	Walter Novak	Korea
Post 18 – Vinalhaven	Phillip E Crossman	Vietnam	Post 128 – Standish	Howard Mosley	WWII
Post 19 – Sanford	John H Bernier	Korea	Post 128 – Standish	Philip M Burnell	Korea
Post 19 – Sanford	Michael J Wilder	Vietnam	Post 128 – Standish	Donald L Roy	Korea
Post 20 – Brunswick	Charles R Priest	Vietnam	Post 128 – Standish	Stephen E Libby	Vietnam
Post 21 – Bath	Walter H Cantrell	Korea	Post 132 – Richmond	Bernard J Wisda	Korea
Post 23 – Baileyville	Luther W Davidson Jr	Vietnam	Post 133 – Fort Kent	Roger Deschaine	Korea
Post 24 – Rumford	Richard O McKenna	Vietnam	Post 134 – Alfred	Harry S Kallis	Vietnam
Post 28 – Farmington	Charles P Williams	Vietnam	Post 147 – Madawaska	Joseph W Lachance	Vietnam
Post 28 – Farmington	Darryl M Maxim	Vietnam	Post 148 – Windham	Howard F Woodside	Vietnam
Post 35 – South Portland	Michael W Holmes	Other	Post 148 – Windham	Lee Trumble	Korea
Post 39 – Madison	Honore G Dube	Vietnam	Post 148 – Windham	Ronald L Eby	Korea
Post 39 – Madison	Garry Turgeon	Vietnam	Post 148 – Windham	James O Pringle	Vietnam
Post 39 – Madison	George W Rugh	Korea	Post 149 – Waldoboro	Russell N Harrington	Vietnam
Post 39 – Madison	Jerry Bono	Vietnam	Post 149 – Waldoboro	Arnold W Achorn	Korea
Post 43 – Belfast	Bonnie J Libby	Vietnam	Post 150 – Mechanic Falls	Olin H Parker Jr	Vietnam
Post 52 – Oakfield	Merwin H Crandall	Korea	Post 153 – Auburn	Marc Bilodeau	Lebanon/Grenada
Post 53 – Dexter	David S Thomas	Vietnam	Post 153 – Auburn	Robert P Verreault	Vietnam
Post 54 – Wiscasset	John O Pitcher Jr	Vietnam	Post 153 – Auburn	Michael G Morin	Vietnam
Post 57 – Old Orchard	William E Day	Vietnam	Post 153 – Auburn	Gary S Rowe	Vietnam
Post 62 – Westbrook	Gary A York	Vietnam	Post 153 – Auburn	Joseph D Camp	Vietnam
Post 68 – Locke Mills	Leroy L Patten Jr	Vietnam	Post 153 – Auburn	George Krapovicky	Vietnam
Post 73 – Corinna	Malcolm L Kimball	Korea	Post 153 – Auburn	Fernand Labbe	Vietnam
Post 74 – Kennebunk	Richard D Tillotson Jr	Vietnam	Post 153 – Auburn	Gary J Oconnell	Gulf War
Post 74 – Kennebunk	Richard G Roy	Vietnam	Post 165 – Sangerville	Gerald C Thomas	Vietnam
Post 74 – Kennebunk	Wayne N Edes	Vietnam	Post 171 – Harpswell	C V Noyes	WWII
Post 81 – Bethel	Clarence W Howe	Korea	Post 178 – Winslow	Robert P Demetros	Vietnam
Post 84 – Orono	Luman G Phinney	Vietnam	Post 197 – Westbrook	Joseph M Colby	Lebanon/Grenada
Post 84 – Orono	Ronald H Parady	Vietnam	Post 197 – Westbrook	George D Smith	Vietnam
Post 84 – Orono	Dennis J Whitmore Sr	Vietnam	Post 197 – Westbrook	Paul R Strout	Vietnam
Post 86 – Gray	John Merrifield	Vietnam	Post 205 – Augusta	Michael F Cormier	Vietnam
Post 88 – Presque Isle	Boyd Johnson	Vietnam	CN09 – St. Johns NL, Canada	John A Guelich	Korea



Attention: Next Deadline is October 16

The deadline for material, stories and/or pictures to be submitted for consideration for use in the November 2026 issue of The Maine Legionnaire will be October 16, 2026.

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 or rachael@mainelegion.org

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

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

2026 Maine American Legion
Blind Camp Report

The 2026 Maine American Legion Blind Camp was held July 26 – Aug. 2 at Camp Lawroweld, located on Webb Lake in Weld. The Camp was well attended and included four new campers and one who returned after a 30-year absence. With family members, there were 44 campers this year, up from the previous year. I had vegetarian lunch and dinner at the Camp, visited with campers throughout the afternoon, and attended the Annual Talent Show on Wed., July 29, where campers and staff performed.

appropriate that American Legion Posts, Auxiliary Units, American Legion Riders, and individuals increased their donations this year as well. I had the pleasure of presenting Camp Director Trevor Schlisner a check for \$4,700 at the start of the Talent Show. I want to thank everyone who donated this year and to let you know that everyone I talked to said attending this Maine American Legion Blind Camp is one of the highlights of their year. This includes the campers, as well as the staff, who call this their favorite week of the season.

With attendance up this year, it was



Eagle Scout Of The Year Award is awarded to Jonas Holmes of Dixmont, center, surrounded by family, Unity Troop 233 members, and Colors Venture Scout Troop 139 of Cherryfield, at the annual State Convention on June 13. Presenting the award is Scouting Committee Chair Peter Duston, at the podium, Department Americanism Officer Maureen Malley, left, and Department Commander Leroy McKenzie, second to left.



Maine Blind Camp Donation: Blind Camp Chairman Brian Knowlton, left, presents a \$4,700 check to Camp Lawroweld Director Trevor Schlisner on July 29.

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.