

THE MAINE Legionnaire



MAY 2026

Vol. 40, Issue 2

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

AMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF MAINE

32 Pages

The Value of the Legion's Voice in D.C.

There are many reasons The American Legion is among the most respected voices in our nation's capital.



NATIONAL
COMMANDER
DAN K. WILEY

In addition to our grassroots (that's you), I believe we are respected because politicians of every persuasion know the Legion is truly nonpartisan. When VA issued an interim federal rule (IFR) change Feb. 17 that we didn't like, we did not register our disagreement with the partisan vitriol that seems to accompany most policy discussions these days. The rule applied to Compensation and Pension Exams and would have allowed VA to consider what a veteran's health condition would be after receiving treatment or medication. The Legion believed the rule change failed to address underlying causes of disabilities and did not serve the best interest of veterans. We said so publicly and made clear our organization's opposition. Our concern was completely policy-based.

Two days after our statement, VA announced it was halting enforcement

of the IFR regarding medication management. A week later, it was rescinded entirely.

To his credit, VA Secretary Doug Collins appeared at our Washington Conference on March 2 to give an explanation. "A couple of weeks ago, there was an IFR putout from a court case," he told Legionnaires. "It came through a process of very laborious passion. (It) came to me without full information. We signed it. It caused a lot of stir.

"I immediately said, 'This isn't right.' We immediately stopped implementation." He continued, "When we get it wrong, we fix it. When we get it right, I ask your help." The truth is, VA does a lot of things right. The system consistently gets high performance ratings from its users, the disability backlog has shrunk, and wait times are often less than in the private sector.

An old saying among editors is "if it bleeds, it leads." The same can be said for VA—when a VA professional makes a mistake, the attention is much greater than that given to a private provider. Even with that, The American Legion will continue to be our nation's leading advocate for veterans.

Dan K. Wiley,

The American Legion National Commander
Legion Magazine, May 2026 Issue

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Jeff's Catering & Event Center in Brewer to Host Annual State Convention

June 12-13, 2026

The American Legion, Department of Maine is proud to announce its 107th Annual State Convention at Jeff's Catering & Event Center, 15 Littlefield Way, Brewer.

Department Commander Leroy McKenzie will call the convention to order promptly at noontime on Friday, June 12.

The Holiday Inn in Bangor located on 404 Odlin Road will be the headquarters hotel.

This promises to be an exciting and eventful convention for all of the Legion family members and their friends. Please take the time to join us in recognizing our award recipients, listen to various guest speakers

as well as Maine dignitaries, and learn what The American Legion, Department of Maine has to offer our veterans and their families around the state of Maine.

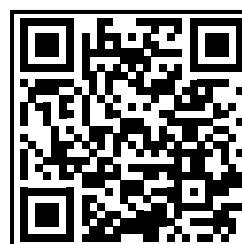
The registration fee to attend is \$10/person which covers both sessions to be held June 12-13. Please note that all invited guests and their family members will not have to pay a registrations fee. Please visit the State Convention page at www.mainelegion.org under News & Events to register.

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

Celebrate America's 250th Anniversary with Maine American Legion!

Get Your Limited Edition Coin Today, While Supplies Last!

Coins can be purchased online by visiting www.mainelegion.org, by scanning the QR code with your phone, or by check/



money order in the amount of \$20/coin + \$7 shipping & handling. Make check payable to The American Legion, Department of Maine and mail to 5 Verti

Drive, Winslow, ME 04901-0727.

Coins are also available for free pickup at \$20 each.

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

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



NEW! 250th
Anniversary Coin
(front & back)

Commander's Comments

Greetings, friends and comrades. I can't believe how fast this year has flown by. It has been one of my greatest honors to serve as your 2025-2026 Department Commander. To represent you all in advocacy has been a goal of mine since my journey began in The American Legion. This year has been so many different things for me. It has been fun, educating, saddening, exhausting, but most importantly, for me it was a time of telling and learning. I learned so much about myself, my own strengths and my own weaknesses. I also learned firsthand that at times, things and people



LEROY MCKENZIE

are not what they seem. I witnessed greatness from some and witnessed less than that from some. At the end of the day, what made me the proudest was that everything I did, everywhere I went, and every time I spoke, I did it to the best of my ability and it never went unnoticed.

This year, I worked hard to promote a Commander's Project that at times sent me into a tailspin. Ember's Paws of Hope is an amazing opportunity to help heal all. Its founder has an amazing story closely relatable to my own, and one thing I realized was that it never gets easier when I talk about my darkest day. I thought that speaking of it over and over would provide healing for me, when in fact, it provided me with comfort knowing that I was touching the lives of others by sharing my own story. If I was able to save one life by sharing my story, I would smile and say it was worth it. My healing journey will never end, but now I am realizing that

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

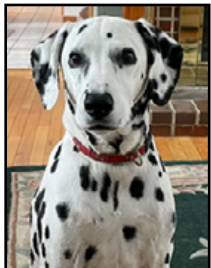
Commander's Project 2025-2026 Ember's Paws of Hope

Ember's Paws of Hope: A nonprofit organization dedicated to providing emotional and mental support to veterans and first responders through the use of future certified therapy dog(s). Members of our

team have a diverse background which include being trained in critical incident stress management and peer support, and we visit fire stations, police stations, hospitals, and veterans facilities to offer comfort and companionship to those who serve our communities.

The Angel: Ember was 9 weeks old when she moved in with Tim Nickels, the goal was to have Ember become a therapy dog. It was discovered that Ember was too attached to Tim but no one knew that would save him later on. Anytime

Tim was having a hard day or a bad shift Ember would sit with Tim. Tim was diagnosed with PTSD in 2020, Ember wouldn't leave his side. Ember knew something was up. Tim became suicidal and made attempts to end his life. Ember stopped him at least three times. When the days were dark, Ember wouldn't let him leave without her.



The Project: National American Legion asks Departments to partner with local organizations to support BE THE ONE. Commander McKenzie has chosen to partner with Ember's Paws of Hope (EPOH), an organization committed to provide, comfort, support, and emotional healing to veterans and first responders through the unconditional love and companionship of therapy dog. EPOH is dedicated to enhancing the wellbeing of those who serve our communities and country, offering a source of solace in times of stress, trauma and hardship.

The PLAN: We are asking all American Legion Posts and/or members to financially contribute to Ember's Paws of Hope. This new 501-c-3 needs funding to provide more trained therapy dogs and make more appearances to provide physical, emotional and social well-being to others in need.

EASY WAYS TO DONATE:
Make checks payable to: The American Legion Department of Maine;
Memo line: Ember's Paws of Hope/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

Membership Efforts and State Convention

As we approach the State Convention, it's remarkable to reflect on the progress we've made. The district commanders, who have tirelessly worked alongside me, will likely be relieved as my frequent emails about membership come to an end.

Together, as Team Maine, we achieved strong membership numbers this year. However, our journey is not over; we still have time until the National Convention to reach our goal of 100% membership. If you know a fellow member who has not renewed, please reach out and encourage them to renew. For Legion posts, consider supporting members who may be in nursing homes or are unable to pay for their membership by paying it forward on their behalf.

The Importance of Membership

The call to increase our membership is ongoing, and the reason is clear: "membership is the life blood of The American Legion." Without members, our programs would not exist, and our voice would not be heard on Capitol Hill. Our ability to assist veterans and their families, and to serve the community, state, and nation, is entirely dependent on our membership. Although I've felt some frustration and disappointment with membership numbers this year, I recognize and appreciate the outstanding efforts of certain posts and districts. To those who achieved their membership goals, thank you for your dedication and hard work.

Encouraging New Members

At your next post meeting, remind your Legionnaires that membership in The American Legion is an opportunity that should be extended to eligible veterans who are not yet members. Ask these veterans about their interests and invite them to participate and serve. As The American Legion continues its focused drive to protect and preserve veterans' benefits programs, consider whether your post is contributing to the

[More on "A FIRST LOOK" Page 5](#)



JOSEPH "JOE" MICHAUD

2026 National Legion College Selection

The Department of Maine Education Committee recently selected two Legion members to represent Maine at National American Legion College (NALC) 2026.

Ellen Murphy (Daniel E. Geagan Post 98 in Brewer) and Darnell Williams (Harold T. Andrew's Post 17 in Portland) will attend a six-day immersive experience that fosters a deep understanding of The American Legion's core values, and the power of collaborative, service-driven leadership. They will develop practical strategies to lead with empathy, accountability, and vision, ensuring they are prepared to build strong teams,

enhance community impact, and guide The American Legion into the future.

Congratulations to both Legion members on their selection for NALC 2026.



Maine American Legion NALC Selection: Ellen Murphy, Brewer Post 98, left, and Darnell Williams, Portland Post 17, right.

2026 Maine Legion College Graduates: Congratulations to the graduates of the 2026 Maine Legion College! The training was held at



The American Legion, Department of Maine, on March 20-22. We would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the facilitators: Department Commander Leroy McKenzie, Brewer Post 98 Commander Gary Freeman, Past Department Commander Tricia Thurston, and Department Judge Advocate Julie Flynn for their dedication in conducting the class.

NEC Update

He l l o
fellow
Legionnaires.
It looks like
we are really
going to have
spring this
year, and I
hope you all
enjoy it. As
we are getting
down to the
last part of the
membership
year and to
the last part



**LLOYD
WOODS**

of the Legion year, let us be thankful for all that our great organization has accomplished to assist our fellow veterans. That is truly what we were organized to do by the founding fathers. We must always remember that idea and purpose. What is good for the organization and not our selves.

In this time of our Legion year, we are also in the campaign portion of hoping to see all the candidates for the various offices that may be at the post, district, or department level. We must always keep in mind that it is our choice to make a thoughtful and honest decision for whom we are going to support. It

should be our decision and ours only, no one else's decision. A very important point to remember is which candidate will do the job and is willing to do what is needed to complete the job to the best of their ability. Not just wear the various caps available. The candidate should be knowledgeable about The American Legion and all the various programs we offer and support.

As we wind down to the last part of the year, we must also never forget those individuals that have led us to the position we now are in. As we have learned, it is their sacrifice to keep us free.

From my own personal well-being, I want to express my most sincere and heartfelt thank you for all that has been done for me and my family. I know some have gone through the same type of situation, and let me tell you all the well wishes, prayers, cards, and thoughtful verbal expressions have truly helped to get through this time. **THANK YOU ALL.**

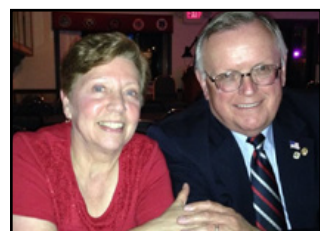
I hope to see you soon and always remember. If there is anything that I can do to assist you, please do not hesitate to contact me anytime. My cell phone number is 207-55-4971. May God bless you and your family.



Spring Meetings: The Department of Maine had a contingency at the Spring Meetings at National Headquarters in Indianapolis, held May 4-7. Maine donated \$2,000 to leading candidate for National Commander, Jay Bowen of Colorado. Left to right, National Executive Committeeman Alternate Kirk Thurston, Department Americanism Officer Maureen Malley, Jackie Bowen, leading candidate Jay Bowen, National Executive Committeeman Lloyd Woods, and Past Department Commander Scott Paradis.

THANK YOU

There are not enough words to express our sincerest thanks to all the Legionnaires, Posts and Auxiliary Units who sent best wishes of sympathy and kindness in the



Lloyd & Linda Woods

loss of our m o t h e r and wife, Linda. It was very sudden and without any w a r n i n g

but we believe she is in a much better place. We also wish to thank those that attended the viewing and funeral service for her. Of all the years I have attended church there the little church has never had so many people there.

The luncheon provided by the church ladies and the members of Stockholm Unit 136 was outstanding. We have never seen so much food. We thank you for that luncheon.

All will be remembered by us for a very long time.

Lloyd Woods and Family

On the Agenda

MAY 2026 MEETINGS

District 2 – Cumberland: May 16, South Portland Post 35, 2:00 p.m., Lunch at 1:00 p.m., Post Everlasting & Officer Installation

District 3 – Androscoggin: TBD, TBD, 6:30 p.m., Installation

District 5 – Oxford: May 20, West Paris Post 151, 6:00 p.m., Supper before meeting

SEPTEMBER 2026 MEETINGS

District 3 – Androscoggin: Sept. 21, Livermore Falls Post 10, 6:30 p.m.

District 14 – Piscataquis: Sept. 19, Guilford Post 119, 12:00 p.m. Lunch; 1:00 p.m. Meeting

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

I can make a difference that will guide me for years to come. Thank you all who have supported my project, thank you all who invited me to talk about my project, and thank you all who stepped up to host events for my project. I am overwhelmed with happiness from your support.

Be The One...always. It doesn't take a lot of time, and YOU CAN make a difference!

I want to thank so many people, like all the past and current department officers, and The American Legion Family for their support. The unwavering support from the Auxiliary, SAL, and Riders will never be forgotten. A special thank you goes out to the worker bees over at headquarters who all work behind the scenes to keep everything running smoothly. I want to thank Topsham Post 202 for changing my life by bringing me Shay. I would like to throw a shout out to my greatest mentors, those who have stood beside me from day one. To Lloyd, Paul, Matt, and Jason, thank you from the bottom of my heart, and thank you all for always being there to straighten me out and provide me with anything I ever needed. I wanted to also thank my buddy Ryan for being

not only a great friend, but a brother in every sense of the word. When I needed you the most, you were always there. I will never forget that and I'm sorry you saw more than you ever wanted to.

I also want to take a moment and thank the Flynns, Richard and Julie. They have not only been amazing friends, but their steadfast dedication to the Dept of Maine, the Be The One program, and Gray is undeniably going to be missed. You are both truly incredible people, and we were all blessed to know you, especially me. This is certainly a huge loss for the Dept of Maine. Best wishes on your journey.

Lastly, I want to thank my wife, Heather, and my daughter, Lux, for allowing me all the time I needed to make this journey a reality. All the sacrifices, the trips, running here and running there, the phone calls, having to hurry to this, hurry to that, the sleepless nights, and more importantly the lost time together, I promise you both, because of your sacrifices, I was able to make a difference.

May God bless you all with all the blessings you deserve. Thank you for entrusting me with the opportunity to be your 2025–2026 Department of Maine Commander.

Department Commander, Leroy McKenzie



Department Testimonial: Department Commander Leroy McKenzie praises his fellow comrades at The American Legion Family Testimonial on May 9 at the Decker-Simmons Post 51 in Oakland. Left to right, Department 2nd Vice Ryan Coffin, Department Commander Leroy McKenzie, and Department Adjutant Jason Hall.

Thank You 2025-2026 OFFICERS!

THE MAINE Legionnaire

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The Adjutant Speaks

As the weather subsides, we look forward to upcoming events and programs for the Department of Maine.



JASON HALL

First and foremost, our minds should be focused

on the Annual State Convention, June 12-13 in Brewer. This is the opportunity to hear and see the highlights of our posts and programs. Attendance has increased steadily in the last few years, and it's always good to see new veterans joining our ranks. This year we are going to stick with the formula of offering free training on Friday, June 12 from 9:00-11:00 a.m. We also have some tricks up our sleeves for a Friday evening banquet hosted by the Auxiliary. Be on the lookout for more information soon. On the Saturday of Convention, we have elections. Some contested races at elections will offer a variety of potential leaders that have thrown their hat into the ring. Convention is not only a time to celebrate, but also the opportunity to network, learn, and bring back some valuable ideas to your post. We are excited to see everyone.

June also brings our premier, co-ed youth leadership program, Dirigo State. This program for high school juniors simulates Maine state government. It

educates participants on civics through hands-on experience in forming town, county, and state governing bodies. You, The American Legion Posts, the Auxiliary Units, and the Sons of the American Legion Squadrons, make this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity available to students statewide. I cannot thank you enough for your passion, dedication, and commitment to our future leaders.

July will be here before you know it, and the state championships for Senior and Junior Legion Baseball will be held again at Mansfield Stadium in Bangor. Over the last few years, a volunteer group has emerged from Newport, Corinth, Bangor, Brewer, and a few other surrounding posts. They make volunteering fun! No one likes to watch baseball and eat hot dogs alone! Friends have been made and networks have been created, all while sitting in the stands, relaxing, and waiting for the crack of the bat, a stolen base, or a diving catch. Schedules are coming soon; we have some talented youth taking the fields this year.

August brings the 107th American Legion National Convention, in Louisville, Kentucky, from Aug. 28 to Sept. 3. As the organization's largest annual event, it brings together members of The American Legion Family to set policies, elect national leaders, attend committee meetings, discuss the organization's direction, and vote on resolutions. It is open to all members. If interested, contact me, and as the information rolls out, I can share with you.

I saved the best for last: the 250th
[More on "ADJUTANT SPEAKS" Page 5](#)

Judge Advocate

If not you, then who?

When I was asked to take on the role of Department Judge Advocate, I had several different feelings. One was certainly that I did not feel qualified.

Another was,

do I really have the time to educate myself about the role? Finally, can I take care of the needs of our membership? It's been over 2 years now and I guess our membership can answer these questions towards me. I have tried to educate myself about the job and I have tried to be available to our membership for advice, information, and an occasional ruling when necessary. Funny how my very first question to everyone is, "What do your By-Laws say?" I know you have heard me talk about our By-Laws and Constitution. I hope you remember my statements about how important they are, and if they are not working for you, to update them.



JULIE FLYNN

We are headed towards some changes within our department. As we look forward to our elections, please remember if you do not like who is running, then you can either encourage other membership to run, or run yourself. If you are asked to serve, please consider doing so. We need dedicated members to move our state forward. If you are running for a position, I hope you have considered if you are the best candidate and have you obtained or do you plan to get as much education regarding the role as you can? And, can you dedicate the time needed to do the job right? Only you can answer these questions. I can only provide insight into how I felt when I was asked. I will be leaving this role and the others I have taken on over the years. My family is moving out of state. We will forever be grateful for the many opportunities we have had with the American Legion Department of Maine. We are also grateful for the many friends we have made along the journey. I wish you all the very best and encourage you to be true to yourself. I hope to see you all one last time during our State Convention in June. Best of luck to you all, and God Bless the United States of America, our veterans, and their families.

DIRIGO STATE PROGRAM



Colby College

4000 Mayflower Drive, Waterville, ME 04901

Sunday, June 21 2026 - Friday, June 26, 2026

**Registration: Sunday, June 21 at Noon
Graduation: Friday, June 26 at 3:00 pm**

Cost per student is \$400

Packets have been mailed and emailed to posts and high schools. The forms that need completion and mailed to The American Legion, Department of Maine along with a check in the amount of \$400/student are: [Dirigo State Application, Parental Consent, Medical Authorization, and Performing Arts \(if participating.\)](#)

Checks should be made payable to The American Legion, Department of Maine and mailed to The American Legion, Department of Maine, Attn: Dirigo State, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901-0727.

For more information or if you are interested in volunteering, please contact 207-873-3229 or 207-522-5471. Email: jason@mainelegion.org.

Americanism

Greeting to all.

Thank you to so many members for having the faith in me to be your representative to a very important part of The American Legion.



MAUREEN MALLEY

At Mid-Winter Conference, I presented what makes these programs work so well—that is: you, the volunteer. So, what is a volunteer?

You join an organization because you believe in the programs they represent.

A volunteer is a person who:

1. Freely offers to take part in an enterprise or undertake a task.
2. Does something especially helping others, willingly and without being forced or paid to do it.
3. Someone who spends time doing something to benefit others.

And we all know that spending time and helping others makes us feel good.

Volunteers are always needed in our youth programs. Contact the chairperson, visit an event if nothing

else, support a program either personal, at the post and district level.

Here is a list of some of the upcoming event dates. I hope to see many of you there supporting each other. Remember to wear your Legion cap or shirt so folks know you are there for support.

Dirigo State: Colby College, 4000 Mayflower Drive, Waterville 04901, Sunday, June 21 – Friday, June 26, Registration: Sunday, June 21 at noon; Graduation: Friday, June 26 at 3:00 pm. *Seeking Dirigo State volunteers, contact Matthew Leclair: mleclair2@gmail.com*

Legion Baseball: Tournaments are back at Mansfield Stadium, 115 13th St, Bangor, ME 04401. Senior Tournament: July 24-29. Junior Tournament (approx. dates): July 31 – Aug. 5. *Seeking volunteers, contact Scott Bishop: chairman@mainelegionbaseball.org*
Blind Camp: Camp Lawroweld, 288 West Side Road, Weld, 04285, Sunday, Jul. 26 – Aug. 2. Talent show: July 29, all are welcome to attend. *Contact Brian Knowlton: brian_knowlton@hotmail.com*

Scouting: All year-round programs. *Contact Peter Duston: dkassociates@myfairpoint.net*

Thank you for all you do in supporting the programs of The American Legion.



District 2 Past Commanders & Past Presidents Dinner was held on April 14. The social hour was full of interesting conversations and networking at its finest. The dinner meal was enjoyed by all while reminiscing. District 2 Commander Eugene “Gene” Connolly emceed the event and introduced guests, Americanism Officer Maureen Malley spoke on Americanism programs, and Department Adjutant Jason Hall spoke on the 250th birthday of America. Top left photo, standing left to right, Maureen Malley, Department Auxiliary Secretary Nancy True, and Windham Post 148 Adjutant David Tanguay. Top right photo, Jason Hall, Maureen Malley, and Auxiliary District 1 Department District Vice President Torri Pappas. Bottom photo, at the podium, left to right, Jason Hall, Gene Connolly, Torri Pappas, and Maureen Malley.

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

nationwide effort to grow the Legion. I hope we all are doing our part.

Working Together

We are all in this together. Membership is a shared responsibility. Thank you for everything you have done this year to support membership, and for your commitment as a volunteer. The long hours you dedicate to our organization make it possible for us to support our veterans, maintain our programs, and serve our community. I look forward

■ "ADJUTANT SPEAKS" (Continued from Page 4)

Birthday of America. The Department of Maine has tagged Thomaston as one of the best locations, and most patriotic towns to partner with for a Maine Legion Family Parade. The Legion Family is cordially invited to flock to Thomaston on July 4 to march in a massive parade. The streets will be lined with locals and lots of tourists who invade our coastal towns each summer. We will have vehicles for those who want to ride, and for the walkers, we ask that you are branded (caps, logos, anything patriotic, caps with your branch of service, etc.) We also ask you to bring your flags. We prefer American flags, but we are okay with post, unit, and squadron flags. American Legion Riders: you are welcome to join the fun! At the end of the parade, you will find crafts, BBQ foods, music, face painting, cotton candy, and Thomaston Post 37 offering food, hosting a membership table, and

to seeing you at the State Convention on June 12-13, and at Dirigo State from June 21-26.

Upcoming Events and Closing

Please mark your calendars and join us in supporting our Convention and programs. For all information, visit mainelegion.org.

In closing, thank you for everything you do. Our work can be thankless, exhausting, and stressful, but we always persevere. For God and Country – Proud to Serve!

Department 1st Vice Commander,
Joseph "Joe" Michaud

displaying some military history.

The fun doesn't end there—on the evening of July 4, Rockland Post 1 will be hosting an after party for their members, all that participated in the parade, and those that just want to celebrate America's Birthday.

If your post does not have plans, join the Legion Family in Thomaston and Rockland on July 4 (more information in the Leadership Ledger and on www.mainelegion.org.) We only get one chance to celebrate 250; The American Legion will lead the cheers for our country.

Lastly, it is election time! Congratulations to all the newly elected and returning officers. We appreciate your commitment to lead and wish you a successful year. Consider enrolling in the next Maine Legion College or Service Officer course. We want you to have the tools and knowledge to benefit your post.

See you on July 4th!

Department Adjutant, Jason Hall

Chaplain's Corner

You've lived the words, "For God and Country" in ways most people will never fully see. You carried those words through long nights, hard choices, and moments that shaped you forever. And even now—long after the uniform is folded away—those words still live in how you show up, how you lead, and how you care for others.

Today's world can feel uncertain, unstable, and constantly shifting. But the values you carried into service—compassion, courage, loyalty, kindness—are the same values that steady us now. They're the values that make a community stronger.

So here's what we ask of each other, and what we promise to one another:



SHERYL MOORE

- If someone needs to talk, we listen.
- If someone needs a shoulder, we offer ours.
- If someone feels invisible, we remind them they matter.
- If someone is sick, we bring them comfort.
- If someone feels alone, we make room for them.
- If someone isn't OK, we tell them it's OK not to be OK.

No one should struggle in silence. No one should carry their burdens alone. And no veteran should ever feel forgotten.

You are not alone. We are not alone. We stand together—for ourselves, for each other, for God, for Country, and for every tomorrow still ahead.

Be the One who reaches out. Be the One who checks in. Be the One who reminds another veteran that their story still matters.

And if you need someone—reach back. Your community is here. Your comrades are here. We walk this path together.

Service Office Update



**SERVICE OFFICER
CARL CURTIS**

Hello from the Service Office. The claim process can be very confusing. There are several different ways to try to get a condition or injury service connected. You can try direct, secondary, aggravation, legal presumptive, or even malpractice. That alone is a major reason why you should reach out to an accredited VSO to assist you through the claim process.

In my Post Service Officer Training, I cover the steps of the claim process for each listed above. I do this because a veteran going through the claim process can go weeks, and in some cases months, without hearing from the VA. That can cause a lot of stress in veterans. The PSO is the one at post level that needs to reassure the veteran. The PSO cannot see where the claim is, but if there is understanding of the process, they can explain this to the veteran. I will go through the basic process of the 5 ways to get a condition service connected. If you want to know more information about the process, please attend one of my PSO trainings.

The first way is through direct service condition. The required elements for direct service connection are, an in-service injury, continuance of care over the years, and a current diagnosis. An example of this is: I hurt my left knee on a unit run and I went to sick call to see a medic. I was on profile to recover from the injury. Since I left the service, I have been in a doctor's care for about three years. Now I attend physical therapy every other week for the knee.

The second way is through secondary service connection. This is when a service-connected condition causes damage or an injury to another body part. An example of this is: I am service connected for my left knee that I hurt in service. The injury causes me to limp around most days. The limp caused my other knee to hurt and damage to the joint. The damage for my non-service connected knee can become service connected.

The third way is the aggravation of a preexisting condition. The required elements are a little different. First you need to identify an injury that happened to the veteran prior to enlistment. This injury must be listed on the enlistment physical. It also needs to be listed on the exit physical. The VA will have to determine if the injury was permanently aggravated beyond nature progression due to the physical demand of service. An example of this is: I hurt my right knee playing football in high school. When I took my physical to enlist in the military, I had to see a specialist to clear my knee to enlist. While in the military, my knee hurt a few times, and I went to sick call. On my exit physical from the military, the doctor looked at my knee and determined it was much worse than when I entered. If the damage to my knee is beyond the nature progression of the injury, it can become service connected.

The fourth way is legal presumptive. To meet this requirement, you must have served in an area within the time requirement where exposure to a chemical is conceded by the VA. To meet this requirement, you must prove: you were there, and you have a current diagnosis for a presumptive condition. An example of this is: you were deployed to Vietnam, and you have just received a diagnosis of prostate cancer from your doctor. Being that prostate cancer is a presumptive condition of agent orange exposure, the VA will service connect the cancer.

The fifth way is malpractice or 1151 claim. This is medical malpractice done by VA medical. It can be very

difficult to prove. An example of this is you go in to have your right leg amputated, but they remove the left leg instead.

PLEASE READ AND RESPOND TO YOUR MAIL FROM THE VA!

APPEALS OF CLAIMS.

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

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

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

PSO Training Seminar. You do not have to be a Post Service Officer to attend training. You just have to care and want to make a difference. There are three PSO training planned for this year. The dates are Apr. 29, Sept. 20, and Oct 28. Please be on the lookout for its listing on the Department Facebook page or the Leadership Ledger.

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.



Veterans Expo: Department Service Officer Carl Curtis attends the Veterans and Community Connection Expo, hosted by the Maine Bureau of Veteran Services, in Augusta on Sat., April 4. Curtis, left, is seen talking with members of the public and offering information on veterans' benefits.



Mid-Winter Detachment Report: Detachment Commander Steve Doyle and Detachment Sgt.-at-Arms Vincent Plummer reports to Maine Legionnaires at Mid-Winter Conference, held on Jan. 10 at Jeff's Catering and Event Center in Brewer.

New Charter Established for Corinth Squadron 115: Left to right, Detachment Commander Steve Doyle, Department Commander Leroy McKenzie, Corinth Post 115 Commander Roger Gray, and Detachment Sgt.-at-Arms Vincent Plummer officially sign the new charter for Squadron 115 Corinth.



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](http://www.legion.org/about/american-legion-family/sons-of-the-american-legion/join-sons-of-the-american-legion) 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.

2026 Maine Legion Riders Winter Rally Newport Post 105 | March, 14, 2026



President's Message

I cannot believe my year as Department President is coming to an end. Many things have happened during my year. The most important in my eyes, is the number of veterans that will be going to Washington because of my President's Project for Honor Flight Maine. I was fortunate to go to the first homecoming of 2026. To make it even more special was the fact that my husband was on that flight. What



LINDA JACK

an honor! I have made many visits to various units throughout my year. Each one is very unique, and they all do so much for our mission. Another major accomplishment is the changing of how our Department Secretary will be handled. Hopefully our Convention will adopt the necessary changes that need to be made. There are so many individuals that need to be thanked for what they have done for our Department, especially Kate Raymond and Nancy True. These ladies have kept our office running and deserve a pat on the back. Good luck to Legion Department Commander Leroy McKenzie and Sons of the American Legion Detachment Commander Steve Doyle for whatever is in their future. It has been a good year for all of us. See you at Convention.



President's Project—Honor Flight Maine: Thanks to the incredible generosity of our community, Madison Auxiliary Unit 39 successfully raised \$6,500 for Department President's project, Honor Flight Maine. This significant contribution was made possible by the collective efforts of individuals who donated items, money, and their valuable time. The Auxiliary extends its heartfelt appreciation to everyone who participated and supported the fundraiser. Everyone's commitment ensured that this event was a tremendous success and made a meaningful impact for Honor Flight Maine. Presenting the check to The American Legion Auxiliary President, Linda Jack, left, is Unit 39 President Robin Turek.



Maine Auxiliary Visits National HQ: Team Maine attends the Department Leadership National Conference held May 3-6 in Indianapolis, IN. Left to right, Auxiliary Department Treasurer Kate Raymond, Auxiliary Department Vice President Stella Jewett Trahan, Auxiliary Department Sgt.-at-Arms Jean Rice, and ALA National Education Chair Debra Rumery.

DEPARTMENT OFFICER CANDIDATES 2026



JOSEPH MICHAUD
Commander
Madawaska Post 147



RYAN COFFIN
Commander
Damariscotta Post 42



RYAN SIMPSON
1st Vice Commander
Etna-Carmel Post 107



THOMAS KUESPERT
2nd Vice Commander
Newport Post 105



GARY FREEMAN
2nd Vice Commander
Brewer Post 98



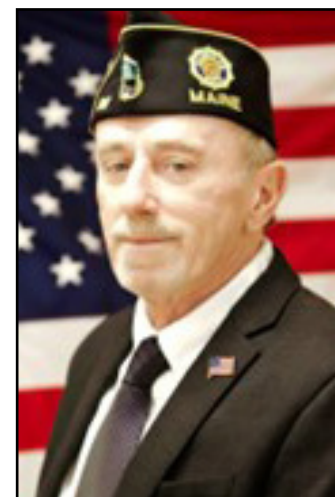
MARY "TALLY" BROWN
Finance Officer
Topsham Post 202



MAUREEN MALLEY
Americanism Officer
Hallowell Post 6



KIMBERLY LANDER
Americanism Officer
Newport Post 105



TOMMY SOMERVILLE
Historian
Gray Post 86



JEFF SUKEFORTH
Sgt.-At-Arms
Camden Post 30

State Convention Hotel Registration

Headquarters hotel: Holiday Inn, Bangor, 404 Odlin Road, Bangor, Maine. To reserve your hotel room, please visit the State Convention page at www.mainelegion.org under News/Events and click on "Book your room today!" or scan the QR code with your phone. You may also call to reserve a room: 1-888-HOLIDAY (1-888-465-4329). Please remember to mention you are with The American Legion when booking.



What a Delegate Should Bring to the Annual State Convention

This is a short reminder to all legionnaires attending the 107th Annual State Convention in Brewer, June 12th and 13th. If you are a delegate or alternate to this year's convention, please remember to bring your current American Legion membership card or PUFL card. Attendees should go to the registration table immediately upon arrival to pick up your delegate or alternate name tag. Only registered delegates are allowed to vote or address the convention. The official uniform of The American Legion is the Legion cap.



2026 107th National Convention Louisville, Kentucky August 28 – September 3, 2026

This year's National Convention will be held in Louisville, Kentucky, Aug. 28 – Sept. 3. The hotel assigned for members from the Department of Maine will be The Brown Hotel, 335 West Broadway St., Louisville, KY 40202.

The hotel room rate is \$140.00 (Single Bed or Two-Bed, plus a tax rate of 17.66% per room/night (subject to change)); Additional Occupant in Room per Day – \$20.00 Triple/Quad; Rollaway Rate per Day – \$25.00; Self-Parking Rate per Day – \$32.00 or \$39.00 for Valet Parking.

If you are thinking about going to National Convention, please let The American Legion, Department of Maine know by calling 207-873-3229 or email jason@mainelegion.org.

For more information, please visit www.legion.org/convention/resources or www.mainelegion.org under NEWS/EVENTS.



THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MAINE OFFICIAL CALL FOR ONE HUNDRED & SEVENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

In accordance with Article IV of the Constitution and By-laws of the Department of Maine, The American Legion, the One Hundred and Seventh Annual State Convention is hereby called to convene in Brewer, Maine, June 12-13, 2026.

The first business session will be called to order at 12:00 p.m. daylight savings time, on the afternoon of Friday, June 12, 2026, with the final business session scheduled for Saturday morning, June 13, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. All general business sessions of the convention will be held at Jeff's Catering & Event Center, Brewer, Maine.

PURPOSE

The convention is called for the purpose of electing department officers for the ensuing year; to elect delegates and alternates to the 2026 National Convention to be held in Louisville, KY; to receive reports of all department officers and standing committees; to consider the resolutions and actions of subordinate bodies and to transact any other business properly brought before the convention.

REPRESENTATION

Each post is entitled to one delegate and one alternate, and one additional delegate and alternate for each one hundred members or fractional part thereof paid up to May 13, 2026. A post with less than 15 members is not entitled to any delegates. All department officers, district commanders, and past department commanders, in good standing, shall be entitled to vote and have all the rights of delegates in the convention. These officers and past department commanders are delegates-at-large and must not be named as post delegates.

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

RULES OF ORDER

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

MEETINGS

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

Catering & Event Center on Friday, June 12, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. All delegates and alternates and members of The American Legion are invited to attend the session. Following this public hearing, the Committee on Resolutions will go into an executive session to vote on resolutions to be brought before the body.

The Department Executive Committee will hold the first meeting at Jeff's Catering & Event Center on Sunday, June 14, 2026 at 8:00 a.m. All department officers, district commanders, and past department commanders are requested to attend.

CREDENTIALS

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

All credentials must be verified by the Credentials Committee, which will be in session at Jeff's Catering & Event Center, Brewer, Maine, from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 13, 2026.

The department adjutant shall issue to each post, 30 days prior to the convention, a statement of the number of 2026 membership cards, accompanied by state and national dues, received at Department Headquarters on May 13, 2026. Listed with the membership report will appear the number of delegates allowed for each post.

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

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

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

NOMINATION AND ELECTIONS

At the first session of the Department Convention on Friday, June 12, 2026, nominations shall be made for the offices of Department Commander, Department First Vice Commander, Department Second Vice Commander, Department Finance Officer, Department Historian, Department Americanism Officer, and Department Sergeant-at-Arms.

Nomination of officers shall be made by registered delegates elected to repre-

will cast ballots immediately. Delegate's card, badge, convention registration, and your 2026 membership card must be displayed during voting.

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

UNIFORM OF THE DAY

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

MEMORIAL SERVICE

The department chaplain of The American Legion will conduct a Memorial Service to be held just prior to the conclusion of the Saturday session, June 13, 2026. Posts wishing to have deceased members included in the Post Everlasting Ceremony are requested to submit a list of the honored dead to Department Headquarters. Lists must include the name of deceased comrades and conflicts served. If your post files a Post Everlasting list for The Maine Legionnaire and said list is up to date, a second list is not necessary.

LAW AND ORDER

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

PRESS

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

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

A formal installation ceremony will be held Saturday, June 13, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. All department officers and district commanders will be sworn into office at that time and will automatically become members of the Department Executive Committee.

RAFFLES OR SALES ITEMS

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

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

Official: Jason Hall, Department Adjutant
Leroy McKenzie, Department Commander

THE AMERICAN LEGION 107TH ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION

June 12-13, 2026

Jeff's Catering and Event Center, Brewer
PLAN NOW TO ATTEND!

sent the posts of the Department or by delegates-at-large attending the convention. Nominating speeches are limited to three minutes. There will be no seconds to nominations authorized (DEC Mandate Jan. 20, 1991)

All candidates for elective department office must file with the department adjutant, prior to May 13, 2026, a letter of intent to seek office and furnish a copy of discharge papers, which makes them eligible for membership in The American Legion. The ballots for the Department Convention will be pre-printed indicating those candidates who have filed for office. Any candidate declaring after May 13, 2026, or nominated from the floor of the convention, will be a write-in candidate. Blank spaces will be left for write-in candidates. (DEC Mandate Jan. 27, 1985).

VOTING

Delegates may get ballots from the Credentials Committee at Jeff's Catering & Event Center on Saturday, June 13, 2026. The Credentials Committee will be in session for one hour on Saturday morning, June 13, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Each delegate will go to the convention hall during the hours specified and secure ballots. No ballots will be issued after 9:00 a.m. Delegates

THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MAINE

107th Annual State Convention Program

June 12-13, 2026

Jeff's Catering & Event Center, Brewer

TENTATIVE AGENDA

Friday, June 12, 2026

Resolutions Committee (9:00 a.m.) Jeff's Catering & Event Center, Brewer
 Open Hearing, Committee Chairman,
 Lloyd Woods

New Officer Training (9:00 - 11:00 a.m.) Dept. Judge Advocate, Julie Flynn

First Session Friday, June 12, 2026

Call to Order (12:00 p.m. noon)	Dept. Commander, Leroy McKenzie
Opening Ceremonies	Dept. Commander, Leroy McKenzie
Presentation of Colors	Dept. Sgt.-at-Arms, Drew Goodridge
Invocation	Dept. Chaplain, Sheryl Moore
Pledge of Allegiance	ALL
Preamble	ALL
Report of the Committee on Permanent Rules and Organization	Dept. Judge Advocate, Julie Flynn
Welcome	Past National Commander, Anthony "Tony" Jordan
Greetings	Brewer City Mayor, Eric Glidden
NEC Report	Nat'l Executive Committeeman, Lloyd Woods
Legislative Update	Chairman, Richard Flynn
Maine Blind Camp Update	Chairman, Brian Knowlton
History Awards	Dept. Historian, Tommy Somerville
Greetings	Wreaths Across America Director of Communications, Amber Caron
Department Finance Update	Dept. Finance Officer, Mary "Tally" Brown
Children & Youth/ Daniel E. Lambert Scholarships	Dept. Americanism Officer, Maureen Malley
Past Commander's Club (James V. Day Scholarship)	Dept. Commander, Leroy McKenzie
Oratorical Update	Oratorical Committee Chairperson, Maureen Malley
Women Veterans Advisory Committee Update	Chair, Patricia "Tricia" Thurston
Meet the Candidates	Selected Legionnaires
Nomination of Dept. Officers	Selected Legionnaires
Announcements	Dept. Adjutant, Jason Hall

3:00 p.m. Recess

5:30 p.m. Membership Appreciation Banquet, Jeff's Catering & Event Center, Brewer
See [Page 11](#) for Membership Appreciation Banquet registration.

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

Second Session Saturday, June 13, 2026

Call to Order (9:00 a.m.)	Dept. Commander, Leroy McKenzie
Presentation of Colors	Dept. Sgt.-at-Arms, Drew Goodridge
Humanitarian/ Humanitarian Citizen Awards	Chair, Patricia "Tricia" Thurston
Public Service Awards	Law & Order Chairman, Kirk Thurston
Border Patrol Award	National Executive Committeeman, Lloyd Woods

Second Session (Cont.) Saturday, June 13, 2026

Dirigo State Update	Chairperson, Julie Flynn
Introduction of Past Dept. Cmdrs. & Past Legionnaires of the Year	Past Dept. Commander, Patricia "Tricia" Thurston
Legionnaire of the Year Award	Past Dept. Commander, Patricia "Tricia" Thurston
Greetings	U.S. Senator, Susan Collins
Service Office Update/Award	Dept. Service Officer, Carl Curtis
4th Estate Award	Dept. Adjutant, Jason Hall
Jr. Shooting Sports Program Update	Committee Member, David Watson
Greetings	U.S. Congresswoman, Chellie Pingree
Americanism Awards/Educator of the Year	Dept. Americanism Officer, Maureen Malley & Dept. Commander, Leroy McKenzie
Eagle Scout of the Year Award	Chair, Peter Duston & Dept. Americanism Officer, Maureen Malley
American Legion Be the One Update	Dept. Judge Advocate, Julie Flynn
Greetings	U.S. Congressman, Jared Golden
Greetings	U.S. Senator, Angus King
Adjutant of the Year Award	Dept. Commander, Leroy McKenzie
Greetings	Maine Veterans Homes, CEO Brad Klawitter
Auxiliary, SAL & Legion Riders (Awards)	Dept. Commander, Leroy McKenzie
Greetings	SAL Detachment Commander, Steve Doyle
Greetings	The Legion Riders Director, Thomas Kuespert
Greetings	Auxiliary President, Linda Jack
Legion Baseball Update	Director, Scott Bishop
12:00 p.m. Lunch	
Roger's Rangers & Tony's Tigers Awards	PNC, Anthony "Tony" Jordan and Dept. Vice Commanders Joseph Michaud & Ryan Coffin
Membership Awards	Dept. Vice Commanders Michaud & Coffin
Report on Credentials Committee	Credentials Chairman, Brian Knowlton
Report on Committee Resolutions	Committee Chairman, Lloyd Woods
Embers Paws of Hope Update	Dept. Commander, Leroy McKenzie and Timothy Nickels, Embers Paws of Hope
Ceremony Honoring Outgoing Dept. Cmdr.	Dept. Adjutant, Jason Hall
Response	Dept. Commander, Leroy McKenzie
Sweepstakes Drawing	
Memorial Service – Post Everlasting	Dept. Sgt.-at-Arms, Drew Goodridge and Dept. Chaplain, Sheryl Moore
Announcements	Dept. Adjutant, Jason Hall
Benediction	Dept. Chaplain, Sheryl Moore
Retirement of Colors	Dept. Sgt.-at-Arms, Drew Goodridge
Adjournment	(Sine Die)

**3:00 p.m. State Convention Installation for
Legion, Auxiliary, and SAL Officers** Jeff's Catering & Event Center, Brewer

Sunday, June 14, 2026

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

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

2026 Resolution Index

Resolution 1 Post Revitalization Time Limit Convention. Submitted by Task Force for the Future

RESOLVED, At the 107th Annual Convention of The American Legion, Department of Maine, assembled at Brewer, Maine, June 12 through 14, 2026; That, Post will have a six (6) month time limit from the start of the revitalization process; And be it further

RESOLVED, Any Post failing to be revitalized within the six (6) month time limit will be closed, and any assets turned over to the Department of Maine; And be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution be effective at the end of the Department of Maine's 107th Convention.

Submitted by Task Force for the Future

Resolution 2 Article XI Convention Committee

RESOLVED, At the 107th Annual Convention of The American Legion, Department of Maine, assembled at Brewer, Maine June 12 through 14, 2026; That, The Commander of The Department of Maine along with the Department Adjutant has the authority to appoint a team to be temporarily assigned to choose convention site, plan the agenda, setup meeting space, and finally take down meeting space; And be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution be effective at the end of the Department of Maine's 107th Convention.

Submitted by Task Force for the Future

Resolution 3 Post Minimum Membership Requirement

RESOLVED, At the 107th Annual Convention of The American Legion, Department of Maine, assembled at Brewer, Maine, June 12 through 14, 2026; That, Posts with membership under ten (10) will be given a choice of starting the revitalization process or disbanding; And be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution be effective at the end of the Department of Maine's 107th

Resolution 4 Article X, Internal Affairs Committee

RESOLVED, At the 107th Annual Convention of The American Legion, Department of Maine, assembled at Brewer, Maine, June 12 through 14, 2026; That, the Internal Affairs Committee, Article X, be eliminated from the Department of Maine's Constitution and By-Laws; And be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution be effective at the end of the Department of Maine's 107th Convention.

Submitted by Task Force for the Future

Resolution 5 Department Investigative Team

RESOLVED, At the 107th Annual Convention of The American Legion, Department of Maine, assembled at Brewer, Maine, June 12 through 14, 2026; That, 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; And be it further

RESOLVED, The Investigative Team, in coordination 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; And be it further

RESOLVED, 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; And be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution be effective at the end of the Department of Maine's 107th Convention.

Submitted by Task Force for the Future

Membership Appreciation Banquet

Friday, June 12

Jeff's Catering and Event Center, Brewer

Join us as we celebrate our members and the entire Legion Family and bring back this long-missed tradition! The membership appreciation banquet is open to the entire Legion Family.

Event Details:

5:30 p.m. - Happy Half-Hour (*Cash Bar*)

6:30 p.m. - Buffet Dinner followed by the program.

A short, uplifting program will follow dinner, featuring appreciation awards, recognition of our unsung heroes, and celebration of behind-the-scenes volunteers.

Attire: Have fun in silver and gold!

The event is hosted by Auxiliary Department Vice President Stella Trahan.

Membership Appreciation Banquet Registration:

Cost: \$30 per person.



Register by June 3 (must be received at Auxiliary Department Headquarters.)

Mail to: American Legion Auxiliary Dept. of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Suite B, Winslow, ME 04901

Email your registration to mainealahq@gmail.com and send payment to Auxiliary Department Headquarters.

Don't miss it!

Download the [event flyer](#) by visiting the [State Convention page](#) at www.mainelegion.org under NEWS & EVENTS.

Department Family Testimonial Happenings



Opening Ceremony: Department National Executive Committeeman Lloyd Woods opens The American Legion Family Testimonial for Department Commander Leroy McKenzie, SAL Detachment Commander Steve Doyle, and Auxiliary President Linda Jack with a bit of humor. The ceremony took place on May 9 at the Decker-Simmons Post 51 in Oakland and was a delightful event.



Sons of The American Legion Commander Steve Doyle, center, addresses the members of The American Legion Family Testimonial with thanks, while Department Adjutant Jason Hall, left, and SAL Adjutant George Rice, right, look on.



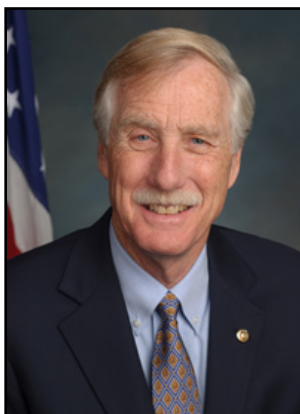
Auxiliary President Linda Jack, right, speaks about her President's Project, Honor Flight Maine, at the Family Testimonial, while Past Department President Nancy True, looks on.



2026 Commander's Award: Department Commander Leroy McKenzie, standing left, presents National Executive Committeeman Lloyd Woods with the Commander's Award at The American Legion Family Testimonial on May 9.

Ensuring Maine Veterans are Treated With the Respect They Deserve

Veterans who served our country continue to serve their communities as our neighbors, friends, educators, business owners, volunteers, and first responders. As a member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, I am proud to work every day to make sure Maine veterans are treated with the respect they deserve.



SENATOR
ANGUS KING

traumatic brain injury, or military sexual trauma. Often times, those wounds go untreated for many involved in the justice system, and I think we can all agree that our men and women who served have unique, unseen challenges that deserve top-of-the-line care from the providers at the VA who have spent their careers focused on treating veterans.

Our bill, the *Get Justice-Involved Veterans Behavioral Assistance and Care for Key Health Outcomes to Maintain Empowerment (BACK HOME) Act*, would establish a pilot program allowing the Department of Veterans' Affairs to provide mental health services directly to incarcerated veterans. In many ways, this is a return to the original mission and work of the VA, but cuts and changes over the years have changed the policy. Under current law, the VA is largely prohibited from delivering this kind of care in correctional settings, leaving a dangerous gap in support for those who may need it most.

By restoring access to mental health services, we can help justice-involved veterans get the support they need and successfully reintegrate into their communities. Supporting veterans at their most vulnerable moments is not only just the right thing to do, but it also strengthens families, communities, and our country.

Making sure our veterans are taken care of is an area of bipartisan agreement, which is why my colleagues and I will continue to support all Americans who answer the call to defend our nation.

In March, I was honored to receive the Distinguished Public Service Award from The American Legion during its Washington Conference. It's one of the highlights of my career in public service, but this award reflects something bigger—a collective effort to uphold our responsibility to those who have worn the uniform. As I said at the conference, my job in the Senate is simple: to provide strong oversight and make sure our government is doing right by our veterans every single day.

That responsibility means asking tough questions, pushing for accountability, and ensuring that programs meant to serve veterans are delivering results. From expanding access to care under the *PACT Act* to improving benefits for vulnerable veterans, we must never lose sight of the promises we've made and the obligation to keep them.

That same commitment is what led me to partner with Senator Pete Ricketts on bipartisan, bicameral legislation to support incarcerated veterans struggling with mental health challenges. Far too many veterans carry invisible wounds from their service—such as post-traumatic stress,

Getting Results for Veterans and Their Families

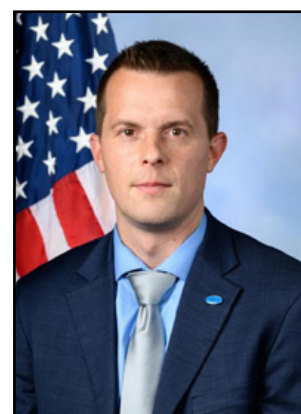
I'm proud of the legislation I've worked on in Congress, but introducing bills is far from the only way that my staff and I try to make lives easier for Maine veterans and their families.

Every day I have special employees called caseworkers who are specifically focused on helping Mainers overcome personal challenges with federal agencies. These problems vary, and can include wrongfully denied veterans benefits, delayed tax returns and Social Security checks, or difficulties accessing personal military records. I want to share two recent stories about our work, with my hope being that if you or someone you care about is dealing with similar issues and don't know where to turn, my caseworkers could be that next step.

The first example involves an older veteran and their spouse here in our district. This particular veteran, who also suffered from Parkinson's disease, had applied twice for service-connected benefits. However, despite clear evidence that their time in the military was at least partially responsible for their ailments, the VA had rejected their application both times. At this point the veteran and their spouse reached out to our office for help, and when a third application was denied, one of my caseworkers already had a plan.

She wrote directly to the director of the VA, explaining all the reasons that the agency had handled this case wrong. It worked: VA officials agreed with our office's analysis and granted 100 percent service-connected benefits — along with more than \$64,000 in backpay. The agency even chipped in extra money to help the veteran's spouse hire respite care, because anyone who knows a caregiver understands how valuable an extra set of hands can be.

Sadly, about a year later, this veteran passed away. While nothing can ever replace the loss of a loved one, my staff went the extra mile to make sure that their spouse quickly got the widow's benefits that they were entitled to,



CONGRESSMAN
JARED GOLDEN

and also got them enrolled in the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA) so that they had better access to health care.

The second story concerns a veteran with serious medical issues, but whose discharge designation limited their access to the specific health care they needed from the VA. In this case, my staffer was able to help this veteran get their discharge upgraded — which allowed my staffer to then help get the veteran enrolled in a health care plan, prove that his disabilities are 100 percent service-connected, and get them about \$4,000 per month with \$10,000 in backpay.

These successes are just some of many wins that my compassionate, hardworking caseworkers have delivered for Mainers in the last few months. It's frustrating that my office can be needed to get the VA dispersing the benefits our veterans earned, but with my staffers' years of experience navigating those exact logjams, I'm proud of the constituent services we're able to provide.

If you or a loved one are feeling similarly stuck as these veterans had, I hope you'll reach out to my office so we can help — whether it is service-related or not. You can send my office an email at golden.house.gov/contact/email-me, or call or visit me at any of our locations:

- **Bangor Office:** 6 State Street, Suite 101, Bangor ME 04401. Phone: (207) 249-7400

- **Caribou Office:** 7 Hatch Drive, Suite 230, Caribou ME 04736. Phone: (207) 492-6009

- **Lewiston Office:** 179 Lisbon Street, Lewiston ME 04240. Phone: (207) 241-6767

- **Washington Office:** 1107 Longworth HOB, Washington DC 20515. Phone: (202) 225-2943

Thanks as always to everyone at the Legion for all you do to fight on behalf of our veterans, including by keeping me informed of your work and how I can help. Your mission is near and dear to my heart, and my staff and I hope you'll continue reaching out on the issues that matter most.



Maine Department Secretary of State Annual Report Filings

An annual report is required to be filed every year in order to maintain a good standing status. The legal filing deadline is June 1st.

Annual Reports for the following entities can be filed online at: <https://apps1.web.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/aro/index.pl>

- Business Corporations

- Nonprofit Corporations
- Limited Partnerships
- Limited Liability Companies
- Limited Liability Partnerships

If you prefer to file your annual report on paper you can create your own preprinted report by visiting this website: https://apps1.web.maine.gov/online/aro/form_download.html

Annual Electronic Filing Requirement for Small Exempt Organizations IRS Form 990-N (e-Postcard)

Who may file Form 990-N to satisfy their annual reporting requirement?

In general, exempt organizations have an annual reporting requirement, although there are exceptions. View exceptions here: <https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/annual-exempt-organization-return-who-must-file>

Most small tax-exempt organizations that have an annual reporting requirement can satisfy the requirements by submitting Form 990-N, Electronic Notice (e-Postcard) for Tax-Exempt Organizations Not Required to File Form 990 or Form 990-EZ. Form 990-N is submitted electronically, there are no paper forms.

An organization eligible to submit Form 990-N can instead choose to file Form 990 or Form 990-EZ to satisfy its annual reporting requirement.

Small tax-exempt organizations generally are eligible to file Form 990-N to satisfy their annual reporting requirement if their annual gross receipts are normally \$50,000 or less.

Gross receipts are the total amounts the organization received from all sources during its annual accounting period, without subtracting any costs or expenses.

Gross receipts are considered to be normally \$50,000 or less if the organization:

Has been in existence for 1 year or less and received, or donors have pledged to give, \$75,000 or less during its first tax year;

Has been in existence between 1 and 3 years and averaged \$60,000 or less in gross receipts during each of its first two tax years; and

Is at least 3 years old and averaged \$50,000 or less in gross receipts for the immediately preceding 3 tax years (including the year for which calculations are being made).

However, some organizations aren't eligible to use Form 990-N (e-Postcard) even if their gross receipts are normally \$50,000 or less. See organizations not permitted to file here: <https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/form-990-n-e-postcard-organizations-not-permitted-to-file>. These organizations must file different forms instead to satisfy their annual reporting requirement.

Note: a subordinate organization in a group exemption that is included in a group return filed by its central organization does not file Form 990-N because the group return satisfies its annual reporting requirement.

Submitting Form 990-N (e-Postcard)

To access the Form 990-N Electronic Filing system:

Sign in/create an account with [Login.gov](https://www.irs.gov) or [ID.me](https://www.id.me): The IRS requires a [Login.gov](https://www.irs.gov) or an [ID.me](https://www.id.me) account to submit Form 990-N. Form 990-N filers should use the same email address associated with their IRS account.

Review the IRS Form 990-N Electronic Filing System (e-Postcard) User Guide PDF for step-by-step instructions on how to submit electronic Form 990-N (e-Postcard) here: <https://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p5248.pdf>. Most common problems can be avoided by following the User Guide.

Maine American Legion Baseball



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

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

To play:

Contact your local Legion post. Visit www.legion.org and click on "Find a Post." Fill in your city, state and ZIP code.

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

Age Eligibility Chart: <https://www.legion.org/getmedia/9c80cd8b-e295-4977-b2bc-c39250dcf26b/baseball-age-chart.pdf>

Full Registration is open for the 2026 American Legion Baseball Season. For more information, please visit: baseballmaine.com/team-registration

To register online, visit: legion.org/baseball

To coach:

Coaches who want to start a team should contact the department baseball chairman, Scott Bishop at chairman@mainelegionbaseball.org

The department will send a new team packet, which includes copies of the state and national rules, insurance information and registration forms. Begin your team registration at baseball.legion.org.

To umpire:

Usually, local umpire associations

provide departments with umpires. Department chairmen can nominate umpires to officiate the national tournament. Umpires can also nominate each other.

To volunteer:

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

For more information, contact your local post.

Schedule & Standings

Senior Legion Baseball: <https://legion.baseballmaine.com/maine-senior-legion/>

Junior Legion Baseball: <https://legion.baseballmaine.com/maine-junior-legion/>

Forms:

Baseball forms can be accessed at: <https://baseballmaine.com/important-legion-baseball-forms/>

Championship Schedule:

Maine Senior State Championship, July 24 - 30, Mansfield Stadium, Bangor

Maine Junior State Championship, Aug. 2 - 3, Mansfield Stadium, Bangor

Northeast Senior Regional Tournament, Aug. 5 - 9, Worcester, Mass.

Northeast Junior Regional Championship, Aug. 7-10* (Approx), Gill Stadium, Manchester, NH

SR World Series, Aug. 13 - 18, Shelby, NC

Contact Information:

Scott Bishop, Chairman
Phone: 207-745-0555

Email: chairman@mainelegionbaseball.org
Maine Legion Baseball Website:

<https://baseballmaine.com/>

Scholarships

Learn more about Legion Baseball scholarship opportunities and apply here:

www.legion.org/get-involved/scholarships/the-american-legion-baseball-scholarship

Is Your Post Utilizing Its' Sales Tax Exemption?

All Legion Posts in the state of Maine qualify for Sales Tax Exemption. If your Post currently does not have a Certificate for Sales Tax Exemption, please call Dept. Headquarters for assistance at 207-873-3229 so we can send you a packet containing detailed instructions on how to obtain this status.





Member Owned. Mission Led.

We're run by members,
for members. And we're
committed to serving the
military and their families.



Military members,
veterans, employees of
certain federal agencies



Pre-commissioned officers



Spouses and Children

We're made to serve your financial goals all in one place.
Here's some of what we have to offer.

Auto and Property Insurance

Get coverage for everything that matters to you, from your car to your house to your personal belongings.

- Earn up to a 30%² discount with USAA SafePilot®.
- Save up to 10%³ when you bundle home or renters with auto insurance.

Banking

Get access to bank products and services created with the military community in mind.

- Get paid up to 2 days early with a USAA Classic Checking account and direct deposit.⁴
- Enjoy great rates on a variety of loan options.⁵

Life and Health Insurance

Help protect your family's financial future with life and health insurance coverage for you and those you love.

- Get life insurance starting at \$12 a month.⁶
- Explore health insurance options that fit every stage of life.

USAA Perks®

Membership can put money back in your wallet. Save big on cruises, concerts, movies and more.

- Save up to 35%⁷ on car rentals.
- Save up to 40%^{8,9} on Disney and Universal Studios tickets.

How we're different.

USAA products and services have no membership fees.

We're member owned.

We don't have competing interests. Serving members is our only focus.

We're always thinking ahead.

We make your life easier with crash detection technology, instant vehicle damage assessment and blockchain claims processing.

We go above and beyond to protect you.

As a member, 24/7 fraud monitoring for your accounts is automatic. There is no need to enroll for this protection.



Advice for your life

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.

^{2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9} See USAA website for disclaimers: www.usaa.com/membership/about?vurl=vurl_legion

Legionnaire Insurance Trust Accidental Death Plan

Your valued status of The American Legion Family makes you eligible for LegionCare no-cost-to-you Accidental Death Insurance coverage. Help protect your family from the financial impact of covered accidents in your car, at home, on the job, on vacation... anywhere you might be.

Member Benefits

Up to \$100,000 in cash benefits to help pay for groceries, car payments, or to help your loved ones make ends meet.

If you suddenly fell victim to a deadly accident, your family might very well need a financial cushion to make ends meet. That's why you're guaranteed eligibility to add \$25,000, \$50,000, or up to \$100,000 in accidental death coverage.

Help protect your family from the financial impact of covered accidents in your car. At home. On the job. On vacation. Anywhere you might be. Your Le-

gionnaire accidental death benefits give you a world-wide, 24-hour safety net against the financial impact of a variety of accidents.

Pays regardless of any other insurance

Your Legionnaire cash benefits are also paid regardless of any other coverage you might have through work or that you may have set up on your own

That means you can rest assured your loved ones will collect the full amount of Legionnaire cash benefits they're entitled to. It's an easy way to help make sure your family could get a fresh start — instead of worrying how they'd pay the bills — if a covered accident takes your life.

Plan underwritten by Securian Life Insurance Company.

Watch the video at www.vimeo.com/946785549 or visit www.thelit.com/accident-protection to learn more.

LEGION FAMILY:
IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION FOR LEGIONCARE
UP TO \$5,000.00
NO-COST-TO-YOU ACCIDENT INSURANCE PROTECTION
For Online Activation Visit: TheLIT.com/LegionCare2

Please Note: Current members only are entitled to the \$5,000 No-Cost-To-You Accident Insurance Protection.

If your membership was expired at any point, you will have to sign up again to receive coverage.

AMERICAN LEGION | **wellcare**

THE OFFICIAL MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PROVIDER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Wellcare Medicare Advantage & more of the benefits veterans deserve.

See how a Wellcare Medicare Advantage plan works seamlessly alongside your VA coverage to give you more of the benefits you can use every day.

If you have Medicare and Medicaid, limited income, recently lost employer coverage, are turning 65, or you've just moved, you may be eligible for one of many qualifying events that allow you to enroll now.

Find out if you qualify today.
877-880-8194 (TTY: 711)
8 a.m.-8 p.m., 7 days a week
Wellcare4Veterans.com

AMERICAN LEGION | wellcare
THE OFFICIAL MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PROVIDER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Legionnaire Benefits

As a Member of the Legion Family, You Know How Important It Is to Help Protect Those in Need ...

Now We Can Help

The LIT Plans can help with

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



- **Hospital HELP Plan** — Provides benefits for hospital stays including intensive care, cardiac care, care for cancer, rehabilitative facilities, and V.A. hospitals.*
- **Cancer Care** — Provides important protection and a daily benefit if you are hospitalized due to cancer.*
- **Accidental Death** — Helps provide financial protection for you and your family. Up to \$5,000.00 LegionCare AD coverage at no cost to Legionnaires is available; (activation required).* You can also purchase additional Accident coverage up to \$100,000.00.
- **On-The-Move Travel Accident** — Provides up to \$200,000.00 coverage when fatally injured in a covered accident while traveling; plus \$500.00 per day if a covered accident lands you in the hospital.*
- **Emergency Assistance Plus** — Provides you with 24/7 emergency medical and travel assistance services should something happen to you or your family while traveling away from home.
- **Medicare Supplement Insurance** — Supplements your Medicare Coverage at group rates.
- **Health & Dental Insurance** — Request a quote on various Health & Dental Insurance Plans designed with you in mind.
- **Long-Term Care** — Can help provide home health care, supervised adult care, and more.
- **Lifeline Medical Alert Service** — Provides fast access to help in the event of a fall or medical emergency so you can live confidently and independently.

To Learn More and Enroll, Visit
www.TheLIT.com
For Questions Call 1-800-235-6943

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

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



Endorsed by Your Department of The American Legion

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

your behalf by Your Department of The American Legion.

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

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

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

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____ MEMBERSHIP CARD NO. _____

EMAIL _____

MAKE SURE YOU INCLUDE YOUR DATE OF BIRTH SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Cut it out

Have you filled out *all* the above information?
Please mail to: Legionnaire Insurance Trust • P.O. Box 26720 • Phoenix, AZ 85068-6720
© 2015 AGIA 100135 A3713 38796

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

Your Letters

Department Tour Gifts Appreciated

The American Legion Department of Maine family,

Thank you for the lovely tour of Maine. I enjoyed getting to see so much of Maine. Thank you for the lovely gifts.

Thank you,
Wife of National Commander Wiley, Sonia Wiley

Thank you

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT..

District 1

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

Biddeford Post 26 Honors Four Chaplains

On what was considered to be a very Maine day on Feb. 7, members of Biddeford Post 26 and invited guests honored the Four Chaplains who made the ultimate sacrifice by rededicating the Four Chaplains Memorial Wall in the post home.

As summarized on legion.org, "On or around Feb. 3 of each year, American Legion posts nationwide commemorate the selfless acts of four chaplains. The US. Army Transport Dorchester was hit by a German U-boat torpedo on Feb. 3, 1943, as it was transporting troops in the North Atlantic to an American base in Greenland. The ship sank, killing 672 of the 902 officers and enlisted men, merchant seamen and civilian workers aboard. But for those who survived, they were left with the memory of the courage and leadership

exhibited by four chaplains of different faiths, who, in sacrificing their lives, created a unique legacy of brotherhood. As soldiers rushed to lifeboats, Rev. George Fox (Methodist), Jewish Rabbi Alexander Goode, Rev. Clark Poling (Dutch Reformed) and Father John Washington (Roman Catholic) comforted the wounded and directed others to safety. One survivor watched the chaplains distribute life jackets, and when they ran out, they removed theirs and gave them to four young men. As the Dorchester sank, the chaplains were seen linked arm in arm, praying."

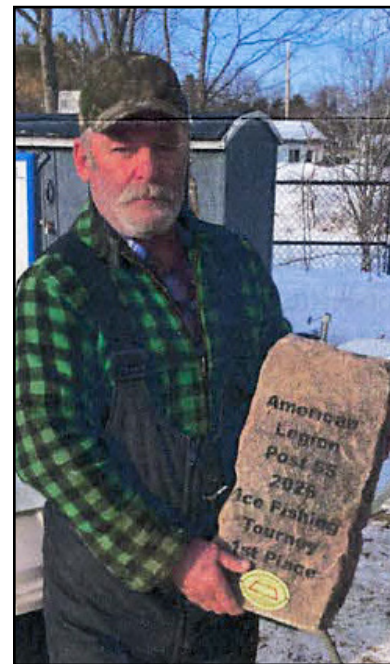
Comrades and friends gathered at Post 26 to dine and pay tribute to those four fine men of faith. District 1 Commander Gunny Kendall spoke about the sacrifices these men gave and why we honor them today.



Four Chaplains Memorial Rededication: Left photo, Biddeford Post 26 Commander Rick St. Onge addresses the crowd at the Four Chaplains Ceremony. Right photo, the Four Chaplains Wall of Honor at Biddeford Post 26 can be seen to the right.



Limerick Post 55 Annual Fishing Derby: On Feb. 1, Limerick Post 55 held its Annual Fishing Derby on Sokokis Lake in Limerick. Despite the day being cold and windy with "extra deep" snow, it seemed that everyone present had a great time. All children who signed up won a prize, making it a successful day for the youth. The winner of the Adult Biggest Fish was a 2-pound, 10-ounce bass caught by Richard Sanborn Sr. There was a tie for the biggest fish caught in the children's derby. Both bass were 2-pounds, 3-ounces and 17.25 inches long. A coin was tossed to decide the winner of the trophy. The prize money was distributed equally to each child (\$150 each.) Third place in the children's derby won \$50 for their 2-pound catch. Raffle items included a 10x10 foot shed, 50/50, gift baskets and cards, and other donated goods. Post 55 thanks all who participated in making this year's derby a success, increasing the Veterans Fuel/Emergency Assistance Fund.



Kennebunk Post 74 Holds Dollhouse Raffle

For the second time, John and Barbara Farchione, supporters of veterans and The American Legion, have donated a beautiful dollhouse to American Legion, Webber-Lefebvre Post 74 in Kennebunk. The beautifully constructed and decorated dollhouse has 6 rooms and custom details including hardwood floors and windows with flower boxes for the front porch.

The Post sells dollhouse raffle tickets at \$10 each to the public at craft fairs,

farmers' markets, and local events, limiting the sale to no more than 150 tickets. The proceeds provide the post with the ability to support various programs such as its Kennebunk High School Scholarship Fund, The American Legion Oratorical Contest, Dirigo State (formerly Boys State and Girls State,) as well as local community and veterans' charities. The Farchione's donations have raised well over \$3,000 for the post.



Kennebunk Post 74 Dollhouse Raffle: Left to right, dollhouse raffle winners Andie and Marc Lamontagne, and donors John and Barbara Farchione.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 1 continued

American Legion Silver Medals of Merit Awarded

Recently, two members of Charles R.S. Hatch Post 79 in Berwick were recognized for their exceptionally meritorious service and outstanding achievement supporting The American Legion and local community. Berwick Post Commander Mike Colby presented The American Legion Silver Medal of Merit to longtime legionnaire Lynn K. Rendell and 15-year member Andrew L. Buckman.

A post adjutant for many years, and currently first district service officer, Lynn Rendell is the Berwick Post 79 point man and lead for the town Memorial Day parade and ceremony. Lynn stepped up to oversee the post's successful "Toll Booth" Poppy Drive and regularly devotes his time, often behind the scenes, to ensure the

success of the numerous events and activities vital to the post. Often first to arrive and last to leave, Lynn is most deserving of this recognition.

As the post's chief fundraising chair since 2021, Andy Buckman has facilitated a growing number of corporate sponsors and events, greatly increasing the post's financial base. Andy also chairs the post's committee on Direct Aid to Veterans & Families and streamlined the post's ability to utilize funds in a timely manner. He works tirelessly to ensure the needs of veterans in crisis are fully satisfied.

Together, these two incredible Legionnaires continue to set the standard against which the rest of us are measured. Congratulations Lynn and Andy – we salute you!



Berwick Post 79 Merit Award: Berwick Post 79 Commander Mike Colby presents The American Legion Silver Medal of Merit to Lynn K. Rendell and Andrew L. Buckman. Left to right, Post Commander Mike Colby, Lynn Rendell, and Andrew Buckman.

Photo Credit: Dick Hall

Eliot-Kittery Memorial Post 188 Joins York Chamber of Commerce

Eliot-Kittery Post 188 has been exploring various ways in which we can connect with our community.

To that end we have become members of the York Region Chamber of Commerce.

According to their website "The York Region Chamber of Commerce connects locals and visitors with trusted services and the best experiences in Maine. We support local businesses by fostering growth and providing valuable resources to the business community in Kittery, Eliot, York, South Berwick, and Cape Neddick."



Post 188 has decided that in the spirit of fostering community partnership, and membership with the Chamber could only be beneficial. Aside from the sense of community that this membership affords, we are also provided benefits including a member directory and a contact list for all members, print and digital marketing and local promotion, and networking in general.

New Members Desperately Needed at Eliot-Kittery Post 188

All American Legion posts will tell you that membership numbers are a top concern. Our post couldn't agree more. We cannot survive without the help of members. We are seeking active members who are willing to attend monthly meetings or at least will commit to volunteering for at least one annual event.

Post 188 has made tremendous strides in giving back to the community, with our food insecurity fund, Veteran's Relief Fund, and events such as the annual ChiliFest. These efforts have been inspiring us with other great ideas, but we need some hands to get the work

done. Please consider joining our post. If you are already a member, please help to recruit fellow veterans to join as well. And if you have family members who are interested, there is also the American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion. We also encourage friends throughout the community to simply reach out to us if they would like to help with any of our projects.

A special reminder to veterans in Kittery- Since the VFW had to close its doors, the Eliot-Kittery Memorial Post 188 is now your veteran organization. Please consider joining. And tell your friends neighbors about us as well.



Eliot-Kittery Memorial Post 188 Looking For Support: The Kittery VFW has turned in their charter and veterans' representation for the area is now the responsibility of Eliot-Kittery Memorial Post 188. Check out the video created by Post 188 Historian Don Hands and share with veterans: <https://www.facebook.com/reel/1256567549302737>

Submitted by Post 188 Historian, Don Hands

Wheels of Grit: From Key West to Kittery

On April 9, fellow Legionnaire Jodie Knox will dip her rear tire in the Atlantic at Mile Marker 0 in Key West, Florida and begin pedaling north with Kathy Ellingsworth as her support vehicle driver and chief of encouragement.

About 50 days later, they plan to arrive here in Kittery, completing a journey that is about far more than distance. Jodie will complete her final day of biking at Post 188 in Eliot, and she hopes you'll come out to make the final line a true celebration of grit.

This ride is a fundraiser and awareness campaign to support two extraordinary organizations: Wounded Warrior Project and Achilles International. It is also an effort to shine a light on the vital role that local American Legion posts and Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFWs) play in strengthening communities across the country.

The ride is called "Wheels of Grit: From Key West to Kittery" and it is built on a simple but powerful idea. They aim to use this ride to inspire people to turn "I can't" into "I can try."

Wounded Warrior Project serves veterans and service members who incurred physical or mental injuries in service to our country. Through mental health programs, career counseling, and long-term rehabilitative services, WWP helps warriors rebuild strength, independence, and purpose.

Achilles International empowers people with disabilities to participate in endurance sports, including cycling and running. Achilles restores confidence and expands what participants believe is possible.

Both organizations use movement as medicine, a value that aligns perfectly with the spirit of this ride. Here's how you can be a part:

- Come wish Jodie and Kathy well at the end of their ride at Post 188 on May 20 (pending weather and other unforeseen trip changes.) We'll keep you updated as the date gets closer and Jodie lets us know how her ride is progressing.

Donate to the organizations this ride is raising funds for:

- Wounded Warriors Project
- Achilles International

<https://give.achillesinternational.org/campaign/wheels-of-grit-key-west-to-kittery/c766938>

- Share social media posts about the ride with your own networks. Visibility amplifies impact! Jodie will be posting daily updates about the ride starting on April 9. You can follow along on either: www.facebook.com/Wheelsofgrit www.instagram.com/wheelsofgrit
- Send messages of support. Fifty days is a long time and community encouragement fuels forward momentum.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 1 continued

Eliot-Kittery Post 188 Town Council Meeting: Post 188 Historian and Kittery resident, Donald Hands, addresses the Kittery Town Council at a meeting on March 9. The purpose of the visit was to introduce the council to himself as a representative of the post and its members and to the Post Commander, John Richardson (also in attendance). Don spoke of the partnership that can exist between the post and other like-minded organizations in town. He also spoke to the fact that with the VFW now disbanded, Post 188 is now the main veteran's organization in town.



Eliot's Vietnam Memorial Plan Continues

Eliot-Kittery Post 188 Vice Commander Dana Norton has continued his work on creating a permanent memorial in Eliot to honor those who served in the Vietnam War. A large stone has been purchased, and the theme of the memorial is being etched into it by an artist from Kittery who has been enthusiastic to take on the job and add his invaluable insight into the project. The final location of the memorial and the actual placement date are yet to be finalized. However, a ceremony is being planned for this Independence Day in Eliot along with the Eliot Historical Society as we celebrate our country's 250th birthday. Volunteers are sought to make the event memorable. Anyone who has an interest and ideas are encouraged to contact Dana Norton at (207)439-3299. Donations are greatly appreciated. Please stay tuned for more information. Updates will be made online and sent via postcard. Any questions or more information can be obtained by contacting Dana at the number above.

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

Be The One Facilitator Named at Portland Post 17

Department Commander Leroy McKenzie has announced that Darnell Williams of Harold T. Andrews Post 17 in Portland, has accepted the role of Be The One facilitator.

At its core, Be The One is The American Legion's top priority, a mission to reduce the number of veterans and servicemembers who die by suicide. It involves everyone throughout the entire American Legion Family.

Future trainings will assist Legion Family to know what to do in a potential time of crisis.

By talking about it, raising awareness and fostering camaraderie, you are demonstrating how to "Be The One."

Please welcome Darnell to his new role, and be sure to visit Portland Post 17 on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 11:00 a.m. for Coffee, Cribbage, and Community.



Be The One Facilitator: Portland Post 17 Service Officer, Darnell Williams, is named Be The One Facilitator by Department Commander Leroy McKenzie.

Westbrook Post 62 Monthly Business Meeting

At the Post 62 Monthly Business Meeting held on Wednesday, March 4, post members presented representatives from Great Falls Construction of Gorham with a "thank you" plaque for their generous donation of lumber and hardware for the post's double ramp entrance and exit replacement. The plaque was planned by Crown Trophy in Portland. The cherry wood plaque displays a "thank you" letter along with photos of the double ramp for the rear entrance/exit at the Stephen W. Manchester Post 62, located next to Westbrook's Riverbank Park. The photos on the plaque were taken by Dennis Marrotte. The photos depict Post Sergeant-at-Arms Michael Thomas and Post 2nd Vice Commander Harry Gorham replacing the ramp decking in August of 2024. The lumber and stainless steel deck screws were donated by

Great Falls Construction following the replacement of the Riverwalk deck on the south side of the Presumpscot River in downtown Westbrook. Post 62 Board Chair Dennis Marrotte transported two pickup truck loads of the old ramp deck wood and the former Southeast steps to Riverside Recycling. As a bit of history, the Westbrook Post 62 building was originally constructed in 1928-29 by skilled tradespeople from the S. D. Warren Paper Mill in Westbrook. Today, post members remain responsible for all internal and external maintenance of this historic property.

District 2 Commander Eugene Connolly attended the business meeting as a special guest to meet and thank Jon and Patrick of Great Falls Construction.

Submitted by Westbrook Post 62 member, Dennis Marrotte



Westbrook Post 62 Plaque Presentation: Top photo, left to right, Post 62 Board of Directors Chair Dennis Marrotte, Post 1st Vice Commander Edward Symbol, Great Falls Construction President Jon Smith, Great Falls Construction Project Manager Patrick Harrington, Post 2nd Vice Commander Harry Gorham, and Post Sgt.-at-Arms Michael Thomas. Bottom photo, Jon Smith and Patrick Harrington display the "thank you" plaque.

Photos by District 2 Commander, Eugene Connolly
[More on "POST 62 MEETING" Page 19](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 2 continued

"POST 62 MEETING" (Continued from Page 18)



New POW/MIA Table For Westbrook Post 62: Left photo, Michael Thomas, Post 62 Sergeant-at-Arms and retired USCG Chief, Machinist, located the round POW/MIA table and its required symbolic pieces, each accompanied by a printed, laminated description. The Service and POW/MIA flags are installed on a three piece, stained wood display holder, crafted by Post 62 Service Officer and 2nd Vice Commander Harry Gorham, retired USAF Maine AIRNG. The POW/MIA table will be on display at the District 2 meeting on Saturday, March 14 at Post 62, 17 Dunn St., Westbrook.

Photos by Westbrook Post 62 member, Dennis Marrotte

Gray Post 86 Holds 8th Annual Chili Chowder Cook Off

The weather was cloudy, cold, and that winter chill was upon us as the crockpots, one after another, made their way into the canteen to enter their version of what could be the number one fan favorite and possibly the winner in one of four categories: Chili, Chowder-Seafood, Chowder-Non-Seafood and Non-Traditional. The delicious smells filled the canteen as the last crockpots entered, and as everyone was enjoying watching the Daytona

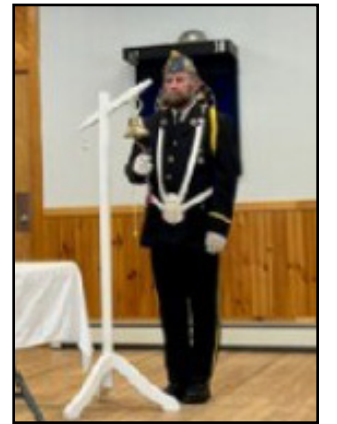
500, the car crashes, close calls, and pit stops for "gas" that's petroleum. The Annual Chili Chowder Cook Off, held on Feb. 15, had a great turnout as there were 26 crockpots of goodness entered and there were 63 judges to decide the winners. Thanks to the Sons of The American Legion Squadron 86 for their continuous support of community programs, of which the \$665.00 in proceeds this year will benefit the SAL Scholarship Fund.



Chili & Chowder Sampling: The Gray Post 86 canteen was filled with crockpots of chili and chowder as judges sampled entries during the Chili Chowder Cook Off, held Feb. 15 at the post home.



Cook Off Category Winners: Top left photo, Brent Cram is the winner of the Chili Category with his Venison Chili. Left to right, Post 86 1st Vice Commander Vincent Plummer, Winner Brent Cram, and Squadron 86 Commander Steve Amergian. Top right photo, Joe and Nicole Chase are winners of the Chowder Seafood Category with their Downeast Chowdah. Left to right, Vincent Plummer, Winner Joe Chase (Nicole not pictured), and Steve Amergian. Bottom left photo, Lori Cram is the winner of the Chowder Non-Seafood Category with her Champion Chowder. Left to right, Vincent Plummer, Winner Lori Cram, and Steve Amergian. Bottom right photo, Kayla Allen is the winner of the Non-Traditional category with her Buffalo Chicken Soup. Left to right, Vincent Plummer, Winner Kayla Allen, and Steve Amergian.



Gray Post 86 Four Chaplains Ceremony: Top left photo, the Four Chaplains ceremony held on Feb. 8, is conducted by American Legion Post 86 Chaplain George (Duckey) Mallard, left, accompanied by Legion Riders Chapter 86 Chaplain Jimmy Wilroy, right. Top right photo, ringing of the Bell is performed by Honor Guard and Squadron 86 1st Vice Commander Vincent Plummer. Middle photo, reading of The Four Chaplains story, left to right, Squadron 86 Sergeant-at-Arms Dave McNally, Post 86



member Ken Small, Post 86 2nd Vice Commander Chuck Kupfer, and Squadron 86 Commander Steve Amergian. Bottom photo, Post Honor Guard provides the opening ceremony colors. Left to right, Post Commander Clyde Morrison, Americanism Officer Caleb Cram, Squadron 86 1st Vice Commander Vincent Plummer, and Post Adjutant Tim Cram.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 2 continued



Windham Post 148 Flags Around Town: Field-Allen Post 148 puts flags together for the placement around the highways and byways of Windham. 100 flags are made up to be delivered to the town of Windham Public Works for installation the first week in May. Since 2005, the Legion

has collaborated with the Town of Windham to place these flags around town as a symbol of the of community spirit, and this year, in recognition of the nation's 250th Anniversary. Left to right, post members Randy Ketano (in background), John Facella, Tim Snyder, and Cliff Small are part of the team of over a dozen post members who worked on the flags on May 6.

Submitted by Post 148 Adjutant, David Tanguay

Thaddeus V. Day Promoted to Colonel in Maine National Guard

For those of you who don't know, there is a small, beautiful American Legion post in Falmouth. It sits next to multiple baseball fields. The members are kind and have a tight little family. Leading the post for many years, is Thaddeus Day.

Last year, something well deserved happened at American Legion Post 164:

"The Maine National Guard proudly announces the promotion of Thaddeus V. Day to the rank of colonel in the Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Corps. The formal promotion ceremony took place on July 13, 2025, at the American Legion Post 164 in Falmouth, with Brig. Gen. Ian J. M. Gillis, Commander of the Maine Air National Guard, served as the presiding officer.

Col. Day, of North Yarmouth, received a direct commission as a JAG in the New Hampshire Air National Guard in 2001 and joined the Maine Air National Guard in 2021. As a MAINEiac, he served with distinction as the Staff Judge Advocate for the 101st Air Refueling Wing in Bangor, bringing unwavering dedication and legal expertise to his role in military justice and operational law. His promotion reflects not only his professional excellence but also his leadership, mentorship, and commitment to selfless service.

"Col. Day is an outstanding officer and legal mind whose service has had a lasting impact on our readiness and integrity," said Brig. Gen. Gillis during the ceremony. "This promotion is not only well-earned and well-deserved—it's a reflection of the trust and confidence we place in his continued

leadership at the highest levels."

Col. Day, 57, now serves as the Staff Judge Advocate of the Maine Air National Guard, advising senior leadership on matters related to military law, ethics, and command policy. He will also oversee legal affairs covering the 101st ARW, the Joint Force Headquarters in Augusta, and South Portland's 243rd Engineering Installation and 265th Combat Communications Squadrons.

"I'm grateful to my many mentors, colleagues, and especially family, whose support has made this journey possible," said Col. Day during the ceremony. "This promotion is not just a personal milestone—it's a renewed commitment to uphold the law, serve with integrity, and support the mission and the men and women of the Maine National Guard."

Col. Day's family has a long history of military service, with many in attendance at his ceremony. His grandfather, Synder Von Day, served in the Navy during WWII, his father, David Thaddeus Day, served in the Army, his uncle, Daniel Day, retired from the Navy, his aunt, Nancy Day Thomas, served in the Army, his uncle, Martin Schulze, served in the Air Force, and many cousins have served.

In addition to those family members, Col. Day's children are also serving. His daughter, Alexandra Day Hartford, is on active duty in the Air Force. His son, Mitchell Day, served on active duty in the Air Force and is now in the New Hampshire Air National Guard. His youngest daughter, Madelyn Day, serves in the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps.

During the ceremony, Col. Day

presented his wife, Holly Day, and his mother, Monica Strobel, with flowers as a token of his appreciation for their support throughout his military career, and he provided examples of Holly's remarkable ability to take care of the family while he was deployed to Iraq and other duty locations.

In addition to his military service, Col. Day operates his own law offices, serves as the Commander of American Legion Post 164, and is a member of the board of directors for the North Yarmouth Veterans Memorial Park Association. He has been appointed to the North Yarmouth Zoning Board of Appeals since 1995. He is also a Bar

Fellow of the American Bar Association and a Bar Fellow of the Maine Justice Foundation. In 2023, Col. Day was named the Lions Club Cumberland/North Yarmouth Citizen of the Year. He is a past President of the Maine State Bar Association."

July 15, 2025

Story by Lt. Col. Jeffrey Roosevelt

Joint Force Headquarters - Maine National Guard
<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/542860/thaddeus-v-day-promoted-colonel-maine-national-guard>

Congratulations, Thaddeus Day. Thank you for continuing to serve our country in the Air National Guard and at Falmouth Post 164. Well deserved!



Promotion Ceremony: Col. Thaddeus V. Day, right, holds his promotion order presented by Brig. Gen. Ian J. M. Gillis, Commander of the Maine Air National Guard, during Day's promotion ceremony at the American Legion Post 164 in Falmouth on July 13, 2025. Day, of North Yarmouth, serves as the Maine Air National Guard Staff Judge Advocate and was commissioned in 2001 in the Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Corps.

Photo By: Lt. Col., Jeffrey Roosevelt



Maine National Guard JAG Promoted to Colonel: Col. Thaddeus V. Day, second from right, stands with his children following his promotion ceremony at The American Legion Post 164 in Falmouth on July 13, 2025. Day, of North Yarmouth, serves as the Maine Air National Guard Staff Judge Advocate and was commissioned in 2001 in the Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Corps.

Photo By: Lt. Col., Jeffrey Roosevelt

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 3

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



Lisbon Post/ Squadron 158 Installation of Officers: Top photo, Past Department Commander Tricia Thurston and National Executive Committeeman Alternate Kirk Thurston conduct an installation ceremony at Lisbon Post 158 for the post and squadron leadership. Left to right, Legionnaires 1st Vice Paul Brunelle, 2nd Vice Scot Harrington, Adjutant Brandt McCollett, Trustee Paul Loesbert, Trustee Willie Doyle, Chaplain Larry Hall, Finance



Officer and Historian Eric Cooper, Americanism Heide Baird, Commander and Service Officer James Backman, and Sgt.-at-Arms Erik Eairheart. Not pictured, Trustee Michael Hunter. Bottom photo, left to right, Sons of the American Legion Squadron 158 Commander Randy Ingerson, 2nd Vice Brandt McCollett, Chaplain Ryan Charest, Historian David Blethen. Not pictured, 1st Vice and Finance Officer Dennis Pratt, Adjutant Vaughn Simard, and Sgt.-at-Arms David Pomelow.

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



Installation Opening Ceremonies: Left photo, after having just returned from Honor Flight Maine, District 5 Commander Randall Jack

opens the meeting portion, surrendering the podium to his traveling companion, Installing Officer and Auxiliary Department President, Linda Jack, who will install Unit 24 officers. Right photo, the Installing Chaplain, Susan Vacca, offers a prayer.



Rumford Unit 24 Officer Installation: Left to right, Installing Officer and Auxiliary Department President Linda Jack, Unit 24 Immediate Past President Brenda James, Unit Vice President Ruth Lucy Clappison, Unit President Rowena Nichols, Unit Executive Committee Member Bertha Kelley, Unit Chaplain April Jamison, Unit Historian Lynn McAloney, Unit Treasurer Darlene Whitaker, Executive Committee Member and Past Department Commander Tricia Thurston, Auxiliary Department Public Relations Chair Carol Roach, and Installing Sgt.-at-Arms/Chaplain, Locke Mills Unit 68 member, and Department Representative to the South Paris Veterans' Home Susan Vacca.



Rumford Post 24 Officer Installation: Left to right, Installing Officer and National Executive Committeeman Alternate (NECA) Kirk Thurston, Post 24 Adjutant Randal Canwell, Post Finance Officer Paul Parent, Post Chaplain Bill McAloney, Post Executive Committee Nick Kelley, Post 2nd Vice Emile Pelletier, Post Commander Ed Perry, and Installing Sgt.-at-Arms/Chaplain, Executive Committee member, and Past Department Commander Tricia Thurston.



District 5 Officer Installation: Following Rumford Post 24 Officer Installation, the Legion installing suite continued with the installation of District 5 Elected Officers. Left to right, Installing Officer and NECA Kirk Thurston, District 5 1st Vice and Buckfield Post 58 member Gloria Hall, District 5 2nd Vice and Post 58 member James Lowell, District 5 Historian and Locke Mills Post 68 member Harry G. Orcutt, incoming District 5 Adjutant Randal Canwell, District 5 Commander and West Paris Post 151 member Randall Jack, District 5 Sgt.-at-Arms and Oxford Post 112 member Dale Denbow, District 5 Chaplain and South Paris Post 72 member Teresa Drag, and Installing Sgt.-at-Arms/Chaplain and Past Department Commander Tricia Thurston.



Installation Ceremony Buffet: The buffet supper tables at the District 5 and Post and Unit 24 Officer Installation Ceremonies provided choices of savory dishes, for which Rumford Post 24 is justly recognized.

Photos submitted by
Locke Mills Post 68 1st Vice Commander, Harry G. Orcutt

2nd Annual Vietnam Era Veterans Appreciation Luncheon—Welcome Home at Last

One of life's many vagaries is and regretted it immensely when both choosing among the activities one of my fellow Jackson-Silver Post 68 is invited to attend. Last year, for some members who did attend informed me is reason that can no longer be recalled, what a wonderful experience it had I missed attending the first Vietnam been for them. I vowed that if there Era Veterans Appreciation Luncheon

[More on "LUNCHEON" Page 22](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 5 continued

■ "LUNCHEON" (Continued from Page 21)

were another opportunity, I would not miss out again.

True to the tradition that Past Department Commander Tricia Thurston inaugurated with the Women Veterans Appreciation Luncheon, which became an annual event, there was indeed a 2nd Annual Vietnam Era Veterans Luncheon. If it becomes as popular as her Women Veterans endeavor, I expect that other posts in New England's largest state will make it possible for their local, eligible veterans to enjoy a similar experience at a post nearer to home.

As with many concepts that become staples within The American Legion at large, and the Department of Maine in particular, the organization and execution of any veteran support activity is dependent upon a post's dedication and cooperation between its members and those of other Legion Family—the Auxiliary, and if they host them, the Sons of the American Legion Squadrons, and Legion Rider Chapters. The Legion Family at Napoleon Ouellete Post 24 in Rumford has

perfected the requisite drill to conduct such an event, and, by the way, their kitchen crew produces meals that are Michelin-star-worthy.

The event was attended by eligible veterans, some accompanied by their spouses, with approximately 60 guests in attendance. Very grateful for the experience, I am Post 68's 1st Vice Harry G. Orcutt.

Before leaving with Tim Twitchell to attend the event, my wife, having read the event flyer, recommended that I take advantage of getting my hair shorn, which was first on my agenda. While Kelly Deroche cut my hair, Bruce Farrin, staff writer-photographer of the Lewiston Sun Journal, took a photo, similar to the one of Randy Chaisson and Al Williams seen below, and interviewed me on what the event meant to me. I consider it one of the best photos ever taken of me. The photo and my comments appeared in the March 9 edition of the Lewiston Sun Journal. The curious may apprise themselves of the article by visiting: <https://www.sunjournal.com/2026/03/09/vietnam-era-veterans-honored-in-rumford/>.

By Locke Mills Post 68 1st Vice Commander,
Harry G. Orcutt



Welcoming Veterans to the 2nd Annual Vietnam Era Veterans Appreciation Luncheon at the greeting and sign in table in the Rumford Post 24 hall entrance are Val Scott and Rowena Nichols.



Banquet Offerings: Left photo, hors d'oeuvres are served before the banquet. Right photo, a chocolate and vanilla cake was provided by Thibault's Remembrance Center.



Honor Flight Maine: Lisbon Auxiliary Unit 158 member, Gail Marcouillier, answers inquiries regarding Honor Flight Maine during the Vietnam Era Veterans Appreciation Luncheon.



Table Talk: At one of the lucky tables, left to right, Locke Mills Post 68 Chaplain Timothy Twitchell, Post 68 Sgt.-at-Arms Al Lake, and Buckfield Post 58 Commander James Lowell converse, while, at far right at the bar, Post 58 Adjutant Gloria Hall gathers orange juice and champagne cocktails for the table.



Luncheon Happenings: Top photo, the raffle ticket table at the Vietnam Veterans Appreciation Luncheon is managed by Kaci McPherson and Lynn McAloney. Prizes to be won are displayed on tables behind them. Bottom photo, Heidi Pepin of Rumford with Randy Chaisson, and Kelly Deroche of Dixfield with Al Williams, provide superb hair grooming at the luncheon.

Opening Ceremony: Rumford Post 24 Chaplain William McAloney begins the program with a benediction, followed by expressing the meaning of the national banner and the Pledge of Allegiance.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 5 continued

■ "LUNCHEON" (Continued from Page 22)



Photo Opportunity: Auxiliary Department Public Relations Chair Carol Roach, left, and Past Department Commander Tricia Thurston, right, take a photo together at the Vietnam Era Veterans Appreciation Luncheon.



Speakers: Top photo, the Vietnam Veterans Appreciation Luncheon event originator and organizer, Past Department Commander Tricia Thurston, proceeds with introductions before the raffle drawing and the presentation of guest gifts, seen on the table behind Tricia. Bottom photo, former Oxford County Sheriff, Wayne Gallant, right, describes his travails when he came home after serving honorably in Vietnam.



A Community Coming Together: Top left photo, Cub Scout Pack and Troop 580 serve the lunch and desserts at the Vietnam Veterans Appreciation Luncheon. Top right photo, the Scouts serve a garden salad with a choice of dressing to luncheon attendees. The following entrée consisted of maple bacon-wrapped pork loin, vegetable medley, and mashed potatoes. The meal was topped off with cake for dessert. Bottom photo, Past Department Commander Randall Kluj, far left, is seated near the veterans service organizations' information tables, along with Dixfield Post 100 member Charlie Green at the same table. Seated closest to the camera is Past Androscoggin District 3 Commander and Adjutant of Phillip S. Bryant Memorial Post 111 in Turner, Dale E. Bryant. Phillip S. Bryant Memorial Post 111 was named after Dale's brother, Phillip, who was killed in action in Vietnam. Dale attended with his wife, Gloria, and they sat at the "Lucky Table." Two volunteers seated way back at the Honor Flight Maine table deserving of mention are: Deana Macomber (in the yellow jersey) and Velvet Veilleux, seated next to Deana.



Thank You Banquet Kitchen Aficionados: Left to right, Randy Deroche, Past Department Commander Kirk Thurston, Keith Bickford, Joanne Chapman, Donna Chassin, Pam Marcelino, and Sue Richards.

Rumford Post 24 Hosts 2nd Annual Vietnam Era Veterans Luncheon

It was a truly amazing day at Rumford Post 24 for our 2nd Annual Vietnam Era Veterans Luncheon, with 50 veterans and guests in attendance. We honored all veterans who served during the Vietnam era, no matter where, because they all went where they were ordered to go. No matter where they were sent, they were all mistreated horribly when they came home. Today, as in past years, we honored their service and their sacrifices to our country.

The Rumford American Legion Post 24, Auxiliary Unit 24, and Sons of The American Legion Squadron 24 volunteers came together to create an amazing day for our veterans. We could not do it without our Cub Scout Pack 580 and Troop 580. We thank Kelly D. and

Heidi P. for providing haircuts, and those who provided resources at this event. As always, we thank the Department of Maine Auxiliary public relations chairperson for always supporting by decorating the hall and taking amazing pictures to document the day's events.

Thank you to all those who have supported this event, in more ways than you can imagine. From the time, gifts, and all donations, we could not do this without your community and member support.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart and to our Vietnam-era veterans I want to say thank you for your service, for your sacrifices, and welcome home!

By Past Department Commander, Patricia "Tricia" Thurston



2nd Annual Vietnam Era Veterans Luncheon is held at Rumford Post 24 on March 8. A group photo is taken of attendees and guests.



Cub Scouts Serve Lunch: Cub Scout Pack 580 and Troop 580 help serve lunch at the Vietnam Era Veterans Luncheon.

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 5 continued

■ "LUNCHEON" (Continued from Page 23)



Cake Is Served to attendees at the Vietnam Era Veterans Luncheon.

12th Annual Women Veterans Luncheon at Rumford Post 24

American Legion Post 24 in Rumford held its 12th Annual Women Veterans Luncheon on Nov. 15, 2025. It was well attended, with 63 veterans coming from all over the state of Maine for this event. We may come from all walks of life, but everyone comes for a day to connect with others who have served and enjoy the camaraderie some of us still miss when we leave military service. For some it may be their first year of attending, and for others it may be their 12th year.

Attendees enjoyed a morning of visiting with one another, did a take-home item that each person created as a memory of the current year, enjoyed a reiki session, sought out provided resources, and enjoyed a sit-down meal prepared by our American Legion Family members, served by our local Scouts and their leaders. Teresa Drag from Quilts of Valor attended and presented quilts to three deserving veterans. It was an honor to help wrap these veterans in their quilts. All in all, the event is a day of camaraderie, fun, and empowerment.

There are so many to thank when it comes to this event! I want to personally thank our amazing American Legion Family members of Rumford Post, Unit and Squadron 24. Without them, this event would not be done year after year. From setting up the hall to breaking it all down, they were there to support in any way they could. I thank our American Legion Department of Maine's Women Veterans Advisory Committee

for attending and for their support. We thank our local Scouts and their leaders for supporting throughout the day with serving, presenting thank-you cards, and delivering gifts to our veterans. Thank you to our local businesses, individuals, and those from other Maine American Legion Families who supported with gifts for our women veterans. Thank you, Birdie Rocray and Doreen Madore, for providing reiki to our veterans. Thank you to our local Western Maine Witches on the Water for once again coming to perform for us. Thank you, Department Auxiliary PR Chair Carol Roach, for capturing so many wonderful moments throughout the day. Thank you, Department and Post 24 Historian Louie Marin, for the morning visit and for taking a few of the morning photos. A special thank you to our Department of Maine Auxiliary President, Linda Jack, and her husband, Randy, for attending and spending the day with us.

It truly takes a village to make this event happen year after year. We are exhausted when it is over, but we know how very important it is that we continue to hold this event, as well as other women-veteran gatherings held by other American Legion Families throughout the state. Until next year, I say thank you from the bottom of my heart for all that was accomplished this year, and I thank all veterans for their service and sacrifices.

Submitted by Past Department Commander and Women Veterans Advisory Committee Chair, Patricia "Tricia" Thurston



Women Veterans Luncheon: Attendees take a group photo at the 12th Annual Women Veterans Luncheon, held at Rumford Post 24 on Nov. 15, 2025.

The Music That Heals – Guitars for Vets

According to their website, the Bangor Chapter of Guitars for Vets, the first in Maine, was up and running on July 23, 2018. Founded in Milwaukee, Wisconsin at a VA Center in 2007, it has expanded to over approximately 110 Chapters nationwide. As articulated in a VA precis explaining the program:

The G4V guitar instruction program can help Veterans working through physical injuries, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other forms of emotional distress. Music therapy is an evidence-based clinical treatment designed to help Veterans through Veterans' communication, coordination and interpersonal skills. Program founder Patrick Nettesheim also developed the G4V "four-way path," which consists of Patience, Acceptance, Gratitude and Empathy (PAGE). These are the guiding principles used throughout the program.

The G4V program starts with a 10-week instruction period. During this time Veterans are given one-on-one

individualized lessons. They promote teaching the music that appeals to the student and works at the students' pace. After completing the lessons, the graduation process involves receiving a free acoustic guitar and guitar accessory kit. The next step is to continue practicing and learning. Each month there are group sessions organized by one of the 110 chapters and growing. The group sessions develop a community of fellow Veterans and guitarists. To date, GV4 has provided over 4,000 guitars to Veterans.

Enrollment in G4V requires a referral from a case or social worker to a local VA office that offers a G4V program. G4V does not control admission into the program. To find a local chapter they offer a locator tool on their site: <https://guitars4vets.org/about-us/find-a-chapter/>.

A new chapter was created out of the Rumford VA Clinic, in collaboration with Napoleon Ouellette Post 24, where the Auxiliary Unit raised funds to provide graduates with their free guitar and accessory kit.

Guitars For Vets: Graduates of the 10-week instruction program are provided with a free acoustic guitar and accessory kit to continue their practice.



Rumford Unit 24 President's Project: Top photo, Rumford Unit 24 President Brenda James presents a history of the origination of the Rumford Guitars for Vets program, which was her President's Project, with Unit 24's involvement from its inception. Bottom photo, left to right, instructor Sam Laskey with student Jason Provancher, student Omer Demers with instructor Bill McAloney, and instructor Dennis Moro with student Adam Perreault.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 5 continued



Guitars For Vets Instructors & Graduates: Rumford Auxiliary Unit 24 takes a photo with the first class of instructors and graduating veterans.



Banquet: Top left photo, Unit 24 laid out a sumptuous spread for the Guitars for Vets graduation banquet. Top right photo, the graduation cake made for graduates. Bottom photo, attendees enjoy the banquet.



Guitars For Vets Concert: Guitars for Vets Bangor provides a country-folk concert, with some songs of their own composition. Left to right, Jeremy Reed, Nick Wood, Robert Thibodeau, and Scott Colman, joined by Dennis Moro.



Locke Mills Post 68

Four Chaplains Plus One Ceremonies

Every first Sunday in February, members of Jackson Silver Post and Unit 68, of Locke Mills, conduct their annual Four Chaplains Plus One Ceremony at the local Locke Mills Union Church. The ceremony is broadcast via the church Facebook account, where it is viewed as it streams, or is available after, and is usually viewed by an audience of more than 100. There are up to eight parts of the ceremony, beginning with reciting the events of the night of Feb. 3, 1943, which begin five minutes before 01:00 hours aboard the U.S. Army Transport *USAT Dorchester*,

sailing in the frigid waters of the North Atlantic between Newfoundland and Greenland. The German submarine U-223 spots the ship carrying 902 U.S. troops, merchant seamen, and civilian workers. The *Dorchester*, one of three ships in the SG-19 convoy, was moving steadily across the icy waters from Newfoundland toward a U.S. base in Greenland. Coast Guard cutters *Tampa*, *Escanaba*, and *Comanche* escorted the convoy.

The U-Boat fired a spread of three torpedoes. The one that hit was decisive and deadly, striking the starboard side, amidship, far below the water line. In

the resulting chaos aboard the ship, four Army Chaplains gave up their own life jackets to the next four soldiers waiting in line after the supply of life jackets ran out. In doing so, they knowingly gave up their own chance of survival, and as the ship quickly sank, they were observed standing together praying and singing. It is in their memory that Legion members and Auxiliary gather in religious services to honor the memory of their sacrifice. As stated in John 15:13: *Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.*

As the ceremony progresses, first a prayer in their memory is offered, followed by a reading of the lives of each of the Chaplains, Lt. George L. Fox, a Methodist minister; Lt. Alexander D. Goode, a Jewish Rabbi; Lt. John P. Washington, a Roman Catholic priest; and Lt. Clark V. Poling, a Dutch Reformed minister, each part rendered by attending Legion family members. As each Chaplain is honored, a candle is lit, and at the conclusion of his presentation, a single bell is rung.

Following the appearance of a national American Legion magazine article describing the sacrifice of Charles W. David Jr., Coast Guard

Steward's Mate First, an Afro-American who served aboard the Coast Guard Cutter *Comanche*, the post incorporated his story into our annual commemoration, reading his story after those of the Four Chaplains. Steward's Mate First David, Jr., was a recipient of the Navy and Marine Corps medals posthumously, succumbing to pneumonia in hospital, after having jumped into the freezing waters to save numerous soldiers. He too, gave the last full measure of devotion in rescuing his fellow Americans on that fateful night.

At our Sunday service, for one reason or another, only three Legion family members were available to uphold the sacred obligation of presenting the Four Chaplains Plus One Memorial Service. However, it appears we all did a credible job. Days after, Post 68 1st Vice Orcutt, at a physical therapy session, encountered a church member who was no longer physically able to attend church services, but had viewed the service at home. He stated that he had gained from the ceremony an understanding of the cost, that at times, is paid by those who serve to preserve the freedom all other citizens enjoy.

Submitted by Locke Mills Post 68 1st Vice Commander, Harry G. Orcutt



Locke Mills Post 68 Four Chaplains Ceremony: Left to right, Unit 68 Secretary Susan Vacca, Pastor/Unit 68 member Rev. Sondra Withey, Post 68 1st Vice Harry G. Orcutt, and Church Organist Linda Stowell.

Locke Mills Post 68

Cornhole, Reading, and Earning Bikes

Cornhole was brought to The American Legion Jackson-Silver Post 68 in Lockes Mills by recently deceased 2nd Vice Commander Les Bell. These tournaments, enjoyed by guest players from as far away as New Hampshire, are one of the activities that sustain the financial wellbeing of the post. On Sun., March 22, Les' wife Patty, a member of Auxiliary Unit 68, participated in the dedication of a plaque citing his contribution to the post. The plaque was placed over the Unit 68 canteen serving window. The ceremony took place during the first guest non-profit collaborative fundraising effort between the post and Jefferson Masonic Lodge 100 AF & AM, in Bryant Pond. The goal of the

event was to raise funds for the Lodge's local Bikes for Books Program.

The guest non-profit partners with the post to hold a cornhole tournament and agrees to provide the day's prizes. Each guest participant pays an entry fee of \$20, from which the prizes and profits ultimately derive. The normal agreement with the post is that 25% of the realized profits devolve to the post and the guest nonprofit realizes the remaining 75%. However, this was a unique guest tournament, in that one of the Four Pillars, or goals, of The American Legion, is to support children and youth programs. Another is to provide scholarships and financial

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 5 continued

■ "CORNHOLE" (Continued from Page 25)

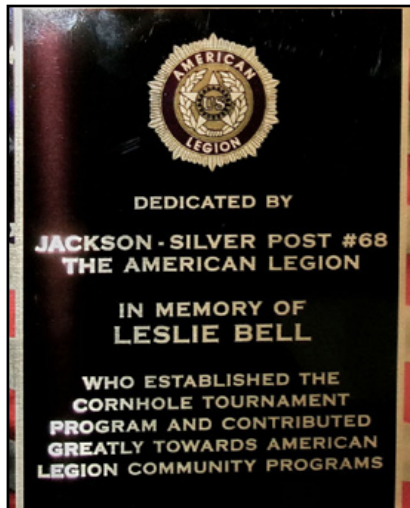
aid, resulting in the Locke Mills Post 68 Executive Committee voting to forego its share of the proceeds. Doubling down on the profits, the Grand Masonic Lodge of Maine AM & FM, through its Charitable Trust, will match the funds raised. All together, this results in more bikes donated in Bryant Pond for local schoolchildren to earn by reading books.

The way the Bikes for Books program works is that students in eligible grade levels get a chance for a bike, depending on how many books they can demonstrate that they have read. The program recognizes that reading, writing, and comprehension are vital life skills for an enriching and productive life. Unfortunately, there is much to be done in this regard. According to 2025 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) data, roughly 26%

of Maine 4th and 8th grade students are proficient or above in reading, meaning approximately 74% currently have fallen behind. This represents a significant decline from 2019 levels. Given that Maine schools are rated 41st in the nation, raising the proficiency of students at all levels in the three "R's" requires significant commitment and dedication of all who care about our future and that of our children.

In this age of the rise of artificial intelligence, the ability to read and to communicate clearly is more crucial than ever to be able to secure one's livelihood and to enjoy a productive life. Bikes for Books is one spoke in the wheel that motivates students to learn to enjoy reading, both in their free time and in any future occupational endeavors. Through programs like this, we can all work toward raising their prospects for success.

By Locke Mills Post 68 1st Vice Commander,
Harry G. Orcutt



Plaque Dedication: Left photo, left to right, Locke Mills Post 68 Sgt.-at-Arms Al Lake, Unit 68 member Patty Bell, and Post Finance Officer Ray Hakala dedicate Les Bell's plaque. Right photo, Les Bell's memorial plaque.



Non-Profit Cornhole Tournament Fundraising Partners: Jefferson Lodge 100 and Bethel Lodge 30 members partner with The American Legion's Locke Mills Post 68 to host a Cornhole Tournament benefiting the Bikes for Books program. Left to right, Scott Withey (100), Gerry Martin (Master of 30), Raymond Hakala (100), Danny Abbott (100 & 30), Jim Bennett (100), and Stephen Hakala (100).



Cornhole Tournament: Left photo, Gerry Martin demonstrates cornhole style in his toss at the Locke Mills Post 68 Cornhole Tournament in partnership with Jefferson Masonic Lodge 100 AF & AM to benefit the Bikes for Books program. Right photo, the competition was spirited, as multiple teams took turns on the floor.

A Semper-Fi Marine Has Entered the Locke Mills Post 68 Post Everlasting

Owen Melville, a 50-year member of Locke Mills Post 68, was proud of his Marine Corps service in the Vietnam War era, and was equally proud of his Penobscot Indigenous American heritage.

As his ancestors in Maine had done for over 13,000 years, he carried on the tradition of defending the land

into which he had been born. To put that heritage in perspective, it should be noted that all of the countries of Northern Europe were not occupied by humans for half that span of time.

Funeral services for Owen Melville were held on Jan. 24 at the Lockes Mills Union Church.



Remembering Owen Melville: Vietnam veteran and 50-year member of Locke Mills Post 68.



Post Everlasting: The last post of Owen Melville. Melville's funeral service was held at the Lockes Mills Union Church on Jan. 24.



Ceremonies: Left photo, the Marine Honor Detail at Owen Melville's funeral service. Center is Owen's friend Command Sergeant Major USMC/USA, Ret. Charie Paul of Honor Flight Maine. Right photo, Presiding Minister and Locke Mills Unit 68 member, Rev. Sondra Withey met with Owen to determine what he wanted in his last rites. He told her that his only wish was that the collation following the service would be both generous and savory. His family and the ladies of the Church provided a banquet worthy of his last wish.



Firing Detail: The Post 68 firing detail performs at the funeral service of post member Owen Melville. Commanded by Harry G. Orcutt, the firing detail stands in the shadow of the church on the ice-covered parking area,

not venturing far from its entrance. Left to right, Sara Pruyne, Tim Twitchell, Don Pruyne, Al Lake, and Harry G. Orcutt.

[More on "POST EVERLASTING" Page 27](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 5 continued

■ "POST EVERLASTING" (Continued from Page 26)

Flag Folding Ceremony: The Marine Corps detail performs the folding of the flag ceremony before presenting the Colors to Owen Melville's family.



Wreaths Across America Ceremony: Damariscotta Post 42 holds a Wreaths Across America Ceremony in Walpole on Dec. 13., 2025. Post

42 Commander Ryan Coffin led the ceremony at 12:00 p.m., with eight members laying a wreath down for each service branch.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 8

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

District 8 Shows Appreciation for First Responders

District 8, Corey E. Garver American Legion Post 202 in Topsham, and Scouts from Troop 202 hosted their annual First Responder's Breakfast on April 11.

Boy Scouts, together with their Troop Leaders, prepared a breakfast of bacon, eggs, pancakes, and fruit for first responders of District 8.

In addition to breakfast, Post 202 Adjutant, Dawn Ogles, presented Certificates of Appreciation to nominated first responders: Topsham Fire Fighter David Holowak, Topsham Police Officer Madison Sampson, Bath Police Detective Sergeant Rick Ross, and Brunswick Police Officer Paige

Michaud.

Officer Michaud is doubly recognized for saving the life of a member of Brunswick Post 20, who fell, hit his head, and was found by Officer Michaud, disoriented and suffering from hypothermia. Without her intuition that something was wrong, and her swift attention to helping him, a brother would have been lost to the cold weather. This is just one example of what our first responders do for us every day.

Thank you to everyone who helped us recognize these brave men and women who serve and protect us!



Responder's Breakfast. Left to right, David Holowak, Madison Sampson, Rick Ross, and Paige Michaud.

Certificates Of Appreciation: First Responders are thanked for their service to the community and presented with Certificates of Appreciation by Sagadahoc District 8, Topsham Post 202, and Scouts Troop 202 at the annual First



Scout Troop 202 assists with hosting the annual First Responders Breakfast held at Topsham Post 202 on April 11.

[More on "FIRST RESPONDERS" Page 28](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 7

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



Damariscotta Post 42 Remembers Late WWII Veteran: On July 8, 2025 Post 42 lost its last WWII veteran, Frank King. He lived 97 years and was married to his wife Barbara for 70 years. He was the grandfather of Post 42 Commander Ryan Coffin. Frank served in the U.S. Navy and was also a volunteer firefighter in New Jersey after his military service. He is missed by everyone here at Post 42—our thoughts are still with his family and loved ones. Petty Officer King, you have rejoined your fleet. Fair winds and following seas.



Post 42 Kickball Tournament: Damariscotta Post 42 raises over \$4,000 for the 2025-26 Commander's Project, Embers Paws of Hope, at a Kickball Tournament on Aug. 16, 2025.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 8 continued

"FIRST RESPONDERS" (Continued from Page 27)



Annual First Responders Breakfast: Left photo, Topsham Post 202 Adjutant Dawn Olges presents Certificates of Appreciation to local first responders. Bottom right photo, "Officer" Garver, the Topsham Police Department therapy dog, provides comfort and companionship to those attending the breakfast.



Phippsburg Post 216 Award: Post 216 Commander Ken Kellogg, left, presents Comrade Fred Hartman, right, with his Ten-Year Continuous Service Certificate and Pin at the February 2026 meeting.

Photo by Phippsburg Post 216 Adjutant, Mike Young

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 9

Augusta Post 2; Gardiner Post 4; Waterville Post 5; Hallowell Post 6; Winthrop Post 40; Oakland Post 51; Togus Post 90; Vassalboro Post 126; Richmond Post 132; So. China Post 179; Litchfield Post 181; Clinton Post 186; China Post 195; Monmouth Post 204; Augusta Post 205



Augusta Post 2 Officer Installation: Officers are installed at Augusta Post 2 on Sunday, April 26. Left to right, Post Commander William Hooley, Installing Chaplain Robert Jordan, and Installing Officer and Past National Commander Anthony "Tony" Jordan.



American Legion Riders (ALR) Chapter 51 Donation: ALR Chapter 51 in Oakland presents a check of \$1,000 to Sabra Hayden for the Hospice Volunteers of Waterville Area on April 13. This is a great cause; they help so many people with comfort. The Hospice Volunteers of Waterville Area provides non-medical support to individuals and their families during the last phases of life, and support to loved ones throughout the grieving process, along with educating the community regarding issues related to death and grieving. If you would like to see more information, check out their website, <https://www.hvwa.org>. Back row, left to right, Randy Goldrup, Lee Poulin, Wally McKenney, Nick Leavitt, ALR Chapter 51 Secretary Megan Bragdon, Lenny St. Pierre, Glenn Giggey, Brianne Pushor, Leslie Corrie, and ALR Chapter 51 Road Cpt. Aaron Stevens. Front row, left to right, Mark Jacques, Post 51 Commander Jeff Flye, ALR Treasurer Dawn Brasil, Sabra Hayden, and ALR Chapter 51 Director Lynn Woodard.

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

The Community Impact of Bucksport Post 93

Our History and Foundation
The American Legion stands as our nation's largest wartime Veterans Service Organization. Incorporated by Congress in 1919, it was established as a patriotic veteran's organization committed to mutual helpfulness. Shortly after, in 1921, Post 93 was founded by Bucksport area veterans who served in World War I and the Grand Army of the Republic (Maine GAR James E. Hall Post 53) from the Civil War.

Commitment to Service – a 501(c)(19) charitable organization

Post 93's commitment shines through decades of service. These veterans, always prioritizing others before themselves, have acted with transparency and accountability. They organized and executed fundraising efforts, constructed, and maintained the Bucksport Area Veterans Memorial, with the help of many community members. Our service has also included plowing driveways, shoveling walkways, rebuilding stairs, stacking firewood, assisting with bill payments, and recently helping veterans retrieve

their service records. Post 93 welcomed The American Legion National Commander during a visit to the post and received laudatory comments from the National Commander and his entourage. They were impressed by our level of energy and commitment to the local community!

Youth Support and Development

Each year, Post 93 proudly sponsors high school juniors to attend Dirigo State. This program is designed to build confidence, leadership, and social skills while simulating a mini, mock-Maine state government.

In 2025, the post continued its tradition of fundraising and support by sending four students to Dirigo State. Modeled after the Maine State government, the camp allows students to create their own town, county, and state governing bodies. The post fundraised for four students in 2024 and fundraised and sponsored six students in 2023.

Building Community and Fellowship

Our Legion hall is an 1800's

[More on "POST 93 IMPACT" Page 29](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

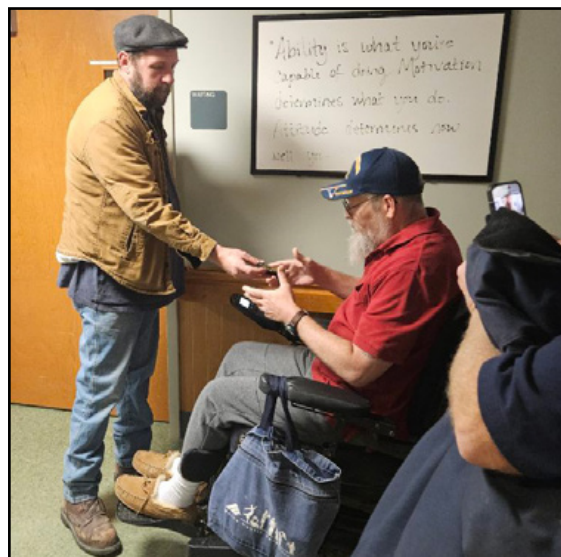
District 12 continued

■ "POST 93 IMPACT" (Continued from Page 28)

two room schoolhouse given to the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Veterans of the Grand Army of the Republic. It's more than just a building; it serves as a gathering place for veterans to connect, share stories, communicate, and collaborate on community initiatives. Here, individuals who have had similar experiences can work together to strengthen our community. We recognize the essential role that family and community play in our lives.

Leading by Example
Many believe that our greatest responsibilities are to our veterans and our children. American Legion Post 93 consistently sets the standard for service to our country and our community. Our long terms goals include executing critical building maintenance and expanding our building usage to allow other community groups access. We look forward to working together with you, building a strong and vibrant community.

By Bucksport Post 93 Commander,
Vince Christinziano



A Thoughtful Gift: Old Town Squadron 75 member Chad Dufflemeyer, along with Isaiah Buxton, Detachment Americanism Officer Llew Buxton, and District 13 1st Vice Commander Roger Gray present Maine Veterans Home resident Seaman Isbister with a replacement USS Seattle Zippo lighter at the annual Christmas shopping and wrapping party on Dec. 6.

Bucksport Post 93 Matching Gift Challenge

Your Gift Goes Twice as Far for Bucksport and Local Veterans

Matching gift challenge! From Feb. 1 through Memorial Day 2026, every dollar you give to the Bucksport American Legion Post 93 will be matched, dollar for dollar, up to \$10,000, by a private foundation.

These funds help local veterans with emergency needs, honor guard services, critical building improvements, youth services via Dirigo State, and community programs right here in Bucksport.

Once the \$10,000 match is met, the matching funds are gone.

Please give while the match is still available. Be the one! Better together!

American Legion Post 93

P.O. Box 223

Bucksport, ME 04416

Physical location: 58 Elm Street,
Bucksport, ME 04416

Commander: Vincent Christinziano

Email: amlegpost93@gmail.com

207-467-0143

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 13

Bangor Post 12; E Millinocket Post 13; Corinna Post 73; Old Town Post 75; Lincoln Post 77; Millinocket Post 80; Orono Post 84; Howland Post 97; Brewer Post 98; Newport Post 105; Etna-Carmel Post 107; Corinth Post 115; Lee Post 160; Herman Post 200; Dixmont Post 201; Glenburn Post 211; Hampden Post 213

Shared History Leads to Heartfelt Gift for Maine Veterans Home Resident

A simple conversation at the Tedd-Lait Post 75 (Old Town) Hunter's Breakfast turned into a touching story of connection and gratitude between two members of The American Legion Family. Maine Veterans Home resident Seaman William Isbister, who served aboard the USS Seattle, met Sons of the American Legion (SAL) member Chad Dufflemeyer, who was a pipefitter that worked on the USS Seattle during a retrofitting in Dry Dock.

During their discussion, Seaman Isbister recalled a cherished Zippo lighter bearing the ship's name that he had lost years ago. Moved by the story, Dufflemeyer shared that he once owned the same style of lighter. Inspired by this bond, Dufflemeyer brought the

idea to the next Tedd-Lait Squadron meeting, where members unanimously agreed to replace the lighter as a gesture of respect and remembrance.

On Dec. 6, during the annual Christmas shopping and wrapping party at the Maine Veterans Home in Bangor, squadron members Chad Dufflemeyer, Isaiah Buxton, Detachment Americanism Officer Llew Buxton, and District 13 1st Vice Commander Roger Gray presented Seaman Isbister with a replacement Zippo lighter. The presentation was met with smiles and heartfelt appreciation, underscoring the enduring mission of The American Legion Family: honoring service and building bonds that span generations.



Newport Post 105 Past Commander Wall: Fawn Mattson has been hard at work finding all of the Post 105 past commanders' pictures. After much research and tracing down people, sometimes for generations, she placed the final missing picture on the commanders wall! Awesome job, Fawn, and thank you for your hard work! Small plaques with all of their names and dates of command will be installed soon.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 14

Dover-Foxcroft Post 29; Milo Post 41; Dexter Post 53; Brownville Post 92; Greenville Post 94; Monson Post 116; Guilford Post 119; Sangerville Post 165



Vietnam Veterans Dinner: Dexter Post 53 hosted a Vietnam Veterans Dinner on Vietnam Veterans Day, March 29. Dinner was served from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m., open to all Vietnam veterans. Post 53 advertised the dinner in the local paper and served about twenty Vietnam veterans from multiple area towns.

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.



2026 Honor Flight Dates: Flights are all charter flights on Allegiant:

- April 10-12 Portland Jetport
- May 29-31 Bangor Int'l Airport
- Sept 18-20 Portland Jetport
- Oct 16-18 Bangor Int'l Airport

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

Myllegion.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.



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



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 wvacmaine@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:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/8292938890734210>



Past Commander's Club Reminder!

Please remember to submit your Past Commander's Club dues to cover the James V. Day Scholarship! If you haven't paid your Past Commanders Club dues yet, please do so today!

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



**PAST
COMMANDERS
CLUB**

CHANGE OF ADDRESS CARD

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

Member's Name _____

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

Town/City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

Town/City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Remarks _____

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

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 5 – Waterville	Arthur W Berard	Korea	Post 105 – Newport	Adam Perkins Robinson	Other
Post 5 – Waterville	Ronald J Gilbert	Vietnam	Post 107 – Etna-Carmel	Alan W Thibodeau	Vietnam
Post 6 – Hallowell	Richard Hayes	Persian Gulf	Post 111 – Turner	Gilbert Begin	Vietnam
Post 6 – Hallowell	Terrence McCabe, Sr.	Other	Post 118 – Mars Hill	Max R Parks	Vietnam
Post 9 – Machias	Dwight C Whitney Sr	WWII	Post 123 – Kezar Falls	Walter Novak	Korea
Post 12 – Bangor	Gary Spaulding	Vietnam	Post 123 – Kezar Falls	Billy McDowell	Vietnam
Post 15 – Caribou	Wilbur G Labbe	Korea	Post 123 – Kezar Falls	William Johnson	Vietnam
Post 15 – Caribou	Donald O McGraw	Vietnam	Post 132 – Richmond	John W Ottum	Vietnam
Post 15 – Caribou	Wade S Monti	Vietnam	Post 132 – Richmond	James L Babb	Vietnam
Post 15 – Caribou	John D Pelletier	Korea	Post 132 – Richmond	Richard B Gordon	Vietnam
Post 16 – Skowhegan	Leon T Leathers	Vietnam	Post 133 – Fort Kent	Warren E Harvey	Vietnam
Post 19 – Sanford	Deryl F Kitchen	Vietnam	Post 133 – Fort Kent	Roger Deschaine	Korea
Post 20 – Brunswick	Marcel C Theberge	Vietnam	Post 133 – Fort Kent	Paul J Lagasse	Vietnam
Post 20 – Brunswick	Terrence L Lewis	Vietnam	Post 133 – Fort Kent	Raymond A Bouchard	Korea
Post 23 – Baileyville	Douglas B Sadler	Persian Gulf	Post 136 – Stockholm	Carl W Carlson	Korea
Post 23 – Baileyville	Gary S Kneeland	Vietnam	Post 139 – Harrison	James I Allen Jr	Vietnam
Post 23 – Baileyville	Richard H Diadone	Persian Gulf	Post 141 – Hartland	Robert E Hodgkins Jr.	Vietnam
Post 24 – Rumford	Willard Shurtleff	Vietnam	Post 148 – Windham	Jerome “Jerry” Black	Korea
Post 24 – Rumford	Leland S Mingo	Vietnam	Post 148 – Windham	Elliot “Bud” Billings	Vietnam
Post 24 – Rumford	Allen R Gurney	WWII	Post 148 – Windham	Kevin Ronan	Persian Gulf
Post 24 – Rumford	Antonio Desalle	WWII	Post 150 – Mechanic Falls	Ivan R Fifield	Unknown
Post 28 – Farmington	Carroll E Melville	Korea	Post 153 – Auburn	Ralph Asselin	WWII
Post 28 – Farmington	Gareld L McPherson	Vietnam	Post 163 – Palermo	Gary D Crane	Lebanon/Grenada
Post 29 – Dover-Foxcroft	Harlan Spaulding	WWII	Post 168 – Portland	Gregory A Smith	Vietnam
Post 30 – Camden	Claire Fields	Vietnam	Post 171 – Harpswell	Merwin L Chipman	Korea
Post 34 – St. George	Kenneth Grey	Unknown	Post 172 – Vanceboro	Richard Monk	Vietnam
Post 34 – St. George	E John Moulis	WWII	Post 178 – Winslow	Daniel J Seely	Vietnam
Post 35 – South Portland	Robert M Kelley	Korea	Post 178 – Winslow	Edward C Foley Jr.	Vietnam
Post 28 – Farmington	Carroll E Melville	Korea	Post 178 – Winslow	Mark Shedd	Vietnam
Post 39 – Madison	Robert Christen	Vietnam	Post 178 – Winslow	Herbert L Hamblen	WWII
Post 40 – Winthrop	Gregory P Ruby	Vietnam	Post 178 – Winslow	Stanley S Caban Jr.	Vietnam
Post 50 – Unity	Bruce D Maurer	Panama/Vietnam	Post 178 – Winslow	George Alex McPherson Jr.	Vietnam
Post 74 – Kennebunk	Raymond Ingalls	Vietnam	Post 178 – Winslow	Rosario Michaud	Vietnam
Post 76 – Scarborough	Thomas F Wiley	Vietnam	Post 178 – Winslow	John F Rothstein	Vietnam
Post 76 – Scarborough	Clement F Gagnon	Vietnam/Other	Post 178 – Winslow	James S Greenlaw	Korea
Post 77 – Lincoln	Robert Delancy Sr.	Vietnam	Post 178 – Winslow	Gary F Hearnin	Vietnam
Post 79 – Berwick	Richard D Moore	Vietnam	Post 178 – Winslow	Dennis F Burkett	Vietnam
Post 81 – Bethel	Donald E Feeney	Vietnam	Post 178 – Winslow	Dale Webb	Vietnam
Post 84 – Orono	Dennis J. Whitmore Sr.	Vietnam	Post 178 – Winslow	Joel F Bowie	Vietnam
Post 96 – Saco	John R Hooper	Korea	Post 183 – Brooks	Stephen G Hall	Vietnam
Post 98 – Brewer	Ronald L Hanson	Korea	Post 188 – Eliot	William D Tappan	Vietnam
Post 98 – Brewer	William Walker	Korea	Post 188 – Eliot	Richard Bicknell	WWII
Post 102 – Stonington	Stephen F Goss	Vietnam	Post 201 – Dixmont	George J Trueman	Vietnam
Post 103 – NE Harbor	Bruce E Damon	Vietnam	Post 202 – Topsham	Harold T Sawyer	Vietnam

MEMORIAL DAY
REMEMBER & HONOR



Attention: Next Deadline is July 17

The deadline for material, stories and/or pictures to be submitted for consideration for use in the **August 2026** issue of The Maine Legionnaire will be **July 17, 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

NON PROFIT
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U.S. POSTAGE
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PERMIT NO. 454

THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY



JOIN THE CELEBRATION!

10:00 AM: Meet at the parade staging area at the town cemetery on Dwight Street.

11:00 AM: Parade Kick-Off

NOON: Head to WILLIAMS-BRAZIER American Legion Post 37 (10 Wendell Street-Thomaston)

2:00 PM: Afterparty at WINSLOW-HOLBROOK-MERRITT American Legion Post 1-Rockland (335 Limerock)

**OPEN INVITE TO LEGIONNAIRES, AUXILIARY AND SONS
LET'S HONOR OUR NATION TOGETHER!**

FMI-email Jason@mainelegion.org



2026 State Oratorical Winner

Corey Brackett of Raymond, Maine, and a senior at Windham High School, receives 1st-place awards from State Commander Leroy McKenzie at the State Oratorical Competition held Feb. 14 at Thomas College in Waterville. Corey represented District 2 and Windham Post 148, winning \$1,500. In May, she will travel to Michigan to represent Maine in the National Finals for a chance to win up to \$25,000.



Congratulations: The American Legion Department of Maine would like to congratulate all contestants who competed in this year's competition. Left to right, Paige Harvill – 5th place, representing District 1 and Porter Post 123, Lily Rush – 4th place, representing District 16 and Houlton Post 47, Corey Brackett – 1st place, representing District 2 and Windham Post 148, Julia Deitrick – 2nd place, representing District 7 and Damariscotta Post 42, and Paloma Killoran – 3rd place, representing District 10 and Pittsfield Post 32. Judging this year's Oratorical competition, left to right, Kirk Schaub, Sean Currie, Past Department Commander Debra Couture, National Executive Committeeman Alternate Kirk Thurston, and Past Department Commander Alfred McKay.

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