

THE MAINE Legionnaire



NOVEMBER 2025

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OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

AMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF MAINE

32 Pages

Wiley Elected National Commander

Newly elected National Commander Dan K. Wiley pledges to continue highlighting Legion's veteran suicide prevention mission, calls for teamwork among American Legion Family.

Upon being elected 2025-2026 American Legion National Commander on Aug. 28, Kansas Legionnaire Dan K. Wiley took the stage at the organization's 106th National Convention and thanked all of those who helped him get to this day.

And then he told a story.

It was the story of a young attorney in Wiley's hometown who, due to various circumstances, was going through a difficult time – one he thought was just physical.

When the attorney went to his doctor for some cold medicine, the doctor noticed a difference in his patient and began asking questions: "Do you value your work? Do others value your work? Do you think you are doing good work?"

Puzzled, the attorney said he just wanted his cold prescription, but the



NATIONAL COMMANDER
DAN K. WILEY

doctor didn't let it go. He asked the attorney if he was considering self-harm and offered to provide some medication to address that.

After a week, the attorney admitted he could not think clearly, explaining, "It's like I'm driving a car, and it is foggy, and I cannot get the defroster to work. I can stay on task and get things done, but I can't see ahead." He then agreed to take the prescription for 30 days, which improved his condition considerably. He was then advised to continue to take the prescription for one year.

But a few months later, the attorney

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National Commander Photo Op: Top photo: Officers of the Maine American Legion Department gather for a photograph with National Commander Dan Wiley during his official visit to the Department of Maine from Oct. 30 to Nov. 4. Left to right, Dept. Historian Louis Marin, Dept. Adjutant Jason Hall, Dept. 2nd Vice Joseph Michaud, National Commander Dan K. Wiley, Dept. Commander Leroy McKenzie, Dept. National Executive Committeeman Alternate (NECA) Kirk Thurston, Dept. Judge Advocate Julie Flynn, and Past Dept. Commander/Nat'l Veterans Employment & Education Commission Chairman Matt Jabaut. Bottom photo: National Commander Dan Wiley is joined by Past National Commander Anthony "Tony" Jordan. The top photo was taken at the West Penobscot Post 107 in Carmel, while the bottom photo was captured at the Barrows-Skidgel Post 105 in Newport on the same day during meet-and-greet events.



Commander Wiley Makes His Official Visit to the Dept. of Maine

National Commander Dan Wiley, who was elected on August 28 in Tampa, Florida, made his official visit to the Department of Maine, American Legion, from October 30 to November 4. During his stay, he received a warm welcome filled with true Pine Tree hospitality. Accompanying him were his wife, Sonia, and National Aide Doug Hensley. Commander Wiley and his team arrived in Maine on the afternoon of Oct. 30, where they were greeted at the Bangor International Airport by State Adjutant Jason Hall. Later, they enjoyed dinner and conversation with the Department of Maine State Officers at Angler's Restaurant in Newport.

Several Legion posts in Central Maine had the honor of hosting Commander Wiley during his visit. He was welcomed by numerous legionnaires from across the state, along with

members of the auxiliary, Sons of the Legion, Riders, and various guests. On Friday, October 31, Commander Wiley visited Bucksport Post 93 and the Frank D. Hazeltine Post 43 in Belfast for meet-and-greet sessions. Later, he traveled to the Nautilus Seafood & Grill Restaurant in Belfast to enjoy dinner with department officers, members, and guests.

Commander Wiley began his Saturday morning by touring the Coles Transportation Museum in Bangor. He then visited the Dow-Louge Post 115 in Corinth, where he enjoyed a light lunch with post members and guests. Later that evening, he attended dinner at the Tedd-Lait Post 75 in Old Town, where a special presentation was made, involving a donation to the Veterans and Children Foundation.

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Get Your Challenge Coin & Lobster Pin Today While Supplies Last!

Coins and pins can be purchased online by visiting www.mainelegion.org, by scanning the QR code with your phone, or by check/money order in the amount of \$10/coin or pin, plus \$5 S/H. Make check payable to The American Legion,



Department of Maine and mail to 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901-0727. Please include an additional \$5 for every 5 coins purchased.



Lobster Pin

Coins and pins are also available for free pickup at \$10 each.

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

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



Challenge Coin Front



Challenge Coin Back

Commander's Comments

Hello to all my fellow Legionnaires. I want to first thank you all for everything that you are doing throughout our great state. I want you all to know that what you are doing does not go unnoticed. It is because of all your hard work that we get to continue to pave the way and be a model for other departments.



**LEROY
MCKENZIE**

As National Commander Dan Wiley is always telling us, we are better together. Here in Maine, we are the epitome of that. We all work together to accomplish what we need to do on a daily basis. The fact that our family works so well together is a testament to how much passion that we have not only for our Legion Family, but for those who we all

serve.

I was fortunate enough to see firsthand recently how a post had someone with a financial need. I witnessed how their PEC came together and solved the issue in minutes. That happened because of teamwork, everyone came together to find a solution to overcoming adversity, and "make it happen." I was truly amazed. Kudos and hats off to everyone who has the ability to "make it happen" when needed. This is one example of the many great posts in Maine working together.

I would like to personally thank everyone who has donated to my Commanders Project, Ember's Paws of Hope, and to those who have had events to the same. It is because of you that this project will be a success. To those who have not been able to donate or have an event, if you need help with ideas, they are all over the place. If you want to, you can always reach out to me as well. I have a ton of ideas.

I just came back from the commander's

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

"May the Memories of the Missing Forever Echo in Time."

On National POW/MIA Recognition Day, we honor U.S. service members who were prisoners of war (POWs) and those still missing in action (MIAs), and acknowledge the families who await answers. This day serves as a solemn reminder of these individuals' sacrifices, their families' enduring hope, and the nation's commitment to finding and identifying those who never

returned from past conflicts.

This is our reaffirmation of the fundamental principle that we leave no one behind.

Grant eternal rest unto them, let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

Never forgotten.

By Department Commander Leroy McKenzie



POW/MIA Recognition Day: On National POW/MIA Recognition Day, observed on Sept. 19, American Legion State Commander Leroy McKenzie places a wreath at the POW/MIA memorial at State HQ in Winslow. This gesture honors U.S. Service members who were prisoners of war and those who are still missing in action.

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

EASY WAYS TO DONATE:

Make checks payable to: The American Legion Department of Maine; **Memo line:** Ember's Paws of Hope/Commander's Project; **Mail to:** 5 Verti Drive, Winslow ME 04901-0727

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

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



Wreath Donation: Dept. Commander Leroy McKenzie, right, presents Craig Morneault, owner of Pelletiers Florist Greenhouse & Garden Center in Fort Kent a certificate and a framed set of photos for their generous wreath donation to The American Legion, Department of Maine. This wreath will be used for years to come.

A 'First' Look

Hello, my fellow Legionnaires. It is my hope that we are all in good health. I am honored to serve as your Department 1st Vice Commander. I appreciate all the confidence and kind words you have for me. As many of you know, the Membership Plan for this is out and can be obtained



**JOSEPH "JOE"
MICHAUD**

by going to www.mainelegion.org. This year we are focusing on three points:

Recruiting: Continue to recruit new members by having a membership table at your post events. Have someone who is knowledgeable man the table. Participate in community events and let the community know what The American Legion is about. Invite potential members to attend an event, let them see what we do in the community and for our local veterans. Go through your DSM and contact potential members in your area. When they transfer, welcome them into your post, and invite them to participate in

[More on "A 'FIRST' LOOK" Page 4](#)

NEC Update

Where we are again. The National Executive Committee met Oct. 8-9 in Indianapolis, and among other business of various committees and/or commissions who met had 30 resolutions to consider.



LLOYD WOODS

We were introduced to the national officers, National Chaplain Rev. Michael J. Politt, NH, National Historian David Lockhart, NY, and Sergeant-at-Arms Gaylord K. Sanneman, KS. Also introduced were the five national vice commanders (NVC). Our NVC is Ronald L. LaRose from Vermont.

A resolution presented was one that the Department Advisory Committee brought forward and that was to reinstate the charter for the Department of Colorado with stipulations. Other resolutions came from the Finance Commission, the National Security Commission, Americanism Commission, Internal Affairs Commission, the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission (VA&R), and the Veterans Employment & Education Commission (VE&E). There were reports received from various other commissions present.

Of the 30 total resolutions presented, two had to be referred to the respective commission for further study. On Thursday, those two resolutions were reintroduced with the necessary change made and were passed unanimously "as amended." The VA&R Commission presented 19 of the 30 resolutions to be brought up. All the resolutions will be available for viewing shortly on <https://archive.legion.org>.

A resolution from the VA&R Commission was that the dependents of the sailors known as the Port Chicago Fifty, of the 1940s, who have been exonerated of any wrongdoing, be granted any available benefits that they might be currently entitled.

Another resolution that was passed was that the Department of Veterans Affairs name all women veterans' rooms/clinics after women veterans. This was done in Salem, Virginia and in California.

Finally, from the VA&R Commission was a resolution urging Congress to increase from seven permanent judgeships on the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims to nine permanent positions. Again, the VA&R Commission submitted a resolution to encourage the U.S. Census Bureau to modify its Title 13, United States code requirements to include veteran, National Guard, and reservists' data on any further census.

Until the next time, may you all enjoy good health and prosperity and have a good winter. I am available for any assistance I can do, and I remain "PROUD TO SERVE."

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

meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana at the beginning of October. I want to report to you that we are experiencing some of the same struggles as every other department. Membership struggles are not unique to Maine. When I listened to other department commanders speaking, we were all in agreement that some of the best solutions are to work together better, and if we work to care for the members we currently have and give them a reason to value their memberships, they will renew and bring others with them. I truly believe in this process. Let's all work together to be better together. Let's all work together and support our membership.

To all of those who have invited me to their events, I want to thank you for your hospitality and for all the little gifts. I appreciate you all! 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.

I hope to see you all at the Mid-Winter Conference on Jan. 10, 2026 at Jeff's

Catering & Event Center in Brewer. Second Vice Commander Ryan Coffin and I are working on the agenda and hope to bring you a great conference that is fun and informative. With that said, I am asking all department committee chairpersons to speak to the attendees. You will be asked to speak for 3-5 minutes max. about what your respective committees are doing, and this will be a major opportunity to seek help from the membership if you need it. If you cannot attend and you are a chairperson, I ask that you have someone from your respective committee speak on your behalf. We are only as good as the team we have in place to help us succeed. By now you should have had at least one meeting, so I look forward to hearing all about it.

Remember to keep working together, to keep the fire of passion burning bright, and most importantly keep checking on each other. It is through this that we will continue to grow and continue to be a model for all other departments. Thank you for your support, thank you for allowing me to serve as your department commander. See you all soon!

Department Commander Leroy McKenzie

On the Agenda

NOVEMBER 2025 MEETINGS

- District 3 – Androscoggin: Nov. 17, Turner Post 111, 6:30 p.m.
- District 5 – Oxford: Nov. 19, Bethel Post 81, 6:00 p.m., Refreshments after

DECEMBER 2025 MEETINGS

- District 2 – Cumberland: Dec. 7, Westbrook Post 197, 2:00 p.m., Lunch at 1:00 p.m. Bring Toys for Tots
- District 5 – Oxford: Dec. 17, Lockes Mills Post 68, 6:00 p.m., District Christmas Party
- District 8 – Sagadahoc: Dec. 8, Harpswell Post 171, 5:30 p.m.

JANUARY 2026 MEETINGS

- District 1 – York: Jan. 10, Kennebunkport Post 159, 12:00 p.m., Roster of nominations to be circulated
- District 3 – Androscoggin: Jan. 19, Mechanic Falls Post 150, 6:30 p.m. Oratorical
- District 5 – Oxford: Jan. 21, South Paris Post 72, 6:00 p.m., District Oratorical Contest
- District 13 – Penobscot: Jan. 4, Newport Post 105, 2:00 p.m., Lunch 1:00 p.m.

FEBRUARY 2026 MEETINGS

- District 2 – Cumberland: Feb. 14, Westbrook Post 62, 2:00 p.m., Lunch at 1:00 p.m., Nomination & Election of Officers
- District 3 – Androscoggin: Feb. 16, Lisbon Post 158, 6:30 p.m., Four Chaplains
- District 5 – Oxford: Feb. 18, Buckfield Post 58, 6:00 p.m., 2026 Nominating Committee
- District 8 – Sagadahoc: Feb. 1, Phippsburg Post 216, 6:00 p.m.
- District 14 – Piscataquis: Feb. 21, Dover-Foxcroft Post 29, 12:00 p.m.
- District 17 – Aroostook: Feb. 8, Van Buren Post 49, 12:00 p.m., Meal with Meeting at 1:00 p.m.



Coles Land Transportation Museum: National Commander Dan K. Wiley and Department of Maine officers enjoy an educational trip to the Coles Land Transportation Museum in Bangor on Nov. 1. Left photo, Department Commander Leroy McKenzie, left, and Past Dept. Commander/Nat'l Veterans Employment & Education Commission Chairman Matt Jabaut, right. Top, right photo, Jabaut, left, and Commander Wiley, right, view displays at the museum. Bottom, right photo, Department Finance Officer Mary "Tally" Brown stands in front of the M60 tank on display.





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upcoming events.

Retention: While recruiting new members is important, we must not forget our current members. Continue doing Buddy Checks, either by phone or in person. Please don't make Buddy Checks about membership. Take the time to check in on each other and find out what's going on in their lives. Make your membership calls separate. Let them know what events are coming up and offer to pick them up so they may attend. Ask them what they are looking for at your post. Some members don't attend because there may be a bar, or the meetings are late and run too long. Remember what works at one post may not work at another post.

Training: Take the time to train the new officers in your post, don't just hand over the reins and wish them luck. Mentor and help them with the position you hold, some of these members may be brand new and are unfamiliar with the way your post should run. They get discouraged and frustrated and walk away from a position.

This year, as part of the Membership Plan, I have asked each district and each post to make up a two-or-three-

man membership team to assist the membership chair. Each district will reach out to the posts in his/her district and assist with membership issues. If your district has not yet reached out to you, please contact the district commander. I will be in contact with all the district membership team to get updates on how each post in their district is doing. I am in hopes that many posts will reach 100% before Dec. 31.

This year, we will continue to have a District Membership Contest. The district with the highest membership percentage, will be awarded a check for \$500 and the bragging rights for the year, and the second will receive a check for \$250. Also, for the district with the highest renewal percentage, \$500 and bragging rights will be awarded to the first place and \$250 to the second place. The contest will go on until 30 days prior to the 2026 Nation Convention. Have fun and good luck.

I want to thank you again for your confidence in me as your Department 1st Vice Commander and I look forward to seeing many of you at the Mid-Winter Conference. I hope to announce that Maine is at 100%.

Department 1st Vice Commander Joe Michaud

Money Matters

From the desk of the Finance Officer,

You know me as the one at the podium asking for money, but I am also the one who is looking out for you, financially that is!

A little info about your 990's.

As per the IRS they are due on the 5th day of the 5th month following the end



MARY T. BROWN

of the organization's taxable year (www.irs.gov). Sounds like a puzzle, doesn't it? ***So, mark your calendars!*** I try to get my post's done and in by the 15th of the third month following fiscal year end because it never hurts to get them in early. There are penalties for failing to file. You will lose your nonprofit status. This is expensive to get reinstated.

There is also news from the Gambling Commission for those posts who have a license. Please read and see if this is something your post would benefit from. The rules are changed often enough that you may want to attend.

November 5, 2025 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Milton Champion, Executive Director of the Gambling Control Unit within the Department of Public Safety is pleased to announce statewide Charitable Town Hall Meetings. These meetings are designed to provide eligible organizations with the opportunity to get updates on charitable gaming laws, rules and resources available to make your events both productive and profitable for your organizations. Meetings will begin at 6:00 pm, which will include a short presentation and open discussion so that Gambling Control staff will be able to answer any questions regarding best practices, gaming operations and compliance. Regular members are encouraged to attend along with board members, employees and event operators.

November 10th
Presque Isle Elks Lodge #1954 - 508 MAIN ST, PRESQUE ISLE, ME 04769-2334

November 13th
Bangor Elks Lodge #244 - 108 ODLIN RD, BANGOR, ME 04401-6704

November 17th
Harrington VFW Post #11553 - 1108 US ROUTE 1A, HARRINGTON, ME 04643

November 18th
Waterville Elks Lodge #905 - 76 INDUSTRIAL ST, WATERVILLE, ME 04901-5774

November 19th
Augusta Elks Lodge #964 - 397 CIVIC CENTER DR, AUGUSTA, ME 04330-8074

November 24th
Portland Elks Lodge #188 - 945 CONGRESS ST STE B, PORTLAND, ME 04102-1967

December 1st
Lewiston Kora Shriners - 11 SABATTUS ST, LEWISTON, ME 04240-7038

No pre-registration is required and there is no fee to attend. For more information, please contact the Maine Gambling Control Unit at 207-626-3900 or by email at gambling.control@maine.gov or visit our website at <https://www.maine.gov/dps/gcu>.

Meet & Greet Photo Op: Department Finance Officer Mary "Tally" Brown meets up with National Commander Dan Wiley during one of his numerous visits as part of his official tour of the Department of Maine. They connected during a meet-and-greet lunch held at Dow-Lougee Post 115 in Corinth on Nov. 1.



Judge Advocate

Your Rule Book, Your Rights: Why Every Legionnaire Must Know the Constitution and By-Laws.

The American Legion is more than a social club; it is a powerful, nationwide organization dedicated to serving veterans and their communities. Like any great institution, our strength and effectiveness are rooted in a foundational document—our Constitution and By-Laws.

To every Legionnaire, from the newest recruit to the seasoned Past Commander, these documents are not just rules for the officers; **they are your blueprint for participation, your guarantee of rights, and the essential guide for fulfilling our sacred Preamble.**

Here is why knowing your post, department, and national Constitution and By-Laws is a vital duty for every member:

1. They Define Our Mission and Purpose

The **Preamble to The American Legion Constitution** is our guiding star, laying out the core principles for which we associate ourselves together. From "uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States" to "consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness," these are the why of our existence.

The Constitution formalizes this vision, ensuring that all actions taken by The American Legion—at every level—are directed toward our chartered purposes and remain non-political and non-partisan, as mandated by our founding principles.



JULIE FLYNN

2. They Are the Foundation of Good Governance

Your Constitution and By-Laws are the **fundamental rules** by which your post operates. They ensure your post is a healthy, functioning organization.

- **Order and Structure:** They establish the framework for how your post is managed, including the hierarchy of responsibility and the relationship between the membership and the Executive Committee.

- **Post Elections:** They specify *who* is eligible to hold office, *how* officers are nominated and elected, and the length of their terms—ensuring a fair, democratic, and orderly transfer of leadership.

- **Financial Integrity:** They mandate the management of post funds, including the roles and duties of the Finance Officer and the requirement for an annual budget and audit. A member who knows the By-Laws understands how post money is handled and can ensure accountability.

3. They Protect Your Rights and Voice

As a member in good standing, the By-Laws are your legal assurance of participation and protection within the organization.

- **Your Right to Vote:** The By-Laws dictate meeting frequency, quorum requirements, and the process for submitting resolutions—all of which determine how your voice is heard and how your vote impacts post decisions.

- **Membership Status:** They clearly define what constitutes good standing and what leads to delinquency or suspension. Knowing these rules is crucial to maintaining your privileges.

- **Due Process:** Should a disciplinary issue arise, the By-Laws outline the procedures for a fair trial and subsequent appeals, ensuring that no member is unfairly treated or removed without proper cause and process.

4. They Provide the "How-To" for Operations

While the Constitution covers the

fundamental principles, the **By-Laws** are the practical, day-to-day operating rules. They are the "go-to source" for most of your post's specific procedures. Key provisions often include:

What the By-Laws Detail	Why It Matters to You
Dues and Delinquency	Knowing payment deadlines and reinstatement procedures.
Duties of Officers	Understanding the roles of the commander, adjutant, and others, so you know who to go to for specific needs.
Delegates to Convention	Defining how your post selects representatives to department and national conventions, where major policy is set.
Rules of Order	Establishing the parliamentary procedure (often Robert's Rules of Order) used to run meetings efficiently and fairly.
Amending Documents	The procedure and vote threshold (often two-thirds) required to change the post's rules—a safeguard against hasty changes.

5. They Ensure Compliance with the Larger Organization

Your post's documents are part of a larger legal framework. The hierarchy of rules is clear:

1. Federal/state laws
2. National Constitution & By-Laws
3. Department Constitution & By-Laws
4. Post Constitution & By-Laws

Your Post's rules **cannot** conflict with those of your department or national headquarters. Keeping yourself familiar with them ensures your post remains compliant and avoids legal or administrative trouble, allowing us to focus on our core mission.

Your Call to Action

The strength of The American Legion comes from an informed and engaged membership. You would not deploy without studying the mission, and you should not participate in your post without studying your Constitution and By-Laws.

- **Ask for a Copy:** Request a current copy of your post's Constitution and By-Laws from your post adjutant or judge advocate. They should be readily available to every member.

- **Attend Training:** Look for training opportunities on post operations and C&B. The American Legion offers resources like the **Officer's Guide** and various **Training Tuesday** sessions which often cover these topics in detail.

- **Read Them, Learn Them, Live By Them:** Don't just file them away. Familiarize yourself with them. When questions about procedure, membership, or leadership arise, your first and best resource is always the document you've agreed to uphold.

By knowing your documents, you empower yourself, strengthen your post, and ensure that The American Legion continues to be the most effective force for veterans in America. **Read them, learn them, and live by them.** Our organization depends on it.



Maine American Legion

Blind Camp: The 2025 edition of Maine American Legion Blind Camp was held July 23 to Aug. 3 at Camp Lawroweld on Webb Lake in Weld. This year's camp had a larger attendance than the past couple years, including some new campers. Blind Camp Representative Brian Knowlton attended Visitors Day on July 30, where he had lunch and dinner, and then attended the Annual Camp Talent Show, which features campers and staff singing, telling jokes, and reading poetry. At the start of the program, Brian was invited to the stage to speak to the campers and presented a check for \$3,205, which was raised from donations from Legion districts, posts, and individuals this year. Thank you to all who donated. The donation is always greatly appreciated by the campers. Left photo, Brian Knowlton, left, speaks to the campers alongside Camp Director Trevor Schlisner. The right photo shows the beach front at Webb Lake.



Department of Maine Annual Mid-Winter Conference January 10, 2026 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. 10, 2026. The Conference will be hosted by Commander Leroy McKenzie and 2nd Vice Commander Ryan Coffin.

Special Rate for Legion Family for Hotel Reservations: Holiday Inn: 404 Odlin Rd, Bangor, ME 04401. Phone: 207-947-0101

Room Rate: \$129 + sales tax, Microwave, Refrigerator, Coffee/Tea Maker, Elevators, Restaurant, Lounge, Indoor pool.



[Click Here to Reserve Your Room](#), or scan the QR Code with your phone, or visit www.mainelegion.org and select **WINTER CONFERENCE** listed under NEWS & EVENTS.

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. 4, 2026.

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, scan the QR Code with your phone or visit www.mainelegion.org, and select **WINTER CONFERENCE**

listed under NEWS & EVENTS.



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

National Commander Wiley Wishes Maine a Productive Winter Conference

To my fellow Legionnaires in Maine,

By virtue of attending this conference, you should take pride in knowing that you are among the most dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers in

The American Legion. You are going the extra mile by offering veterans one of your most precious commodities, your time!

Upon my election as national commander, I asked departments, posts and Legionnaires to put a special emphasis on what I call the "three C's." That's Communication, Community and Camaraderie.

First, reach out and use all tools to amplify your message. You can do that by fostering positive relationships with your local news outlets, frequently posting on popular social media platforms, and informing fellow Legionnaires about what is happening in your post.

Second, we should remember that The



DAN K. WILEY

American Legion makes its biggest impact at the local level. Not all veterans are aware of the latest congressional activity, but they do see what The American Legion is doing in their communities. Community service is a privilege not a punishment.

Last, but definitely not least, is camaraderie. Too many veterans leave the military feeling isolated. It is a major reason why more veterans have been lost to suicide since the 9/11 attacks than all Americans killed in action from the Korean War through the Global War on Terrorism. We must continue regular buddy checks to let veterans know that they have a family – The American Legion Family – that truly cares about their well-being.

It is still early in my tenure as your national commander. If I have not yet met you personally, I hope to see you when I visit your department or at some other gathering. But whether we meet or not, just know that your national commander and your American Legion will always have your back. Thank you for all that you do.

Best wishes for a productive conference.
For God and Country,

National Commander Dan K. Wiley

Historian's Bunker

Good day, from your Department of Maine Historian. Here are a few things you may know:

The American Legion, Department of Maine was established following the St. Louis Caucus in May 1919, where the national organization was formed. Key figures from Maine, including the state's governor, played a role in the initial organization and the selection of the first department officers. The Department of Maine quickly began organizing local posts, with the first meeting held at the state house on July 23, 1919, with 25 posts already formed by that date.

Here's a more detailed look at our history: The American Legion was formed in Paris and St. Louis in the spring of 1919 by veterans returning from World War I.

Chairman Albert Greenlaw and Secretary James Boyle spearheaded the organization of local posts in Maine after returning from the St. Louis Caucus.

The first posts were established in towns like Farmington (Roderick-Crosby Post



LOU MARIN

28), Bridgton (Lopeman-Potts Post 67), and others.

The American Legion's core mission in Maine, as elsewhere, includes supporting veterans, military personnel, and their families, as well as fostering patriotism and community involvement.

The first state convention was held in Bangor, Maine on Sept. 24, 1919. By the time the convention rolled around, Maine had 54 posts. At the first annual state, Albert Greenlaw was elected and subsequently served as the first commander for The American Legion, Department of Maine from 1919-1921.

About my post's namesake: Napoleon Ouellette, whom the Rumford American Legion Post 24 is named after, was born in Rumford, Maine in 1894. On Oct. 6, 1912, at the age of 18, he enlisted in the National Guard.

Ouellette reported for federal service on April 13, 1917. He made the ranks of private on Oct. 6, 1913, corporal on Sept. 9, 1916, and sergeant on April 27, 1917. He was originally assigned to Organization Company B 2nd Infantry of Maine National Guard, which was organized as Company B 103rd Infantry Defensive Sector Overseas: Sept 27, 1917 to death. Ouellette died of wounds received in action in Belleau Woods, France, July 14, 1918.

FALL SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS

Congratulations to the Following Sweepstakes Winners!

Winners of the Fall Sweepstakes Raffle drawn at Fall Conference on Sept. 13 at Jeff's Catering & Event Center, Brewer.

Grand Prize winner of \$1500 was awarded to Richard O Wagner, Bath Post 21, \$500 to Mike N Hirst, Winslow Post 178, \$300 to Russell L Hubbard, Augusta Post 2, and \$200 to Bruce D Macomber, Auburn Post 153.



■ "NATIONAL CMDR" (Continued from Page 1)

decided to apply for a vacant judgeship – but then realized that the application called for disclosing current medications taken, but not past medications.

"Well, you can see this train wreck coming," Wiley said. "It's the most attorney thing ever: 'I'm going to stop taking the medication, and then when I sign that form in 30 days, I don't have to disclose it.'"

"It's the stigma, right? It's the stigma of mental health that we're combating. Trying to let people know it's OK not to be OK."

The attorney called his doctor to inform him he was going to stop taking the medication. But the doctor wasn't hearing it, telling the attorney that those reviewing the application would judge the attorney based on his ability and character, and would see it as a positive as someone helping himself.

Then the doctor explained that roughly 20 percent of the population will have a depressive episode in their life. "You are not alone," said the doctor.

The attorney agreed, continued to take the medication and ended up becoming a state court judge. But that

career now has come to end. Kansas Circuit Court Judge Dan K. Wiley is now American Legion National Commander Dan K. Wiley.

"That's why the Be the One mission is important to me. It's personal," Wiley told convention delegates. "I can't tell you that Dr. Richard Whitlow saved my life. I can tell you he made a difference in my life. He made it better."

Continuing Be the One, the Legion's suicide prevention program, is one of Wiley's priorities for the upcoming. The others are his slogan "Better Together", The American Legion legislative agenda; the Veterans and Children Foundation; celebrating America's 250th birthday; and what he said are the three Cs: communication, community and camaraderie.

A U.S. Air Force veteran and cattleman, Wiley is a paid-up-for-life member of Byron H. Mehl American Legion Post 23 in Leavenworth and is a past department commander of the Kansas American Legion. He also served as Kansas' National Executive Committeeman.

He spent Thursday's remarks focusing on Be the One and "Better Together." "Be the One is a personal and passionate mission for me," Wiley said. "Taking care of one another is

what we do. It's who we are."

Wiley's theme of "Better Together" focuses on the American Legion Family. "I am a big believer in the American Legion Family," he said. "Those posts that are successful are the ones that are inclusive and not exclusive. They're the ones that operate in unity with the units, squadrons, and chapters. Those are the successful posts: the ones that care about the mission and helping each other. Taking care of one another."

"But better together has an even deeper meaning. We use phrases like 'I got your 6' and 'I got your back'. Those are not just nice sayings. It's what we were trained to do when we served. It's human nature. It's who we are."

To illustrate his point, Wiley told how in December 2023 he received a phone call from American Legion Past National Commander Jake Comer, who had received an email from a disgruntled former court litigant.

"My first reaction was that I'm not too worried about someone attacking me. I'm used to it as a judge," Wiley said. "But when you start bothering my friends it upsets me. And I was mad."

Wiley said he called Comer back, and that the past national commander could tell quickly Wiley was upset. "About 10 seconds into the conversation he said, 'Dan, we had that forwarded to you for your situational awareness. We're not concerned about you. We know who you are,'" Wiley said. "And then the four words that mattered the most. He said, 'We got your back.' That's all I needed to hear. Powerful words in that moment."

Wiley plans to pay that forward to the men and women he will lead over the next 12 months. "This next year as your national commander, I got your back," he said. "The American Legion has had your back since 1919. The American Legion had your back in the 1920s when we advocated for the creation of the Veterans Bureau, which would eventually become Veterans

Affairs. The American Legion had your back in 1944 when we advocated the GI Bill of Rights. The American Legion had your back in 1983 when we alone when we funded a study on the disastrous effects of Agent Orange, which culminated with Congress passing the Agent Orange Act in 1991.

"And most recently, The American Legion had your back with the passage of the PACT Act. The American Legion had your back yesterday. The American Legion has your back today. And The American Legion will have your back tomorrow. As long as America exists, and as long as there are veterans, there will be an American Legion, and we will have your back."

Additional national officers elected or appointed Thursday during the national convention:

- National Vice Commander Jan D. "JD" Larson, Disney-Bell Post 66 in Bowie, Md.
- National Vice Commander Stephen T. Weismann, Sgt. Donnie E. Horton American Legion Post 254 in Collinwood, Tenn.
- National Vice Commander Benjamin E. (Ben) Headen, American Legion Roy Fourr Post 24 in Tombstone, Ariz.
- National Vice Commander Jerry Landkamer, American Legion Post 16 in Norfolk, Neb.
- National Vice Commander Ron LaRose, American Legion Post 19 in Bristol, Vt.
- National Chaplain Michael Pollitt, American Legion Post 22 in Lebanon, N.H.
- National Sergeant-at-Arms Gaylord K. Sanneman, American Legion Post 253 in Maquette, Kan.,
- National Historian David W. Lockhart, Horace D. Washburn American Legion Post 533 in Corinth, N.Y.

By Steven B. Brooks

August 28, 2025

www.legion.org/Information-Center/News/Convention/2025/august/be-the-one-and-better-together



National Commander Installed: Dan K. Wiley of Kansas is elected 2025-2026 national commander during the 106th American Legion National Convention in Tampa, Florida.

Photo by Jennifer Blohm, The American Legion



Celebrate the Nation's Semi- Quincentennial by Taking Part in The American Legion's USA 250 Challenge.

Visit: www.legion.org/get-involved/community-programs/usa250/challenge to learn more and register.

ABOUT THE CHALLENGE: The American Legion Family is honoring the nation's 250th birthday with a commitment to embracing physical activity, supporting mental health and serving its communities. The USA 250 Challenge encourages American Legion Family members, other veterans and all Americans to participate, and even raise additional money to support our disabled veterans and families in need through The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation. The year-long initiative offers three categories — fitness, mental wellness

and community service — in order to engage more American Legion Family members and others to participate.

Participants may engage in one, two or all three activities as an individual or as part of a team like an American Legion post, American Legion Auxiliary unit, Sons of The American Legion squadron and/or an American Legion Riders chapter.

For a \$30 registration fee, participants will receive their choice of a USA 250 Challenge tech shirt. The proceeds will go to the Veterans and Children Foundation (VCF).

Service Office Update

Hello from the Service Office. There are a couple of things I would like to go over today. The holiday season is fast approaching. It is a very good time to conduct buddy checks on members of the post that don't attend regular monthly meets. This time of year can be a major risk for veterans. 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 available 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; 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 will 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**



**SERVICE OFFICER
CARL CURTIS**

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. Please be on the lookout for the next Post Service Officer Training listing on the Department Facebook page or the Leadership Ledger.

PSO Contact Information. Post Service Officers, as a minimum, please send us your full name, Post, telephone number (your phone number will not be released) and email address. The purpose is so that members of your post can contact you for local assistance and also so that I can contact you, by phone or email, if we hear from a member in your post that needs assistance.

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

frustrating to the veteran to keep resubmitting the same claim as it will most likely be denied.

NEW WAYS TO APPLY FOR VA HEALTHCARE

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

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

1. Paper - VA Form 10-10 EZ.

2. Call 1-877-222-VETS (8387), Mon-Fri between 8 am and 8 pm, EST.

3. Online at www.vets.gov!

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

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

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

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

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



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



President's Message

As many of you know, we no longer have a Department Secretary. Several members are working diligently to keep things running at the department level. Please bear with us as we transition to a new format at headquarters.



**AUXILIARY
PRESIDENT
LINDA JACK**

to me, "we are on the road again."

UNIT VISITS...please think about asking your president to visit your unit meeting. This is a good forum for members to ask questions and for me to

talk about the president's project. You can either call me at (207)739-9831 or email ljalam22@gmail.com to set up a time that I may visit. I would like to visit as many units as I can before snow flies.

HONOR FLIGHT MAINE...I am really excited about this project. As of today, we have trips for 14 veterans all paid for. It is really cool looking at our bus with 14 veterans. Let's work really hard to fill the bus with 26 veterans. If you are having a fundraiser, please let me know. If I am able to attend, I would love to.

MEMBERSHIP...please work on membership so that we can reach our goal this year. Vice President/Membership Stella Trahan is working hard to achieve goals established by national. If you have questions, please contact Stella. Our membership goal for the year 2025 is now at 90%. Thank you for helping us achieve this goal.

Thank you for all you do. Without our Auxiliary, many programs would fall through the cracks. We must remember that we are here for "service not self."



National Auxiliary President Visits Maine: Pam Ray, the National President of the American Legion Auxiliary, made her official visit to the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Maine from October 17 to October 19. During her visit to Westbrook Post 197 on Oct. 17, she is joined by American Legion Auxiliary National Executive Committee (NEC) member/National Americanism Committee Vice-Chair, Debra Rumery, left, and Department American Legion Auxiliary President Linda Jack, right.

Special Presentation:

National Commander Dan Wiley presents Maine Department Legion Riders' Director Tom Kuesport, right, with a National Commander "Be The One" License plate and photo during his official visit to the Department at Carmel Post 107 on Nov. 2.



Americanism Committee Vice-Chair Debra Rumery, American Legion National Executive Committeeman Lloyd Woods, and Sons of The American Legion Detachment Adjutant George Rice.

National Convention 2025: The American Legion, Department of Maine family attends National Conference in Tampa, Florida Aug. 22-28. Left to right, American Legion Auxiliary National Executive Committee (NEC) member/National

Join Sons of The American Legion

Eligibility Requirements:

All male descendants adopted sons, and stepsons of members of The American Legion, and such male



descendants of veterans who died in service during the period of April 6, 1917, through November 11, 1918, or any time from December 7, 1941, to date, who served honorably, as set forth in Article IV, Section 1, of the National Constitution of The American Legion, or who died subsequent to their

honorable discharge from such service, shall be eligible for membership in the Sons of The American Legion.

[Print an application](http://www.legion.org/about/american-legion-family/sons-of-the-american-legion/join-sons-of-the-american-legion) by visiting www.legion.org/about/american-legion-family/sons-of-the-american-legion/join-sons-of-the-american-legion

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



SAL Detachment Receives CWF Award:

Congratulations to the Detachment of Maine for reaching the Heritage Circle (Silver level) in support of The American Legion Child Well-being Foundation (CWF). CWF (formerly Child Welfare Foundation) provides grants to

non-profits for projects that contribute to the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual needs of children. Grants are only given to entities that help U.S. children in a large geographic area; they are not awarded for day-to-day or special operating expenses. CWF awarded 13 grants totaling \$852,593 to youth-serving nonprofit organizations in 2025, including: American Kidney Fund of Rockville, MD, ASXL Rare Research Endowment Foundation of Portland, ME, Briggs & Barrett Project of Norfolk, NE, Camp Corral of Raleigh, NC, Children's Hospital & Medical Center Foundation of Omaha, NE, Cleveland County ALWS Baseball, Inc. of Shelby, NC, Father Flanagan's Boys' Home of Boys Town, NE, Gift of Adoption of Northbrook, IL, LifeCamp USA of Delafield, WI, Southeast Missouri Network Against Sexual Violence of Jackson, MO, Spectrum Sailing of Mt. Pleasant, SC, \$525,000 awarded to The American Legion National Headquarters of Indianapolis, and The National Children's Cancer Society, Belleville, IL. Pictured with Detachment Commander Steve Doyle during the Fall Conference on September 15 at Jeff's Catering and Event Center in Brewer are members of the team that makes these important initiatives happen across our state.

Law & Order Update

My name is Kirk Thurston, Chairman of the Department Law and Order Committee.

The mission of the Law and Order Committee is to promote, judge, and present law and order (first responders) annual awards as well as encouraging post and districts to promote this program within their respective communities.

This year's committee members are Phil Dow of Palermo (District 14), Randall Kluj of Orneville Twp (District 14), Lynn Rendell of Berwick (District 1), Ryan Simpson of Carmel (District 13), Jeff Sukeforth of Camden (District 6), and David Watson of Brunswick (District 8).

The time has come for all Legionnaires to press our local area first responder organizations, i.e. police officers, firefighters, EMTs and game wardens, for information regarding the outstanding heroes in our communities.



KIRK THURSTON

Contact the leadership of these groups and ask how you can help them honor their people. The forms are simple and easy to prepare. Add a few newspaper articles on an individual, and a supervisor's letter of recommendation, and you have a package for submittal. I am willing to assist any post in the preparation of their applications. Remember, May 1 is the deadline for packages to be at department headquarters. The forms can be found on the American Legion Department of Maine website: www.mainelegion.org/pages/formsapplications.php. The forms for Firefighter and Law Officer of the Year are the same requirements for the national award. If you have any questions on form or content of the applications, packages, or other ideas, please do not hesitate to contact me at (207)369-0831, e-mail fuzzyt3@roadrunner.com, or call upon any of the committee members in your area. Refer to this year's Department of Maine state directory for their phone numbers or check with department for the information. So, let's get out there and recognize these deserving people. Thank you in advance for your assistance in this important endeavor.

Supporting the National Security Pillar

The National Security Pillar of The American Legion is often the least understood and, therefore, underutilized at the post level.

What is the National Security Pillar and what does it cover? The National Security Pillar covers such things and programs at the post level support for:

1. American Red Cross Blood Drives
2. Recognition of law enforcement and firefighters, not only with award nominations, but also local recognitions at dinners, coffees, and other public venues
3. POW/MIA recognition and ceremonial programs
4. Support for ROTC and Jr Cadet programs in the public schools, as well as in secondary education
5. Support of our deployed troops and our National Guard units through care packages or fundraisers for their home-front programs
6. Support for Blue Star and Gold Star families
7. Support local, comprehensive disaster preparedness programs
8. Support legislation for on quality-of-life issues and transition issues for servicemen and their families; and more.

I'd like to address one area that has benefits which transcend the post level, time, and staffing contributed to the program: American Red Cross Blood Drives! This is one of the definitive areas in the National Security Pillar that is recognized at all levels, including the annual American Legion National Convention. The American Legion has maintained a collaboration with American Red Cross since 1942, when Legion blood drives supplemented the reserves stateside during the war effort. The American Legion continues to be the largest contributor of blood donor



DAVID TANGUAY

support in the country,

During a recent discussion with one of the Red Cross Blood Drive Regional Directors, Geoff Allen, a few concerns were raised. There is, and continues to be, a need for more drives in the more populated areas. The Red Cross in Maine has room for expansion. These needs can translate into opportunities for local Legion posts.

There are some qualifying considerations that are addressed briefly:

First is location, preferably in a populated area that donors can be drawn from. The Red Cross would like to see at least 30 donors listed for a drive.

Second is a space that is at least 1,400 sq. ft., with adequate parking, a climate-controlled space (68 to 70 degrees), handicap accessible, clean, well-lit, and adequate electrical outlets to support the Red Cross equipment.

Third is set-up of the space—this and staffing support are two of the most important considerations. The drive is more than just providing a physical space. Red Cross does appreciate having a free, clear location for their drives. The American Red Cross would like to see the space properly configured with appropriate tables and chairs for histology stations, an administrative table, a centrally-located supply table, a registration table at the entrance, and one or more tables to support the canteen.

The fourth consideration, in addition to the physical configuration, the Red Cross requests that the Legion Family provide staffing for the registration table as well as staffing to support the canteen (snack and drink table.) This could be as few as one to two individuals at each station. Most posts with a Legion Family should be able to support these staffing requests, which provide much needed support to the Red Cross staff.

As an example, Field-Allen Post 148 family in Windham provides two individuals at registration and two at the canteen, each covering a 3-hour period,

[More on "NAT'L SECURITY" Page 11](#)

BE THE ONE

Next Training: December 20

Where:

Dept. of Maine Training Room, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901

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

To reserve your spot or for questions, email: bethenedeptme@gmail.com



Be The One Training: Maine American Legion family members gather for Be The One Training held at the Department HQ training room on Sat., Oct. 19. Training was facilitated by Department Judge Advocate Julie Flynn and American Legion Auxiliary National Executive Committee (NEC) member/National Americanism Committee Vice-Chair Debra Rumery. The Auxiliary National President, Pam Ray, was also in attendance.

Be The One App Available

For both veterans in crisis and those around them, an app exists that can help provide the necessary resources in their area. Be the One app now available to assist veterans in crisis, those around them.

The Be the One app, developed by Columbia University and tailored to The American Legion's Be the One veteran suicide prevention mission, is available via both [Apple](#) and [Google](#). The app used the Columbia-Suicide Severity Rating Scale (C-SSRS), the most evidence-supported

tool of its kind. It asks a simple series of questions that anyone can use anywhere to help prevent suicide.

www.legion.org/information-center/in-the-media/mobile-apps



Scan QR Code
for Apple App



Scan QR Code
for Google App

Honor Flight Maine



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

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

SAVE THE DATE

National Wreaths Across America Day
December 13



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>

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

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

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

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

www.mylegion.org

"NAT'L SECURITY (Continued from Page 10)

followed by a second shift until closing. So, a total of 8 Legion Family members. However, a post can get by with fewer staff.

Some posts have limited physical resources (space, etc.), but may still desire to support a blood drive. The post might consider collaborating with another organization or facility with appropriate accommodations, such as a local church, town facility, business, etc. With this collaboration, the post can then add the resulting drive numbers to its Consolidated Post Report (CPR), support its community, and receive credit for the drive.

The fifth consideration is scheduling. How frequently should a Legion Family post host a blood drive? Good question; frequency of drives should be based on local population density, availability of Red Cross Blood Drive staffing, and coordination with the area Red Cross staff.

I would suggest that if a post has the space, and can support the blood drives, then a quarterly drive might work for your post. If you are committed to making the Red Cross Blood Drives a pillar in your Legion programs, then you might discuss with a Red Cross regional director how to become a Red Cross Blood Drive "HUB" in your area. The Field-Allen Post 148 in Windham has been designated as a HUB and is given scheduling priority for its monthly Red Cross Blood Drives.

For more information, and to apply to host a blood drive, visit www.redcrossblood.org/hosting-a-blood-drive/learn-about-hosting/how-hosting-a-blood-drive-works/apply-to-host-a-blood-drive.html

Give the gift of blood! If you are unable to do so, consider supporting the Red Cross by sponsoring a drive. Your post will make a difference, increase the post's visibility in the community, and support this National Security Pillar.

Dept. National Security Committee Chair,
David Tanguay

The American Legion 2026 Membership Renewal Schedule

Cutoff Dates	Renewal Mail Dates
October 15, 2025.....	November 8-14, 2025
December 10, 2025.....	January 3-9, 2026
February 11, 2026.....	March 1-8, 2026
April 8, 2026.....	May 2-8, 2026

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 2026 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.

To start:

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



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.

Government Shutdown Resources, Protecting Veterans' Access to Postsecondary Education

As I write this, the federal government is still shut down. While I hope that this is no longer the case by the time you read this, I recognize that veterans, seniors, working families, and small businesses are among those who have paid the price for this senseless failure of governance.



CONGRESSMAN
JARED GOLDEN

If you or someone you care about has been struggling, please reach out to my casework team — they're working as hard as ever to make sure Mainers can still get the help they need. As always, the contact info for your closest office is at the bottom of this letter. You can also find answers to the most common government shutdown questions we've received by visiting <https://golden.house.gov/emergency-resources/federal-government-shutdown-faqs>.

I was the only House Democrat who voted to keep the government open before it shut down, and I've spoken at length about why at jaredgolden.substack.com. In short: the longer both sides try to "win" a government shutdown, the more Americans suffer the consequences from critical programs losing funding and agencies being stripped or shuttered.

While the shutdown has dominated the recent headlines in Washington, I've still been hard at work on other issues affecting veterans over the last few weeks.

Namely, at the end of September, I wrote a letter with the rest of Maine's Congressional Delegation to Education Secretary Linda McMahon pushing back against her decision to terminate funding for the TRIO Upward Bound program at the University of Southern Maine (as well as another educational

program at the University of Maine at Farmington). More than 125 veterans are able to receive counseling, tutoring, work-study opportunities, and more through USM's Veterans Upward Bound, and the program is popular enough that it even has a lengthy waitlist.

I'm proud to report that just days after our outreach, the Department of Education restored funding for USM's program. These were cuts that never should have been made in the first place, but I'm glad that Maine veterans will continue to get access to the educational assistance they earned through their service to our country.

My office continues to help Maine veterans overcome challenges with federal agencies, whether that's delivering delayed benefits, accessing personal military records and documents, or anything else in between. I'm proud of the team I've hired to take on these issues, and I hope you'll reach out if you have your own problem I can help you with, whether it is service-related or not. You can send my office an email at golden.house.gov/contact/email-me, or call or visit me at any of our locations:

- **Bangor Office:** 6 State Street, Suite 101, Bangor ME 04401 Phone: (207) 249-7400
- **Caribou Office:** 7 Hatch Drive, Suite 230, Caribou ME 04736 Phone: (207) 492-6009
- **Lewiston Office:** 179 Lisbon Street, Lewiston ME 04240 Phone: (207) 241-6767
- **Washington Office:** 1107 Longworth HOB, Washington DC 20515 Phone: (202) 225-2943

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

Member of Congress, Jared Golden



No Veteran should go through a crisis alone. Save the Veterans Crisis Line number—

Dial 988 then Press 1—in your phone in case you or a Veteran loved one needs support.

Honoring National Veterans and Military Families Month

November is National Veterans and Military Families Month. A time to honor those who give so much to defend our freedom. And while the 11th day of the 11th month was set aside originally to mark the end of the First World



SENATOR
SUSAN COLLINS

War, Veterans Day now pays tribute to all who have served throughout our country's history.

Today, more than 18 million men and women bear the proud title of "veteran," including more than 106,000 here in Maine. Service is deeply woven into our state's heritage, and we are proud that so many heroes call Maine home.

It is the American character to answer the call of duty. It is also the American character to be grateful to those who answer that call.

A truly remarkable demonstration of this spirit is Honor Flight, a national movement founded in 2004. Since that first flight, more than 300,000 veterans and their companions, including more than 1,300 Mainers, have had the opportunity to travel to Washington free of charge to visit the many memorials that honor American patriots throughout our history and across all branches of service. This year, as we mark the 250th anniversary of the United States Army, the Navy, and the United States Marine Corps, the 80th anniversary of the end of WWII, and the 50th anniversary of the end of the War in Vietnam, the importance of Honor Flight takes on even greater meaning.

I had the privilege last month of welcoming home 79 veterans who returned to Bangor from Washington after the fourth and final Honor Flight Maine trip of 2025. It was profoundly moving to meet with the heroes whose courage and sacrifice have kept our nation free. A large, cheering crowd greeted the veterans. Many of these veterans served in Korea, Vietnam, and in Cold War deployments, and the enthusiastic, affectionate, and respectful welcome they received was long overdue.

I applaud the volunteers with Honor Flight Maine for giving these veterans the experience of a lifetime and for providing the community with a chance

to express our gratitude to those who served ensuring, they know how much their sacrifice means to Maine and to our nation.

In addition to gratitude, our nation owes veterans the benefits they earned through their service. That includes programs that help service members pursue higher education opportunities when they return to civilian life.

One such program is the Veterans Upward Bound Program at the University of Southern Maine, which currently serves 125 veterans and has a waitlist of many more. Despite Upward Bound's success in opening the doors of higher education to low-income and first-generation students, the U.S. Department of Education announced in September that it would terminate funding for two programs in Maine, including the one for veterans at USM.

I immediately joined with my Maine delegation colleagues in urging Education Secretary Linda McMahon to reverse that misguided decision. Following my conversations with Secretary McMahon, the Department of Education agreed to release valuable funding for the University of Southern Maine's Veterans Upward Bound Program. Maine has one of the highest percentages of veterans in the nation, which is why initiatives like this are so important. I am thankful this program will continue so the veterans who have sacrificed so much for our nation have the opportunity to pursue higher education here in Maine.

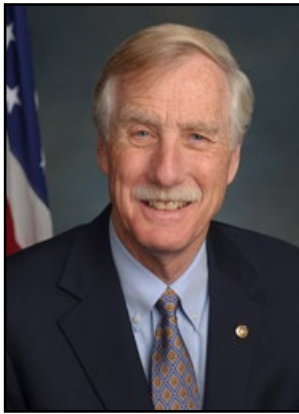
As Chair of the Appropriations Committee, I am pleased to report that the full Senate passed the Fiscal Year 2026 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs funding bill. In addition to the \$9 million I secured for vital projects for the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and the Maine National Guard, the legislation strengthens the GI Bill for Apprenticeships, allowing veterans to use their education benefits for on-the-job training with financial support while they learn a trade or skill.

From Honor Flight to educational opportunities, we show our gratitude to our veterans in many ways. I will continue to be a champion for the heroes who have made such great sacrifices for our nation and for our world. It is an honor to serve you in the Senate.

U.S. Senator Susan M. Collins

Making Sure Veterans Receive Benefits Earned in Spite of Shutdown

Maine is home to so many veterans who have sacrificed in service to our great country. These brave men and women are our neighbors, friends, business owners, teachers, volunteers, first



SENATOR
ANGUS KING

responders and more. That's why it's a privilege to serve on the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. I am proud to work every day down in Washington making sure that our Maine veterans have the respect and benefits they have earned.

However, I would be hard pressed to not acknowledge the toll that the government shutdown has had – not just on the state of Maine – but on our veteran community. Throughout this process, I have understood the widespread impacts of what a shutdown does to responsivity to our veterans and all Maine people – so I have decided that it was in the best interests of all Maine people to continue voting to keep the government open. It is the least I could do for the veterans and people across Maine who serve us each and every day and deserve their benefits and services that they rely on.

If the Congress's most important job is to keep the government open, it is the Department of Veterans' Affairs number one job to be responsive to our veterans. But unfortunately, that is not the case. That is why my colleagues on the committee and I wrote a letter to the VA Secretary criticizing him for unnecessarily ending critical services for veterans during the shutdown and politicizing the lapse in appropriations to end communications with Congress. The Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee has always been one of the most bipartisan committees on Capitol Hill

and I am frustrated and angry that this administration is taking sides as veterans represent all sides of the political spectrum.

For example, earlier this fall, the Committee heard testimony from the nominee to serve as the VA Undersecretary for Benefits. During this testimony, the nominee explicitly avoided answering direct questions on the contract cancellations that have affected the services of veterans in Maine and across the country. We owe it to our veterans to always provide that care – and when that care is not available – to be as transparent and knowledgeable as possible. Unfortunately, the nominee could not even indicate whether she had reviewed the documents. I was unimpressed at the least, and offended at the worst, that someone so unprepared was about to lead our country's greatest asset. Suffice to say, her responses did nothing to earn she did not receive my vote – and I told her so, to her face. A few weeks after her hearing, she withdrew her nomination to serve in this role.

Lastly, I want to highlight my ongoing project to spotlight the incredible stories of Maine's veterans. In partnership with the Library of Congress, I speak to our incredible veterans, record their stories and submit them to the Library of Congress so that their experiences can forever be a part of recorded American history. If you or anyone you know would be a fitting candidate for this series, please reach out to my office – we would love to hear from you.

Maine people from all walks of life have stood up to help protect and defend our nation. Whether serving in Vietnam or in the beginnings of basic training, every person who volunteers to protect and defend our nation deserves our very best support in return – and I promise to never stop advocating for you. In the meantime, if you have any questions or need assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to my offices across Maine or in Washington, D.C.

U.S. Senator Angus King



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>



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

Thomas College

180 West River Rd., Waterville, Maine 04901

February 14, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

(Snow Date: Feb. 21, 2026)

The American Legion, Department of Maine High School Oratorical Scholarship Contest will be held at Thomas College in Waterville on Feb. 14, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. Snow Date: Feb. 21, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

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

Young orators will have the opportunity to earn some of the most generous scholarships. At the post and district level, scholarships offered range from \$50 - \$100, and at the state level \$125 - \$1,500.

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

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

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.

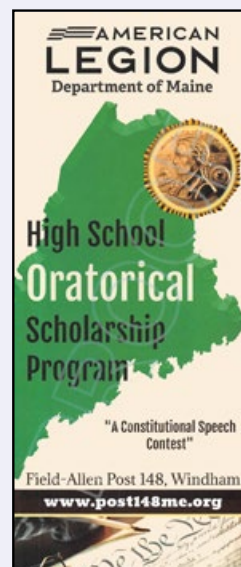
**THANK YOU IN ADVANCE
FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

home \$22,500, and third gets \$20,000.

The members of the Oratorical Committee will be working with District Commanders to prepare posts and districts for their local contests. We hope to have all post contests completed by Mid-December and all district contests completed by the end of January. Applications must be received by your local American Legion Post by Dec 6. District Officer(s): Please submit a copy of the Oratorical Scholarship Application of the winner only representing your District to Department by Jan. 24. The 2026 National Finals will be held May 15-17 at Hillsdale College.

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, Department of Maine Headquarters at 207-873-3229. Please check out the state and local Oratorical contests by visiting national's website at www.legion.org/oratorical.

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.

Legionnaire Insurance Trust Accidental Death Plan

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

Member Benefits

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

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

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

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

Pays regardless of any other insurance

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

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

Plan underwritten by Securian Life Insurance Company.

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

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

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

Medicare Annual Enrollment Period: Oct. 15 - Dec. 7

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.

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



Endorsed by
Your Department of
The American Legion

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

your behalf by Your Department of The American Legion.

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

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

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

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
DATE OF BIRTH _____ MEMBERSHIP CARD NO. _____
EMAIL _____
MAKE SURE YOU INCLUDE YOUR DATE OF BIRTH ☒ SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Have you filled out *all* the above information?

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

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

*For Purposes of the Legionnaire Insurance Trust, a member of The Legion Family, with current year's dues paid, could be eligible for the \$5,000 Accidental Death benefit if he/she is 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.





Member Owned. Mission Led.

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



**Military members,
veterans, employees of
certain federal agencies**



Pre-commissioned officers



Spouses and Children

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

Auto and Property Insurance

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

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

Banking

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

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

Life and Health Insurance

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

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

USAA Perks®

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

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

How we're different.

USAA products and services have no membership fees.

We're member owned.

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

We're always thinking ahead.

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

We go above and beyond to protect you.

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



Advice for your life

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

Trusted professional guidance

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

Tools for every stage of life

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

Guidance when you need it

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

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

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

We're committed to ending veteran homelessness.

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



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

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

Highlights of National Commander's Visit

■ "NATIONAL CMDR VISIT" (Continued from Page 1)

Sunday was packed with visits to four different posts in Maine. The day started with a morning meet-and-greet at the West Penobscot Post 107 in Carmel. This was followed by lunch at the Barrows-Skidgell Post 105 in Newport, which was attended by a large gathering of the Legion family. In the mid-afternoon, there was another meet and greet at the Poulliot-Seavey Post 53 in Dexter, and the day concluded with a pleasant evening meal hosted by Corinna Post 73.

Monday's schedule included a morning briefing featuring the Maine Adjutant General, Brigadier General Dunn, and the Wing Commander, Colonel Newell.

This briefing took place at the 101st Refueling Wing located at the Bangor Air National Guard Base, followed by a tour of the facility. After the tour, a light lunch was served at the Chadbourne-Merrill Post 29 in Dover-Foxcroft. The day concluded with a meet-and-greet at the Joseph P. Chiasson Post 41 in Milo.

On Tuesday morning, Commander Wiley set off with his wife and aide to visit another department, continuing his journey during his year as Commander of the world's largest Veterans' organization, The American Legion.



Bucksport Post 93



Belfast Post 43



Coles Land Transportation Museum, Bangor



Corinth Post 115



Etna-Carmel Post 107



Old Town Post 75



■ **"NATIONAL CMDR VISIT"**
(Continued from Page 16)



Newport Post 105



Dexter Post 53



Corinna Post 73



Bangor Air National Guard Base



Dover-Foxcroft Post 29



Milo Post 41

View & Download Photos by visiting <https://www.legion.org/information-center/news/commanderphotos/2025/november/national-commander-wiley-visits-the-department-of-maine>

Your Letters

Aspiring Chef Thankful For Children & Youth Scholarship

Dear The American Legion, Words cannot express enough how much this means to me that you have chosen little ole me for this great honor and I'm sorry if I'm not sounding too professional right now as nothing like this has ever happened to me! I am truly humbled and to be quite honest, I started crying when I found out and that is embarrassing to admit being a young man. It is a great honor to receive your generous Children & Youth Scholarship that will help fund the expenses of my education at Johnson and Wales University. I am indefinitely grateful for your belief and support of me and I would like to thank you for choosing me. I will never take this honor for granted and will never forget your gift that you have so graciously given to me.

I will be an upcoming freshman this fall 2025 at Johnson and Wales University in Providence, Rhode Island studying Culinary Arts with a minor in Culinary Science. My love for cooking and gluten-free cuisine has molded me into an individual who would adore a career as an Award-Winning Gluten-Free Chef with owning my own gluten-free restaurant!

I am proud of what I have accomplished at my Region 10 Technical High School that has given me the tools and education to help me be accepted into Johnson and Wales University.

In the past year, I have competed in the Skills USA competition in Bangor, Maine and studied different cooking methods and cuisine in the kitchen at Region 10 and at my job at an Irish Pub, Byrnes. I am excited to see where my education and life will take me and in my free time I enjoy working out, lacrosse, football, going to concerts and sporting events.

Receiving your scholarship will allow me to continue chasing my dreams of becoming an Award-Winning Gluten-Free Chef. Your earnest investment in my future goals will NEVER be forgotten, and I will pay it forward as an adult. I can't say thank you enough for your generous and thoughtful gift and I look forward to the day when I can say, "All of this was because of The American Legion, Department of Maine!" Thank you for the confidence that you have shown in me and I am extremely honored and humbled to accept your offer of this scholarship. I assure you that I will work hard and make you proud of this decision.

Extremely grateful,
Brady Alexander Marzakis

Humanitarian Committee Update:



I hope that everyone is doing well and feeling their best as we head into fall. I have a huge favor

to ask! We need your support to find those in your community or throughout the state that are deserving of the Humanitarian Award. This award is awarded at our Annual Convention in June. Lately we have had one or two submitted. We CAN do better than this. We should be flooded with applications for this award. There are many people out there going above and beyond to make others' lives better.

What qualifies as humanitarian?

"Humanitarian action includes a wide range of activities, such as providing food, shelter, water, healthcare, and protection to those in need, as well as advocating for their rights and ensuring their participation in decision-making processes".

Traits include: Selflessness, Compassion, Motivation, Communication, Insight, Open-mindedness, Flexibility, and Sensitivity.

Basically, anyone who improves the lives of others without expecting something in return.

Criteria: An American Legion Post must endorse candidates for the annual

Humanitarian Award. Accomplishments of the individual must be over and above his or her usual vocation; in most cases his/her deeds would not be in his/her chosen field of endeavor; but consideration would be given to someone whose activities in his/her field of work was far in excess of what one would expect in that field. Applicants may be male or female, veteran or non-veteran, Legionnaire or non-Legionnaire. If there is a very close competition, a veteran should be chosen over a non-veteran, and a Legionnaire over a non-Legionnaire, all other things being equal. A majority vote of the Humanitarian Award Committee will be final.

Deadline for submission of nominations will be May 1 of each year. Please ensure that the entire application is complete and at least two letters of support from parties having actual knowledge of the candidate's activities must also be submitted with the form.

You can find the form on our website www.mainelegion.org under the tab labeled forms/applications. You will find the Humanitarian Award form under the award/nomination forms. We look forward to hearing from you and reading your submissions.

Until next time keep on doing the wonderful work you all do for veterans and our communities!

Past Dept. Commander Patricia "Tricia" Thurston
Humanitarian Committee Chairperson

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

Late Legionnaire's Family Presents Donation to Sanford Post 19

On Tues., July 29, Thomas W. Cole Post 19 in Sanford was privileged to have the family of Dale Midgley at the post to make a presentation to us in honor of Dale.

Dale's son, Ben, began by saying, "They (his family) were really surprised to see so many people attending. My father was a long-time Legion member here. He passed away last May, and this place meant everything to him. He had great respect for veterans and the work that this post has done to help veterans. You couldn't separate The American Legion from my dad's life."

"We have been anxious to get back here to contribute and support you. We want to present to you something to help you continue the work you do, and to gather further support for the Legion. We hope to be back every year to do this on the anniversary of my father's death."

Commander Dan Hathaway, commented after receiving the donation of \$25,000, "Your father was a huge part of this organization, he is surely missed by all, and his passing created a hole in this



Dale Midgley: 2021 Legionnaire of the Year.

Legion that will be hard to fill."

On behalf of Thomas W. Cole Post 19, all of us here were fortunate to have known Dale as a friend, mentor, and dedicated veteran. This generous donation will be used wisely in supporting the ideals and vision that your husband, father, and grandfather saw for our post.

Dale Midgley (March 3, 1940 – May 18, 2024) held the following positions at Thomas W. Cole Post 19 over the years: commander, adjutant, service officer, chair of the local and state Oratory competitions, and received the Legionnaire of the Year Award for the state of Maine in 2021.



Family Donates In Honor Of The Late Legionnaire Dale Midgley: The family of the late Dale Midgley presents the Thomas W. Cole Post 19 in Sanford with a generous contribution of \$25,000 in honor of Dale's legacy and respect for The American Legion.

2025 Humanitarian Award Presentation: Berwick Post 79's Beverly Cassady

United States Air Force and Air National Guard veteran Beverly Cassady is a mom, wife, dog lover, fundraiser extraordinaire, and the recent recipient of the American Legion Department of Maine Humanitarian Award. The award citation reads, "In recognition of numerous selfless acts of empathy which aid all mankind by giving of yourself. You exemplify the meaning of "Humanitarian," not only to your fellow citizens, but to America's

veterans as well."

Beverly joined Berwick's Charles S. Hatch Post 79 after retiring with 20+ years of service in the Air Force and Air National Guard, then continued her service as a valued employee at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. For the past several years and counting, Beverly has become an "entrepreneurial-minded instructor, consultant, and distributor

[More on "HUMANITARIAN" Page 19](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 1 continued

■ "HUMANITARIAN" (Continued from Page 18)

for an ever-expanding crafter and artisan community in her area".

She is particularly well known for putting together specially themed "Crop for a Cause" fundraisers, bringing together like-minded crafters and scrapbooking enthusiasts. The hugely popular "Crop for a Cause" events always sell out while providing the sponsored charity/organization with donations of much needed supplies or

gift cards.

Newlyretired from the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Beverly already has "Crop for a Cause" events on the 2026 calendar (more than twelve since she first started this initiative and counting). She doesn't show signs of stopping anytime soon, for which we are eternally grateful. This singularly selfless and multi-talented veteran is truly deserving of this prestigious award. Beverly, we salute you!



**Humanitarian
Award Recipient:**
District 1 Sgt.-at-Arms Joy
Haddad, left, presents the
Humanitarian Award to
Berwick Post 79 member
Beverly Cassady.



**Limerick Post
55 Celebrates
250th:** On Aug. 10, the
White-Tibbets Post 55
in Limerick held a 250th
celebration. A bushel of
lobsters was raffled off to
support the veterans heat
and emergency funds. A
second raffle offering of
a kayak went to support
youth activities in the
towns surrounding the
post. Jack and Keith
selling raffle tickets for
a kayak.

Returnable Bottles and Cans Payoff for Eliot Post 188

Turning in returnable bottles and cans to the Hannaford Clynk redemption program is now a regular source of revenue for the post. At a minimum, it pays the electric bills each month.

A couple months ago, word was received from the Loyal Order of Moose in Kittery that large bags of cans and bottles had appeared at their club. Since they do not participate in a redemption program, they offered the bags up to Post 188.

After the bottles were re-bagged and

turned in, along with the funds from our regular monthly drive, the post raised \$428 for the month of September. A big thank you to the Kittery Loyal Order of Moose!

We will continue collecting returnable cans and bottles in the bins outside of Post 188. Please make sure that they are marked refundable, as found on the top of cans or generally around the UPC code on bottles. Also, please be mindful not to toss in trash or food cans and containers.



**Eliot Post 188
Collects Returnable
Cans & Bottles in
the bins outside of the
post. In September, the
post raised \$428 utilizing
the Hannaford Clynk
redemption program!**

Eliot-Kittery Memorial Post 188 Annual Chilifest

Down at the boat basin in Eliot (a.k.a. "Dead Duck") Post 188 held their annual Chilifest. The event serves as the post's biggest fundraiser for the year, and the kickoff to Eliot Festival Days, which continues on into the following Saturday. There was a large crowd of young families and friends there to enjoy the festivities which included a chili tasting contest of 13 contestants.

Live music, hot dogs, drinks, popcorn, baked goods, and glow sticks were all offered to attendees to purchase. The evening culminated in a beautiful fireworks display sponsored by the Eliot Festival Days Committee.

The annual Chilifest at Dead Duck in Eliot at Post 188 proved to be a great success. Hundreds of people, including many young families, attended to take part in the festivities, which apart from the chili tasting, included other foods, glow toys, live music, and fireworks.

It was uplifting to see the crowd of community members reveling and enjoying the evening. In the end, Post 188 raised more than twice the funds

it had ever before at past Chilifest events. The money earned will go toward the post's Veterans' Relief Fund, and fighting food insecurity for our community's youth.

Post 188 would like to thank all its sponsors for making the event such a success. Special thanks to Lori Barrett for all her time, resources, and dedication as she volunteered to guide us in the preparation and execution of the celebration. Thank you to the Eliot Festival Day Committee for sponsoring the beautiful fireworks display. Thank you to Curtain Call Performing Arts Academy of Rollinsford for your support and sale of baked goods and toys for the kids. Also thank you to 3 Alarm Band for giving us some music to dance to all evening.

This year, there were 15 chili contestants. Thank you to all who entered! The first prize award went to Jeremy Lowe for "Lowe's Own Chili." Second place went to Julien Turner's "Slow Burn Ferments." Third place went to Norm Owens for "Chef Norm's Chili."



Eliot Post 188 Chilifest: Left photo, Lori Barrett, left, and Post 188 1st Vice Commander Dana Norton, right, enjoy the festivities. Middle photo, 3 Alarm Band plays at Chilifest. Right photo, Curtain Call Performing Arts Academy sets up a bake sale at the event.

[More on "CHILIFEST" Page 20](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 1 continued

"CHILIFEST"

(Continued from Page 19)



Chili Contest Winner: Left photo, a large crowd turns out to taste and vote on chili at the Eliot Post 188 Chilifest. Right photo, Jeremy Lowe wins first place recognition at Chilifest with his chili submission, "Lowe's Own Chili." Not pictured, second place winner Julien Turner's "Slow Burn Ferments" and third place winner Norm Owens' "Chef Norm's Chili."

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 Receives Second Large Donation: U.S. Marine Corp. veteran (3 tours of duty - Vietnam) Paul Avery, Commander of the Harold T. Andrews American Legion Post 17, Portland, receives the second of two \$5,000 donations from Francis Jackson, Esquire of law firm Jackson & MacNichol, in support of the restoration, renovation and rehabilitation of Post 17. Attorney Jackson is receiving a certificate of appreciation for his firm's consistent and generous support of the Harold T. Andrews Post 17.

South Portland Post 35 Painting Project

During COVID, members of South Portland Post 35 demolished their old wheelchair ramp and constructed a new one in the same location with cedar decking, the only wood available during COVID. Upon completion, a coat of Cabot clear oil finish was applied. In Maine, nothing lasts forever and that deck and ramp has been re-coated one since then.

Recently, with the help of Patrick Steven, a local vet who lives in one of the high-rise apartments next to the post, we were able to get some painting done. Since the members of Post 35 are mostly in their advanced senior

years, Patrick was more than welcome to perform the post's painting needs. Patrick painted the ramp and deck on the front porch, painted the trim white and red, touched up the foundation, painted six white pillars, touched up the black paint on the street sign, and painted the fire door out back. As the weather turned, Patrick moved inside to repaint the ground floor entry way in two shades of Navy Haze Gray.

Thanks to Patrick, who is an 80% disabled vet, but not an American Legion member, yet, we are looking pretty good down here in Southern Maine.

By South Portland Post 35 Adjutant Michael R. Pock



Fresh Paint At South Portland Post 35: Local veteran Patrick Steven helps South Portland Post 35 with a fresh paint job on the post's exterior. Left photo, new paint on the front porch, and right photo, the refreshed post sign.

5th Annual Lobster Lunch at South Portland Post 35

Labor Day in South Portland welcomed yet another Lobster Lunch at Stewart P. Morrill American Legion Post 35. The weather could not have been better—the breeze of the river was calm, but not enough to topple the flag display. So, how many people does it take to pull off a successful event on a holiday when all the tourists are headed south? The answer is 14. With a well-oiled machine of roll stuffers, table setters, money takers, and food servers, the team started at 9:00 a.m. and finished at 2:00 p.m. The post sold 129 rolls at \$20, and the balance of the unsold rolls went at bargain basement prices, which netted a profit of \$1,612. Considering the

market price in Portland of \$60 to \$70 per pound, having connections in the food service industry was very helpful, and our hats go off to the Clambake Restaurant in Scarborough.

Thanks to Ken Marston, Jillian Kellough, and Jen Kirk for "stuffing and wrapping," Betty Splettstoesser, Mary Neal, and Max Rea for money, coleslaw and drinks, and the parking lot crew of Wes Splettstoesser, Ed Seymourian, Tony Batchelor, Jerry Neal, Joe Wannamacher, Guy Linscott, Matt Johnson, and Mike Dery. Last but not least, the "Post Gopher," Mike Pock, for another successful Lobster Lunch.

By South Portland Post 35 Adjutant Michael R. Pock



Lobster Lunch Volunteers: South Portland Post 35 hosts its annual Lobster Lunch at the Post home on Sept. 1. Left photo, left to right, kitchen volunteers Ken Marston, Jillian Kellough, and Jennifer Kirk prepare the lobster rolls. Right photo, Max Rea, Guy Linscott, Matt Johnson, Ed Seymourian, and Joe Wannamacher in the post parking lot, ready to assist with the luncheon



memory of Roger Barr and David Berry, both Air Force veterans and long-time officers and members of Post 62. The ceremony was performed by Post 62 Sgt.-at-Arms Michael Thomas, accompanied by Scott Barr. Left photo, Post Chaplain Phil LeClerc overlooks photos of David and Donna Berry, left, and Roger Barr, right. Right photo, new Post 62 Commander Philip Spiller welcomes everyone after introducing the guest speakers.

Westbrook Post 62 Business Meeting: The post's first business meeting of the year began with a solemn "Draping of the Post Charter" Ceremony, visible on the wall behind Dennis Marrotte, in honor and

Photos by Westbrook Post 62 Historian Dennis Marrotte

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 2 continued



Westbrook Post 62 Guest Speakers: Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R) members Julie Smythe and Nancy Dean, speak at Westbrook Post 62 home, describing the history and work of the D.A.R. Left to right, Board of Directors Chair Dennis Marrotte; D.A.R member/wife of Post 62 member Louis Mathieu, Maureen Mathieu; D.A.R Wadsworth Chapter Vice Regent Nancy Dean; D.A.R Wadsworth Chapter Regent Julia Smythe; daughter-in-law and son of Nancy and the late Past Post 62 Commander Roger Barr, Jennifer and Scott Barr; Post 62 First Vice Commander Ed Symbol; Post 62 Sgt.-at-Arms Michael Thomas; Post 62 Chaplain Philip LeClerc; Post 62 2nd Vice Commander Harry Gorham; District 2 Commander and Portland Post 17 member Eugene "Gene" Connolly; Post 62 Judge Advocate Gary York; and Post 62 Commander Philip Spiller, Jr.

Photo by Westbrook Veterans Advisory Committee, Rebecca Boaz



Memorial Day 2020 Grand Marshals Video Portrait:

Donna and David Berry were the 2020 husband and wife Post 62 Grand Marshals for the audio-visual video created for the 2020 Westbrook Memorial Day Parade. The traditional Memorial Day Parade was canceled in 2020 due to the COVID pandemic, and a 25-minute video was created by several Westbrook officials and citizens instead. This photo was the contribution of Dennis Marrotte and Donna & David Berry. Little did Dennis know how important this portrait would turn out to be!

Photo by Post 62 member Dennis Marrotte

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

Legion Honors General Henry Knox at 275th Commemoration

In the village cemetery in Thomaston, Maine, where the mortal remains of Revolutionary War Major General Henry Knox lie, and as the nation celebrates the 250th year of the start of the Revolution, military, patriotic, and fraternal groups gathered on July 26, one day following the 275th year of his birth, to render honors for his memorable, lifelong service. Among the 19 presenters was Harry G. Orcutt, American Legion Department of Maine Adjutant of Oxford County District 5. Orcutt held the last wreath to be placed,

in which he announced at the nearby podium, that he did not recall the last time that The American Legion had rendered honors to Knox at the annual commemorations. Orcutt believed that it was certainly proper to do so as a district and post officer of the Department of Maine, he believed that all members of the national American Legion would support his having done so.

District 5 Adjutant Orcutt then requested that the Commander of the Col. Henry Knox Artillery Regt. of the Massachusetts Society Sons of the Ameri-

can Revolution (MASSAR) come forward to join him at the podium. As Commander, Christopher S. Tourtellot heeded the summons. Orcutt informed the assemblage that he himself had commanded the Regiment from 1990 to 1993. When Commander Tourtellot arrived at the podium, Orcutt stated that the 275th Anniversary of General Knox's birth was a propitious time to present to the Col. Henry Knox Artillery Regt. of the MASSAR a Command Spontoon, which he handed to Commander Tourtellot.

Both American Legion District 5 Adjutant Orcutt and MASSAR Commander Tourtellot are also members of the Major General Henry Knox Masonic Military Lodge of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts AF & AM, with whom they annually attend the Knox Commemorations. All members of the Lodge are U.S. veterans, and many are Legionnaires.

General Knox's life and accomplishments demonstrate why every patriotic American should render him honors. At age 12, Henry's father, a ship builder, died while employed in the West Indies. Henry, being the eldest of ten children, was left with the responsibility of providing for his mother and siblings. Other children of the family may have also helped, as it was the custom in Europe and the American Colonies at the time that children at age seven could contribute to a family's welfare by performing light labor and be apprenticed for a skill at age 14. Henry had to drop out of the Boston Latin School, and was apprenticed to Nicholas Bowes, the proprietor of the Boston Wharton and Bowes Book Shop, where he was trained in book bindery, repair, and customer relations. The shop also doubled as a lending library, which allowed Henry to continue his education at home. In time, he narrowed his quest for knowledge to those of military matters, especially those of artillery and field fortifications. As the French were the most proficient at that time in such subjects, he taught himself to become fluent in French.

In 1768, the British Government dispatched regiments to occupy Boston because of protests to the Stamp and Townsend Acts, resulting in a boycott of British goods, and precluding Henry from opening his own bookstore. Henry became a member of a militia company called "The Train," composed of ardent young men who were drilled with professional zeal by their Captain Adino Paddock. Henry, with the best elements of the company, founded The Boston Grenadier Guards, a unit that was a lot more than their resplendent uniforms. His military talents and knowledge being recognized, Henry was promoted to first lieutenant and thus became second in command.

On the night of March 5, 1770, coming upon a local disturbance of youths accosting a British Army soldier guarding the Customs House, with other soldiers having been called out, Henry tried to calm the situation by warning Captain Thomas Preston that if his men fired, it would result in the captain's losing his life. Preston assured him that he had no intention to order his seven-man Corporal's Guard to fire. Knox later testified to both the Boston Committee of Inquiry and at the soldiers' trial, that standing at the back edge of the square on King's Street, he observed the soldiers' ragged discharge of their muskets, which resulted in the death of five citizens, some of whom were just observers. Before the Boston Massacre, it was generally believed by 9 out of 10 Americans that loyalty to the British Crown was assured. After the Massacre, a like number of Colonials believed that separation was inevitable. Also, consider this as a profile in courage: Knox was nineteen years and eight months old when he confronted armed soldiers loading their muskets, and yet he did everything possible to diffuse a very dangerous situation. He bears no fault for his failure.

Also in 1770, the Boston boycott ended with the repeal of the noxious acts. A year later, Henry founded his bookstore, after establishing a relationship with a London book wholesaler. Knox's book store on Cornhill Street was named The London Book Store. It was an instant success and became a gathering place, described by one patron, cited by Wikipedia, as a "great resort for the British officers and Tory ladies, who were the ton at that period." Among his devoted patrons was the eighteen-year-old daughter of Thomas Flucker, a wealthy Tory and Royal Secretary of the Province of Massachusetts. Lucy married Henry against her family's wishes on June 16, 1774; because Henry was known to be a supporter of Boston's Sons of Liberty, she was disowned by her family. Theirs was a lifelong love affair that resulted in the birth of 13 children, of whom three survived into adulthood.

Interesting facts about Knox's attainment of proficiency as an artillery officer were not found in online internet sources, but rather in written sources. Published bios stated that British Army occupying Boston would hold artillery drills on the Dorchester Neck, firing into the Bay. Henry would frequent the drills, providing officers with the contents of a bottle of Madera, while questioning why certain procedures were being followed. As many of the officers were customers at his bookstore, and as he was a Colonial Militia Officer, they explained each part of their drill in detail.

[More on "GENERAL KNOX" Page 22](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 5 continued

■ "GENERAL KNOX" (Continued from Page 21)

Another aspect of the British Officers' relationship with Knox was that they would order military books from him, which he would procure from his London agent. Henry would inquire of the officer as to the importance of a particular volume. Fortified by this knowledge, when the requested book came in, Knox would read it and make copious notes, thus increasing his martial knowledge.

Ships arrived in Boston Harbor every day, so Knox would wait to announce to the officer that his book was available only after another ship arrived and he had thus digested the work. When circumstances made his former friends his enemies, it was, ironically, they who had provided the military education that made him a formidably competent Commander.

The importance of Knox's bookstore as a social networking site cannot be overemphasized. Nathaniel Greene, a visitor from Rhode Island who would frequent Henry's shop when he was in Boston became a lifelong friend, as they shared in their quest to become militarily proficient. An indication of Knox's worth to Washington and the Revolution is best noted in a conversation between General Nathaniel Greene and Washington after Greene was appointed Commanding General of the Department of the South, following the disastrous defeat of General Horatio Gates in August 1780. Washington understood the importance of keeping the Southern Colonies in the War on the American side. He told Greene that if it was in his power to assist him in any way, he would endeavor to meet the request. Greene said, "Can I have Henry?" To which Washington replied, "I'd give you my left arm before I gave you Henry."

Knox was at Washington's side directing the Continental Artillery in every major battle. Though Greene was defeated in numerous minor engagements with the British Army commanded by General Lord Charles Cornwallis, he kept the Southern Army together and in the field. Despite being technically defeated in the Battle of Guilford Court House, Greene inflicted 2,500 casualties on Cornwallis's Army. His engagements ran the British into exhaustion, and Cornwallis at last took his army to Yorktown, in hopes of at least overcoming resistance in Virginia, thus sustaining the British Southern Strategy. Cornwallis was ordered by his superior Lt. General Sir Henry Clinton, in New York, to build a deep water port

at Yorktown, so that he could be resupplied, and if necessary evacuated. The French fleet under command of Admiral Conte de Grasse, put the cork in the bottle and trapped the British garrison in position.

Henry oversaw the placement of the Continental Artillery and moved it ever closer to Cornwallis's forces after British redoubts 9 and 10 were taken by American and French assaults. Cornwallis surrendered on Oct. 19, 1781. The Treaty of Paris was signed on Sept. 3, 1783, with Great Britain recognizing the sovereignty of the United States. In due time, Knox, having been promoted to Major General following Yorktown (the youngest such in the American Army during the Revolution), succeeded Washington as Commander in Chief of the ever shrinking Continental Army when Washington resigned his commission. In relatively short order, under both the governing Articles of Confederation and the Constitution, Knox was appointed to the office of Secretary of War. In that office, after the adoption of the US Constitution, as a result of the conflict between France and Britain that began in 1793, the French Revolution, and of piracy on the high seas, he initially oversaw the construction of a reconstituted United States Navy, building six frigates: the USS United States, Constellation, Constitution, Congress, Chesapeake, and President, which were launched between 1797 and 1800. Knox resigned as Secretary of War in 1795 and moved with Lucy to Thomaston, Maine, where he is buried in the Village Cemetery, and his relocated mansion is now a much visited museum.

Knox touched many lives during his service to the nation and continues to do so even 275 years after his birth. Americans descended from soldiers of the Revolution, should become cognizant of whether their ancestors had even the slightest connection while Knox served. I, Harry Orcutt, for instance, know that all three of my presently known Revolutionary War soldier ancestors, Moses Church, Jacob Karner, and Peter Orcutt, were at Egremont and Great Barrington, and would have observed with their families the Noble Train of Artillery as it entered Massachusetts on its way to Boston. When Old Ironsides sailed under its own power for the first time since 1881, after being reconstructed in celebration of its 200th birthday, on July 21, 1997, I commanded the Colonial Artillery of the Massachusetts Council of Minute Men & Militia, at the US Coast Guard Station in Boston's North End to respond to Constitution's Cannon-

ade Salute to the nation as she passed Fort Independence on her return to her Charlestown berth.

When the Constitution next made a turn-around sailing, so that the sides of the ship weathered evenly, Commander Mike Beck proffered an invitation to me to be his guest aboard. I was attired in Knox's uniform as seen above, with the shoulder boards of a Brigadier General, the rank held by the Council's Adjutant. Arriving at the Naval Barracks VIP reception area, I was rather surprised to be the first to be escorted to the ship by William Moss, Captain of the 1797-1812 Marines, before other dignitaries such as the under-Secretaries of this or that. Passing a long line of other guests standing on the wharf awaiting to be summoned, who looked upon us with curiosity, I experienced one of the great moments of my life. As we neared the gangplank, the Sergeant of the 1797-1812 Marines commanded his detail lining the gangplank, "Detail, Attention, Present Arms, General Officer arriving." Having been apprised of the protocol, ascending the gangplank, I encountered the executive officer. Raising my tricorne in the Revolutionary War manner of saluting, I requested, "Permission to come aboard, Sir." To which he responded, "Welcome aboard General." I then saluted the nation's colors on the stern, and boarded the vessel for a most enjoyable excursion.

In 2000, I again commanded the Colonial Artillery in General John Thomas Park, atop Dorchester Heights, in commemoration of the placement of cannon Knox brought from Fort Ticonderoga, into prefabricated fortifications erected on the night of March 4, 1776, by order of General Washington. Following the event, I was introduced to a family who said they were descend-

ed from Knox, but knew nothing of his history or accomplishments. I found that astonishing, but later realized I knew nothing of my own family's glorious Revolutionary War history, until I interviewed my father's aunt who told me where my 2nd great-grandfather was born. She was a bit light on the details, but assured me, "You come from good stock." My wife and I then researched my colonial descent. I subsequently spent forty-five minutes giving the family an overview of Knox's life and recommended that there were biographies readily available where they could apprise themselves further of his numerous contributions before, during, and after the founding of the American Republic.

Many of the honors I have received in my lifetime have emanated in one form or another by becoming a member of the Col. Henry Knox Artillery Regiment of the MASSAR. Knox has been my second most favored American Revolutionary War general after my very distant cousin George Washington. I count it one more honor to place a wreath at Knox's grave on his 275th anniversary, in the 250th year commemorating the Revolution as an officer of The American Legion, Department of Maine. As long as any sand remains in the hourglass of my life, I plan to return for the annual Knox commemoration.

I strongly encourage anyone who can trace the family history of either parent in America back at least four generations to research how much further back that family connection may go. You could be pleasantly surprised to find that there is a Revolutionary War patriot in your background just waiting to be discovered and honored. As I urge in many of my writings: NEVER FORGET!

By District 5 Adjutant Harry G. Orcutt



Wreath Placement: Military, patriotic, and fraternal groups gather to honor the 275th birthday of Major General Knox and the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. Left photo, American Legion District 5 Adjutant Harry G. Orcutt, Past Commander of the Massachusetts Council of Minute Men and Militia, attired in the uniform of Major General Knox, places The American Legion commemorative wreath on the gravestone of Knox on July 26 in Thomaston. Right photo, the wreath, far right, on its stand.

[More on "GENERAL KNOX" Page 23](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 5 continued

■ "GENERAL KNOX" (Continued from Page 22)



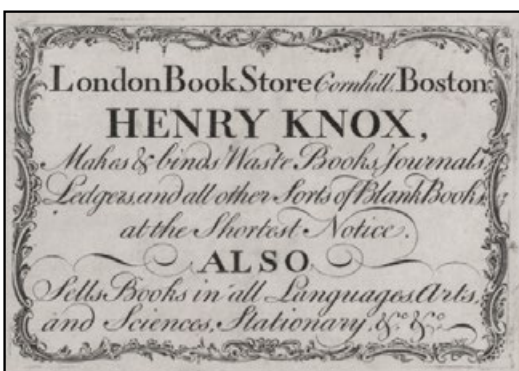
Salute: After the presentation of the Command Spontoon, Commander of the Col. Henry Knox Artillery Regt. of the MASSAR Christopher S. Tourtellot and American Legion District 5 Adjutant Harry G. Orcutt render Revolutionary War era military salutes.



Inspirational Speech: Maine National Guard Adjutant General Brigadier General Dianne Dunn gives an inspirational speech of Major General Henry Knox's life from bookseller to Commander of Continental Artillery.



Lodge Commemorates General Knox: Maine American Legion and Major General Henry Knox Military Lodge AF & AM of Massachusetts members honor Major General Knox's 275th birthday on July 26, coinciding with the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, in Thomaston, Maine. Constituted on March 17, 1926, on the gun deck of Old Ironsides, the 150th Anniversary of the British Evacuation of Boston, the Lodge will celebrate its centennial in 2026.



London Book Store Advertisement: A 1771 advertisement of Henry Knox's London Book Store in Boston created by Nathaniel Hurd.

BBQ at the Veterans Home at Last

Before the advent of the Wuhan virus, District 5's meeting season began with a Residents BBQ at the South Paris Veterans Home. Since the worldwide contagion, District 5 has held a meet & greet with light snacks and soft drinks in 2023, and an ice cream social in 2024. The latter was followed by a District 5 Post/Unit BBQ, as there had recently been a BBQ for residents by another organization. Despite our not being able to hold a BBQ either year, the interaction between residents and

District 5 Post/Unit members was like a family gathering. Both were dutifully reported in the Maine Legionnaire.

In an email message to the South Paris Veterans Home Acting Home Director, the District 5 Adjutant reported, "Thank you and all your staff for making possible what we believe was an enormously successful event. Our Auxiliary, many of whom had participated in the BBQ for a period of years, reported that a substantial number of the residents expressed their appreciation and

enjoyment of this special occasion. We hope we can do it again at the same time next year."

After the Veterans Home BBQ in August, the home was contacted to receive a bill for the victuals (hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, beverages, condiments) that the home provided, for which District 5 traditionally utilized its "Veterans Home BBQ Picnic Fund" to reimburse the home. The Acting Director of the South Paris Veterans Home replied to our request, stating they were so happy with the event that there would be no charge for what the home supplied. The idea of the picnic fund is to annually provide the home residents with a memorable, quality, experience. A large part of our success in providing the meal was due to the

salads and desserts that Auxiliary units provided and served. The Auxiliary units also conduct an annual Christmas Gift Shop, at which residents "shop" for quality gifts to give to their loved ones. The District 5 Adjutant proposed a motion be made to send \$150 from the district's Veterans Home BBQ Picnic Fund to the Department Auxiliary, earmarked for the South Paris Veterans Home to purchase gifts for the Resident Christmas Gift Shop. The Sgt.-at-Arms made the motion, seconded by the 1st Vice, and passed unanimously.

The Auxiliary's South Paris Veterans' Home Representative reports that, thanks to donations like this, a number of gifts have already been purchased, with the expectation that there will be much more to add to Santa's sleigh.



District 5 Serves BBQ: South Paris Post 72 Commander Teresa Drag grills enormous 1/3-pound hamburgers and hotdogs provided by the South Paris Veterans Home while members of the Unit Auxiliaries provided a cornucopia of delicious salads and desserts to serve the residents as they went through the buffet line. Twenty residents were served under the patio canopy, while another five residents had their meals delivered to their rooms.

First Birthday Party at Age 75

It was party time on Sept. 14 at Jackson-Silver Post 68 in Locke Mills. At a previous post meeting, Post 68 Chaplain Timothy Twitchell announced that his wife, Marleen, our Auxiliary Unit 68 Kitchen Manager, had never had a birthday party. Having

attained the young age of 75 years, the Executive Committee thought it was high time to remediate the situation. The Post 68 Legion Family, along with Marleen's relatives, gathered to show their appreciation for all her efforts throughout the years.



Post 68 Decorates Party Entrance: Left photo, The Jackson-Silver Post 68 entrance is properly dressed for the occasion to celebrate Marleen Twitchell's 75th birthday. Right photo, Marleen's son, Robert Doyle, right, greets Marleen upon her arrival as Tim, left, looks on. Other children awaited in the Great Hall.

[More on "75TH BIRTHDAY" Page 24](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 5 continued

■ "75TH BIRTHDAY" (Continued from Page 23)



Great Hall Celebration: Left photo, Marleen arrives in the Post 68 great hall and the party begins. Right photo, a portion of the banquet is ready to be served buffet style.



Happy Birthday: Left photo, relatives and family look on as Marleen cuts the cake while Legion family observes out of camera range. Right photo, Marleen opens her presents and reads her birthday cards, while Unit 68 Secretary Susan Vacca, left, stands ready to assist. Birthday balloons are irresistible toys at right.

Locke Mills Auxiliary Unit 68 Issues \$2,000 Challenge

Department Auxiliary President Linda Jack, accompanied by her husband, District 5 Commander Randall Jack, attended the post/unit general meetings at Jackson-Silver Post 68 on Sept. 18, with refreshments served beforehand. Auxiliary Unit 68 presented a \$2,000 check to Linda for her President's Project, Honor Flight Maine. Unit 68 also issued a challenge to other Auxiliary units to match or exceed their contribution.



Locke-Mills Post & Unit 68 Meeting:

Top photo, left to right, Unit 68 member Heather Nichols, Post 68 Sgt.-at-Arms Al Lake, Department Auxiliary President Linda Jack, District 5 Commander Randall Jack, and Post 68 Chaplain Timothy Twitchell converse while awaiting the arrival of other participants to the Post/Unit meeting on Sept. 18. Middle photo, the refreshment table for the meeting is loaded with snacks and treats. Bottom photo, united in purpose, separated in conversation, Auxiliary and Legion members enjoy their refreshments.



Locke-Mills Unit 68 Presents Honor Flight Maine Donation: Locke-Mills Unit 68 President Paige Crockett presents a \$2,000 donation to Department Auxiliary President Linda Jack for her 2026 President's

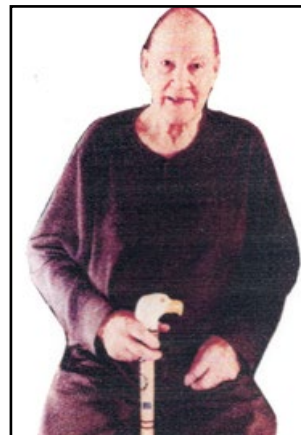
Project, Honor Flight Maine, on behalf of Unit 68 on Sept. 18. Left to right, Unit 68 Vice President Deb Brown, Linda Jack, Unit 68 Heather Nichols, Paige Crockett, Unit 68 Secretary Susan Vacca, Unit 68 Betty Christenson, Department Public Relations Chair and Rumford Unit 24 member Carol Roach. Back row, left to right, Unit 68 Treasurer Jaime Hastings (between Heather and Paige), Unit 68 Executive Committee Alice Deegan, and Unit 68 Kitchen Chef Clemma Nichols.

Locke Mills Post 68 Mourns the Passing of Three Members

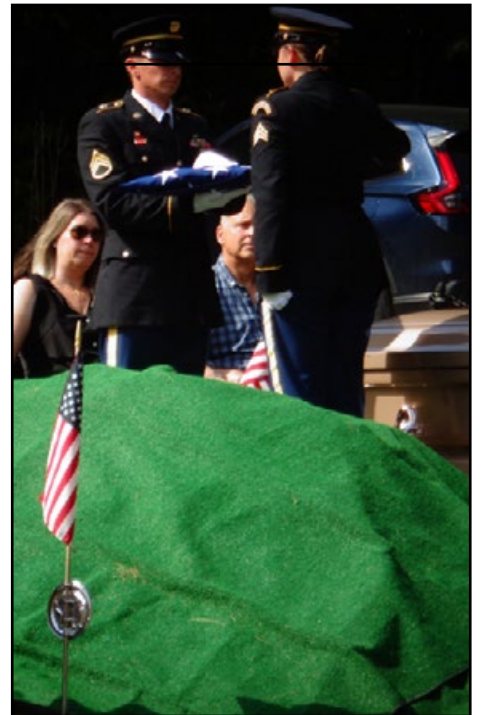
Between Aug. 29 and Sept. 29, Jackson-Silver Post 68 experienced the loss of three post members who entered the Post Everlasting. Each contributed in his own manner in support of post programs. One was the last of our members who served in the Korean Conflict, while the other two were Vietnam era veterans. The post conducted Celebrations of Life for two of these Legionnaires in our Great Hall, and members attended the services of the other at a Rumford funeral home. The current post roster shows 39 out of 62 members from the Vietnam era, defined by a conflict that ended two score and ten years ago. We who remain shall not forget all they contributed to comradeship in service to the nation, their communities, and fellow Legionnaires.

Stanley Sobocinski

Active for many years when he first joined The American Legion, Post 68 was most important to Stanley Sobocinski and his wife, Unit 68 member Ruth. They were regulars at Friday Night Bingo for as long as he was able to attend.



53 Year Legion Member: Stanley Sobocinski – Korean War, May 28, 1943 – Aug. 29, 2025



Funeral Honors: Top photo, Post 68 members perform funeral honors for Stanley Sobocinski. Left to right, Firing Detail Commander and Post 68 1st Vice Harry G. Orcutt, Post 68 member Don Pruyne, Post Adjutant Sara Pruyne, Post Sgt.-At-Arms Al Lake, and Post Chaplain Timothy Twitchell. Bottom photo, the National Banner is folded in preparation for presentation to wife of Stanley Sobocinski and Unit 68 member, Ruth.

[More on "POST 68 MOURNS" Page 25](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 5 continued

■ "POST 68 MOURNS"
(Continued from Page 24)

Rodney Withey

Rodney Withey was a former member of Bethel Rescue, the Greenwood Fire Department, and also served on the Greenwood Planning Board. He was a member of The American Legion, Jackson-Silver Post 68 in Locke Mills, Jefferson Masonic Lodge and Eastern Star in Bryant Pond, the Kora Temple Shrine



Rodney Withey
April 09, 1957 – Aug. 12, 2025

in Lewiston, and the Locke Mills Union Church.

A member of Kora Shrine, he and his wife, Unit 68 member Reverend Sondra Withey, were active participants in the Oxford County Shrine Club Festival of Trees, held in partnership at Jackson-Silver Post 68 each December.



In Memory: A photograph of Rodney Withey before the altar at the Locke Mills Union Church.



Memorial Service: Top left photo, Taps is performed at the funeral service for Rodney Withey, followed by the Post 68 Firing Detail. Top right photo, The National Banner is folded before presentation to the Reverend Sondra Withey, Minister of LMUC. Bottom left photo, Guest Minister and friend of Locke Mills Union Church pastor Sondra Withey officiates the service. Bottom right photo, Rodney's Masonic Brethren perform their funeral services in the Great Hall, followed by the Legion Post Everlasting Ceremony.

Leslie "Les" Bell

Post 68 2nd Vice Leslie "Les" Bell was transferred into Jackson-Silver Post 68 and immediately made significant contributions to community programs held at the post. He brought a lifelong love of cars to the post in 2024, when he organized a very successful, well-attended Car Show. Most recently



Post 68 2nd Vice Leslie "Les" Bell, June 11, 1950 – Sept. 29, 2025

he was working

on a 2026 redux of the Car Show. Les was a prime organizer of the equally popular and highly successful Post 68 public Cornhole Tournaments and was a regular volunteer at Friday Night Bingo. A Catholic service was held, followed by the Legion Post Everlasting ceremony conducted by Jackson-Silver's 1st Vice and Chaplain, Harry G. Orcutt. At the Post 68 Veterans Day ceremonies, following the Firing Detail's three volleys, a Remembrance ceremony honoring our comrades and utilizing the post bell in a similar manner to that employed in our Four Chaplains ceremony, will be conducted. All three will be greatly missed by their comrades at Jackson-Silver Post 68 in Locke Mills. "Hand Salute – Two."



Services were held Tues., Oct. 7 at Meader & Son Funeral Home in Rumford for Post 68 2nd Vice Leslie "Les" Bell. Right photo, Personal items of Les are displayed.



Collation: Unit 68 Chef Clemma Nichols organized and supervised the collation following the service at the Funeral Home for Les Bell.

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

Eagle Scout Rank Achievement:

On Sun., Sept. 14, Camden Post 30 Americanism Officer Scott Bergey, right, and District 6 Commander Jeff Sukeforth, left, had the great pleasure of presenting a certificate and eagle feather to Dillon Harvey of Scout Troop 254 in Warren for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. It was a wonderful ceremony, and it was inspiring to hear about Dillon's journey to Eagle. Congratulations, Dillon!



North Haven Post 33 Fundraiser: North Haven Community School held an Italian Sub Fundraiser for North Haven Post 33 to help with the post's renovation project. Students thought up the project, moved it along to the community, made the subs, and delivered where necessary. The crew raised \$1,142. Front row, left to right, Whitney Newman, Post 33 Commander Jerry White, Lila Bernard, and Emma Cabot. Back row, left to right, Jared MacDonald, Maddie Lattimer, and Quinton Spence. Missing from the photo are Warren Beverage and Rowan Read.

Photo courtesy of Post 33 Commander Jerry White

District 6, Tenants Harbor Post 34 Donations

In addition to the post's active color guard participation, Tenants Harbor Post 34 has an emphasis on charitable giving to Legion related programs and local community programs. The post tries to be very active with a high profile in the St. George Community. From June 1, 2024 to May 3, 2025 the post donated \$2,268 to several programs: Honor Flight Maine - \$200; YMCA Camp Maine - \$100; Wreaths Across America - \$385; St. George Community Kitchen -

\$50; St. George School Children - \$200; St. George Business Alliance - \$33; St. George Eureka Masonic Lodge - \$100; St. George Community Training Center - \$100; Good Shepard Food Bank - \$50; American Legion Commander Project - \$100; Boothbay VETS Inc. (Homeless Shelters) - \$500; Hannah Hall D-Day Band Trip - \$250; Maine Blind Camp - \$100; and Woman Veteran Glamping - \$100.

Submitted by District 6 & Post 34 Historian Randy Deutsch

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 7

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

Local Veterans Tour Nation's Capital Courtesy of Honor Flight Maine

After a busy weekend in Washington, D.C., the veterans on Honor Flight Maine were given a hero's welcome at the Portland International Jetport when they arrived home on Sunday, Sept. 7. The returning veterans were honored with a parade and greeted by enthusiastic family members, friends, and strangers who were there to thank them for their service and welcome them home.

The returning veterans Sept. 7 included four local men. Vietnam-era veterans William Cossette, of Wiscasset, and Bruce Poland, of Bremen, were accompanied by Cliff Hendricks and Ralph Eugley as their guardians, respectively.

During a group interview following the trip, the four veterans made it very clear it was a trip of a lifetime for each of them. Cossette and Poland both served during the Vietnam War, which was very unpopular in the United States at the time, and veterans were often not welcomed home.

"This was the welcome home we never got" Cossette said. "There were times during the trip that I had 'Honor Flight allergies.'"

"Honor Flight allergies" is a phrase used by Honor Flight veterans and refers to tears filling their eyes in appreciation for recognition they are being given.

"It was once-in-a-lifetime trip for me," Poland said. "It is a trip that I will never forget, or one I would never have made, if it were not for Honor Flight Maine. It was emotional, sometimes overwhelming, and it was filled with appreciation with the outpouring of support from so many. We were treated like heroes from the time we arrived in Portland on Friday morning until we arrived home Sunday afternoon."

Cossette and Poland are members of the Bradford-Sortwell-Wright American Legion Post in Wiscasset. A third member of the Post, U.S. Navy veteran Waldo "Wally" Pitcher was scheduled to go on the same Honor Flight with them but he passed away Aug. 26, 10 days before the flight.

Cossette said he and Pitcher, a longtime friend, signed up together to go on an Honor Flight while attending the American Legion National Convention in June and they were both looking forward to going. Among the items Cossette took with him to Washington was a photo of Pitcher that he carried with him.

Asked what the highlight of the trip was, the veterans said everything was outstanding and wonderful.

The trip began early Friday, Sept. 5 with a Scottish band send off at the Portland Jetport. Honor Flight Maine flew into the Baltimore/Washington International

Airport where three buses – named Red, White, and Blue – were waiting to take them to Fort McHenry with a military escort.

The visit to Fort McHenry was followed by a motorcycle escort to Fort Meade, courtesy of the American Legion Riders. At Fort Meade, the veterans had dinner in the mess hall with the active service members stationed at the base.

According to Cossette and Poland, they were back in their hotel room about 8:30 p.m. Friday.

Saturday, Sept. 6, activities began early. After breakfast, the veterans boarded their assigned buses. Cossette was assigned to bus Blue, and Poland was assigned to bus White. The veterans visited eight stops on Saturday, taking in the Marine Corps War Memorial, Air Force Memorial, Navy Memorial, Military Women's Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and the Korean War Veterans Memorial.

The veterans also attended the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery.

According to Cossette, visiting the Vietnam Memorial and the changing of the guard ceremony were emotional moments for him.

"I could not believe the silence at the ceremony with so many people there," he said. "It is a very special place," he said.

Poland agreed the changing of the guard is a very special ceremony, but said the Vietnam Memorial was the most impressive to him.

"You look at the wall, and there are names of those who gave their lives in that war," he said. "It is not just numbers."

Guardians Hendricks and Eugley, whose duties included being a constant companion and ensuring the safety and well-being of their charges throughout the trip, said they were inspired by visits to the war memorials and other events provided by Honor Flight Maine.

"The whole changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was most inspirational time for me," Eugley said. "It was an honor and privilege to accompany Bruce on this trip."

"It was certainly my honor and I am very thankful for the opportunity to share this rewarding experience with Bill," Hendricks said.

Cossette served in the U.S. Navy from 1963-1967. Poland served in the U.S. Army from 1969-1971. Eugley served in the U.S. Marines Corps from 1980-1984 and served 16 years in the Maine Air National Guard. Hendricks served in the U.S. Navy from 1984-2007.

Beginning with a private effort that resulted in six small planes transporting

12 World War II veterans from Ohio to Washington, D.C. in May 2005, the Honor Flight program now operates 149 hubs in 44 states. Founded in 2014, Honor Flight Maine has transported more than 1,200 veterans to Washington, D.C.

Honor Flights are funded by donations

and are provided at no cost to America's veterans.

For more information or to sign up for a trip, go to honorflightmaine.org.

By Charlotte Boynton, The Lincoln County News
September 19, 2025 at 8:00 am

<https://lcnm.com/currentnews/local-veterans-tour-nations-capital-courtesy-of-honor-flight-maine/>



Wiscasset Post 54 Members Attend Honor Flight Trip: U.S. Navy veteran William Cossette, left photo, and U.S. Army veteran Bruce Poland, right photo, return home from their Honor Flight trip after visiting several war memorials in Washington, D.C.

Photos by Charlotte Boynton, The Lincoln County News
Sept. 19, 2025



Boarding Honor Flight: Maine Honor Flight recipient William Cossette, left, and his guardian, Cliff Hendricks, await their boarding call to Washington, D.C. at Portland International Jetport on Friday, Sept. 5.

Courtesy photo,
The Lincoln County News
Sept. 19, 2025

Honor Flight Passenger And Guardian: U.S. Marine Corps veteran Ralph Eugley, left, accompanies Honor Flight Maine passenger Bruce Poland during the trip to Washington, D.C. in early September.

Courtesy photo,
The Lincoln County News
Sept. 19, 2025



Wiscasset Post 54 Honor Flight Interview: Leann Stapleton of WCSH 6 stopped in at Post 54 in Wiscasset to interview Bruce Poland and Bill Cossette about their military service on Saturday, Nov. 8. Bill was in the Navy from 1963 to 1967, and Bruce was in the Army from 1969 to 1971. Leann also asked them about their recent Honor Flight Maine trip to DC this past September. The video can be seen online by clicking the link or visiting: <https://www.newscentermaine.com/article/news/local/outreach/honor-flight/honor-flight-maine-veterans-trip-news-center-maine-telethon/97-9b89b22f-16f5-4f01-a66e-1bdbff6fa37a?tbref=hp>

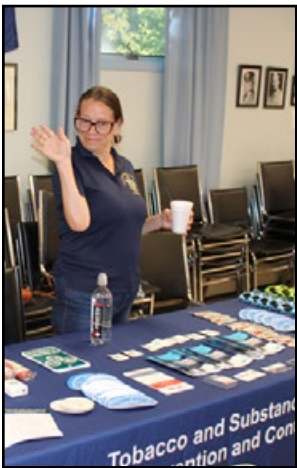
By Leeann Stapleton
News Center Maine
Nov. 10, 2025



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 8

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



Veterans And Community Connection Expo: The Veterans and Community Connection Expo sponsored by VA Togus was held at the George T. Files Post 20 in Brunswick on Sept. 19. Veterans, survivors, service members, and accompanying family members were able to learn about benefits available through state, federal, and community resources. Approximately 40 vendors along with the VA vehicle were present to process veterans. Many veterans attended the expo and felt it was successful. At the Expo, a "Table of One" ceremony was conducted with Gen. Dunn of the Maine National Guard and her Adjutant, Sgt. Bartlett present.

Veterans Information Expo Provides Awareness for Local Veterans

The Midcoast Community came together in a powerful show of support for the 2nd Annual Veterans Information Exposition, hosted by Tractor Supply Company in Brunswick and organized by Veterans of Foreign War Post 2197 on Sept. 6 in Brunswick.

The event brought together a wide range of veteran service organizations, ME Bureau of Veteran Services, the Veterans Administration, the Career Center, and Martin's Point TriCare. Many support organizations also attended: MainePaws for Veterans,

Honor Flight Maine, Maine Veterans in Need, and Maine Veterans Temporary Shelters.

The many veterans who attended expressed appreciation for the resources, and they also commented that they look forward to the 3rd annual expo in 2026.

The event was a great show of support for all veterans, with the VFW, DAV, and The American Legion in attendance. All expressed appreciation for the way organizations in the Midcoast region work together to overcome challenges that veterans face.



Veterans Information Expo: The American Legion, Department of Maine Commander Leroy McKenzie, left, with Veterans of Foreign Wars Commander Amy Meuchel, right, at the 2nd Annual Veterans Information Exposition on Sept. 6 in Brunswick.

Meet The Post 171 Standridge Grant Winners:

Top photo, Molly Greenleaf at center of group behind the table with her mother to her right and Elizabeth Kelly to her left. Mr. and Mrs. Kelly at front left. The Grant Committee decided to split the \$1000 grant between Molly and Elisabeth, both of Cundy's Harbor and both 2025 Mt. Ararat graduates. Molly will pursue a BS in Biology at the University of New Hampshire Durham. She was a captain of Mt. Ararat's girls varsity swim team, plays the saxophone, and has marched in the Harpswell Memorial Day parade as part of the Mt. Ararat marching band. Elisabeth is focused on a double major in Biology and Forensic Science at Husson University in Bangor. She was

a captain of Mt. Ararat's girls tennis team and was recruited to play at Husson. Both her parents are Navy veterans, her grandfathers USMC and USA veterans, and her great-grandfather an Army veteran stationed at Pearl Harbor during the Japanese attack. Bottom photo: The girls with Post 171 officers. L-R: Tom Guerra, Cdr. Mike Doyle, Elisabeth Kelly, Molly Greenleaf, Matt Maurer, John Hill, Pat Kaufmann, Bill O'Connell.



Photos by John Ott

Post 171 Grant Establishment: The grant was established to honor the memory of Paul A. Standridge, a 25-year member of The American Legion active in Post 171. He served as Post 171 Finance Officer (2011-2013) and First Vice (2021-2023). He volunteered with the Coast Guard Auxiliary, Harpswell Aging at Home, and served on the Town of Harpswell Planning Board. The grant is open to Harpswell residents pursuing education at a college, university, vocational/trade school, certification or licensure programs.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 8 continued**Phippsburg Post 216 Happenings & Events**

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

In August, Post 216 provided an Honor Guard to lead the annual Popham Parade. The parade and “bonfire and flare night” that followed is held to recognize the founding of the Popham Colony in 1607. Later in August, Post 216 held its 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. During the ceremony, Post 216 Second Vice Commander Harvey Musey received the 2024 Post Legionnaire of the Year award.

At the end of September, post members and their families took a field trip to tour the Coast Guard units in Rockland. The trip was organized by active-duty post member CWO4 Justin

Young, who is currently stationed in Boston. The group was given a guided tour of the Coast Guard Station which included a boat trip to Owls Head Lighthouse on a 47-foot motor lifeboat. Guided tours also included the CGC Tackle (65-foot small harbor tugboat), the CGC Thunder Bay (140-foot bay class icebreaking tugboat), and the CGC Abbie Burgess (175-foot buoy tender).

During September, post 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 wind down as we enter fall and winter. Planned events include our second participation in the kids’ “Trick or Trunk” at town hall, visiting veterans at the Plant Memorial Home on Veteran’s Day, decorating the Phippsburg Town Hall, and Veterans Memorial Park for Christmas, as well as the post’s annual Christmas Potluck Supper.

Popham Parade

Phippsburg Post 216 Attends Popham Parade: Top photo, colonists lead the Popham Parade, followed by the Post 216 Honor Guard. Bottom photo, Post 216 Honor Guard, left to right, Post Adjutant Mike Young, Post Sgt.-At-Arms Larry Swizdor, Post Financial Officer Debra Reddinger, Comrade Bob Belben, Post Commander Ken Kellogg, and Post First Vice Commander Jim Wallace.

Photos by Chillioa Young

Annual Membership Dinner and Awards

Post 216 Initiation Ceremony: One of the newest members at Phippsburg Post 216, Comrade Michael Babine, left, is sworn in at his Initiation Ceremony by Post Commander Ken Kellogg, right. Post Sgt.-At-Arms Larry Swizdor is in the background.

Photo by Post 216 Judge Advocate Fred Libby



receive their Continuous Service Awards while Post Sgt.-At-Arms Larry Swizdor acts as escort.

Photo by Post 216 Judge Advocate Fred Libby

Phippsburg Post 216 Legionnaire Of The Year: Post 216 Commander Ken Kellogg, left, presents Post 2nd Vice Commander Harvey Munsey, right, with the Phippsburg Post 216 Legionnaire of the Year Award for his service in 2024.

Photo by Post 216 Adjutant Mike Young

**Coast Guard Field Trip**

Coast Guard Welcomes Post 216: Post 216 Comrade CWO4 Justin Young (in the background) with the boat crew of CG Station Rockland welcomes Post 216 members for their underway trip to Owl’s Head Lighthouse.

Photo by Post 216 Adjutant Mike Young

Owl’s Head Lighthouse Trip: Left to right, Post 216 Commander Ken Kellogg, Post First Vice Commander Jim Wallace, and Comrade Bob Belben and wife Carol, are underway on the CG 47-foot lifeboat for a trip to see Owl’s Head Lighthouse.

Photo by Post 216 Adjutant Mike Young

[More on “POST 216 HAPPENINGS” Page 29](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 8 continued

■ "POST 216 HAPPENINGS"
(Continued from Page 28)



Rockland Coast Guard Units:
Phippsburg Post 216 members and their families visit the Rockland Coast Guard Units.
Photo by Post 216 Adjutant Mike Young



Coast Guard Tugboats: Left photo, Phippsburg Post 216 members and their families on board the CGC Tackle which is a 65-foot small harbor tugboat. Right photo, left to right, Donna Wallace, Evie Libby, Post 216 Judge Advocate Fred Libby, Post Commander Ken Kellog, Post Finance Officer Debra Reddinger, and Comrade Bill Turek visit with the executive officer of the Thunder Bay on the Navigation Bridge. The Thunder Bay is a 140-foot bay class icebreaking tugboat.
Photo by Post 216 Adjutant Mike Young

Engine Room:
Left to right, Phippsburg Post 216 First Vice Commander Jim Wallace, Comrade Bob Belben, and Post Finance Officer Debra Reddinger tour the engine room of the CGC Abbie Burgess. The Abbie Burgess is a 175-foot buoy tender.
Photo by Post 216 Adjutant Mike Young



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 9

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



Oakland Post 51 Donates School Supplies: Christine Meader, Ed Tech at Williams Elementary School in Oakland, stands next to donations collected by Bonnie Vigue Audet at American Legion Decker-Simmons Legion Post 51 in Oakland. Thank you to all that helped donate these supplies. Donations are still being accepted for those interested in donating. Please contact Bonnie at The American Legion 207-465-2446.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 12

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



National Commander Dan K. Wiley visits Bucksport Post 93 on Oct. 31. Left to right, Dick Petersen, Ben Pluard, Bucksport Town Council Jennifer Therrien, National Commander Dan K. Wiley, Post 93 Commander Vince Christinziano, Maine Rep. District 17 Steve Bishop, John Hinckley, Lionel Harvey, Laurence Bridgham, Chuck Bradshaw, and Clayton Duplessis.



Bucksport Post 93 Recognition: On October 31, Bucksport Post 93 Commander Vince Christinziano, left, receives a National Commander "Be The One" license plate from National Commander Dan Wiley during his official visit to the Department of Maine at the post home.

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: Commander Gary Freeman had the opportunity to meet up with National Commander Dan Wiley during his official visit to Maine at the Dow-Lougee Post 115 meet-and-greet event held on Nov. 1.

WHAT’S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 13 continued

Old Town Post 75 Special Contribution: Old Town Post 75 Commander, James Haney, right, presents a donation of \$800 to National Commander Dan Wiley, left. This contribution is designated for the Children’s Veterans Foundation, chosen by Commander Wiley. The presentation took place at the post home on November 1 during Commander Wiley’s official visit to the Department of Maine.



Maine American Legion Baseball Junior State Champions present the winning trophy to Old Town Post 75 Commander James Haney and Penobscot County District 13 Officer Wayne Feero at the city’s community celebration RIVERFEST on Sept. 19-21.



Etna-Carmel Post 107 Donation: American Legion National Commander Dan K. Wiley joined local veterans, Gold Star families, and community leaders at Post 107 in Carmel on Sun., Nov. 2, to honor service and sacrifice ahead of Veterans Day. The intimate gathering celebrated the post’s longstanding commitment to veterans and their families. During the event, Post 107 made a meaningful donation in Commander Wiley’s name to the “House in the Woods” veteran charity, supporting Gold Star father Paul House’s mission to provide outdoor therapeutic experiences for wounded warriors and their loved ones. The donation and ceremony underscored the post’s ongoing impact on Maine’s veteran community, blending remembrance with action. “This post embodies the Legion’s enduring promise—to leave no veteran behind and to uplift the families who’ve given everything,” said National Commander Dan K. Wiley.

WHAT’S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 15

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



Pembroke Post 59 Bingo Workers: Post Adjutant Dale Shannon, right, and Gary Lincoln, left, pose for a photo after working bingo night at the post.



Pembroke Post 59 Annual Breakfast: Cobscook Post 59 in Pembroke hosts its annual 4th of July breakfast. Top photo, Pembroke Post 59 Adjutant Dale Shannon, left, and Gary Lincoln, right. Middle left photo, Pembroke Post 59 Adjutant Dale Shannon, left, and Pembroke Post 59 Commander Gene Holmes, right. Middle right photo, Pembroke Post 59 1st Vice Brent Ellinwood manning the griddle. Bottom left right photo, Pembroke Post 59 Commander Gene Holmes, left, and Michael Shannon, right. Bottom right photo, Post 59 members and guests enjoy breakfast at the post.

WHAT’S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 17

Van Buren Post 49; Fort Kent Post 133; Stockholm Post 136; Frenchville Post 145; Madawaska Post 147; Eagle Lake 176; St. Francis Post 180



Madawaska Riders Chapter 147 Memorial: Madawaska American Legion Riders Chapter 147 leaves teddy bears next to the shrine for 8-year-old Emma Cormier who was killed by an accident in Van Buren on Aug. 27. Left to right, Bob Gagnon, Lloyd Faloon, Director Ed Ellis, Diane Daigle, Paige Morneault, Dave Russell, and Paul Michaud.

T a p s C o l u m n

POST	NAME	CONFLICT	POST	NAME	CONFLICT
Post 05 – Waterville	Paul E Dickey	Korea	Post 76 – Scarborough	Robert J Foster	Vietnam
Post 05 – Waterville	Wallace W Lafountain	WWII	Post 76 – Scarborough	Perley C Brackett	Korea
Post 05 – Waterville	Rudolph A Landry	WWII/Korea/Vietnam	Post 77 – Lincoln	Leon W Larlee	Korea
Post 05 – Waterville	Lionel J Duquette	WWII	Post 77 – Lincoln	Harlan H Whitney	Korea
Post 06 – Hallowell	Michael G Madden	Vietnam	Post 79 – Berwick	James P Doucette	Vietnam
Post 08 – Cherryfield	Orlando King	WWII	Post 79 – Berwick	Albert M Quaker	Vietnam
Post 08 – Cherryfield	Richard M Meserve Sr	WWII	Post 81 – Bethel	Charles W Bean	Vietnam
Post 13 – E. Millinocket	Dana R Cram	Vietnam	Post 81 – Bethel	Donald G Bennett	Korea
Post 13 – E. Millinocket	Arthur E Dentremont	WWII	Post 82 – Norway	James S Kilgore	Vietnam
Post 17 – Portland	Merton A Rutherford	Vietnam	Post 98 – Brewer	Louis McDavid, Jr	Vietnam
Post 18 – Vinalhaven	John B Haskell	Vietnam	Post 98 – Brewer	Robert B Werkowski	Korea
Post 18 – Vinalhaven	Frederick A Dyer	Vietnam	Post 103 – NE Harbor	Bruce E Damon	Vietnam
Post 19 – Sanford	Marcel G Gagne	Unknown	Post 107 – Etna-Carmel	Ansel F Zetterman	Korea
Post 20 – Brunswick	James P Hutchins	Vietnam	Post 123 – Kezar Falls	Ron Richards	Vietnam & Persian Gulf
Post 20 – Brunswick	Gary R Scott	Vietnam	Post 123 – Kezar Falls	Carleton H Pulcifur, Jr	Vietnam
Post 20 – Brunswick	David L Stevens	WWII	Post 133 – Fort Kent	Alban Bouchard	WWII
Post 22 – Lewiston	Maurice L Nadeau	Korea	Post 137 – Fryeburg	Harold R Thurston Jr	WWII
Post 24 – Rumford	Kent Mann	Vietnam	Post 145 – Frenchville	Francis Morin	Vietnam
Post 24 – Rumford	Robert J Dumoulin	Vietnam	Post 147 – Madawaska	Raymond Thibodeau	Vietnam
Post 24 – Rumford	Michael I Bouthot	Vietnam	Post 149 – Waldoboro	Robert A Beck	Korea
Post 24 – Rumford	Lloyd Doucette	Korea	Post 149 – Waldoboro	Kenneth Smale	Vietnam
Post 24 – Rumford	Chet Abbott	Vietnam	Post 150 – Mechanic Falls	Michael E Downing	Vietnam
Post 26 – Biddeford	Ronald Palmitessa	Vietnam	Post 150 – Mechanic Falls	Ivan R Fifield	Unknown
Post 27 – Ft. Fairfield	Garnet M Rochford	Vietnam	Post 153 – Auburn	Gary S Rowe	Panama
Post 30 – Camden	Dell R Hyssong	WWII	Post 153 – Auburn	John D Sullivan	Korea
Post 34 – St. George	Edgar Post	WWII	Post 153 – Auburn	Leslie A Clark	Korea
Post 34 – St. George	Donald R Choquette	Korea	Post 153 – Auburn	Fred E Pike	Vietnam
Post 34 – St. George	Robert P Cremonni	Korea	Post 159 – Kennebunkport	Raymond K Seaver	Vietnam
Post 43 – Belfast	Philip Bowen	Korea	Post 159 – Kennebunkport	Kenneth N Hutchins	Korea
Post 54 – Wiscasset	Waldo L Pitcher	Vietnam	Post 163 – Palermo	Bruce F Eldridge	Vietnam
Post 54 – Wiscasset	Dennis E Soule	Vietnam	Post 178 – Winslow	James L Lane	Persian Gulf
Post 54 – Wiscasset	Ronald N Wentworth	Vietnam	Post 178 – Winslow	James R Shedno	Vietnam
Post 57 – Old Orchard	John C Hanusek Sr	WWII	Post 178 – Winslow	Lawrence L Blake	Vietnam
Post 57 – Old Orchard	Donn S Erickson	Korea	Post 181 – Litchfield	Leonard F Moreau	Vietnam
Post 62 – Westbrook	Roger Barr	Korea	Post 188 – Eliot	Steven J Purinton	Vietnam
Post 65 – Lubec	Bernard L Farmer	Vietnam	Post 188 – Eliot	G Milton Bulloch	Vietnam
Post 65 – Lubec	Murray L Barker	WWII	Post 205 – Augusta	Robert J Locklin	Vietnam
Post 65 – Lubec	Paul Carty	Vietnam	Post 205 – Augusta	Charles R Lang Sr	Korea
Post 68 – Locke Mills	Stanley J Sobocinski	Korea	Post 205 – Augusta	Merle French	Korea
Post 68 – Locke Mills	Rodney A Withey	Vietnam	Post 208 – Masardis	Gary L Cameron	Vietnam
Post 68 – Locke Mills	Delwin C Wilson Jr	Vietnam	CN09 – St. Johns (Canada)	John H Walther	Vietnam
Post 73 – Corinna	Robert Sundberg	Unknown			



Attention: Next Deadline is Jan. 23

The deadline for material, stories and/or pictures to be submitted for consideration for use in the **February 2026** issue of The Maine Legionnaire will be **January 23, 2026**.

Please be reminded that only those articles and/or pictures which are sent in proper form will be considered for publication.

Illegible stories or pictures that cannot be reproduced will be returned to you. A reminder that stories must be in story format; we are unable to compose your information for you.

As always, the editorial staff may edit all submissions at its discretion.

We are once again asking for input from all posts, auxiliary units, S.A.L. squadrons, individuals, etc. To make this

paper informative to you, it is imperative that we receive submissions from the membership.

Photo(s) should include the following: who is in the photo (left to right), what the photo is about, where the event took place, and who took the picture (optional). All photos will be returned for clarification and submission of the required information if the above mentioned is not provided. **Please note: blurry or pixelated photos will not be accepted.**

Anyone interested in submitting a guest editorial should contact The Maine Legionnaire business office at:

(207) 873-3229 or via email at: legionme@mainelegion.org or rachael@mainelegion.org

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Membership Awards are presented to District Commanders during Fall Conference, on Sept. 13 at Jeff's Catering & Event Center, Brewer. Officiating the presentation were Department Commander Leroy McKenzie and Department 1st Vice Commander Joseph Michaud. Left photo, Dept. Commander Leroy McKenzie, left, and Dept. 1st Vice Commander Joseph Michaud, right, present District 17 Commander Steve Gray, a 1st place certificate and a check in the amount of \$1,000 (\$500 for each category) for obtaining Highest Overall Membership Percentage and Highest Overall Renewal Percentage in the Dept. of Maine for the 2025 membership year. Right photo, District 2 and District 8 tied for 2nd place in Highest District Overall Membership Renewal Percentage and were presented a certificate and \$250 each for their achievement. Left to right, Dept. Commander Leroy McKenzie, District 2 Commander Gordon Kendall, District 8 Rep. Joe Young, and Dept. 1st Vice Commander Joseph Michaud.



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Legion Convention Yearbook. To donate with Debit/Credit Card, click the button below, or simply scan the QR code with your phone. You may also visit www.mainelegion.org and click on the Maine American Legion Convention Yearbook Donations Welcomed button. If donating by check, please make payable to The American Legion, Department of Maine earmarked "Yearbook Program" and mail to: The American Legion, Department of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901-0727.

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