

THE MAINE Legionnaire



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OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

AMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF MAINE

32 Pages

LaCoursiere Elected National Commander

James A. LaCoursiere, Jr. (La coursey air) was elected national commander of the nation's largest veterans organization on Aug. 29 in New Orleans, during The American Legion's 105th national convention.

An Air Force veteran, LaCoursiere has been a longtime field representative for The American Legion Department of Connecticut's Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines Fund, which assists veterans and their families.

LaCoursiere has held many leadership positions at The American Legion post, department (state) and national levels. He is a member of American Legion Post 91 in Moosup,



**NATIONAL
COMMANDER
JAMES A.
LACOURSIERE JR.**

Conn. He has also served as a national vice commander, Connecticut state commander, and chairman of the organization's national legislative commission.

LaCoursiere is married to his wife, Lisa, and has two children (Patrick and Meghan), and three stepchildren (Jason, Kaylene and the late Johnathan.)

Born to a military family in Honolulu, LaCoursiere attended Montville High School where he played junior varsity football, varsity football and varsity track.

As national commander, LaCoursiere is strongly committed to raising awareness for The American Legion's "Be the One" efforts to prevent veteran suicide.

www.legion.org/about/leadership/national-commander

Legion Partners with Grouper: Get Paid for Being Socially Active

The American Legion has teamed up with Grouper to support our Legionnaires in a way like never before! This collaboration is designed to get eligible participants, 65 or older, paid for engaging in our community, ensuring you stay healthy and connected.

What Does This Mean for You? Participants with an eligible health plan can get an initial payment of \$50 sent to them for being a part of The American Legion. For each three months of activity after that, Grouper will send \$20, if you stay active and keep Grouper updated on your in-person social activity!

Check Your Eligibility: It's easy! Click here (hellogrouper.com/al) to check your eligibility in just a few simple steps. You'll find out right away if your health plan covers this social benefit.

Is Grouper an Insurance Company? No! Grouper does not

sell insurance. Their mission is to encourage healthy living through activities that build meaningful social connections and shared experiences. They accomplish this by partnering with health plans to pay you for having fun with friends. This program is free to you and The American Legion and we have not shared any of your personal information.

We look forward to sharing more about how this partnership with Grouper is designed to enhance your overall well-being. If you have any immediate questions, feel free to contact Grouper at 833-445-2400.

This partnership offers a healthier, happier future together! Learn more about The American Legion partnership with Grouper here: www.legion.org/information-center/news/newsletters/2024/july/grouper-and-american-legion-partner-to-promote-social-connection-and-health

New Challenge Coin, Lapel Pin Available for Maine Legion Family

The Department of Maine has designed a new Challenge Coin and Lapel Pin for Legion Family Members to collect. All proceeds go towards supporting veterans in the state of Maine.

Coins and Pins can be purchased for \$10 each by clicking here or by scanning the QR code below with your phone.

Coins and Pins may also be purchased by visiting www.mainelegion.org or by sending check or money order to The American Legion

Department of Maine, 5 Verti Drive,

Winslow, ME 04901-0727. For more information, please call 207-873-3229.



Coin Front



Coin Back



Lapel Pin



National Commander Visits The Department Of Maine: National Commander James A. LaCoursiere Jr. visited The American Legion Department of Maine Oct. 14-18 and spoke at several Legion Posts throughout the state. Front row, National Executive Committeeman Lloyd Woods. Back row, left to right, Dept. Judge Advocate Julie Flynn, Dept. Adjutant Jason Hall, National Commander James A. LaCoursiere, Jr., Dept. Commander Patricia "Tricia" Thurston, Dept. Second Vice Joseph Michaud, Past National Commander Anthony "Tony" Jordan, and Dept. Sgt.-at-Arms Ryan Coffin.

Commander's Comments

He l l o
F e l l o w
Legionnaires,

I hope this finds you all warm and well!

I want to start by saying I am a very proud Department of Maine Commander. I see what you are doing out there. Keep up the great work. For those of you who are doing this great work, please remember to share what you are doing. Share it on social media, newsletters, newspapers, The Maine Legionnaire, etc. We are our own best kept secret. When the National Commander visited Maine, this was something he touched upon. Don't stop telling people how wonderful we are and all we do for our veterans, families, and



**PATRICIA
"TRICIA"
THURSTON**

our community. Share away. Here is a list of happenings I have been either able to attend or have read about on social media: continuous membership certificate presentations, Legion, Auxiliary and SAL volunteer recognition suppers, trunk or treats, community suppers and breakfasts, POW/MIA remembrance ceremonies, Veterans Day events, initiation ceremonies, Dirigo suppers to honor our delegates who attend Dirigo, car shows, veterans' funerals, attending Legion events such as Legion Baseball, air shows, holding Women Veterans Luncheons, a birthday celebration for a 100 old veteran, kickball tournaments for Mission Working Dogs, and baseball tournaments for Homeless Veterans. I am sure there are more ideas out there. Remember to share away. The term for the year is "Postified." Don't become this term. Get out there in your communities, get out beyond your walls, and show them what we are all about. We are the

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Commander's Project 2024: Mission Working Dogs

Department Commander Patricia Thurston asks that each Post and Legionnaire support her goal.

Their MISSION

To improve the lives of their community members who are living with a disability by providing them with properly trained service dogs to help them live more independently despite a physical disability and by providing therapy dogs which will bring mental well-being to the people of Maine such as those in nursing homes, hospitals, and schools.

Their VISION

At Mission Working Dogs, we train purpose-bred dogs to aid individuals with disabilities so that the handler can live a life to the fullest and more independently.

Their GOAL

Service dogs can assist those with physical disabilities such as mobility impairments by fetching dropped items, opening doors, and turning on and off lights. They can also help individuals with PTSD by learning to recognize an increase in anxiety, carrying medications, and providing deep pressure therapy to calm or redirect the handler. Dogs working as facility dogs are often trained to recognize a patient's affected side in the case of a stroke and to approach on the side the patient is able to pet with or throw the ball. Patients are able to work on fine motor movements in petting or caring for the dog as well as gross motor skills playing fetch with a dog that's able to bring the ball exactly to where the patient needs, such as on



a side table or directly into their hand, rather than on the ground or trying to play tug with it inappropriately.

Their PLAN

Service dogs are generally trained for approximately two years and undergo a wide range of assessments

on their physical health, temperament, and tasks or skills to make sure they can properly support their handler throughout life.

Their HOPES & DREAMS

Past service dogs from our trainers are helping their handlers live longer and more independent lives. Therapy dogs from their program work in schools providing emotional support, laughter, or even a listening ear for reading programs. Students in behavioral programs have also benefited from becoming "junior handlers" and working on their own patience and compassion while learning to work with the dogs to help others.

If you would like to support Commander Thurston's project, please mail checks to:

**The American Legion Dept. of Maine
Attn: Commander's Project
5 Verti Drive
Winslow, ME 04901-0727**

Please place in the memo line of the check: Commander's Project 2024-2025.

To donate with a Debit or Credit Card, please call 207-873-3229 or visit: www.mainelegion.org and click on the **DONATE** button and *make sure to type "Commander's Project" in the Note section.*

A 'First' Look

He l l o
Legionnaires,

I hope that this letter finds you all well, in good health, and feeling as blessed as I do. It is such an honor and privilege to be serving you all as 1st Vice Commander. I appreciate all the confidence and kind words that you fill me with daily.

For those of you who attended Fall Conference and listened to my membership plan, I am very appreciative. For those of you who were unable to attend, you will find the 2024-2025 Membership Plan link on the Department website at www.mainelegion.org.

I would like to take this opportunity to touch base and highlight a few of the important notes from this year's membership plan. This year, we are going to shift gears a little bit and instead of focusing mainly on gathering new memberships, we are going to focus on retention. While recruiting new members remains incredibly important, learning to take care of the members that we currently have is a priority. If we are taking care of our current members the absolute best we can, then the renewal percent-



**LEROY
MCKENZIE**

ages should reflect that. For example, what are your posts doing to take care of or retain the members it already has? Are you offering events, activities, or programs at the post level that are conducive to the community that your post is in? For example, not that long ago I went into a post and they asked me what everyone always wants to ask, "How do we get younger veterans to join our post?" I told them I have a scenario for them. I am a 45-year-old veteran with a 35-year-old wife, and we have a 5-year-old daughter. We both work full time jobs, and our daughter is highly energetic. Tell me why I should join your post? A Legionnaire stood up and told me that he could answer it. He said, "We have the best post and post activities around. Your family would love it here. We have Bingo on Thursday and Saturday nights, and it's always packed. We have live bands every other Friday night and that too is packed. We have one of the best, fully stocked bars around." I stopped him and said, "I'm sorry but you were losing my interest most of the way, but when you talked about the bar, you really lost me. Why would any of that interest my family? My daughter and my wife would never go, and being a younger married couple, we love doing things together." So, the moral of this story is to make sure your post is doing things that will generate a warm feeling for families wanting to attend. Make sure

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

A 'Second' Look

Greetings, I am honored to be your 2nd Vice Commander this year. It was great to meet and talk to many of you at the Fall Conference at Post 72 in South Paris.



**JOSEPH "JOE"
MICHAUD**

The membership plan was discussed as well as the Commander's Project, Mission Working Dogs. Founder of Mission Working Dogs Christy Gardner trains dogs for veterans with disabilities so they can live life to the fullest and more independently.

Winter is on its way, as evident with the snow flurries in the mountains recently. With that in mind, we need to be proactive with the reports due to the Department. Post Commanders and Adjutants will be receiving the "Annual Post Data Report" from the Department, which is due in April. This is one of four

reports that must be completed and sent to the Department each year.

The Annual Post Data Report shows all post information currently on file at National and Department. Please review and make any necessary changes or corrections and submit them to the Department. The due date for this form will be included in the letter that accompanies this form. The Annual Post Data Report is NOT available online.

Consolidated Post Report (CPR) – There are two ways to submit this form. You can go to the website mylegion.org or submit it by mail using the paper form, which can also be obtained from the Department website. This report is due at National on July 1 and if mailed, it is due to the Department by May 29. The following is information shared on the first page that explains the CPR. The CPR may be the most important and beneficial document the post will complete. The post's information, combined with that of other posts, is used when the National Commander and others testify on

[More on "A 'SECOND' LOOK" Page 7](#)

NEC Update

Hello fellow Legionnaires. This has been a busy time as we completed the 105th National Convention in New Orleans at the end of August, then we had the Fall Meetings along with some committees and commissions meeting, as well as the Department Adjutants and Commanders meeting. During this same time, the National Executive Committee's Subcommittee on Resolutions met and reviewed 23 various resolutions that were referred to the full body of the National Executive Committee for either approval or rejection. All of the presented resolutions were approved. The full resolutions can be found in the digital archive at legion.org (archive.legion.org) in the very near future. We are now planning the visit of the National Commander to our Department of Maine.

The committee members were addressed by the new Auxiliary National President Trish Ward and the new Commander of the Sons Joseph Navarrette. The new National Historian Jennifer Laux announced the history contest results that were chosen earlier. Among the winners named was Camden Post 30's Jeff Sukeforth, winning 3rd place in the Post Yearbook category.

The committee heard a report from PNC Dave Rehbein on the status of three departments experiencing diffi-



LLOYD WOODS

culties—Washington State, Colorado, and District of Columbia. The hope is that they will be back in full operation soon.

Next on the agenda, the committee heard reports from the Marketing Commission, National Security Commission, Media & Communications Commission, Convention Commission, The Americanism Commission, Internal Affairs Commission, Membership & Post Activities Committee, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission, Veterans Employment & Education Commission, Legislative Commission, and the Finance Commission.

The meeting was then called to recess for the day.

On Thursday, the committee was advised of late resolutions, which there were none. This session went by really fast as the majority of business was completed the previous day. A final report was heard from the NEC Subcommittee Committee on Committees, responsible for reporting to the National Commander the recommendations for individuals to be assigned to various positions on the committees or commissions. Only the National Commander has the authority to make such appointments. Subsequent to this, the committee was given a list of canceled Post and/or Squadron Charters. A list of future dates and locations for the National Meetings and Conventions was released.

Also in this edition, and as I promised in my last report, is the report on the 105th National Convention held in New Orleans, LA.

I wish you all the very best of health and happiness today and in the future. May God bless you and your family.



National Convention Banquet: National Executive Committeeman (NEC) Lloyd Woods, right, and his wife Linda, left, enjoy dinner at the National Commander's Banquet on Tues., Aug. 27 at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center.

On the Agenda

NOVEMBER 2024 MEETINGS

District 5 – Oxford: Nov. 20, Bethel Post 81, 7:00 p.m., Refreshments after

DECEMBER 2024 MEETINGS

District 2 – Cumberland: Dec. 8, 2:00 p.m., Maine Military Museum, Tour at Noon, Lunch 1:00 p.m., Bring Toys for Tots

District 5 – Oxford: Dec. 18, Locke Mills Post 68, 7:00 p.m., District Christmas Party

District 9 – Kennebec: Dec. 11, Augusta Post 205, 6:00 p.m.

District 12 – Hancock: Dec. 10, NE Harbor Post 103, Dinner 6:00 p.m., Meeting 7:00 p.m.

JANUARY 2025 MEETINGS

District 3 – Androscoggin: Jan. 20, Mechanic Falls Post 150, 6:30 p.m.

District 5 – Oxford: Jan. 21, S. Paris Post 72, 7:00 p.m., Oratorical Contest, Refreshments After

District 9 – Kennebec: Jan. 8, Augusta Post 2, 6:00 p.m.

FEBRUARY 2025 MEETINGS

District 2 – Cumberland: Feb. 9, Portland Post 17, 2:00 p.m., Lunch at 1:00 p.m., Nomination of Officers

District 3 – Androscoggin: Feb. 17, Lisbon Post 158, 6:30 p.m.

District 5 – Oxford: Feb. 19, Buckfield Post 58, 7:00 p.m., 2025 Nominating Committee

District 9 – Kennebec: Feb. 12, Augusta Maine Veterans Home, 6:00 p.m.

District 14 – Piscataquis: Feb. 15, Dover Post 29, 12:00 p.m. Lunch, 1:00 p.m. Meeting

District 17 – N. Arrostook: Feb. 2, Van Buren Post 49, 12:00 p.m. Meal, Mtg. at 1:00 p.m., Four Chaplains

Updates From the 105th National Convention

The 105th National Convention was held Aug. 23-30 in New Orleans, LA. The Emblem Sales and Exhibit Hall were open to delegates and guests Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, with many different groups offering a huge variety of products and services available to veterans and their families. The Auxiliary held their convention at NOL as well. They started a day earlier than the Legion did and ended earlier as well.

Many of the delegates arrived in New Orleans on Fri., Aug. 23, and some arrived on Thurs., Aug. 22. The Convention Commissions met on Saturday morning through the afternoon with business to handle. On Saturday evening, the Maine delegation went out to supper together for a local cuisine menu. A good meal and comradery were had by all.


On Sun., Aug. 25, the Convention Committees met and discussed various resolutions and other business necessary. Also on Sunday, a memorial service was held for those delegates or attendees who could attend. From all that I have heard, the service was very moving and well conducted. In the afternoon, the delegation held a caucus, and each member who attended a Convention Committee gave a brief report on the meeting they attended.

The World War Memorial conducted a special open availability for any of

the convention delegates who wished to attend. Many of our delegates attended and were very impressed with the many, many displays to view. I don't think everything could be viewed in the short period of time we had. It would take at least 2-3 days to see all the displays there.

On Mon., Aug. 26, the National Executive Committee held its pre-convention meeting discussing any business necessary. One point of business was the designating of the National Executive Committee room at National Headquarters the "John P. 'Jake' Comer National Executive Committee Room," effective immediately. I had the privilege of presenting the complete resolution to the body and making the motion for its adoption. This was a complete surprise to Mr. Comer and really moved him. The Committee also heard reports from the Commission and Convention Committee Chairmen of the various commissions and committees who met on Saturday and Sunday. There were other various meetings and training conducted that were available for any delegates who wished to attend.

On Tues., Aug. 27, the general session of our convention started with a moving opening with Master of Ceremonies, Houston Bernard, a country music artist. Tuesday was full of presen-



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Website: www.mainelegion.org

Tel.: 207-873-3229 **Fax:** 207-872-0501

Email: rachael@mainelegion.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TALDepartmentofMaine

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

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The Adjutant Speaks

Happy November,

By the time you read this, the elections will be over. Timing is everything, but I still want to point out things that are obvious to most members. The American Legion is a nonpolitical, nonpartisan organization that will not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for the promotion of any candidate or party. This includes the wearing of American Legion and Sons of The American Legion apparel when engaged in partisan activities.

This means:

- No Legion Caps at political events or in the media (yes, it happened again this year.) We are not to imply any endorsement by The American Legion.
- An American Legion Post facility can be used to host any candidate, but candidates from all parties must be presented an equal opportunity to use the facility on the same terms and conditions. The Post should cover up or remove emblems, remove Legion flags from the room, and again not imply The American Legion endorses any candidates.
- The American Legion does not support a candidate running for a political office. In Article II, Section 2, of the Constitution of The American Legion, "The American Legion shall be absolutely nonpolitical and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles



**JASON
HALL**

nor for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment." Additionally, the National Charter, approved by Congress, stipulates The American Legion as an organization is nonpolitical. Therefore, The American Legion as an organization is never to help or endorse a candidate. However, you, as a private citizen, and not speaking for the organization, can do whatever is legal and ethical to advance his/her candidacy.

My apologies to the members that hear this rant annually, there are still members out there that don't understand or don't care.

I am happy to announce a few upcoming events. Now is the time to put items on your calendar for 2025:

- Mid-Winter Conference will be at Jeff's Catering in Brewer on Jan. 11, 9:00 a.m. start. The last few years attendance at conferences and (especially at) State Convention has grown. We are going to offer some updates, some incredible guest speakers, and we have a few tricks up our sleeves to keep you on your toes. Hope to see you there.
- High School Oratorical Competition: You should be planning your Post and District competitions. The grand finale is Feb. 8, 2025 at Thomas College.
- Washington Conference is also in February. We have an incredible Legislative Team that will advocate National and State priorities for veterans in person with our Congressional delegation. We are also looking at welcoming the 132nd Maine House of Representatives within the Hall of Flags once they get their feet wet.

- DIRIGO STATE: The program continues to grow and 2025 is no

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

largest Veterans Service Organization that has been advocating for veterans since 1919— we support their families and our communities, and we need to keep proving this.

As we all know, we are nothing without our membership. Remember to reach out to all members, and especially those you have not heard from in a while, by completing your Buddy Checks. Let them know you care by making these calls. You may find they need support with something you can help with. Or you may just "Be The One" to end a veterans suicide. Remember this and don't delay your Buddy Checks, you could save a life. Go to www.legion.org/advocacy/be-the-one/be-the-one-resources-and-media and www.legion.org/advocacy/be-the-one/buddy-check for more information and resources.

The American Legion has formed a new partnership with a company called Grouper. Grouper plans to promote social connection and health for our members. **Legionnaires: Check Your Eligibility For Grouper.** To find out if you qualify for the activity benefit administered by Grouper and to join the social fitness movement, visit www.hellogrouper.com/al. It won't hurt to check it out.

If you are not already signed up for the Grassroots updates and alerts, please do so by visiting the following links: www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/home or www.legion.org/action. You can complete alerts by sending e-letters to representatives and senators every 24 hours. It just takes a few clicks with your mouse to do so. The following information is from Legion.org: The American Legion is a grassroots organization that advocates for veterans, service members, and their families. The American Legion's grassroots efforts include:

- Grassroots Action Center: A platform that connects Legionnaires with members of Congress to discuss legislative issues. The Grassroots Action Center also provides tools to communicate with lawmakers and the media.
- Legislative Division: Promotes The American Legion's positions and recommendations to Congress, the White House, and other federal agencies.
- Legislative Testimony: The American Legion delivers the voice of the veteran to lawmakers.
- Advocacy Toolkit: Provides tools and information for participating in grassroots advocacy.
- Congressional Contact Report Form: A form to share with National Headquarters when engaging with members of Congress or their staff.

The American Legion also encourages local posts to express their views on specific bills through communication such as emails, telephone calls, and letters.

Please remember to support our First Vice Commander, Leroy McKenzie, with

membership this year. He has been doing a great job in keeping everyone up to date with membership totals and expectations for cutoffs for our membership target dates. Please remember to forward these emails to the posts in your district. Remember to always have membership information with you or at your post with contact info on the back, for example, "The Why You Should Belong Pamphlet" is a great resource to use. Please plan to attend a resource fair and provide as much information as possible for membership as well as information on our four pillars and programs.

Our new three-day Maine American Legion College was a success. We received great feedback from those who attended. We know what to tweak for next time and what to continue. I want to personally thank our Judge Advocate and Chair of the Education Committee, Julie Flynn, for her hard and amazing work of revamping the curriculum and providing our three agendas. I thank all those who attended this year. Attendees were a great group of Legion Family members who came to learn more about The American Legion, develop leadership skills, and prepare for leadership roles. Their feedback and willingness to learn in a group environment, giving back by sharing their own experiences, and knowledge was spectacular. Camaraderie at its best! Hopefully many of you will think about attending our next three-day course when it is scheduled.

I hope to see you all at our Mid-Winter conference on Jan. 11, 2025, at Jeff's Catering & Event Center at 15 Littlefield Way in Brewer. Second Vice Commander Joe Michaud and I are working on the agenda and hope to bring you a great conference that is fun and informative.

Please reach out to let me know if there is a special event at your post that you would like me to attend. The ones I have been fortunate enough to attend have been very meaningful and I have enjoyed seeing everyone. You can reach me by text, call, or email and all info is in the directory. Please call the Department if you need the password. I look forward to hearing from you.

I thank each and every one of you who have sent in donations for The American Legion Family's Project, Mission Working Dogs. If you are able to send in a donation, please do so by sending it to the Department and earmark Commander's Project. Your support is appreciated. As I type this, we have 8 months to raise money for Army Veteran Christy Gardner's mission to provide service dogs, therapy, and emotional support dogs to veterans, law enforcement officers, and community members who need comfort and mental well-being.

Until next time, stay safe out there and I will see you on my travels.

Thank you for reading.

Tricia Thurston
Department Commander

■ "ADJUTANT SPEAKS" (Continued from Page 4)

different. Now is the time to start planting the seed in the students' ears. The DIRIGO Chair is already hard at work updating paperwork and the DIRIGO Director has already met with Colby College to secure June dates and prepare the contract. I hope your post and community aren't missing out on this incredible opportunity to attend DIRIGO STATE.

- American Legion Baseball 100th Anniversary: Maine Legion Baseball will be stepping up their game (sorry for the pun, not sorry) in 2025 to celebrate their 100th year. We currently have a growth spurt with a few ambitious teams returning to the league and a few more starting the process of forming teams. We had a great showing at the State Championships with posts in Brewer, Bangor, Etna, Portland, Gray, Newport, and others sending a strong group of volunteers to ensure the events went off without a hitch. It was a blast! In 2025, we hope to see tents at each tournament to promote not just The American Legion, but Sons and Auxiliary too. We want to promote the sport/program and talk to the fans about our Legion Family and the importance of us in communities across America.

- Maine Legion College 2024: Huge success!! Department tested a new format, rather than committing to 3 week-ends annually, the 2024 College was a 3-day crash course. What a fantastic group of graduates. Great conversation, great stories of success, and lifelong networking with Legion Family members in Maine. Department will be gearing up for the next Maine Legion College in April 2025. Some Legion members have already signed up!

- Buddy Checks: Our most sacred responsibility. Veterans and their families need to know they are not alone. They may be isolated from society due to health issues or other conditions. They may be struggling with disability, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, inclement weather, or simple loneliness. Each post usually forms a team and calls each one of their members around Veterans Day and again near The Legion's birthday on Mar. 15. Personally, it was one of the most rewarding experiences for me when I was a Post Commander. I met some incredible people who hadn't been into the post in years. Some needed a hand-up, some wanted to hear from the Commander, some renewed their membership because of one call, and many returned to the post after a hiatus because they had a renewed connection.

- National American Legion Boston Conference will be held Feb. 1, 2025, at the Hyatt Regency Boston Harbor, Boston, MA.

- A robust turnout is expected and open to all Legion members. The agenda includes an engaging day of sessions covering Constitution & By-Laws, Resolutions, and more. Past National Commanders and regional leaders will be present, offering invaluable insights and leadership perspectives throughout the event.

- Early Bird Cost: \$70 (increases to \$80 after the early bird deadline)

- Registration includes facility costs and a meal.

- Department is compiling a list of interested members, email Department Adjutant if you are interested: Jason@mainelegion.org

I hope your upcoming holidays are restful and productive.

Jason Hall
Department Adjutant



Maine Legion College students spent a condensed three days from Oct. 18-20 at Maine American Legion College, held at Department HQ Training Center in Winslow. Students learn valuable leadership skills, Legion history, public outreach and fundraising strategies, community relations, and as a bonus, create a network with fellow students. Front row, left to right, Joe Michaud, Julie Flynn, Amy Price, David Raymond, Steve Quist, Betty Price, Eve Powell, Jacquelin Pollis, Gary Freeman, Steve Gray, Ken Santamore, Steven Luken, Mike Libby, Sheri Clark, Tricia Thurston, and Leroy McKenzie. Back row, left to right, Richard Flynn, Will Price, Tim Cram, Clyde Morrison, Jennifer Bowser-Kimble, Travis Ellsworth, Jessica Little, Stella Trahan, and Tally Brown.

Judge Advocate



JULIE
FLYNN

I would like to take this opportunity to discuss rumors, lies, and gossip.

What is a rumor? A rumor is a piece of information that is spread without any concrete evidence or proof. It is often based on speculation, hearsay, or gossip, and can be either true or false. Rumors can spread quickly and widely, especially in the digital age, and can have serious consequences.

What is a lie? A lie is a statement made with the intention to deceive or mislead. It is a deliberate falsehood that is said to achieve a particular goal or avoid a negative consequence. Lying can be harmful to relationships, trust, and reputation, and it is often considered unethical or immoral.

Gossip is often based on speculation or hearsay and may or may not be true. While it doesn't always involve intentional deception, it can spread misinformation and harm relationships. Essentially, gossip can be seen as a form of rumor.

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

that the events you offer pique the interest of those younger veteran families, if that is the group of veterans you want to target. Always remember, what works at one post doesn't mean it will work at every post. Each post is different, and you should be factoring in your community's wants and needs when deciding what events, programs, and activities your post has to offer.

I want to thank you all for all your hard work—it DOES NOT go unnoticed. With that said, I want to remind you all about the District Membership Contest we are having. For the highest overall district membership percentage, there will be an award of \$500 and bragging rights for the year and second highest will receive \$250. Also, for the district with the highest renewal percentage, \$500 and bragging rights will be awarded to 1st place and \$250 to 2nd place. The contest will go on until 30 days prior to the 2025 National Convention. Have fun and good luck!

Remember to keep doing your Buddy Checks and please don't make them about membership. Take the time to check in on each other and find out what's going on in each other's lives. You may be surprised to know that a

We are all members of The American Legion and members of a post. It's important to know rumors, lies, and gossip can have a devastating affect to the operations of a post. Many issues dealt with in a post begin with rumors, lies, or gossip.

Of course, all posts have their personality differences which lead to misunderstandings. The most direct way of dealing with this is through encouraging open and honest communication among your members. Fostering an atmosphere of understanding and respect is imperative to a healthy post.

As Legionnaires, it is our responsibility to call out rumors and lies or gossip when you hear them. We all know a rumor or lie can run through a post with lightning speed.

What can we do? Think for yourself. When you hear something that does not go along with information you know, then question it. Gather your own evidence of the facts. If you cannot confirm information, then do not repeat it or give it any life.

Ask yourself, "who can benefit from passing that rumor or lie on?" Passing on a lie can have serious consequences for the individual spreading the lie, the person the lie is told about, and for the people who believe it. Potential

[More on "JUDGE ADVOCATE" Page 7](#)

phone call could be the difference in their life. Make your membership calls separate. If you don't, you have lost all rapport you just made during your Buddy Check.

Please be sure you are all getting the membership information that is being sent out to your District Commander/Adjutant. If you are not getting anything sent to you about membership, please reach out to me and I will do my best to fix that.

I can't believe we are almost in November, then on to December, and back to Mid-Winter Conference we go. The time is flying by. Please let me know if there is anything I can do to help you! Let's keep those memberships coming in. Process, process, process. There is no reason to hold on to one and wait until you have more. When you get them, process them, and then submit the transmittal at the end of the day. It doesn't hurt, it only helps. Again, I want to thank you all for having the confidence in me to serve as the Department of Maine 1st Vice Commander. I look forward to continuing to work with the great team of Department Officers we have, and to paving the way for future Legionnaires.

Leroy McKenzie
Department 1st Vice Commander

Service Office Update



**SERVICE OFFICER
CARL CURTIS**

Please do not think someone else will take care of it. Take the time to find out and don't be afraid to repeat the effort. It could save a life.

If you run across a vehicle with a veteran's license plate parked near you, stop and talk to the person. He or she may be a veteran who has no idea what The American Legion does or what VA benefits there are for them. There are many veterans and surviving spouses in the state who are not getting any kind of benefits. The only way this will change is if we take an active role in reaching out.

We are almost to the halfway point of the year and award nominations are due by May. The department website has all the forms you need. If the PSO at your post is doing a great job, please submit them for the PSO of the year award. The application is not hard to find and a little work on your part with be worth it in the end. They will receive the award at the Department Convention in June.

PLEASE READ AND RESPOND TO YOUR MAIL FROM THE VA!

APPEALS OF CLAIMS.

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

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

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

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

to care and want to make a difference. The next PSO training will be March. 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.

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.

Attention Post Service Officers



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

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

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

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

NEW WAYS TO APPLY FOR VA HEALTHCARE

Sign up for VA Healthcare. Sign-up for VA Healthcare can now be done three ways! The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today it has eliminated paper signature requirements

President's Message

What an incredible visit from American Legion Auxiliary National President Trish Ward! After more than 12 hours of travel, she arrived in Presque Isle, Maine, where she was warmly welcomed by the Department of Maine delegation, including a special appearance by the Stockholm Unit President and District Commander Steve Gray, who greeted her with a homemade sign.



STASI
BRULE

visited Stockholm, Maine, where the Perkins-Plourde Unit 136 hosted a lovely Swedish meal. Special guest Past Department Commander Andy Olson joined the gathering, and we thank Erica Gray, Unit 136 President, for her outstanding hospitality and turnout.

We concluded the day with a visit to the Caribou Maine Veterans Home, led by Myrna Dixon, our Caribou Maine Veterans Home

Representative. This visit highlighted the importance of the home for veterans and their spouses and showcased the commitment of The American Legion and the legislative team to support it.

President Ward thoroughly enjoyed her time in the County and hopes to return someday to finally see a moose, which unfortunately eluded her this trip.

Thank you to all the Legionnaires, Auxiliary, Sons and Legion Riders who showed up to support our National President—it was truly a Family affair!

I look forward to sharing more information for our members who were not able to be present during the Mid-Winter Conference on Jan. 11, 2025.

Stasi Brule
President, Dept. of Maine,
The American Legion Auxiliary

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

Capitol Hill as mandated by our federal charter. Each post has a story to tell, and when we speak collectively, our strength is magnified.

Notification of Post/Squadron Commanders and Adjutants Form – Submit as soon as new officers are elected for the current year but no later than July 1. The Post Adjutant is to complete the form and submit to Department, even if the post does not have a Squadron. This form can also be found on the Department website, www.mainelegion.org.

Post Officers Form – The form must be filled out even if there are no changes from the previous year. This form is due to the Department by July 1. The

District Officers form is to be filled out by the District Adjutant and submitted even if there are no changes from the previous year. This form is also due as soon as new officers are elected or to the Department by July 1.

The last three forms can be found on the Departments website www.mainelegion.org under FORMS/APPLICATIONS. These reports are important. The information contained in these reports goes into updating the Department Directory and mylegion.org.

I look forward to seeing many of you in the near future and at the Mid-Winter Conference.

For God and Country.

Joe Michaud
Dept. 2nd Vice Commander

■ "JUDGE ADVOCATE" (Continued from Page 5)

negative outcomes include damaging relationships. Lies can erode trust and damage relationships with friends, family, and colleagues. Lies can ruin reputations. If a lie is discovered, it can tarnish the individual's reputation and make it difficult to rebuild trust. Lies can spread misinformation and cause harm to individuals, communities, or even entire societies.

Discourage the gossip. You can do this by not participating. Challenge the

gossip by politely asking those spreading gossip to provide evidence of their claim. It is as easy as a statement like, "I prefer not to hear information about people if they are not here to defend themselves." The simplest way to avoid gossip is to not pass it on.

It's important to be mindful of the potential consequences of spreading misinformation through rumors, lies, and gossip. If each of us strive to be truthful and honest in our communications, we all benefit.

Julie Flynn
Department Judge Advocate

■ "NAT'L CONVENTION UPDATE"

(Continued from Page 3)

tations and addresses by many speakers and presentations, such as the Legion's youth champions and Spirit of Service awards to the service members selected to receive them. National Commander Seehafer gave a report to the convention and received donations to many funds of the Legion, such as Legacy Fund, Legion Charities, Veterans and Children Fund, and National Emergency Fund.

On Wed., Aug. 28, the delegates were presented with a panel on the National Recruiting Crisis of our military by three military recruiters and a Senior Military Fellow from the Center for Study of Presidency & Congress.

This was followed by an address by Lt. General Russel Honoré, USA (Ret.) He was the former Commander of the Joint Task Force Katrina. Locals call him the "John Wayne of New Orleans." His speech was very interesting and very much down-to-earth to the common person. I would recommend visiting legion.org/information-center/news/convention/2024/august/gen-honor-to-live-free-is-a-privilege

Also presented on Wednesday were the Department Membership Awards, along with the National Law Enforcement, Firefighter of the Year Awards,

and the Americanism Trophy were presented. Following that, the Employer of the Year Award for Hiring Veterans – Large Category went to Werner Enterprises of Omaha, NE.

On Thurs., Aug. 29, following many presentations, the election of National Officers—the National Commander, James A. LaCoursiere, Jr., Connecticut, the administration of the Oath of Office of the New Commander, the election of the five National Vice Commanders, the installation of the National Vice Commanders, the presentation of the National Commander's colors, and his response to being elected. The newly elected National President of The American Legion Auxiliary, Trish Ward, and the newly elected National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion, Joseph Navarette, were introduced to the delegates. The National Vice Commander for our region is Charles "Chuck" Robbins from New Jersey.

Immediately following the formal adjournment of the convention, as mandated, the National Executive Committee convened. National officers appointed were National Adjutant Rodney Rolland, Treasurer Shawn Long, Judge Advocate Mark Seavey, Chaplain Daniel DaPozo, Historian Jennifer Laux, Sgt-at-Arms Everett Shepard, and National Commander's Aide Bruce Hanson.

By Lloyd Woods, Department NEC



Connecticut, National President of The American Legion Auxiliary, Trish Ward, and National Commander of the Sons of The American Legion, Joseph Navarette.

**New Officers
Installed at National
Convention: On
Thurs., Aug. 29, a new
National Commander of
The American Legion,
National President of
The American Legion
Auxiliary, and National
Commander of the Sons
of The American Legion
were installed. Left to right,
National Commander
James A. LaCoursiere, Jr.,**

Join Sons of The American Legion

Eligibility Requirements

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



The American Legion.

Print an application by visiting www.legion.org/about/american-legion-family/sons-of-the-american-legion/join-sons-of-the-american-legion

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

National Commander Visits Department of Maine

TUESDAY OCT. 15



Coffee & Pastries At Oxford Post 112: Left photo, National Commander James A. LaCoursiere, Jr., left, presents Post 112 Commander Dale Denbow, right, with a signed photo of the National Commander and license plate. Right photo, Post 112 Adjutant and Finance Officer Howard Munday, left, and LaCoursiere, right, have conversation over coffee.



Meet & Greet At Norway Post 82: Left to right, Norway Post 82 Sgt.-at-Arms Doug Smith, National Commander James A. LaCoursiere Jr., Post 82 First Vice Commander Roger Polvinen, and Post 82 Adjutant Jim Neary.



Lunch At Mechanic Falls Post 150: Left photo, Squadron Commander Jeremy Paradis is honored for his dedication and hard work towards Camp Tall Pines and Maine Special Olympics. Left to right, National Executive Committeeman Lloyd Woods, Department Adjutant Jason Hall, Squadron Commander Jeremy Paradis, and National Commander James A. LaCoursiere, Jr. Right photo, Post Commander Marshall Francis, left, is presented with a signed photo of the National Commander and license plate by National Commander James A. LaCoursiere, Jr., right.

WEDNESDAY OCT. 16



Coffee & Pastries At Bath Post 21: National Commander James A. LaCoursiere, Jr., right, presents Post 21 Commander Joe Young, left, with a signed photo of the National Commander and license plate.



Lunch At Damariscotta Post 42: Dept. Sgt.-at-Arms and Damariscotta Post 42 Commander Ryan Coffin, left, is presented with a signed photo of the National Commander and license plate by National Commander James A. LaCoursiere, Jr., right.

WEDNESDAY OCT. 16 (continued)



Past And Present Officers Group Photo at Damariscotta Post 42. Front row, NEC Lloyd Woods. Back row, left to right, Dept. Judge Advocate Julie Flynn, Dept. Adjutant Jason Hall, National Commander James A. LaCoursiere, Jr., Dept. Commander Patricia "Tricia" Thurston, Dept. Second Vice Joseph Michaud, Past National Commander Anthony "Tony" Jordan, and Dept. Sgt.-at-Arms Ryan Coffin.

THURSDAY OCT. 17



Coffee & Pastries At Livermore Falls Post 10: Left photo, National Commander James A. LaCoursiere, Jr., right, presents Livermore Falls Post 10 Commander Jocelyn Mosher-Collins, left, with a signed photo of the National Commander and license plate.



Visiting Farmington Post 28: National Commander James A. LaCoursiere, Jr., right, presents Post 28 Commander Matthew Smith, left, with a signed photo of the National Commander and license plate.

Visiting Winthrop Post 40: National Commander James A. LaCoursiere, Jr., right, presents Post 40 Commander Robert E. Dawson, Jr., left, with a signed photo of the National Commander and license plate.



and Sons of The American Legion Adjutant George Rice. Top right photo, Auburn Post 31 Commander John Ferland is presented with a signed photo and license plate by National Commander James A. LaCoursiere, Jr. Bottom left photo, Roland St. Pierre, center, is presented with a Certificate of Honor by National Commander LaCoursiere, left, and Dept. Adjutant Jason Hall, right. Bottom right photo, Dept. Commander Tricia Thurston, center, and Dept. Adjutant Jason Hall, left, receive gifts from the National Commander, right.

Tailgate Banquet At Auburn Post 31: Top left photo, Mission Working Dogs, the 2024-25 Maine Legion Family Project is presented. Left to right, Auxiliary President Stasi Brule, National Commander James A. LaCoursiere, Jr., Dept. Commander Tricia Thurston,

Fighting for Justice for Maine Veterans

The federal government has a sacred responsibility to take care of the brave men and women who stepped up to serve our country — especially when their service harms them. But you don't need me to tell you that too often, the people who are supposed to help those veterans fall short on their mission. Lately, I've been working to hold them accountable and get Mainers the benefits they earned.

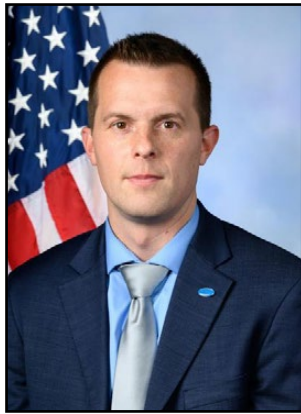
Two years ago, Congress enacted a law to help veterans exposed to toxins at Camp Lejeune get the compensation they'd been denied for so long. This was a big achievement at the time: for most of my life, the VA refused to even grant disability status to veterans poisoned by the base's water — despite officials knowing about the contamination for decades. Our law blocked the government's ability to claim immunity from lawsuits over Camp Lejeune and gave veterans a path towards justice.

But since then, the Department of Justice (DOJ) has used every trick in the book to maintain the status quo. It's fought to prevent jury trials, made it harder for veterans to prove exposure, and benefitted from a backlog that has kept zero cases from going to trial yet. The DOJ will keep ignoring congressional intent until lawmakers force its hand.

I've cosponsored new legislation that would close the DOJ's loopholes, increase the number of courts that can make rulings, and finally get these cases moving. It would also cap attorney fees so that this long-deserved compensation actually goes to veterans — not opportunistic lawyers.

With legislation also introduced in the Senate, it's promising to see wide bipartisan support on both sides of Capitol Hill. Congress already overcame the DOJ's opposition to action on this issue once, and I believe it's both possible and necessary for us to do it again.

I'm also an original cosponsor of the Major Richard Star Act because combat disabled veterans deserve their full retirement benefits — a sentence that should clearly go without saying.



CONGRESSMAN
JARED GOLDEN

However, that just isn't the case for those whose injuries forced them to retire early.

It's unthinkable that losing a limb means losing your pension if you haven't hit the 20 year mark, and our bill would remove that arbitrary benchmark. Instead, it would allow veterans to keep both their disability benefits and pension in full so they don't have to choose between treatment and food during the retirement they were forced to take.

I'm pleased to share that the For Country Caucus — the bipartisan group of veterans that I've helped lead during my time in Congress — endorsed our legislation at the beginning of October. This is the exact type of cross-party appeal that's helped secure a supermajority of support in both chambers, and it's a move that will help keep the bill front of mind for lawmakers when we pick the budget process back up later this month.

These are just a few of the ways I've been engaged on topics that matter to veterans. 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.

If my office can be of assistance, please reach out at the above number, or directly to one of our offices below:

• **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:** 1710 Longworth HOB, Washington DC 20515. Phone: (202) 225-2943

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

Jared Golden
Member of Congress

Protecting Our Veterans' Earned Benefits

The brave men and women who have served in our military put themselves in harm's way to defend our nation. They have earned the highest quality health care for any illnesses linked to their service.

For far too long, veterans exposed to toxic substances such as Agent Orange and from burn pits during their de-

ployments did not receive the recognition or resources they needed. The *PACT Act* that was signed into law in 2022 put us on the path to fulfilling the enormous debt we owe veterans by expanding critical research on toxic exposure and providing relief to toxic-exposed veterans of all generations who may be experiencing serious illnesses and debilitating symptoms.

As the daughter of a World War II veteran, I was proud to support that landmark legislation that provided a record expansion of care and benefits. The American Legion's strong advocacy for the *PACT Act* made a real difference.

This year, however, as a result of the expanded benefits and health care for veterans suffering from the effects of toxic exposure, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) processed hundreds of thousands more benefits claims than initially projected. This surge in claims created a VA budget shortfall of \$3 billion that threatened to delay benefits payments for veterans beginning the 1st of October. Without additional funding to match the increased number of claims received, the VA was at risk of leaving 7 million veterans and survivors without access to the disability compensation, pension payments, and GI bill benefits they earned.

When this looming crisis came to light this summer, I immediately joined six Senate colleagues in introducing a Senate bill to provide the funding needed to prevent this from happening. Thanks to swift, bipartisan action, Congress approved the additional funding in September, which provides \$3 billion to address the shortfall for the 2024 fiscal year. In addition, our legislation increases



SENATOR
SUSAN COLLINS

congressional oversight to prevent unacceptable cut in benefits from ever occurring again.

Another priority issue for me is helping veterans in rural areas access VA health care. There are roughly 2.8 million veterans in rural areas across the country who rely on VA's health care system. As the most rural state in the United

States, veterans in Maine face particular challenges, with more than 6 in 10 residing in rural areas. It is imperative that these veterans have reliable transportation to VA hospitals and other VA-approved health care.

The VA's Highly Rural Transportation Grant Program provides grant funding to Veteran Service Organizations and State Veterans Service Agencies to provide transportation in eligible counties. The program is currently only available to counties with fewer than 7 people per square mile — and in Maine, that limits the program to only Piscataquis County.

The bipartisan *Rural Veterans Transportation to Care Act* I have introduced would expand the VA's definition of rural areas to ensure that more counties are eligible for the grant program. The bill would also increase the maximum amount available to grant recipients from \$50,000 to \$60,000, or up to \$80,000 for the purchase of an *Americans With Disabilities Act* compliant vehicle.

I have also cosponsored legislation that would bar the VA from cutting reimbursement rates for ground and air ambulances if that change would reduce veterans' access to critical life-saving transportation services.

Nearly 1 out of every 10 Mainers is a veteran, and I am proud to serve a state that is home to so many of our nation's heroes. I will continue working to ensure that the VA remains fully funded and that more of our veterans gain greater access to the health care they have earned.

Sen. Susan M. Collins

The American Legion: A Brief History

The American Legion was founded March 15-17, 1919, by members of the American Expeditionary Forces still stationed in Europe awaiting passage home from World War I. Their experiences in what was called the “war to end all wars” would shape an enduring legacy for what has become the nation’s largest organization of veterans.

Many of the Legion’s founders had voluntarily drilled in civilian military camps before the United States entered the war. Trained in the “Preparedness Movement,” several future Legion founders were commissioned as officers in the war and discovered firsthand the nation’s deficiencies in defense, citizenship and education. Soon after the war’s end, they also realized how poorly prepared the United States was to assist a wave of disabled and unemployed veterans who faced uncertain futures in their communities, states and the nation.

The American Legion’s emergence and rise to prominence was based on a mission to strengthen the nation through programs, services and advocacy that helped millions throughout the organization’s first century.

The American Legion built its identity with a vision to make the nation prouder, stronger, smarter and more respectful of those who have sacrificed some, or all, in defense of the nation. Following are some The American Legion’s achievements during its first century.

VETERANS



- Formed a network of service officers in 1919 that now exceeds 3,000 to help disabled veterans, free of charge, file for government benefits
- Campaigned to put all veterans services under one federal authority, which led to creation of the VA
- Assisted millions of veterans in pursuit of rewarding careers; by June 1922 had already placed more than 500,000 veterans in permanent jobs and 200,000 more in temporary positions
- Fought to protect veterans benefits, VA hospitals, training programs and services from federal budget cuts
- Developed programs and advanced research into what became post-traumatic stress disorder as early as 1921
- Produced studies that led to official diagnosis of PTSD in 1980 and proved that service-connected exposure to Agent Orange and radiation caused diseases
- Achieved Veterans Preference Hiring for federal jobs
- Drafted and pushed to passage the Ser-

vicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944, the GI Bill that transformed America; worked to improve subsequent renditions, including the 2017 Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act, the “Forever GI Bill”

- Led efforts to achieve VA recognition for veterans previously denied benefits and health care for conditions caused by exposure to toxic burn pits in the Global War on Terrorism, as well as others who suffered illnesses caused by atomic radiation and Agent Orange
- Led a nationwide “Be the One” initiative to reduce and prevent veteran suicide

NATIONAL SECURITY



- Lobbied persistently for a better-funded and more efficient national system of defense
- Called for the establishment of a separate service branch for aeronautics as early as 1919, which helped give birth to the U.S. Air Force in 1947
- Pushed Congress for “universal military training” for decades, culminating in the Reserve Forces Act of 1955
- Conducted thousands of troop-support programs, including deployment ceremonies, welcome-home events and provision of needed items in theater
- Established and staffed thousands of local first response units and civil patrols during World War II
- Provided financial and volunteer aid for military parents through American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance and Family Support Network programs established during the Gulf War
- Began The American Legion Blood Donor Program in 1942, and became the largest organizational blood donor to the Red Cross in the nation
- Re-established the Blue Star Banner program to recognize military families with deployed loved ones after 9/11
- Launched a program to provide comfort items for U.S. military personnel recovering from wounds in DoD hospitals or transition units, ultimately named Operation Comfort Warriors in 2008, which has distributed millions of dollars of goods, games, books, music, recreational equipment and event passes for troops and their families
- Provided emergency grants for members of the U.S. Coast Guard who had pay delays due to the January 2019 federal government shutdown
- Fought to protect military retirement benefits and TRICARE insurance
- Stood as a national leader in the recov-

ery and repatriation of all U.S. POWs and MIAs

- Passed and reaffirmed national resolutions, beginning in 2005, supporting the troops and their mission in the global war on terrorism

AMERICANISM



- Actively promoted responsible U.S. citizenship and patriotic awareness beginning in 1919
- By January 1920, began providing U.S. citizenship and naturalization programs for immigrants, with support from Congress
- Led flag conferences in 1923 and 1924 that established the first standard rules for treatment and respect of the U.S. flag, adopted in 1942 as U.S. Flag Code
- Established official retirement ceremonies for worn-out U.S. flags, often a joint activity with Boy Scouts of America units
- Began American Legion Boys State in Illinois in 1935 to counter communist-inspired youth camps in the United States and to teach the way government operates in a democracy, a program that went national in 1946 and ultimately became American Legion Boys Nation
- Strongly advocated for active participation in the voting process, conducting thousands of candidate forums and a national Get Out the Vote program
- Assembled the Citizens Flag Alliance after the controversial 1989 Supreme Court ruling defining deliberate flag desecration as free speech and began a campaign to seek a constitutional amendment to return to the states the right to pass laws to protect the flag

CHILDREN & YOUTH



- Urged American Legion support for Boy Scouts of America as the organi-

zation’s first youth program backed by resolution, in November 1919

- Established an enduring relationship in 1921 with the National Education Association “to cooperate in securing for America a program of education adequate to meet the needs of the 20th century ... which will make all, native or foreign-born, good American citizens”
- Launched American Legion Baseball in 1925 to promote citizenship through sportsmanship, a program that would grow to field thousands of teams over the century
- Developed and operated marksmanship competitions that became the national American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Program in 1991
- Sponsored thousands of Junior ROTC programs across the country and at American schools overseas
- Created and operated a National Oratorical Contest beginning in 1938, continuing today, that requires high school-age orators to speak on the U.S. Constitution
- Established a national network of child-support field representatives in the 1920s and operated orphanages throughout the country to assist kids who needed stable homes and mentorship
- Formed the Child Welfare Foundation in 1954 to provide grants to support organizations and agencies that assist young people facing challenges not of their making
- Provided thousands of scholarships for high school students seeking college educations
- Launched an ongoing program in 1926 that recognizes with School Award Medals young people for their character, service and citizenship.
- Was chosen by Samsung Corp. in 1995 to administer a \$5 million fund to provide scholarships for Boys State or Girls State participants who are descendants of U.S. wartime veterans
- Established an American Legion Legacy Scholarship in 2001 that provides college funds for children of military personnel killed or 50% or more disabled

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Established civil defense as a function of The American Legion and began a century of support in communities wracked by disasters, including mining accidents, tornados, wildfires, earthquakes and hurricanes
- Launched a Community and Civic Betterment Bureau in 1923 to help municipalities build and improve parks, playgrounds, health-care facilities, swimming pools, schools and theaters throughout the United States
- Served meals, provided housing for refugees and searched for survivors of the massive Mississippi and Ohio River floods of 1927 and 1937
- Sponsored soup kitchens at American

[More on "LEGION HISTORY" Page 11](#)

■ "LEGION HISTORY" (Continued from Page 10)

- Legion posts to help destitute citizens during the Depression throughout the country
- Helped establish state highway patrols, and supported them, as they emerged across the country
- Established the National Emergency Fund in 1989 to formalize The American Legion's long program to provide disaster relief
- Delivered millions of dollars in National Emergency Fund grants for relief efforts after Hurricane Katrina, Wilma and Rita on the Gulf Coast, and the flooding that followed in New Orleans
- Conducted dozens of natural disaster relief efforts, following Superstorm Sandy, Hurricanes Irene, Michael, Maria, Ian and others, wildfires in California, devastating flooding in the Midwest and other crises

HONOR & REMEMBRANCE



- Took a lead role in 1920 to formally observe Memorial Day at the graves of U.S. military personnel laid to rest in some 2,400 temporary cemeteries in Europe
- Was actively involved in the development of the American Battle Monuments Commission in 1923
- Backed legislation in 1920 to install

the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery, dedicated Nov. 11, 1921

- Helped dedicate the towering Liberty Memorial in Kansas City during the third national convention, in 1921
- Raised funds in 1926 to help build the Ossuary at Verdun, France, to remember the cost of World War I
- Pushed for 24-hour guarding for the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in 1937 and purchased lights for the shrine in 1969
- Raised over \$1.2 million, most by any organization, to build the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, dedicated in a Legion-sponsored 1982 "Salute to Vietnam Veterans"
- Passed a resolution in 1985 to open every official American Legion meeting with a prayer for all American POW/MIA's
- Raised funds and provided marketing support for the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.
- Raised more than \$3 million for the construction of the National World War II Memorial, dedicated in 2004
- Served in a leadership role to build the National WWI Memorial in Washington, D.C., dedicated in 2021
- Conducted thousands of local memorial services a year at funerals, special events and ceremonies honoring those who served their country and lost their lives
- Argued in court, including a U.S. Supreme Court victory in 2019, to protect veterans and military memorials from removal due to religious symbolism in their design

Legion.org Apr. 2023

www.legion.org/information-center/news/dispatch/2019/may/a-brief-history-of-the-american-legion

Membership Management in MyLegion.org



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

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

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

www.MyLegion.org

The American Legion 2025 Membership Renewal Schedule

Cutoff Dates	Renewal Mail Dates
October 16, 2024	November 9-15, 2024
December 11, 2024	January 4-10, 2025
February 12, 2025	March 1-7, 2025
April 9, 2025	May 3-9, 2025

Membership Renewals

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

The renewal process begins in July for the upcoming membership year. Renewal notices are sent out in July, Oct., Nov., Jan., March, and

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

How to Print 2025 Membership Cards in MyLegion

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



Group Profile.

3. Click on "View Members."

4. Search the member and click on their

name from the list to view Member Profile.

5. Click "Membership Cards" and click on the link to view and print card image.

To start:

- Go to your My Account page in www.mylegion.org.
- Enter My Groups to access

Why Your Membership Matters

Family, Community, and Purpose

The American Legion stands as a beacon of inclusivity and camaraderie, offering a welcoming embrace to veterans and their families from all walks of life. Serving as more than just a gathering place, it fosters a sense of belonging and understanding within the veteran community, transcending differences, and uniting individuals under a shared bond of service. Legionnaires and their family members can also be eligible for a myriad of financial grants during times of financial hardship, natural disasters, or even for educational scholarships.

Renew for Benefits

Accredited American Legion service officers are specially trained to provide expert assistance, free of charge, to veterans and their families. Your membership also helps support American Legion

Department Service Officers nationwide who assist veterans in preparing claims and obtaining their full military health-care benefits through the VA.

Continued Advocacy on Capitol Hill

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

Stay Informed

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

**Keep your benefits coming!
RENEW TODAY**

How to Participate in Legion Baseball

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



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

To play:

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

Players who are cut from a team, or try out but don't make the roster, can

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

Age eligibility chart

To coach:

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

Begin your team

registration at baseball.legion.org.

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.

<https://www.legion.org/get-involved/youth-programs/baseball>

Show Your Support to Veterans in the State of Maine

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



The Foundation's mission is to provide resources to programs and services of The American Legion, Department of Maine

that will enhance the lives of our veterans, their families, children and communities in the State of Maine today

and for future generations.

Please show your support to our Veterans in the State of Maine and donate today to make a difference!

To donate with Paypal or Debit/Credit card, scan the QR code on the right or visit www.mainelegion.org/pages/foundation.php and click the DONATE button then select the designated fund of choice. Donations can also be by made by using the American Legion Department of Maine Foundation Brochure.

Checks should be made payable to American Legion Department of Maine Foundation and mailed to: American Legion Department of Maine Foundation, 5 Verti Drive Winslow, Maine 04901-0727. Please make sure to provide your name and address so that we may send you a tax receipt.

Thank you in advance for your generous contribution!



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

Thomas College

180 West River Rd., Waterville, Maine 04901

February 8, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

(Snow Date: Feb. 15, 2025)

The American Legion, Department of Maine High School Oratorical Scholarship Contest will once again be held at Thomas College in Waterville on Feb. 8, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. Snow Date: Feb. 15, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

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

Young orators will have the opportunity to earn some of the most generous scholarships. At the post and district level, scholarships offered range from \$50 - \$100, and at the state level \$50 - \$1,500.

At the national level, each department (state) winner who is certified and participates in the National Oratorical Contest's 1st round receives a \$2,000 scholarship.

Each first round winner who advances to and participates in the second round, but does not advance to the final round, will receive an additional \$2,000 scholarship to pursue education beyond high school. The overall national contest winner gets a \$25,000 scholarship. Second place takes home \$22,500, and third gets \$20,000.

The members of the Oratorical Committee will be working with District Commanders to prepare posts and districts

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

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



Donations may also be made by check payable to

The American Legion, Department of Maine, earmarked "Oratorical Program." Mail to The American Legion, Department of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901-0727.

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

for their local contests. We hope to have all post contests completed by Mid-December 2024 and all district contests completed by the end of January 2025.

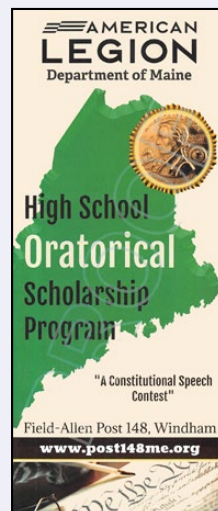
The 2025 National Finals will be May 16-18 in Hillsdale, Michigan at Hillsdale College. Quarterfinal and semifinal contests are scheduled for Sat., May 17 with the finals scheduled for Sun., May 18.

All contestants and chaperones will arrive the Friday of the contest weekend. All contestants and chaperones will stay on campus at Hillsdale College.

A mandatory pre-contest orientation session for all contestants will take place the Friday evening of the contest weekend. A banquet honoring all contestants will be Sunday afternoon, following the national championship contest.

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

HS Oratorical Scholarship Banners Available for Purchase



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

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

Download the New Legion Membership App

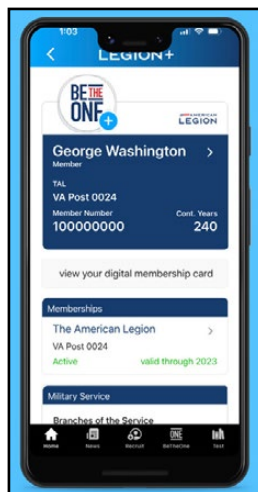
Access a digital membership card, manage membership information, recruit and save a life featured on new mobile app.

The American Legion has launched a new mobile membership app – Legion+. Download the app through Apple iTunes and the Google Play store.

Legion+ provides a direct route for members to access their digital membership card, manage membership information, recruit a new member, help a suicidal veteran and get the latest news on legion.org.

The new app includes four channels:

- **Home and News:** A list of the latest American Legion news headlines.
- **Recruit:** A QR code appears that takes potential members to legion.org/join. Legion members also have the ability to share the join link.
- **Be the One:** The screen features



the ability to call the 988 Veteran's Crisis Line, follow QPR (question, persuade and refer) suicidal training to help a veteran, and listen to American Legion Be the One podcast episodes.

Other key features include:

- **A digital membership card** (top left corner icon) with current status and number of consecutive years.
 - **Membership account** (top right corner icon) with membership card, personal contact information, branch of service, service era, post and department contact information and more.
- The Legion+ app will have more added features in the future, such as the ability to send post notifications to members, approve a new member, and access Buddy Check rosters, Post Data Reports and Consolidated Post Reports.



Maine Veterans Cemetery Commander's Project: Past Dept. Commander Alfred McKay is presented with a certificate for his Commander's Project efforts to restore the Chapel at the VA Cemetery during Fall Conference, held at South Paris Post 72 on Sept. 28. Standing left to right, Dept. Commander Thurston, Past Dept. Commander Al McKay, and Jerry DeWitt. Seated, Dept. Judge Advocate Julie Flynn.



Mission Working Dogs:

Founder and President of Mission Working Dogs, Christy Gardner, left, gives a presentation on the program at Fall Conference on Sat., Sept. 28 at South Paris Post 72. Department Chaplain Danielle Begert, center, and Department 1st Vice Leroy McKenzie, right, look on.



Blind Camp Donation:

This year's Maine American Legion Blind Camp was held July 28 – Aug. 4 at Camp Lawroweld in Weld. Throughout the year, Posts, Districts and Auxiliary Units donated to this long-supported program. This year, \$3,590 was raised to support the campers. Americanism Committee Blind Camp Representative Brian Knowlton, left, presents the check to Camp Director Trevor Schlisner, right, at the evening talent show.



2024 Legion Riders Summer Rally: Several Legion Riders chapters donated to Homeless Veterans, Sisters in Arms Center, the Veteran and Children Foundation, and Mission Working Dogs at the Summer Rally held at Damariscotta Post 42 on Sat., Aug. 24. Together the Riders raised \$9,550. Top row, left photo, Legion Riders State Director Thomas Kuespert, left, and Oakland Chapter 51 Director Lynn Woodard, right. Top row, middle photo, Riders Director Thomas Kuespert, left, and Madawaska Chapter 147 Director Edward Ellis, right. Top row, right photo, Riders Director Thomas Kuespert, left, and Winthrop Chapter 40 Finance Officer James Guevara, right. Middle row, left photo, left to right, Legion Riders Chaplain Forester "Todd" Sprague III, Riders Secretary Bridget Ellis, Dept. Sgt.-at-Arms, Damariscotta Chapter 42 Director, and Post 42 Commander Ryan Coffin, Riders Asst. Director Joshua Sinclair, Riders Road Captain Barry Breton, and Riders Director Thomas Kuespert. Middle row, middle photo, Riders Director Thomas Kuespert, left, and Fairfield Chapter 14 Treasurer Glen Giggey, right. Middle row, right photo, Riders Director Thomas Kuespert, left, and Old Town Chapter 75 Asst. Director Brandon Lemay, right. Bottom row, left photo, left to right, Newport Chapter 105 Asst. Director Ryan Campbell, Riders Director Thomas Kuespert, Damariscotta Chapter 42 Director Ryan Coffin, and Old Town Chapter 75 Asst. Director Brandon Lemay. Bottom row, second to left photo, Riders Director Thomas Kuespert, left, and Damariscotta Chapter 42 Director Ryan Coffin, right. Bottom row, second to right photo, Riders Director Thomas Kuespert, left, and Sabattus Chapter 135 Director David Adler, right. Bottom row, right photo, Riders Director Thomas Kuespert, left, and Gray Chapter 86 Sgt.-at-Arms David McNally, right.

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.



Life's Too Long Not to Belong

AMERICAN
LEGION

Research shows that being active and enjoying time with friends is good for your health.

The American Legion and Grouper have partnered to reward eligible members for staying socially active!



LEGIONNAIRES 65+ WITH AN ELIGIBLE MEDICARE ADVANTAGE OR SUPPLEMENT PLAN RECEIVE:

✓ \$50 initial payment upon confirming eligibility

✓ \$20 every 3 months of reported social activities



To see if your plan covers Grouper, please visit:

hellogrouper.com/al



No personal information needed to check eligibility - just your health plan name and your age!

GROUPE IS PROUD TO BE INCLUDED IN:

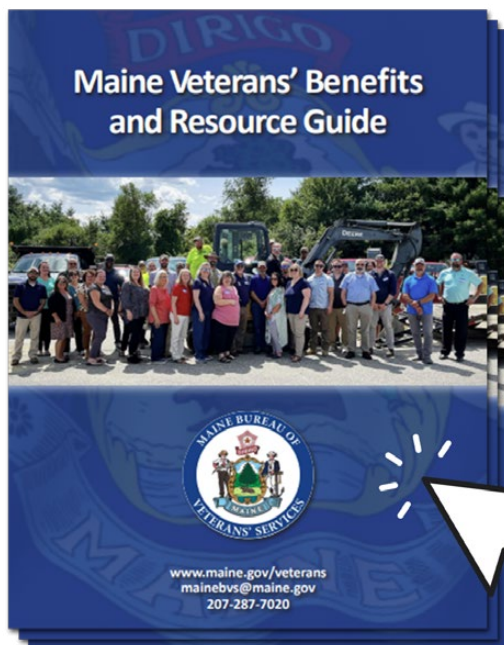
Renew
Active
by UnitedHealthcare

OnePass

Grouper

Call 833-445-2400 Email info@hellogrouper.com

Maine Veterans' Benefits and Resource Guide



The Bureau's Maine Veterans' Benefits and Resource Guide documents a wealth of information regarding services and partner agencies throughout the state for Maine's veterans and their families. This ever-evolving document strives to be a one-stop resource for all the veteran-centric programs and agencies in Maine that can be accessed both digitally and in print.

The State of Maine provides nearly 20 different programs for veterans,

including free education for dependents of 100% permanent and totally disabled veterans, property tax exemptions, state parks and museum passes, support for homeless veterans, and hunting and fishing licenses for disabled veterans. Throughout the state, over 400 organizations have established programs to assist veterans and service members wishing to continue their education, increase employment opportunities, access health care, or simply enjoy Maine's great outdoors.

Click on the image above or visit www.maine.gov/veterans/docs/Resourceguide2024.pdf to view the guide.

Wellcare Medicare Advantage: Annual Enrollment

It's time to choose your Medicare Advantage health plan for 2025. The Annual Enrollment period runs from Oct. 15 through Dec. 7. As a veteran, you deserve access to the right doctors, the benefits you can use every day to stay healthy, and straight answers about your coverage.

Wellcare Medicare Advantage plans provide more coverage for the health needs that matter most to veterans. Plus, a Wellcare plan works alongside your VA benefits while providing a wider network to give you more options for care. Wellcare benefits may include:

- Dental coverage
- Vision coverage
- Hearing coverage
- And mental health coverage

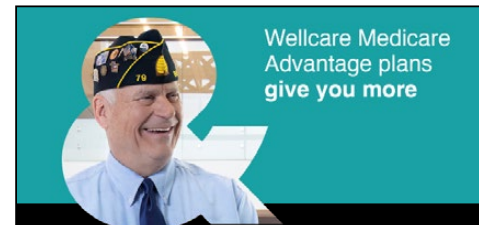
As The Official Medicare Advantage Provider of The American Legion, we're honored to serve those who have

served our country. And during the Annual Enrollment Period going on now, we're committed to helping you find the plan that best fits your health needs.

For clear answers and help assessing your Medicare Advantage coverage options, give us a call. We can help you enroll today.

877-880-8196 (TTY: 711) 8 a.m. - 8 p.m., 7 days a week

Or scan the QR code to call now.



[CLICK HERE](#)

to Download our FREE eGuide
How Medicare Advantage works for military veterans.

Protect Your Pet and Your Wallet.



Join our mission to provide the best possible care for your pets, ensuring they live happy, healthy lives alongside you.

Accidents and illnesses can happen at any time, but Spot Pet Insurance gives you peace of mind that you'll have the financial support you need to give your furry friend the best possible care. Customize a policy that works for your pet and your budget, so you have help focusing on your pet, instead of costly vet bills. Plan for your pet's health today!

Special Up to 20% American Legion Discount*

Receive a special 10% discount on every policy, plus a 10% multi-pet discount on all additional pets.

Up to 90% Back on Eligible Vet Bills

Spot's customizable plans allow you to choose your annual limit, deductible, and reimbursement rate. This can help you say 'yes' to the best care for your pet and save you thousands on covered costs.

Bonus: \$25 Amazon Gift Card When You Sign Up

As an added gift, receive a treat for your pet by signing up for a Spot plan.**



* & ** for details and disclaimers, visit the Spot website.

Check Out Spot

www.spotpetins.com/employer/american-legion



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.

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 Legionnaire 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 below at www.vimeo.com/946785549 or visit www.thelit.com/accident-protection to learn more.



SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS



Raffle Drawing: Dept. 2nd Vice Joe Michaud draws the Sweepstakes winners at Fall Conference on Sept. 28 at South Paris Post 72.

Winners of the Fall Sweepstakes Raffle were drawn at the annual Fall Convention held Sat., Sept. 28 at South Paris Post 72.

Grand Prize winner of \$1500 was awarded to Gill Veilleux, Lisbon Post 158; \$500 to Richard Doherty, Rumford Post 24; \$300 to Robert A Coons, Lincoln Post 77; and \$200 to James V Gorman, Sanford Post 19.

CONGRATULATIONS!



Subscribe To Our Emails and receive instant email updates including our bi-weekly newsletter "The Leadership Ledger" and The

Maine Legionnaire newspaper by visiting <https://form.jotform.com/RachaelJ/maine-al-email-subscription-for>

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



ENDORSED BY YOUR
AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT



- **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.

46447 ©2019 AGA

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



Endorsed by
Your Department of
The American Legion

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

your behalf by Your Department of The American Legion.

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

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

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

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____ MEMBERSHIP CARD NO. _____

EMAIL _____

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

Have you filled out *all* the above information?

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

© 2015 AGA 100135 A3713 36796

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

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

Cut it out

Department of Maine Annual Mid-Winter Conference

January 11th, 2025
Jeff's Catering & Event Center
15 Littlefield Way, Brewer, ME 04412

The annual Mid-Winter Conference of the American Legion, Department of Maine, will be held at Jeff's Catering & Event Center, 15 Little Field Way, Brewer, ME 04412 on Jan. 11, 2025. The Conference will be hosted by Commander Tricia Thurston and 2nd Vice Commander Joe Michaud.

Special Rate for Legion Family for Hotel Reservations:

Holiday Inn: 404 Odlin Rd, Bangor, ME 04401.

Phone: 207-947-0101

Room Rate: \$114 + sales tax, Microwave, Refrigerator, Coffee/Tea Maker, Elevators, Restaurant, Lounge, Indoor pool.

[Click Here to Reserve Your Room](#)

Please state "American Legion" when calling for reservations.

Hotel Reservations are to be made by each individual, as the Department HQ will not be coordinating reservations for this conference. Deadline: Jan. 5, 2025.

Registration

Fee: \$10.00 per person.

Includes unlimited coffee & tea (Regular and Decaf), water all day, and juice, breakfast pastries, and fresh fruits in the morning.

This is for The American Legion, Auxiliary, Sons, and Guests that are attending.

Mid-Winter Conference Lunch Buffet: \$10 per person (to be paid to Jeff's Catering by noon.)

Please mail registration fee to:

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

(Notate "MWC" in memo field)

To pay by debit/credit card visit www.mainelegion.org, and select [WINTER CONFERENCE](#) listed in the NEWS & EVENTS dropdown menu.

For questions, please call Department HQ at 207-873-3229
or email legionme@mainelegion.org.

Your Letters

Scholarship Appreciation

Dear James V. Day Scholarship Committee,

Thank you for selecting me as the recipient for this award. This will be such a huge help with my future college endeavors.

Thank you!
Hailey Tarbox

Grateful Scholarship Recipient

Thank you so much for supporting my education at the University of Southern Maine with The American Legion Scholarship. I am honored to be one of this year's recipients. I appreciate it so much.

Thank you,
Masyn Atwood

happy holidays

STAY SAFE AND HEALTHY

Upcoming Wreaths Across America Events in Maine



Wreaths Across America is preparing to kick off the annual Escort to Arlington, beginning Sat., Dec. 7.

The following events will take place in Maine:

Saturday, December 7:

6:30 a.m.: Sunrise Service at W. Quoddy Headlight, 973 S Lubec Rd., Lubec (Posts: 65, 9, 59, and 108)

11:00 a.m.: HART Ceremony at Calais Border Patrol Crossing, 180 International Ave, Calais (Posts: 3 and 23)

Sunday, December 8:

9:00 a.m.: Ellsworth YMCA, 238

State St., Ellsworth (Post 63)

12:45 p.m.: Erskine Academy, 309 Windsor Rd., South China (Posts: 179, 163, 195, 2, and 205)

3:50 p.m.: Lewiston High School, 156 East Ave., Lewiston (Posts: 31, 153, 158, 135, 22, 210, 86, 150, 181, 22, and 111)

7:00 p.m.: New Gloucester Veterans Monument - Across from 1029 Lewiston Rd., New Gloucester (Posts: 86, 150, 155, 153, 31, 164, 91)

Get your Post Family together at one of the locations and gather to Remember, Honor, and Teach.

BE THE ONE

Sign Up for Training Today!

The American Legion Department of Maine is announcing 2025 training dates for the BE THE ONE initiative, a campaign aimed at reducing the rate of veteran suicide. The American Legion is leading a nationwide effort — "Be The One" — to eliminate the stigma related to mental health treatment, and in turn, lower the number of veterans who die by suicide every day.

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

to those who may be able to help save the life of a veteran.

For more details on the Be The One campaign, visit: betheone.org



Photo credit: Dept. Historian Jeff Sukeforth

Training Location*:

Department of Maine
Training Room

5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901

Upcoming Training Date:

November 30th

To Reserve Your Spot Email:

betheonedeptme@gmail.com

*There is potential for training to be conducted at your Post, Unit, or Squadron. 20 student minimum (can include Legion, Sons, Auxiliary, First Responders, community members, etc.)

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 Supports Local School

American Legion Post 26 in Biddeford has adopted the 4th grade of the Biddeford Intermediate School. The class has continued to assist Post 26 and the Biddeford/Saco Rotary Club with placing flags for Memorial Day at the local cemetery where approximately 2,400 veterans

are buried. In appreciation for their continued support, Post 26 has donated \$1,000 for school supplies and assisted with purchasing a new refrigerator for the school. This promotes two pillars of The American Legion: Americanism and Children and Youth.



Biddeford Post 26 Donates: Post Adjutant Rick St. Onge, left, presents a check for school supplies to Biddeford Intermediate School Principal Lindsay Nadeau, right.



Appreciation: Past Biddeford Post 26 Commander Michael Gibney, left, and Post Adjutant Rick St. Onge, right, accept appreciation from Biddeford Intermediate School Principal Lindsay Nadeau, not pictured, and 4th Grade Teacher Lori Flynn, center.

Berwick Post 79 Hosts Department Commander, Adjutant

Sept. 3 marked the date of a special meeting at the town hall for members of Berwick's Charles S. Hatch Post, where they hosted Department Commander Patricia "Tricia" Thurston, her husband and Past Department Commander Kirk Thurston, and Department Adjutant Jason T. Hall. The evening was made even more special with a light buffet meal prepared by Chef Justin Cantin and his staff from Mainely Local Yolks Restaurant preceding the monthly post meeting. The dinner was brought to a festive close with a variety of homemade desserts, prepared and served by members of Auxiliary Unit 79.

Post member Andy Buckman and his family, friends, and area businessmen and women who have known and worked with Andy throughout the years, were all special guests at this memorable event in celebration, acknowledgment, and official recognition of Andy's

selection as Maine's 2024 Legionnaire of the Year.

Post Commander Bryan English served as the emcee and segued smoothly to the meeting portion of the evening, which included well received remarks from both Commander Thurston and Adjutant Hall. Post members also got their first look at the Recognition of Post Excellence Award signed by American Legion National Commander Daniel J. Seehafer for presentation to Post 79 for "exemplary efforts through their devotion to mutual helpfulness," for being an asset in their community, and their exemplary allegiance to helping veterans.

All in all, it was an evening that all in attendance will remember fondly, made special by Commander Thurston and Adjutant Hall who made the long drive and the return trip on the same day! On behalf of the members of Charles S. Hatch Post 79, we salute you!



Berwick Post 79 Hosts Department Commander "Tricia" Thurston, left, 2024 Maine Legionnaire of the Year Andy Buckman, center, and Charles S. Hatch Post 79 Commander Bryan English, right.

Photo by Kirk Thurston

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 1 continued

Kezar Falls Post 123 Celebrates Member's Birthday

Adrian Durgin, WWII Army/Air Corps Veteran, celebrated his 100th birthday this fall Kezar Falls Post 123. Adrian, who is a resident of Porter, Maine, was the driving force behind the building of the WWII Memorial at the Porter Veteran's Park. He built the memorial while in his 90s. Unfortunately, Adrian passed away on Nov. 13. He will long be remembered for his dedication to his community and his immense patriotism and concern for all veterans.



Kezar Falls Post 123 Surprise Birthday Party: Adrian Durgin arrives at his surprise birthday party.



Celebrating 100 Years: Left to right, Past Dept. Commander Deb Couture, Post 123 Member Adrian Durgin, and Post 123 Adjutant Roger Berube at Adrian's birthday party.

all kinds of toys for the kids this Christmas.

On Memorial Day we had a cook-out and flag ceremony. We placed 1,500 flags at Portland's Forest City Cemetery. We placed eight wreaths at monuments for our war veterans.

We are now working with the Maine Historical Society, University of Southern Maine, Osher Maps, and Portland City Hall to review and renew the WWI Memorial on Baxter Boulevard in Portland, Maine. This is the largest WWI memorial in Maine and maybe New England. Five hundred Linden trees with WWI veterans' names assigned to them as a living

memorial to these brave men. These trees line Baxter Boulevard in Portland for approximately two miles.

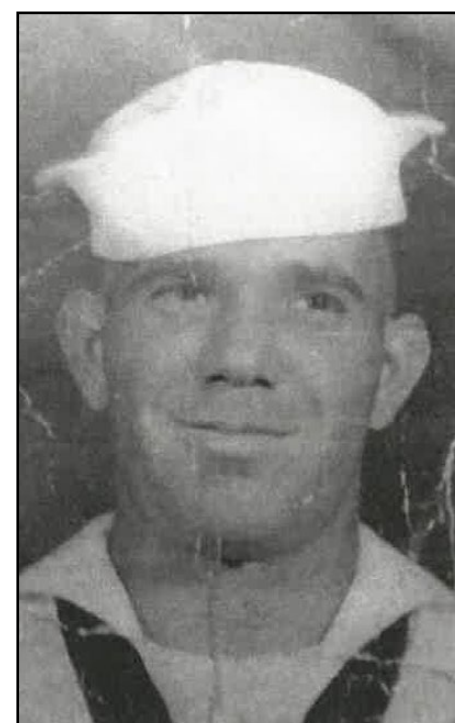
The members of Harold T. Andrews Post 17 continue to work on new memberships. We're proud to say we have grown in the Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion. We continue to serve our veterans.

It is with great sympathy we remember the veterans in which Post 17 has lost this year. Our recent loss was Robert Wright, Past Commander of Post 17, Past District Commander, and a prominent member of the "40 and 8." Bobby was a proud veteran of the U.S. Navy!



Memorial Day Gathering: Portland Post 17 members stand in front of the Post on Memorial Day.

Donation: Portland Post 17 donates gifts for the U.S.M.C. Toys for Tots fundraiser.



Remembrance: U.S. Navy veteran, past Portland Post 17 Commander, and past District Commander, the late Robert Wright, in his service uniform as a young man.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 2

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

Portland Post 17 Happenings

Greetings from H.T. Andrews Post 17, Spring and summer keep moving along but will soon give way to the cool fall weather.

We took advantage of the heat to participate in "Christmas in the Summer" by donating to the U.S.M.C. "Toys for Tots." The Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion donated

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 2 continued

Veteran Remembered

As is our practice at So. Portland Post 35 to return all messages received on our phone message machine, I returned a call from a lady in New Hampshire who wanted to know if I could put a flag on her husband's grandfather's grave at Forest City Cemetery in So. Portland. Forest City Cemetery, although in So. Portland, is the responsibility of the only remaining American Legion Post in Portland, Post 17. However, we have a working agreement to help out when asked.

The lady had visited the gravesite and noticed the flag holder was broken, and she asked if we could replace it. I visited the site and noticed that it was a WWII "Ruptured Duck" flag holder with dates. Somewhat rare, as I have observed, and I replaced it with a plastic flag hold holder instead.

I did some research on the internet and found some replacement holders, but they were also plastic and without dates. The one I retrieved was cast aluminum and in very good shape, except where the flag was to be placed.

I took it home and went to work. I found an oak scrap in my woodpile and "gouged" it out, and with the aid of some adhesive caulk, fastened the plaque to the oak board. After a couple coats of poly, it was ready for shipping to New Hampshire.

I copied the information pertaining to the "Ruptured Duck" badge that was issued to any soldier who was honorably discharged for their service in WWII to the family. I am hopeful that the story of the grandfather will be passed down to the children and grandchildren.

U.S. Army PFC Dominic E. Rossetti was a member of the "Greatest Generation" who answered the call to serve his country honorably. He survived, went on to raise a family, and lived to be 82 years old. He was one of thousands who went and fought and now is only a memory and a stone in a cemetery in So. Portland. Thank you for your service is the least we can add for the service he gave.

By Michael R. Pock,
So. Portland Post 35 Adjutant



Grave Plaque of WWII veteran, U.S. Army PFC, Dominic E. Rossetti, left photo. Rossetti's gravesite at Forest City Cemetery in So. Portland, right photo.



Ruptured Duck Badge: The "Ruptured Duck" cemetery marker and flag holder at the gravesite of Dominic E. Rossetti is restored by So. Portland Post 35 Adjutant Michael Pock.

So. Portland Installs New Back Boundary Fence

After looking at our old, rusted, partially-painted, bent, and falling-down back boundary fence, the board of trustees decided to use some of our "bottle money" to repair and/or replace the fence. After receiving four bids ranging from \$2,950 to \$5,700,

the winning bid went to Adjutant Pock, DBA Pock Carpentry LLC. with a bid of not to exceed \$3,000.

Mike priced out the material from the local Lowe's store and purchased, picked up, and delivered all supplies to the Post. He then "hired" two Sudanese

gentlemen to do the labor. After 18 hours over three short days of work, it was complete, and Post 35 has a great new fence at a total cost of \$2,400.

We were shocked to see what people are charging to do work these days. The other three companies wanted to rip everything out and start from scratch, plus charge as much as \$800 to haul away the old fence and posts (Mike did it for \$15.) Mike and his "crew" (Mike mostly lent tools and supervised) cut off old posts and cemented in all but four posts that were perfectly fine. After the fencing was stretched and secured, the job was done ahead of the scheduled deadline of Sept. 2, the Lobster Roll Lunch date.

As an older post with older members,

it isn't always possible to do the work ourselves, and so we contract out most of the major jobs. The Post Facilities Manager, Adjutant Pock, collects bids and presents them to first the board of trustees, and then to the finance committee. Once that has taken place, it goes to the general membership, or in the case of the summer break, the executive board, for approval and awarding of contract(s). Mike is a "paperwork freak" and has more documentation than even he feels is necessary, but when did that ever matter?

We got a new fence under budget and on time. Crazy concept in these times.

By Michael R. Pock,
So. Portland Post 35 Adjutant

So. Portland Post 35 4th Annual Lobster Roll Lunch

At the Stewart P. Morrill American Legion Post 35 in So. Portland, the 4th Annual Labor Day Lobster Roll Lunch was held from 12:00 p.m. till 2:00 p.m. and was a complete success.

Post 35 1st Vice Commander Guy Linscott, with a crew of 11, put together another wonderful and enjoyable Lobster Lunch. A quick and easy lunch, consisting of a 3 oz. lobster roll, soda, chips, coleslaw, and a cookie, was available at the remarkably low price of \$15. The price has been held down due to a long-time working relationship between former employee, Ken Marston, who is a 58-year member of Post 35, and the owner of the Clam Bake Restaurant at Pine Point in Scarborough. Additionally, Mary Neal, Post 35 Auxiliary President, was ever-present at the front door selling tickets for the meal and tabulating the proceeds. Preparations were ongoing

for the past month, and with the "well oiled" Linscott machine, everything went off without a hitch. Starting at 0900 and ending at 1430, all went well.

Before the opening of the door at noon, 138 rolls were prepared, and by 1:00 p.m., 130 rolls were sold. Additionally, there is usually extra lobster meat available for sale by the pound, and eight pounds were sold at cost. With the remaining two or three pounds left, our Sgt.-at-Arms Paul Thibeault has promised a Lobster Stew for our upcoming Sept. 21 monthly lunch meeting at the Post at noon, followed by a business meeting at 1300. After expenses, the Post made \$1,702.53.

Thanks to Guy and his crew another Lobster Roll Lunch was a complete success.

By Michael R. Pock,
So. Portland Post 35 Adjutant

So. Portland Post 35 Lobster Lunch: A great crowd turns out for the 4th Annual Lobster Roll Lunch held at So. Portland Post 35 on Sat., Sept. 2.



Kitchen Crew: Left to right, Paul Thibeault, Dan Baker, Ken Marston, and Mike Pock in the Post 35 kitchen during the Lobster Roll Lunch.

[More on "LOBSTER LUNCH"](#)
[Page 20](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 2 continued

■ "LOBSTER LUNCH" (Continued from Page 19)

Cleaning Up: So. Portland Post 35 2nd Vice Tony Batchlor, standing, helps clear tables during the Lobster Roll Lunch.



So. Portland Post 35 Reopens "Men's Lounge"

In preparation for a late night "After the Reception Party" where Post 35 rented out the entire Post at \$200 per hour to a couple after their wedding, the crew at Post 35 renovated the former "men's lounge." The "men's lounge" is basically a room with a pool table. This room was formally used by the U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Command as their office. In preparation for the promised use of the room, Post Facilities Manager and Adjutant Michael Pock moved the Sea Cadets up to the 2nd floor of the building. The Sea Cadet office is now located in what was the "chief's quarter," and before that, the radio club office. The Sea Cadets now occupy the entire 2nd floor with classrooms and supply rooms, as well as their commanding officer and staff office.

The men's lounge/pool room has been used by the Sea Cadets since they first started meeting during the time Roger Sabourin was Commanding Officer at Post 35 in 2005-2006, to the best of my information.

The table was covered with a plastic tarp over 2 x 4s and finally, a specially made ¾" plywood panel. Once the cover was removed, we discovered an antique pool table made by Goodman, Leavett and Yatter Co. out of Boston. After looking up the company on the internet, we found that a restored table was listed at \$21,000. Except for some well-worn ball pockets, the table was in immaculate condition. With the



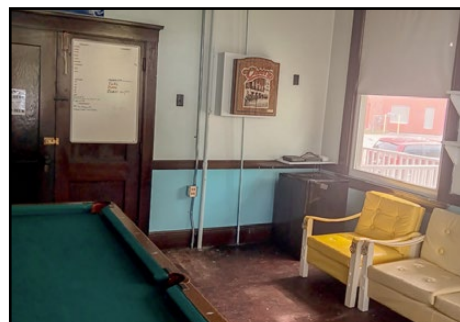
Antique Pool Table: Made by Goodman, Leavett and Yatter Co., the refreshed pool table is ready for use at So. Portland Post 35. Awards from the past are displayed on shelving units behind the pool table.

purchase of a set of new balls, we were ready to reopen our pool room.

After a coat of paint, some new shelves to hold American Legion Baseball trophies and a ship model, a dartboard, and a big screen TV, we are open for business. We hope this addition or reclamation will draw renters and new members who might what to "shoot a game of pool" or watch something on the TV.

Slowly but surely, we are renovating Post 35 back to its former glory and making it a meeting place not only for The American Legion, but also for the So. Portland community at large.

By Michael R. Pock,
So. Portland Post 35 Adjutant



Refreshed Space: Left photo, new shelves are installed in the So. Portland Post 35 men's lounge/pool room to display American Legion Baseball trophies and a ship model. Right photo, a dart board and mini fridge are also added.



Westbrooke Post 62 Meeting:

The Stephen W. Manchester American Legion Post 62 in Westbrooke held its business meeting at the Post on Wed., Oct. 2. Front row, left to right, new Westbrooke Memorial Post 197 Commander Kenneth Santamore, Guest Speaker/

District 2 Commander Gene Connolly of Portland Post 17, and Westbrooke Post 62 Commander and Historian Dennis Marrotte. Back row, left to right, Sons of The American Legion Squadron 197 member Alan Brule, Post 62 Sgt.-at-Arms Michael Thomas, Post 62 Chaplain Philip LeClerc, Post 62 Treasurer Gerry Doyon, Post 62 1st Vice Commander and Americanism Officer Philip Spiller, Jr., Post 62 Service Officer Harry Gorham, Post 62 member Richard Galipeau, and Post 62 Immediate Past Commander Roger Barr.

Photo by Christy Moore

Westbrooke Post 62 Initiation:

Left to right, Zach Leland, Gene Bibber, Thomas Haskell, and Steven Newman raise their right hands in the Initiation Ceremony with Post 62 Commander Dennis Marrotte, at podium. This was the first multiple Initiation Ceremony for new Post 62 members since 2019—a positive and welcoming occasion. Observing in the background are longtime members Susan and Nelson Graham (Nelson standing behind Tom Haskell) and immediate Past Post 62 Commander Roger Barr.



Ceremony: Westbrooke Post 62 held a Draping of the Post Charter Ceremony for Post member Robert W. Gordon at its monthly meeting on Wed., Sept. 4. The ceremony is performed by Post 62 Sgt.-at-Arms Michael Thomas, wearing a Legion cap, and saluting together with fellow Post members. Foreground to background, new Post member Steven Newman, Susan Graham, Nelson Graham, and Michael Thomas.

Photos by Phil Spiller, Jr.

Guest Speaker:

Westbrooke Post 62 welcomed Mental Health Liaison for the Westbrooke Police Department, Jo Freedman, as guest speaker at the Post's monthly meeting held on Wed., Sept. 4th. Jo's responsibilities, experience, education, and character are a



crucial part of the Westbrooke Police Department's daily operations. Front row, left to right, Post 1st Vice Commander and Americanism Officer Phil Spiller, Jr., Post Commander and Historian Dennis Marrotte, Post Chaplain Phil LeClerc, Westbrooke PD Mental Health Liaison and Guest Speaker Jo Freedman, immediate Past Post Commander Roger Barr, and Post member, past WFD, WPD, City Councilor, and Mayor Michael Sanphy (navy blue polo.) Middle row, left to right, Post Adjutant Gary York (in red shirt behind Jo Freedman), Post Service Officer Harry Gorham (green/white striped shirt), Post Treasurer Gerry Doyon (white shirt), and Post Sgt.-at-Arms Michael Thomas (behind Michael Sanphy.) Back row, new Post member Zach Leland (green shirt), far back center, and new Post member Gene Bibber, far right, behind Gerry Doyon.

Photo by Deborah Shangraw, VAC civilian member

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 2 continued



Westbrook Post 62 Honor Flight Maine: A huge horseshoe of welcoming friends, families, American Legion Posts, and Chapter 2 Rolling Thunder gave a warm and emotional welcome home to 50 Maine veterans and their Guardians following their three-day Honor Flight Maine trip to Washington, DC.

USCG, (Ret.) 25 years, and Sgt.-at-Arms of Westbrook's Stephen W. Manchester American Legion Post 62 Michael Thomas, right, welcomes USCG, (Ret.), 22 years, Stewart Graham, left, one of the many Vietnam veterans on the Honor Flight Maine, returning to Portland Jetport on Sun., Sept. 22.

Photo by Dennis Marrotte, Post 62 Commander

Windham Post 148 Thanks Wendy's Manager:

Post 148 Adjutant David Tanguay, left, presents a certificate of appreciation to Wendy's Manager Christie Moody, right, on Oct. 22 for her support of the Legion Post 148 Weekly Vet Coffee program. Wendy's provided breakfast baskets with a variety of sandwiches to some 40 veterans at the weekly Vet Coffee, held at the Windham Vet Center. Wendy's will be doing another breakfast for veterans on Dec. 11 as well.

Photo by Lin Tanguay



Windham Post 148 Post Everlasting Ceremony

The Field-Allen Post 148 conducted its annual Post Everlasting Ceremony for the period of July 2024 – Aug. 2024. Following the membership opening sequence, the meeting was suspended for the ceremony.

Unfortunately, missing from the ceremony was the Post Chaplain, due to illness, and the Post Sgt.-at-Arms, who was on a planned month-long trip. Honor Guard OIC Larry DeHof filled in as Sgt.-at-Arms, Post Adjutant David Tanguay filled in as a former Chaplain, and 2nd Vice Yvonne Johnson assumed the role as Post Adjutant for the ceremony. As noted, this was a solemn occasion with the light dimmed as prayers were read, the Post Everlasting citation was read, the names of the ten fallen were read, and entered the flames in the ceremonial helmet. The Honor Guard members, in full uniform, presented and read each name. Names were then given to the chaplain and placed in the flames as a long salute, followed by the chaplain

and honor guard. After the last name was consumed by flames, the chaplain provided a final prayer followed by Taps performed by Honor Guard Bugler Linwood Bailey. After the house lights were turned back up, the meeting resumed. Those names passed to the adjutant for Post Everlasting included: Sterling Boyington, Vietnam, USA, 8 years; John Clements, USAF, 4 years; Allie Davis, Korea, USA, 14 years; Mike Merriman, Korea, USA, 7 years; Daniel Ayotte Sr, Dept. of Maine Past Commander, Windham, Maine; Melvin Greenier, Post 148 Past Post Commander, USA, Vietnam; Susan Keltner, Post 148, USA, Other, 4 years; Walter Braley, Post 148, Korea, USMC, 23 years; Glenn Hutchinson, USAF, Vietnam, 12 years; and Roger LeBlanc, USA, Panama, 22 Years. Honor Guard support included Larry DeHof (OIC), Craig Pride, Richard Graves, Linwood Bailey, John Facella, and Arn Heggers.

Final Salute: Acting Windham Post 148 Chaplain David Tanguay, left, and Post Honor Guard member Richard Graves, right, provide a final salute as the name of the fallen is placed in the flame in the helmet.

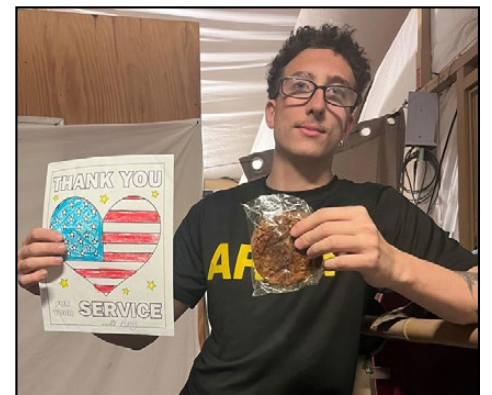
Photo by David Masson



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



Care Packages: Lisbon Post 158 and local homeschoolers sent care packages and handmade drawings to a deployed National Guard Unit, which includes a young soldier transferring to Post 158. The two care packages are filled with goodies, drawings, and lots of love! Special thanks to Crystal C. and 57 homeschoolers from around the Brunswick, Topsham, Freeport, and Durham areas who came together to bring joy to some brave troops deployed overseas. These fine youngsters, ages 5 to 17, made dozens of beautiful cards with notes of love and support, and provided plenty of delicious candy for two care packages sent out by Lisbon Post 158. We hope those smiles last a while. We are very proud of these soldiers and are tremendously grateful for their sacrifices. Stay safe and God bless!

Moxie Festival:

On Sat., July 13, Lisbon Post 158 welcomed the New England Moxie Congress. For the second year in a row, the Post hosted a Lobster Feast as part of Lisbon's Moxie Festival. Volunteers braved

hot temperatures, and the rain mostly held off. Approximately 90 guests enjoyed steamed lobster, clams, steak, chicken, and all the fixings—plus all the Moxie/Diet Moxie they wanted!



[More on "MOXIE FESTIVAL" Page 22](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 3 continued

■ "MOXIE FESTIVAL" (Continued from Page 21)



Pure Joy: A little rain at the end of the Moxie Festival feast held by Post 158 provided relief from the heat and entertainment for at least one young attendee.



Volunteers Richard Everette, left, and Greg Seubert, right, are ready to serve lobster at the Post 158 Lobster Feast as part of the Lisbon Moxie Festival.



Lisbon Post 158 Family Day: Auxiliary Unit 158 President Deziray Pyrdeck and many Post 158 helpers hosted our annual Family Day on Sun., Aug. 4 at our beautiful outdoor pavilion. We had lovely weather and an excellent turnout, as members and children of all ages enjoyed face painting, a dunk tank, snow cones, cotton candy, balloon animals, digging for treasure, corn hole, ax throwing (sorta), crazy hats, a bouncy house, and grilled burgers and hot dogs. We can't wait for next year's Family Day!

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

National Commander Visits District 5

The American Legion National Commander James A. LaCoursiere, Jr., of Connecticut, began his Department of Maine visitation in District 5 in the western provinces of Oxford County on Tues., Oct. 15, where he was first greeted at the Anderson-Staples Post 112 in Oxford. LaCoursiere was treated to a choice of blueberry muffins (oh so good!), or pumpkin bread, while meeting representatives from other District 5 Posts. He was escorted by a delegation of Department Officers, lead by Department Commander Patricia "Tricia" Thurston of Rumford Post 24. After expressing his unstinting support for the "Be the One" initiative, and the need to think creatively on securing new Legion post memberships, he signed and presented photos to post representatives.

Continuing his Oxford District 5 visit,

the National Commander next visited Stone-Smart Post 82 in Norway, with the majority of those in attendance from the Post 112 visit accompanying him. Many of the local representatives were pleasantly surprised when the National Commander was invited to inspect the Post basement, where regular member meetings occur. The local representatives were totally unaware that beneath the Post Hall was a whole series of rooms, one with an ornate stone fireplace, another spacious room for meetings with an additional kitchen set off on one side, and with a smaller enclave including a mini wet bar. Who knew such a wonderful place existed?

Completing his Oxford County visit, the National Commander and an accompanying host moved on to Androscoggin County for a luncheon at Mechanic Falls-Minot-Poland Post 150.



Socializing: National Commander James A. LaCoursiere, Jr., wearing the red Legion hat, socializes with attendees before being introduced.



Conversations: Left photo, Department Commander Tricia Thurston, left, converses with Oxford Post 112 Centenarian John Crumpton, Jr., right, during the National Commander's visit to Maine. Right photo, Department Auxiliary 1st Vice Linda Jack, left, and District 5 Commander Randall Jack, center right, converse with National Commander James A. LaCoursiere Jr., center left, and his aide, right.



National Commander Introduction: Maine Department National Executive Committeeman (NEC) Lloyd H. Woods, right, introduces National Commander James A. LaCoursiere, Jr.

Be The One: National Commander James A. LaCoursiere, Jr., left, addressed those assembled on "Be the One" and membership strategies.



[More on "NAT'L CMDR VISIT" Page 23](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 5 continued

■ "NAT'L CMDR VISIT" (Continued from Page 22)



National Commander Memorabilia: Anderson-Staples Post 112 Commander Dale Denbow, right, is the first to receive a signed photo of the National Commander James A. LaCoursiere, Jr., left, and additionally, a Legion National Commander license plate.



Welcome: Left to right, Post 82 Sgt.-at-Arms Doug Smith, National Commander James A. LaCoursiere Jr., Post 82 First Vice Commander Roger Polvinen, and Post 82 Adjutant Jim Neary take a photo as the National Commander is welcomed to the Post on Oct. 15.

Fall Conference in Oxford County

Foster-Carroll American Legion Post 72 in South Paris hosted Department's Fall Conference on Sat., Sept. 28, while the Auxiliary Fall Conference was conducted at nearby Stone-Smart Post 82 in Norway. As an individual cannot be in two places simultaneously, only the Department Conference will be reported upon herein.

The morning began with doughnuts and coffee before the meeting started at 09:15 hours. Much interesting and informative information was provided by the presenters. (See Page 10 of the 9-25-24 *Leadership Ledger* for the meeting agenda, which largely remained on schedule). As an aside, a wonderful

lunch for only \$12.00 was provided by Daddy-O's Diner, located in Oxford, an establishment that supports both veteran and patriotic events. The meal was a buffet of finger sandwiches, chips, a vegetable platter, fruit platter, crackers and cheese, and desserts. The Post Canteen supplied coffee, water, and the option to purchase soft drinks.

Among the presenters, Past Department Commander and present NEC Alternate Matt Jabaut announced that he had been informed by National that they desire he become National Commander within the next three to five years. It is an honor that is not inexpensive to attain. A full-fledged campaign must be mounted by his home

Department (that's all the posts in Maine), with approximately \$300,000 needing to be raised, preferably within the three-year period. The reason is that a candidate for this high office must visit all the Legion Departments in the nation to announce his or her candidacy. This usually also entails providing culinary treats native to the candidate's home Department (think Whoopie pies, Moxie, etc.) Matt, who was a popular Department

Commander, and is most articulate, said that his own Post 202 in Topsham had already ponied up the first \$10,000 towards the goal. Posts are encouraged to raise, according to their means, \$2,500, \$5,000, or \$10,000, over a period of three to five years. Having attained one of these goals, Post 202 will receive a certificate for doing so.

When Past National Commander Tony Jordan ran a couple of decades ago, one of the exhibits carted around to the states to identify the spirit of the Revolution was the Liberty Bell. This was a bit strange, as the Liberty Bell is more a symbol of Pennsylvania than New England. I suggested that if it could be created, a model of the Unity, which bested *HMS Margaretta* at Machias in the first naval battle of the Revolution, might be far more appropriate as an exhibit.

Moving on. Veteran Christy Gardner of Mission Working Dogs, Department Commander Tricia Thurston's Project, gave an interesting presentation on why her organization trains Golden Retrievers as Service Dogs for veterans who are disabled. It turns out that Golden Retrievers are very responsive to the requisite training and have life spans of ten years or more. Also, they are big enough to be of utility for those

with whom they are familiarized with at the Mission Working Dogs facility. Posts interested in seeing her operation, located in Oxford, may contact her to arrange a tour.

National Commander James A. LaCoursiere, Jr. will be in Oxford County on Oct. 15, beginning at Oxford Post 112 for coffee and pastries at 09:45 hours, then going on to Norway Post 82 at 11:00 hours for a meet and greet. His full itinerary can be found in the Oct. 10 edition of Department's *Leadership Ledger*.

Additionally, it was announced that the next class of Legion College, will be held from Oct. 18 to 20 and that the 11th Annual Women Veterans Luncheon at Rumford Post 24 will be held on Nov. 16.



Legion Literature: Leaflets and Instruction Manuals are passed out and studied at Fall Conference as speakers explain their content.

All in all, the conference was a success. For those who attended, it will probably prove to be a once in a decade or more occasion in the Western Mountain provinces. Now it's on to Bangor in January for the Department Mid-Winter Conference.



Department Officers: Dept. Commander Patricia "Tricia" Thurston conducts the Fall Conference meeting on Sept. 28 at South Paris Post 72. At the head table are most of the serving Department Officers. Left to right, Dept. Chaplain Danielle Begert, Dept. First Vice Leroy McKenzie, Dept. Adjutant Jason Hall (hidden behind the podium), Dept. Commander Tricia Thurston, Dept. Judge Advocate Julie Flynn, Dept. Americanism Officer Liam Nedredd, and NEC Lloyd Woods.



District 5 Group Photo: Oxford County District 5 is alive and poses for a group photo at Fall Conference. Front row, left to right, District 5 Service Officer Randal Canwell of Rumford Post 24, Alan Lima of South Paris Post 72, Department Commander Tricia Thurston of Rumford Post 24, District 5 Adjutant Harry G. Orcutt of Locke Mills Post 68, District 5 Chaplain Louis Marin of Rumford Post 24, District 5 Second Vice Harold Wilbur of West Paris Post 151 (behind Louis), and West Paris Post 151 Adjutant and Finance Officer Wade Rainey. Back Row, left to right, Theresa Drag of South Paris Post 72, Ken West of South Paris Post 72, Jack Higgins of South Paris Post 72, South Paris Post 72 Finance Officer Gilbert Turner, District 5 Finance Officer George Angevine of Bethel Post 81, and District 5 Commander Randall Jack of West Paris Post 151.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 5 continued



A Labor Of Friendship Between Turner And Buckfield: Commander of District 3 and Adjutant of Phillip S. Bryant Memorial Post 111 in Turner, Dale Bryant, driver's seat, accompanied by his wife Gloria, back seat, traveled to Buckfield on Labor Day to provide the Parade Grand Marshal, Past-District

5 Commander, and current Commander of John D. Long Post 58 in Buckfield, James Lowell, passenger's seat, a splendid ride in their antique 1924 Model T Touring Car for the entire three-quarter of a mile town parade route, serving as point for marchers and other vehicles.



Buckfield Labor Day Parade: A front view of the 1925 Model T Touring Car during the Labor Day Parade.



Rumford Post 24 Flag Disposal: American Legion Post 24 of Rumford held a Dignified Flag Disposal Ceremony on Sat., Sept. 21, led by Post Commander Ed Perry, Past Department Commander Kirk Thurston, and assisted by Scout Troop 580. There were around 600 American flags disposed of on this day. Left photo, Post 24 Commander Ed Perry and Past Department Commander Kirk Thurston lead the Dignified Flag Disposal Ceremony. Right photo, PDC Thurston and Boy Scout Troup 580 prepare the first flag for dignified disposal.



3rd Annual Fall Craft Fair at Post 68 Successful Despite Windstorm

Craft fairs beginning on Sat., Oct. 12 were disrupted, with some being cancelled, due to a windstorm that disrupted access to some Oxford County mountain towns by fallen trees the preceding Friday night. The case

was not so at Locke Mills Jackson Silver Post 68, where their 3rd Annual Fall Craft Fair, organized by Auxiliary Unit 68 Sgt.-at-Arms Marie Bartlett, who reported that most of the vendor crafters covered the cost of their tables

while realizing a bit of profit. The fair attracted numerous guest shoppers to the Post, with more on Sunday than on Saturday, as roads were cleared in affected areas.

The fair offered hand crafted items for potential Christmas gifts at reasonable prices, baked goods for immediate consumption, and seasonal decorations looking for home placement.



Craft Fair Organizer Marie Bartlett speaks with a craft vendor at Locke Mills Post 68 Annual Craft Fair.



Ready For Shoppers: Vendors at the Locke Mills Post 68 Craft Fair are awaiting guest shoppers to arrive.

Guest Shoppers look over vendors' craft items at the Locke Mills Post 68 Annual Craft Fair.



Car Show and Contest Held at Locke Mills Post 68

Jackson-Silver Post 68 in Locke Mills (AKA Greenwood) hosted its first Car Show on Sat., Sept. 14. The poster announcing the show says it all.

Post guests made the show a great success through their attendance. Entering the spacious Post parking lot, they paid the entrance fee at a canopied booth, manned mostly by Post members and a volunteer.

As the guest attendees checked

in, they were provided with slips to vote for their choices in the various categories of Antique, Special Interest, Muscle Car, Tuner Cars, Street Rods, and Trucks. As they walked about the exhibits and as the day wore on, they were likely to stop at the food canopy, set up next to the Post kitchen entrance. Many favorable comments were expressed by customers as they paid for and consumed pastries, hamburgers, cheeseburgers, hot dogs, and soft drinks.

Continuing the Post's community outreach efforts and close relationship with the Greenwood Town Government, the Greenwood Fire Department was invited to set up a display:

And then there were the vehicles, shown here in a selection of numerous photos.

Post 68 has received queries as to when they are going to host another car show. Having been a great success, it is definitely on our list of yearly events going forward.



Car Show Poster for the first Car Show held by Locke Mills Post 68.

[More on "CAR SHOW" Page 25](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 5 continued

■ "CAR SHOW"

(Continued from Page 24)



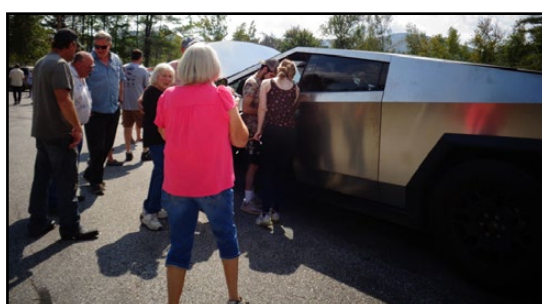
Canopied Booth Entrance: Left to right, Post First Vice Harry G. Orcutt, Post Sgt.-at-Arms Al Lake, Post Adjutant Sara Pruyne, friend of the Post Jaelyn Bean, and Executive Committee Member Les Bell.

Friends Of Post 68 Volunteers: Seated at the food canopy, left to right, Unit 68 Sgt.-at-Arms Marie Bartlett, Clemma Nichols, Patty Bell, and Heather Hodsdon. Standing is Dan Deeweaver. All volunteers identified themselves as "Friends of Post 68" – it's nice to have friends!



Greenwood Fire Department solicits donations for its Boot Charity Fund at the Locke Mills Post 68 Car Show.

Antique Highway Department Truck: Greenwood Fire Chief Ken Cole displays his father Lester's circa 1940 Highway Department truck, the first vehicle purchased and utilized by the town.



Cyber Truck: Elon Musk's \$100,000 Electric Tesla was a crowd pleaser. Post 68 Sgt.-at-Arms Al Lake quipped to the Post 1st Vice that he could afford to purchase the car. The 1st Vice, who had recently purchased a Honda CR-V gas vehicle, replied that "yes" he could afford the Tesla, but his

wife would not approve, because his car, 2/3 the size of the Tesla, was itself too big for her to enjoy driving.



Unique Cars On Display at the Locke Mills Post 68 Car Show held at the Post on Sept. 14.

Most photos supplied by Les Bell

Cornhole is the Game at Post 68

Jackson-Silver Post 68 in Locke Mills has, from its foundation 105 years ago, not been averse to trying new activities, especially if they are fun, interesting, and raise funds that help keep the doors open. The active members (as is the case with other posts, we could certainly use more hands on deck) really outdid themselves with inaugurating State and National connected Cornhole Tournaments. Though it cost quite a bit of money to get the tournaments off the ground, given the Post's reputation of service to the community, local businesses stepped forward and contributed funds for the necessary electronic equipment, materials to construct the cornhole boards and related paraphernalia, and professional advertising support. After post members provided the construction labor and set up the electronics, we were off and pitching regulation bags at standardized holes.

Ray Hakala revealed the gist of the game. There are two ways to score points. One way, called a "Slider" is to toss the bag in line with, and about eight inches from the hole, with the bag then sliding into the hole. The

other method, called an "Airmail," not to be confused with the "Airmail" game, is to toss the bag directly into the hole. The "Airmail" game is played by contestants who have purchased a separate entry fee to toss four bags. A PVC pipe platform (seen leaning against the wall in the photo "Let the Games Begin"), is the same size as a board hole, and is placed atop it like a chimney. The object is to toss the bag, for a far more substantial monetary prize, directly into the hole. Each bag that makes it in is worth a quarter of the prize money. The entrance money increases the prize, as the contestants fail to make a winning toss.

Also, according to Ray, who is frequently a winner at the Post and in other venues near his residence, having a skilled game partner does wonders for boosting a good player's chances of winning. In one game near his residence, he said he was paired with the 132nd state ranked player, while they competed against the 1st state ranked player. As with most sports, there are good and bad days. Fortunately for Ray, Number 132 had a very good day.

Cornhole Tournament Emcee: Executive Committee member Les Bell, Locke Mills Post 68 Cornhole Tournament organizer and emcee, announces that the tournament is about to begin.

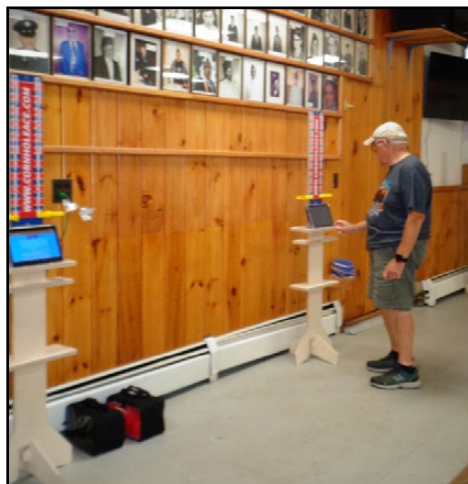


[More on "CORNHOLE" Page 26](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 5 continued**■ "CORNHOLE"**
(Continued from Page 25)

Cornhole Volunteers: Friend of Post 68 Patty Bell, left, and Post Sgt.-at-Arms Al Lake, right, register guest contestants, conduct a 50/50, and sell chances on the Air Mail game.



Keeping Score: Les Bell activates the tournament tablets, which keep track of contestant performance and game scores and sends updates through Scoreholio to the State and National Cornhole Tournament tracking systems.



Let The Games Begin: Cornhole Tournament participants compete at Locke Mills Post 68. Right photo, Post 68 Finance Officer Ray Hakala, the silver haired bag tosser, has a competitive style.



Winners: Left photo, in the first game, Post 68 Finance Officer Ray Hakala, right, is back in the winner's circle. Right photo, Cornhole organizer Les Bell, left, is in the money in the second game.

The Birthday Party of the Century at Oxford Post 112

John Crumpton, Jr. enlisted at the end of Dec. 1941, receiving his father's reluctant permission as he was only seventeen years old. Crumpton served in the U.S. Navy through WWII, Korea, and Vietnam, rising through the ranks from Seaman to Captain of the USS Drake. When Anderson-Staples Post 112 in Oxford informed him that they desired to celebrate his 100th Birthday, he expressed his wish that it be a modest affair. Only 250 local Legionnaires, members of their families and his, other guests, and dignitaries came to wish him a very Happy Birthday. It was the biggest event that Oxford Post 112 has

held, possibly since it was chartered, but certainly in decades. Post Commander Dale Denbow later stated, "Those who served in WWII are becoming fewer and fewer each passing day. And definitely the fewest of them all are those we call 'the Trifecta,' who gave devoted service to the Nation in three major conflicts of the past century."

Alas! For the second time at a Legion event this fiscal year, I forgot to check that my camera was fully charged before an event. It wasn't. What I missed was the Oxford Town Selectman's presentation and a terrific historical review of John's Naval

service by a former Naval Intelligence Officer, Naval historian, and Naval Academy instructor who also brought congratulations from U.S. Secretary of the Navy, Carlos Del Toro. For a review of Captain Crumpton's Naval history, see the May 2024 issue of the Maine Legionnaire, which also detailed his receiving of the Town of Oxford's

Boston Post Cane, which is presented to a New England community's oldest living resident. Finally, I have no photo of John cutting his large, finely decorated birthday cake with a naval officer's sword. Steve's, a local caterer, provided a delectable assortment of sandwiches, chips, and sundry items.



Ceremonies: Top photo, Oxford Post 112 Commander Dale Denbow opens the Presentation Ceremonies at John Crumpton, Jr.'s 100th Birthday celebration. Bottom photo, the Post Chaplain offers a Benediction.

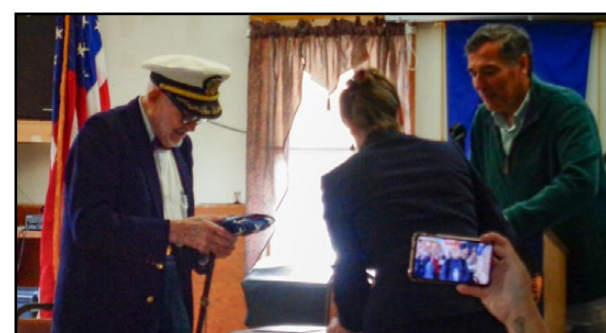


Certificate: Department Commander Tricia Thurston, right, presents a Department Certificate of Commendation to John Crumpton, Jr., left.



Invitation: District 5 Adjutant Harry G. Orcutt presents a copy of the District Birthday Party Invitation that was sent to all Oxford Legion Posts. Post 112 was also provided with a copy, which they must have liked, as they put it in front of the podium during the celebration.

Birthday Proclamation: Top photo, House District 80 Representative Caldwell Jackson, right, presents a congratulatory Birthday Proclamation from the Maine Legislature to John Crumpton, Jr., center. Presiding thereafter was John's good friend, State Senator Rick Bennett of District 18, left. Bottom photo, Aide to U.S. Senator Susan Collins, center, presents John, left, with a U.S. Flag that flew over the U.S. Capitol, along with a U.S. Senate Congratulatory Proclamation while Senator Bennett, right, looks on.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 5 continued

Suppers to Eat in or Take Out at
West Paris Post 151

On the third Saturday of the month, April through October, Unit 151 Auxiliary produces generous, well cooked, and delicious meals for Legion Family and public guests who descend on the Post from throughout the surrounding area. For \$12 per meal, it's

the best deal around. The meals consist of a meat entrée, usually with gravy, mashed potatoes, vegetables, a buttered dinner roll, a generous dessert, and a choice of drinks.

So that's it for the 2024 season. April 2025 cannot get here soon enough!



To Go Order: Top photo, Locke Mills Unit 68 Secretary Susan Vacca, left, purchases two take out suppers from West Paris Unit 151 Treasurer Holly Roberts, center, while friend of the Post Julie Toothaker, right, observes. Bottom photo, West Paris Unit 151 President Dorene Wilbur, left, looks on as Locke Mills Unit 68 Secretary Susan Vacca, center, and Locke Mills Post 68 First Vice, Historian, and Service Officer Harry G. Orcutt, right, shows off one of the meals they will split between them at their residence. The other, they will share after refrigeration a few days later.



Supper Magic is produced by West Paris Unit 151 members. Top photo, left to right, EC member Linda Record, Unit Vice President Peggy Theofrastou, Unit President Dorene Wilbur, and EC member Dian Rainey. In the background is Junior Member Morgan Benson. Bottom photo, the kitchen crew passes dine-in meals for delivery to the tables by energetic Unit 151 junior member Morgan Benson.



Opportunity At Post 151: A delicious meal is prepared at West Paris Post 151. Unit 151 President Dorene Wilbur states that area clubs and organizations could contact her throughout the year to arrange for an equally sumptuous dine-in meal at the Post and then hold their meeting there. What a deal! At present, if the group guarantees 20 attendees, the current cost per is \$14.



Meal Enjoyment: Early guest customers enjoy meals that Paul Bunyon would find more than adequate.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 6

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

St. George Post 34 to Participate in
Wreaths Across America Day

In 2023, a group of St. George volunteers, led by Dan MacCaffray, spearheaded an initiative to purchase wreaths from Wreaths Across America (WAA) for the graves of nearly two hundred Maine veterans buried at the two



devotion.

American Legion Post 34 is proud to play such a significant and unifying role in honoring the veterans of St. George, Maine.

Data Points:

Wreaths Across America Day is Dec. 14, a day when over two million

volunteers will lay three million wreaths on veterans' graves across the United States and overseas. The St. George Veterans Wreaths Committee has raised over \$7,000 to purchase nearly 650 wreaths for veterans buried in the five St. George cemeteries. These are corporate contributions from St. George or local businesses.

This year, Wreaths Across America Day is Dec. 14 and St. George is expanding its wreath laying efforts to over six hundred veterans buried in the five cemeteries along the St. George peninsula. This community wide event will once again highlight a ceremony orchestrated by American Legion Post 34, featuring the Maine Army National Guard Color Guard and supported by volunteers of all ages who will lay wreaths that are exclusively made in Maine and will be laid on the graves of St. George veterans by St. George volunteers. It doesn't get any more local or personal than that. The magnitude of this undertaking for a small, coastal Maine town is staggering, but conspicuously rewarding.

The American Legion views Wreaths Across America Day as an opportunity for the citizens, fraternal organizations, and businesses of St. George to collectively join two million other volunteers who will place three million wreaths on Veterans' graves across the nation and overseas. Our cemeteries at Wiley's Corner, Seaside, Clark Hill, and Ridge are steeped in history with graves dating back to the Revolutionary War and every military campaign since. We will honor the fallen, remember those who served in uniform, and let families know that a veteran will never be forgotten. We will be reverently placing wreaths on graves, but more importantly, we will be solemnly celebrating lives of selfless

volunteers will lay three million wreaths on veterans' graves across the United States and overseas.

The St. George Veterans Wreaths Committee has raised over \$7,000 to purchase nearly 650 wreaths for veterans buried in the five St. George cemeteries. These are corporate contributions from St. George or local businesses.

The town and several fraternal organizations are working together to purchase American Legion medallions and flags for all St. George veterans' graves. Having a veteran's gravestone properly marked with an American Legion medallion and flag will help volunteers know which graves get a wreath. Our primary fundraiser for medallions and flags is a Hunter's Breakfast sponsored by the Masonic Lodge on Nov. 9 from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

This year, due to the expansion to six hundred veterans' graves and the geographical separation of cemeteries in St. George, The American Legion will host two identical ceremonies on Dec. 14, both conducted by American Legion Post 34 supported by the Maine Army National Guard Color Guard.

The first ceremony will be at 11:00 a.m. at Wiley's Corner Baptist Church for the two Wiley's Corner Cemeteries. Contact Sandra Hall at sahcdm@gmail.com if you are interested in placing wreaths at Wiley's Corner Cemeteries.

The second ceremony will be at 12:30 p.m. at Tenants Harbor Baptist Church for Seaside, Ridge, and Clark Hill Cemeteries. Contact Bill Torpey at William.t.torpey@gmail.com if you are interested in placing wreaths at Seaside, Ridge, or Clark Hill cemeteries.

More on "WREATHS" Page 28

"WREATHS" (Continued from Page 27)

The Maine Army National Guard (new this year) will provide a Color Guard and Bugler for both ceremonies. This provides support for our American Legion Post as well as an opportunity to showcase the professionalism of our

state's uniformed soldiers.

We will close the northbound lane on Rt. 131 adjacent to Seaside Cemetery from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. on Dec. 14 to provide parking for volunteers laying wreaths in Seaside Cemetery. Traffic will be managed by the Knox County Sheriff's Department and St. George Fire Department volunteers.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 7

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



Damariscotta Post 42 Assists WWII Veteran's Funeral: WWII Veteran Doug Leavitt was laid to rest on Aug. 14 with Military Honors at the Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Mount Vernon. Dept. Sgt.-at-Arms and Post 42 Commander Ryan Coffin, District 7 Commander Richard Cash III, and Post 42 Chaplain Pete Souza assisted as pallbearers for the funeral. Unit 42 President Kassidi Gilbert was also in attendance and took pictures.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 8

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

Phippsburg Post 216 Happenings & Events

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

In July, Post 216 members Adjutant Mike Young and his son CWO Justin Young (CO of CG Station Point Allerton) took part in the annual Joshua James Ceremony in Hull, Massachusetts. Joshua James is one of the Coast Guard's most renowned sailors having established Coast Guard Station Point Allerton in 1889 and has been credited with saving over 500 lives during his career. Hull, Massachusetts is one of 35 municipalities in The United States to earn the distinction of being selected as a "Coast Guard City" by the Commandant.

In August, we provided an Honor Guard to lead the annual Popham Parade. The parade and "bonfire and flare night" that followed was held to recognize the founding of the Popham Colony in 1607. Later in August, we held our annual "Legion Family Lobster and Clam Bake" at the Riddleys Landing

dock in Sebasco.

In September, the Post held its annual Membership Dinner, Awards Ceremony, and 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony. At this event, the members each received their Continuous Service certificates and pins. Also during the ceremony, Post Judge Advocate Fred Libby received the 2023 Post Legionnaire-of-the-Year Award.

During September and October, Post 216 members removed veteran grave marker flags throughout the 42 public and private cemeteries in town that were placed in the spring.

Things will start to quiet down as we enter fall and winter. Planned events include our first participation in the kids' Halloween "Trick or Trunk" at the Phippsburg Town Hall, visiting veterans at the Plant Memorial Home on Veterans Day, decorating the Phippsburg Town Hall and Veterans Memorial Park for Christmas, as well as the Post's annual Christmas Potluck Supper.

Joshua James Ceremony

Joshua James Ceremony: Left to right, Adjutant Mike Young, his son CWO Justin Young (Post member and CO of USCG Station Point Allerton), and Commander Nathan Sargent from USCG Sector Boston take part in the Annual Joshua James Ceremony in Hull, Massachusetts.

Photo by Chilloa Young



Popham Parade

Parade Preparations: Left to right, Popham Colonist, Comrade Bob Belben, Post Financial Officer Debra Reddinger, Post Commander Ken Kellogg, and Comrade Larry Swizdor prepare for the Popham Parade.

Photo by Mike Young
Post 216 Adjutant



Popham Parade: Participants walk in the Popham Parade. Legion Post members with colors.

Photo by Chilloa Young

District 8 Installation of Officers



District Officers Installed: Left to right, Past National Commander Tony Jordan gives the Oath of Office to District 8 Vice Commander Ken Kellogg of Post 216 and District 8 Commander Tom Creehan of Post 20.

Photo by Mike Young
Post 216 Adjutant

[More on "POST 216" Page 29](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 8 continued

"POST 216"

(Continued from Page 28)

Awards Ceremony



Continuous Service Awards: Top left photo, Comrade Alice Kolczynski, center, receives her 14 Year Continuous Service Award from Post 216 Commander Ken Kellogg, right, as Comrade Chuck Mainville, left, looks on. Top right photo, Comrade Chet Kolczynski, left, receives his 14 Year Continuous Service Award from Post Commander Ken Kellogg, right, as Comrade Chuck Mainville, center, looks on. Middle left photo, Comrade Jim Wallace, left, receives his 19 Year Continuous Service Award from Commander Ken Kellogg, right. Middle right photo, Post Adjutant Mike Young, left, receives his 15 Year Continuous Service Award and Post Chaplain Richard Spear, center, receives his 14 Year Continuous Service Award from Post First Vice Commander Tim Williams, right. Bottom left photo, Comrade Roger Howard, left, receives his 13 Year Continuous Service Award from Commander Ken Kellogg, right. Bottom right photo, Post Service Officer Terry Nordmann, left, receives his 12 Year Continuous Service Award from Post Commander Ken Kellogg, right.



Post 216 Legionnaire Of The Year: Post 216 Judge Advocate Fred Libby (also Commander of VFW Post 7738), left, receives the Post Legionnaire of the Year Award certificate and pin from Commander Ken Kellogg, right, for his dedicated service to the Post in 2023.



Dinner: Commander Ken Kellogg serves his smoked brisket for the Awards Dinner.

Photos by Chilloa Young

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 9

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



Litchfield Flag Drop Box: Cheyenne Nault, 14, of Litchfield, right, is pictured with Litchfield Post 181 Judge Advocate Richard Braunfels, left, at the Litchfield Transfer Station earlier this month with a new Flag Disposal Drop Box she made. Cheyenne has been working on her Silver Award for Girl Scouts. She was inspired to create

an educational presentation and new flag disposal boxes when she witnessed the public tossing their tattered flags into the bulky dumpster. The Silver Award is the highest award a Cadette Girl Scout can earn. To earn this award, a scout must log a minimum of 50 hours to their project, and it must be sustainable. Cheyenne has a strong passion for our flag and our country. She has a high respect for our active military and our veterans.

Flag Box Information: Each Flag Disposal Drop Box created by Cheyenne Nault of Litchfield contains a flier with all her information and a QR code.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 11

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



Palermo Post 163 Parade: Malcolm Glidden Post 163 in Palermo took part in the Palermo Days Parade on Aug. 10. Top photo, Post Commander Paul Hunter, left, rides his horse Ladybug while Auxiliary Unit Chaplain Bonnie Hunter, right, leads Carmella, the Post mascot, proudly displaying her Post colors. Behind Paul and Bonnie, Auxiliary members Chelsea Hunter, left, Auxiliary Unit President Virginia Jones, center, and Cheryl Hammond, right, carry the Post banner. Bottom photo, Post Commander Paul Hunter, left, and Auxiliary Chaplain Bonnie Hunter, right, lead the Post during the parade.



Photos by Palermo resident Kim Brown

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



Brewer Post 98 Sponsors First Responder BBQ: In August, the Brewer American Legion Post 98 hosted its annual first responder BBQ at the Brewer Public Safety building for law enforcement, firefighters, paramedics, and medical personnel in the greater Brewer area. The Post fed first responders from Brewer, Eddington, Orrington, Clifton, and Holden with red snappers, burgers, chips, and drinks. It was a great turnout and a wonderful time of fellowship and camaraderie!

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



Refurbished Sign:

Milo Post 41 had a local man volunteer to refurbish its "Welcome Veterans" sign outside of the Post. His name is Ben Gauntt, and he spent about ten hours of his own time meticulously bringing our faded, peeling sign back to better than its original condition. All materials were donated by 3 Rivers Hardware. When we thanked him, he said, "Veterans have put their lives on the line for me, the least I can do is a few hours of work in return." He says that now that he has the tools, and has

started woodworking again, he's going to get back to using the skills his father taught him. We can't thank Ben enough for his humble generosity and excellent craftsmanship, not to mention his cheerful and enthusiastic attitude. Top photo, left to right, Post 41 Commander Dan Nutter, Past Post Commander Lee Leeman, Ben Gauntt, and Post 2nd Vice Steve Quist. Bottom photo, left to right, Past Post Commander Willard Leeman, Ben Gauntt, Post Commander Dan Nutter, and Post 2nd Vice Steve Quist.



Milo Post 41 Accepts Donation: Left to right, Post 41 Adjutant Dick Quirk, Post Second Vice Steve Quist, Pastor of Charleston Church Three Rivers Jake Ruby, and Post Commander Dan Nutter. Charleston Church donated all the proceeds from their annual car show to the Post.

Craft Fair: Members of Milo Post 41 and Auxiliary Unit 41 enjoy taking part in the Penquis Valley High School Craft Fair. Left to right, Auxiliary President Bonnie Waterhouse, Jeanette Hughes, Jeanette Page, and a guest.



Dexter Post 53 Donation: Dexter Post 53 Commander Fredrick Miller, right, presents a check to Paul Zimmerman, left, of the Red Maple in Guilford, in support of the Vietnam Traveling Wall that came to Guilford Maine.

Dexter Post 53 Memorial Day Event: Dexter Post 53 members and other area veterans participate in the annual Garland Maine Memorial Day event as it appeared in the Piscataquis Observer.



Brownville Town Anniversary: Members from Brownville Post 92 and Milo Post 41 join together to form a color guard celebrating the 200th anniversary of the town of Brownville on Aug. 17. Thanks to the patriotic, devoted, young, handsome gentlemen/members who helped celebrate this auspicious milestone. Left photo, left to right, Post 92 Commander Chris Crockett, Rick Preston, Daniel Torvey, and Bruce Benoit. Right photo, left to right, Norman Whitton, Bruce Benoit, and Dickie Monahan.

T a p s C o l u m n

<u>POST</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>CONFLICT</u>	<u>POST</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>CONFLICT</u>
Post 2 – Augusta	Donald E Daniel	Korea	Post 93 – Bucksport	Richard A Bowden	Vietnam
Post 3 – Calais	Daniel Lee	Vietnam	Post 97 – Howland	Jean M Neel	Vietnam
Post 3 – Calais	Merle Fitzsimmons	Vietnam	Post 98 – Brewer	Arthur J Babineau	WWII
Post 5 – Waterville	Leland J Bard	Korea	Post 98 – Brewer	Dennis Galagher	Korea
Post 5 – Waterville	Louis N Boucher	Korea	Post 102 – Stonington	Richard Spencer	WWII
Post 5 – Waterville	Leo E Goulette	Korea	Post 102 – Stonington	Ronald W Fowle	WWII
Post 8 – Cherryfield	Al Rapa	Unknown	Post 105 – Newport	Francis A Harding Jr	Korea
Post 8 – Cherryfield	Earl D Caler	Vietnam	Post 105 – Newport	Keith Thompson	Vietnam
Post 15 – Caribou	Earl V Pack	Korea	Post 105 – Newport	Kenneth L Hubel	Korea
Post 18 – Vinalhaven	Carl F Philbrook	Vietnam	Post 111 – Turner	Peter M Leavitt	Vietnam
Post 19 – Sanford	Maurice F Payeur	Vietnam	Post 111 – Turner	Paul Biron	Lebanon-Grenada
Post 19 – Sanford	James O Baker	Vietnam	Post 116 – Monson	James Fuller	Vietnam
Post 19 – Sanford	A Paul Carpenter	Korea	Post 118 – Mars Hill	James H Tweedie	WWII
Post 24 – Rumford	Marlin L Thurston	WWII	Post 123 – Kezar Falls	Delbert R Gilpatrick	Korea
Post 24 – Rumford	Richard Halacy	Vietnam	Post 123 – Kezar Falls	William L Johnson	Vietnam
Post 24 – Rumford	Wallace J Legere	Korea	Post 123 – Kezar Falls	Adrian Durgin	WWII
Post 24 – Rumford	Aime J Martin	Korea	Post 128 – Standish	David Fernald	Vietnam
Post 24 – Rumford	Jeffrey P Chamberlain	Vietnam	Post 128 – Standish	Philip G Dearborn	Korea
Post 28 – Farmington	Conrad M Bergeron	Vietnam	Post 133 – Fort Kent	Willie H Oleary	WWII
Post 30 – Camden	Gary L Henry	Vietnam	Post 133 – Fort Kent	Jack L Norris	Unknown
Post 30 – Camden	Nathan R Pease	Korea	Post 133 – Fort Kent	Ronaldo Levesque	Korea
Post 35 – So. Portland	Malcolm Perry	Other	Post 133 – Fort Kent	Omer Dubois	Vietnam
Post 35 – So. Portland	James Brewster	Korea	Post 133 – Fort Kent	Clifford Pelletier	Vietnam
Post 47 – Houlton	Aaron E Neureuther	Vietnam	Post 133 – Fort Kent	Alberie Nadeau	WWII
Post 47 – Houlton	Charles Griffith	Vietnam	Post 145 – Frenchville	Romeo Dumais	Korea
Post 49 – Van Buren	Gerald L Bard	Korea	Post 147 – Madawaska	Martin E Morneault	Korea
Post 49 – Van Buren	Donald J Saucier	Vietnam	Post 147 – Madawaska	Louis G Cyr	Vietnam
Post 50 – Unity	Eugene O Coombs	Korea	Post 149 – Waldoboro	Wesley M Waters	Vietnam
Post 52 – Oakfield	James W Burton	Korea	Post 151 – West Paris	Erlon C Hadley Sr	Korea
Post 54 – Wiscasset	Howard Cederlund	WWII	Post 153 – Auburn	Maurice R Bisson	Vietnam
Post 54 – Wiscasset	Harry D Shea	Vietnam	Post 153 – Auburn	Raymond R Guay	Korea
Post 54 – Wiscasset	Carl R Bartlett	Unknown	Post 172 – Vanceboro	Douglas L Keene	Unknown
Post 62 – Westbrook	Robert W Gordon	Korea	Post 178 – Winslow	Stanley Mortimer	Vietnam
Post 68 – Locke Mills	Julian W Philbrick	Korea	Post 178 – Winslow	Leland M Bessey	WWII
Post 68 – Locke Mills	Harry J Buswell	Vietnam	Post 178 – Winslow	Lyndell Herrick	Vietnam
Post 74 – Kennebunk	Jeremiah F Durkin	Korea	Post 188 – Eliot	Lloyd M Spinney	Vietnam
Post 77 – Lincoln	Kenneth H Hanscom Jr	Vietnam	Post 218 – Warren	Richard McEachern	Vietnam
Post 78 – Strong	Mark W Richards	Vietnam	Post CN09 – St. John's	Thomas R Hughes	Vietnam
Post 80 – Millinocket	Douglas R Boutaugh	Vietnam	Post CN09 – St. John's	John A Nicks	Korea
Post 80 – Millinocket	Ronald F Preo	Vietnam	Post CN09 – St. John's	Carl Lindahl	Korea
Post 82 – Norway	Parks B Holcomb Jr	Vietnam			
Post 82 – Norway	E F Knightly	Vietnam			
Post 84 – Orono	Ervin W Morrison	Korea			
Post 91 – Yarmouth	John H Wibby Jr	Korea			
Post 92 – Brownville Jct.	George W Eddy	Vietnam			
Post 93 – Bucksport	Edward Fogg	Korea			

Attention: Next Deadline is Jan 17.

The deadline for material, stories and/or pictures to be submitted for consideration for use in the **February 2025** issue of The Maine Legionnaire will be **January 17, 2025**.

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

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