THE MAINE Legionnaire

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OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MAINE

28 Pages

Bowen Elected National Commander

New National Commander asks Legionnaires to 'Be Part of the Solution.'

Department of Colorado's Jay Bowen shares his priorities for 2026-2027 after being elected during the national convention in Louisville.

Colorado Legionnaire Jay Bowen never had his eyes set on being American Legion national commander. But then again, he never thought about being post commander or any other leadership position beyond that.

But he did during a lengthy American Legion career, serving at every level of leadership. And on Sept. 3 in Louisville, Ky., national convention attendees unanimously elected Bowen to the highest position in the organization: national commander.

"When I was approached and asked to serve, or consider serving, as national commander, I was hesitant to do that," Bowen said. "But I decided that I needed to live up to my theme and be there. So I said, 'OK, if you believe that's where I need to be' (Past National Commander and Colorado Legionnaire) Tom Bock, who pushed me into this, God bless him – (I said) 'Put me in coach. I'm ready to play.' And right now I'm very glad that he did that."



NATIONAL COMMANDER JAY BOWEN

But putting on the national commander's red cap doesn't change Bowen's view of what drives the organization as a whole. "I've never saw it as a position or a cap," he said. "I've always believed … that it's not the color of the cap. In fact, every color of cap that we wear today – with the exception of one – is temporary. The only permanent cap that we have in The American Legion in the blue cap. Because that's where all the work gets done. If you don't believe it, just look at all of our past national commanders who have worn every color of cap we have.

More on "NATIONAL CMDR" Page 5



National Commander Visit: **National Commander Jay Bowen made his official visit to the Department of Maine on October 24-28 making several stops to Legion posts in Aroostook County. Here he is seen at Stockholm Post 136 on Oct. 26 where he enjoyed a pleasant dinner and meet-and-greet session with department officers, members, and guests. Left to right, Stockholm Post 136 Chaplain Delbert Alward, Department Commander Joseph "Joe" Michaud, National Commander Jay Bowen, and Department National Executive Committeeman Lloyd Woods.**

Auxiliary Expands Membership Eligibility

Eligibility criteria to include spouses, parents, children, siblings, grandparents, grandchildren and female veterans.

Membership eligibility in the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) has expanded to allow more family members of veterans to join the organization and strengthen the American Legion Family.

On Sept. 2, at the 107th American Legion National Convention in Louisville, Ky., Resolution No. 19 was adopted by The American Legion to expand the ALA's eligibility criteria to include spouses, parents, children, siblings, grandparents, grandchildren and female veterans. This resolution changed "grandmother" and "mother" to "grandparents" and "parents," "sisters" to "siblings," "daughters" to "children," and "granddaughters" to "grandchildren." The new eligibility criteria does not address gender in any capacity.

Eligibility criteria changes for the ALA are determined by The American Legion, and these additions went into effect immediately.

The Auxiliary has received questions regarding the new membership eligibility change. Below are a few of those questions and answers. If you have a question that's not answered below,



e-mail ALA National Headquarters' Membership Division at membership@ALAforVeterans.org.

What is the official new language of the eligibility change?

The following is the official new language:

Section 2. Membership in The American Legion Auxiliary shall be limited to:

(1) grandparents, parents, siblings, spouses, and direct or adopted descendants within two degrees of consanguinity of members of The American Legion; and

(2) grandparents, parents, siblings, spouses, and direct or adopted descendants within two degrees of consanguinity of all servicemembers who served in either of the following periods: April 6, 1917, to Nov. 11, 1918,

More on "ALA ELIGIBILITY" Page 7

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

National Commander Jay Bowen who was elected on September 3 during The American Legion's 107th National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, made his official visit to the Department of Maine, American Legion, from October 24 -28. During his stay, he received a warm welcome and experienced genuine hospitality of the Pine Tree State. Accompanying him on the visit was his National Aide, Marvin Weaver Jr. Commander Bowen and his Aide arrived in Maine on the morning of Oct. 24, where they were greeted at the Presque Isle Airport by National Executive Committeeman Lloyd Woods.

Several Legion posts in Northern Maine had the honor of hosting Commander Bowen during his visit. He was warmly received by numerous legionnaires from across the state, along with members of the auxiliary, Sons of the Legion, Riders, and various guests.

On Sunday, October 25, Commander Bowen arrived at Chester L. Briggs

More on "NAT'L CMDR VISIT" Page 12

Commander's Comments

Greetings, fellow Legionnaires. Thank you for your continued efforts to build membership and strengthen our organization. Your commitment to this work is appreciated, and I want to take this opportunity to share an update on my year as Department Commander. It has been a busy and interesting year, with visits to many posts and more still ahead. Along with those visits, I have traveled out of state for the National Convention in Louisville, KY, and made a couple of trips to Indianapolis, IN. At the Commander's Conference in Indianapolis, I learned that many other departments face the same membership challenges we face here in Maine. Those challenges are not ours alone, and they underscore the importance of working together. As we continue our membership efforts, our shared focus remains on strengthening the organization and supporting the members who make it possible.



JOSEPH "JOE" MICHAUD

As you know, this year's Commander's Project supports Special Olympics/Camp Tall Pines. I sincerely thank everyone who has already donated and appreciate your continued support of this worthy cause. The project remains an important part of my year as Commander, and I am grateful for the support given to it. In connection with that effort, I have accepted a challenge to participate in the Lobster Dip in Old Orchard Beach on January 1. I am asking for $100 donations to support my plunge and the cause behind it. A few districts have formed teams to join me in the

MORE ON "CMDRS COMMENTS" Page 3

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

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

Special Olympics Maine

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

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

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

Some of the programs for Special Olympics of Maine:

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



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

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

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

EASY WAYS TO DONATE:

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

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

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

A 'First' Look

Membership, Dues, and Buddy Checks: Remember Why We're Here! As members of The American Legion, we share a common bond that goes beyond the uniform we once wore. We are part of a family built on service, sacrifice, and a commitment to helping our fellow veterans. To keep that family strong, we must focus on three important responsibilities: building membership, collecting dues, and making sure we are looking after one another through Buddy Checks.

Membership: Staying on Track

Membership is the foundation of our organization. Without members, our posts cannot continue the programs, community service, and support for veterans that make The American Legion such an important part of our communities.

Every post should keep track of its membership progress and work toward the official Department and National membership goals for the 2026–2027 membership year. We cannot wait until the last minute and expect to reach our goals without putting in the work.



RYAN SIMPSON

Recruiting new members is everyone's responsibility, not just the responsibility of the post commander or membership chairman. We should speak with veterans we meet in our communities, invite them to visit our posts, and explain what The American Legion stands for.

We must also remember our existing members. A phone call, a personal visit, or an invitation to a post activity can make the difference between losing a member and keeping that person involved.

Collecting Dues: Start Early and Follow Through

Collecting membership dues is

More on "FIRST LOOK" Page 4



Membership Update: Dept. 1st Vice Commander Ryan Simpson talks membership at Fall Conference, held Saturday, Sept. 26 at Brunswick Post 20. Left to right, Dept. Commander Joseph "Joe" Michaud, Dept. 1st Vice Commander Ryan Simpson, National Executive Committeeman Lloyd Woods, and Dept. 2nd Vice Commander Thomas Kuespert.

A 'Second' Look



THOMAS KUESPERT

My mission as 2nd Vice Commander of The American Legion, Department of Maine is to serve our veterans, strengthen our organization, and bring the entire Legion Family together as one united team.

I am committed to supporting the 1st Vice Commander in his efforts to grow and strengthen membership throughout Maine, helping our posts recruit new members, retain current members, and show the next generation the value of being part of The American Legion.

I will stand beside the Department Commander and assist him in any way needed to carry out his vision, support his goals, and advance the mission of The American Legion throughout our state.

Most importantly, I want to focus on strengthening the bond between the American Legion, the Sons of The American Legion, and the American Legion Auxiliary. We are three organizations with one common purpose: serving our veterans, supporting our families, helping our

More on "SECOND LOOK" Page 3

NEC Update

Hello fellow Legionnaires. I hope this finds everyone in good spirits and working hard on membership and buddy checks. Membership is not just the 1st Vice Commander's area of interest, it is everyone's. Let's keep the spirit going.



LLOYD WOODS

On Oct. 7 and 8, the National Executive Committee (NEC) met along with other commissions and committees for what is known as the Fall Meetings. Along with the Department Adjutants and Commanders in meetings during that same time frame, the subcommittee of the National Executive Committee on resolutions met and reviewed 14 total submitted resolutions for the NEC to consider.

The full resolution can be found in archive.legion.org. That location is where every resolution approved is housed, from decades ago to present. You might want to visit that site when you get the opportunity.

The 14 that were passed by the NEC consisted of:

#1: 988 Decals on both sides of emergency vehicles

#2: Stay of foreclosure proceedings for VA guaranteed borrowers in delinquency or Foreclosures pending restoration of a proper program

#3: GI Bill Extension for COVID-19 emergency period

#4: Appreciation to host city for the 107th National Convention

#5: Transfer Thailand Post TH02 from the Dept. of France to the Dept. of the Philippines

#6: Authorize issuance of a temporary charter to Vicenza, Italy with the Dept. of France

#7: Authorize issuance of a temporary charter to Panama Canal Post PC02 with the Dept. of Latin America

#8: Reducing barriers to Peer Support in VA Health Care and electronic Health Records

#9: Creative Arts therapy and festival

#10: Establish a Legion E-Sports ad hoc committee

#11: The Stars and Stripes relay-a national flag day journey

#12: Establishment of a Sons 100th Anniversary committee

#13: Establishment of the PNC JR Stillwell National Legacy Award

#14: Authorization to purchase paper from Lindenmeyr Central

In years past, the NEC has had as many resolutions to review and pass or table, as 45 to 50. This year, as you can see was quite less, but they were all reviewed and passed.

The NEC also heard reports from the Department Advisory Committee, Finance Commission, National Security Commission, Media & Communications Commission, Convention Commission, Americanism Commission, Internal Affairs Commission, Membership & Post Activities Committee, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission, the Legislative Commission, Marketing Commission, and the Committee on Committees where the recommendations for people to be assigned are placed.

We also had reports on interim appointments and confirmation and cancellation of post and/or squadron charters.

I look forward to serving on the various committees and the National Executive Committee on behalf of you, The American Legion, Department of Maine veterans and members.

If I can assist you in any way that I can, please contact me. As I have said before, "PROUD TO SERVE." See you at Mid-Winter Conference, I hope.

■ "SECOND LOOK"

(Continued from Page 2)

communities, and preserving the principles and traditions that make our Legion Family strong.

My goal is to break down barriers, build stronger relationships, encourage teamwork, and create more opportunities for all three branches of our Legion Family to work together. When we stand together, support one another, and share in each other's successes, we become a stronger force for our veterans and the communities we serve.

I believe leadership is about service, teamwork, and leading by example. As 2nd Vice Commander, I will be ready to step up wherever I am needed, support my fellow officers, listen to our members, and work toward a stronger, more active, and more united Department of Maine.

One Family. One Mission. One American Legion.

Together, we can strengthen our membership, support our leadership, honor our veterans, and ensure that The American Legion Family continues to make a difference for generations to come.

Dept. 2nd Vice Commander
Thomas Kuespert

On the Agenda

NOVEMBER 2026 MEETINGS

District 3 – Androscoggin: Nov. 16, Turner Post 111, 6:30 p.m., Voting to change District meeting date & time
District 5 – Oxford: Nov. 18, Bethel Post 81, 6:00 p.m., Meeting with refreshments after
District 9 – Kennebec: TBD, Waterville Post 5, 6:00 p.m., Cmdr. Craig Bailey & Adj. Ernest Paradis
District 14 – Piscataquis: Nov. 21, Monson Post 116, 12:00 p.m. Lunch, Meeting 1:00 p.m.

DECEMBER 2026 MEETINGS

District 2 – Cumberland: Dec. 13, Westbrook Post 197, 1:00 p.m., Meeting will follow lunch at 2:00 p.m.
District 5 – Oxford: Dec. 16, Locke Mills Post 68, 6:00 p.m., District Christmas party
District 9 – Kennebec: Dec. 9, Oakland Post 51, 6:00 p.m., Cmdr. Jeffrey Flye & Adj. Tina Zabierek

JANUARY 2027 MEETINGS

District 3 – Androscoggin: Jan. 18, Mechanic Falls Post 150, 6:30 p.m., Oratorical
District 5 – Oxford: Jan. 20, South Paris Post 72, 6:00 p.m., District Oratorical Contest
District 9 – Kennebec: Jan. 13, Augusta Post 2, 6:00 p.m., Cmdr. William Hooley & Adj. Lonwood Keller

FEBRUARY 2027 MEETINGS

District 3 – Androscoggin: Feb. 15, Lisbon Post 158, 6:30 p.m.
District 5 – Oxford: Feb. 17, Rumford Post 24, 6:00 p.m., 2027 Nominating Committee
District 9 – Kennebec: Feb. 10, Maine Veteran's Home Augusta, 6:00 p.m., Appoint a Nominating Committee
District 14 – Piscataquis: Feb. 20, Dover-Foxcroft Post 29, 12:00 p.m. Lunch, Meeting 1:00 p.m.
District 15 – Washington: Feb. 8, Machias Post 9, Missed Meeting
District 17 – Aroostook: Feb. 7, Van Buren Post 49, 12:00 p.m., Meal with meeting at 1:00 p.m.

■ "CMDR'S COMMENTS"

(Continued from Page 2)

ocean, and the Auxiliary and Sons have also committed to participating. Their involvement makes this a Legion Family event, bringing us together around a shared purpose. Thank you again for supporting the Commander's Project and for being part of this effort.

Please contact me if you would like me to attend an event at your post or in your community. I welcome these invitations and look forward to continuing my visits. The events I have attended so far have been both informative and enjoyable, and I appreciate the opportunity to spend time with you at your local gatherings. These visits are a valued part of my year as Department Commander. If you have an event you would like me to attend, please reach out so we can discuss it.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Mid-Winter Conference on January 9, 2027, at Jeff's Catering & Event Center in Brewer. Second Vice Commander Thomas Kuespert and I will develop an agenda that is both fun and informative. We want the conference to offer a welcoming gathering while giving you plenty of information to take away. Please ensure that each district sends a representative, as there will be much to share. Having representation from every district is important to that exchange of information. I appreciate your attention to this request and look forward to gathering with you in Brewer for the conference.

Department Commander Joseph "Joe" Michaud





Supporting The Commander's Vision: Left photo, Portland Post 17 Senior Vice Commander Darnell Williams, left, and Sam from Moe's Original BBQ, right, point to the brochure for the Commander's Project: Special Olympics/Camp Tall Pines posted at Moe's Original BBQ in August. Right photo, Darnell Williams, left, and Army Barracks Store Manager Selena, right, in Scarborough, supporting the Commander's Project on Sept. 18.

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The Adjutant Speaks



JASON HALL

I get it; we are a close-knit group in the Legion Posts we belong to. We can tell a member from a non-member within 3 steps of walking into our building. Add to that we are veterans and Mainers; we are self-reliant, take a no-nonsense approach to most things, reserved, cautious to outsiders, and have a wicked dry sense of humor.

But put yourselves into a new member's shoes: you enter, and no one greets you; 14 people stare you down the entire walk towards them, whispers start (the music stops), and not one smile. Not one hello.

That person turns out to be a veteran, one who served their country honorably and deserves a better greeting than the one they received from the largest veteran service organization in the world. Why would they join? Why would they stay?

Now let me tell you a different scenario: You walk into a Post in a small town, and as soon as you swing the door open, 15 people start clapping and cheering. That's it, that's the whole story. I challenge you to experience it; the Post is Alden M. Gayton American Legion Post 31 Auburn. Can't miss them on Washington Street; it's the Post with an American flag on it.

More on "ADJUTANT SPEAKS" Page 9



Fall Conference: **Past National Commander Anthony "Tony" Jordan, left, welcomes everyone attending the Fall Conference and expresses his appreciation for their participation, while Department Adjutant Jason Hall looks on. The American Legion Department of Maine held its Fall Conference at George T. Files Post 20 in Brunswick on Saturday, Sept. 26. The Auxiliary met at Bath Post 21 and the Sons met at Topsham Post 202. Good information was given, new ideas, and time-proven plans were shared.**

"FIRST LOOK"

(Continued from Page 2)

another important responsibility. We should not wait until the last minute to contact our members about renewing. Early reminders, phone calls, letters, and personal visits can help keep our membership numbers moving in the right direction.

Some members may simply forget to renew. Others may be dealing with financial difficulties, health concerns, or circumstances that make it harder to stay connected. A friendly reminder gives us an opportunity to check in and remind them that they are valued members of our Legion family.

Every post should maintain accurate membership records and regularly review renewal progress. If a member has not renewed, make the call. If another reminder is needed, follow up.

Our goal is not simply to collect dues. It is to retain our members, strengthen our posts, and make sure every Legionnaire knows they are appreciated.

Buddy Checks: No Veteran Should Be Forgotten

One of our most important responsibilities is looking after one another. Buddy Checks are more than a phone call or a quick conversation. They are an opportunity to make sure our fellow veterans are doing well and know that someone cares.

We should reach out to members we have not seen in a while, older veterans who may be isolated, and anyone who might need a helping hand. A simple question such as, "How are you doing, and is there anything you need?" can open the door to meaningful support.

Every post should make Buddy Checks a regular part of its activities. Keep appropriate records of outreach and follow-up, while respecting each member's privacy. If someone needs assistance, help connect them with the appropriate Legion resources or veteran support services.

Buddy Checks should not be limited to membership season. They should be part of who we are throughout the year.

Accountability and Teamwork

To reach our goals, we must know where we stand. Posts should review membership reports regularly, track renewals, identify members who need follow-up, and discuss progress at meetings.

If a post is falling behind, the answer is not to point fingers. The answer is to work together, share ideas, make calls, organize membership drives, and help one another succeed.

No post should feel that it is working alone. We are all part of the same Department, and sharing successful ideas and supporting neighboring posts can benefit everyone.

Remember Why We're Here

As we move forward through the 2026–2027 membership year, let's stay focused on our responsibilities. We must continue recruiting new members, collecting dues in a timely manner, and making sure our Buddy Checks are being conducted.

But as we work toward our membership goals, we must never lose sight of what matters most.

Remember Why We're Here

We are here because of the men and women who served our country. We are here to support veterans and their families, serve our communities, and make sure no veteran feels forgotten or left behind.

Membership numbers are important, but the people behind those numbers are what truly matter. Every renewal represents a Legionnaire who remains connected to our mission. Every new member strengthens our family. Every Buddy Check reminds a fellow veteran that someone cares.

Let's wear our American Legion caps with pride, work together regardless of our post number, and remember the responsibility we share.

Remember Why We're Here—and let's keep The American Legion strong for the veterans who came before us, those who serve today, and those who will follow.

Dept. 1st Vice Commander,
Ryan Simpson



Stockholm Museum:
Department 1st Vice Commander Ryan Simpson, left, Department National Executive Committeeman Alternate Kirk Thurston, center, and Department 2nd Vice Commander Thomas Kuespert, right, take a photo in front of the Stockholm Museum entrance during the National Commander's visit to Maine on Oct. 26.

Americanism

Americanism: one of the four pillars of our organization. A quick brief can be found in the pamphlet titled "Why You Should Belong." Pillar #3 is Americanism. What programs are found here? Could there be more? Check out the National website to see for yourself. How long have we been engaged in these programs? Which programs are your post or district sponsoring? I challenge you to review this pamphlet and to go to www.mainelegion.org and review the programs that Department emphasizes getting involved with. What scholarships can be awarded to the participants, your post and district in recognition of your participation in growing our youth of tomorrow? A little hint: Dirigo State, Junior Shooting Sports, Oratorical, Baseball, Scouting, Youth Law Cadet Enforcement, Education Assistance, Legacy scholarships, U.S. Flag Protection and Education, and Voter Participation. Trust me there are plenty of other youth programs.



MAUREEN MALLEY

Upcoming events: Now is the time to be looking for Oratorical candidates. e-mails and mailed copies of this year's program have been sent. Check with your local schools for possible candidates. Important dates: applications to the post are due by Dec. 5. Between then and Jan. 25, 2027, both the post and district should conduct their competitions. Your district winner only is due to Department by Jan. 25, 2027. Please read the bottom of the application for the dates. May is the National-level competition. Did we invite our graduated junior candidates to Dirigo, where more scholarships can be earned? Contact Debra Couture at usmphdleadership@gmail.com.

Baseball team sign-ups are going on now. There are many documents required in order for the teams to compete, so please don't delay. Contact Scott Bishop at chairman@mainelegionbaseball.org.

Scouting is an Americanism program. This is a year-round program and can always use your time and talents while the scouts work on merit badges to earn rank. This benefits both the youth, by learning new tactics and techniques, and the post members, as they watch the youth of your community grow. Contact Tim Tiess at tim.tiess1973@gmail.com.

Junior Shooting Sports is gearing up for its February competition. This is a family event, meaning a parent has to be involved. Contact David Watson at wdwatson1@comcast.net.

Blind Camp is a wonderful program and amazing opportunity for our youth to get outdoors and enjoy summer activities while among their peers. There's swimming, games, canoeing, a talent show, and more. Contact Brian Knowlton at brian_knowlton@hotmail.com.

Have you thought about fundraisers for all our programs? Every donation is welcome. These programs are not cheap to run. Remember to write in the check memo the program you would like your donation to go to.

Thank you for all you do for The American Legion, its family, and our community. Be proud of what you accomplish.

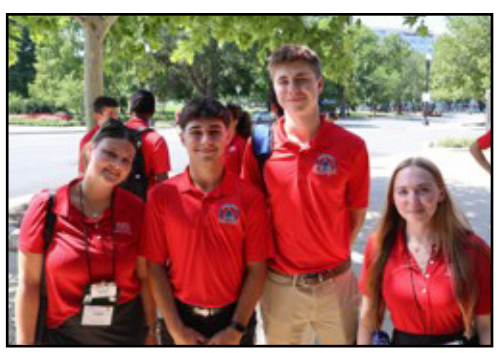
From Local Lessons to National Leadership

For Carter Bennett, Rose Lehane Tureen, Lila Ouellette, and Sawyer Durant, Dirigo State was more than a week of learning about government: it was an opportunity to discover their potential as leaders and learn to navigate political differences. Their growth didn't stop at the end of the program; it continued as they ventured to Washington, D.C. to represent Maine at The American Legion Boys Nation and The American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Girls Nation programs.

Lila, whose hometown is Orono, said that one of the most important lessons she took away from Dirigo State and implemented at ALA Girls Nation was learning to take risks. After running for four positions in the Maine-based program, she was elected Speaker of the House.

"When I won Speaker of the House, that changed my perspective of, 'Okay, you can do something that's hard,'" she said. Carrying that mindset to ALA Girls

More on "NAT'L LEADERSHIP 7



Maine Boys & Girls Nation Delegates: Lila Ouellette, Sawyer Durant, Carter Bennett and Rose Lehane Tureen in Washington, D.C. after meeting with their Maine State Senators and U.S. Representatives, coordinated by Boys Nation and ALA Girls Nation in July.

"NATIONAL CMDR"

(Continued from Page 1)

What color cap are they today? They're wearing that blue one, because they get it."

Bowen said his fundraising project will be for the Legion's Veterans and Children Foundation (VCF).

"As many of you are aware, the VCF began in 1925 as The American Legion Endowment Fund and now has been transformed to the Veterans and Children Foundation," he said. "This great charity has helped millions of veterans and their families in need throughout our organization through the Temporary Financial Assistance program, or TFA as it is better known. This foundation relies totally on charitable donations, and the foundation also funds training and accreditation for our veteran service officers."

A Paid-Up-For-Life member of Neal Thomas Jr.-Centennial Post 209 in Colorado Springs and a retired U.S. Army warrant officer, Bowen is a staunch supporter of The American Legion's Be the One suicide prevention message.

"The past four national commanders' themes have been of Be The One. Be the one to help prevent veteran suicide," Bowen said. "And folks, they have done such an amazing job getting that message out. Letting our veterans know that it's OK not to be OK. Getting our members educated. Getting them to be able to recognize a veteran in crisis and then helping them find a place to go to get help.

"They have done such a great job that it's no longer a theme. It's a mission. It's the No. 1 mission of The American Legion … and it needs to stay that way. It's got to stay that way because when you have 17 (veteran suicides) a day, or 22 a day, or any other number greater than zero, it's too many. So we've got to continue that conversation."

Bowen then shared what his theme will be for his year leading the organization: BPOTS, or Be Part of The Solution. "I know you've heard most of your life, 'You're either part of the problem, or you're part of the solution,'" he said. "Well folks, let me tell you something. If you can be part of the solution and you choose not to be, then you're part of the problem. It's just that simple. If you can be part of the solution and you choose not to be, then you're part of the problem.

"So I'm asking everybody to join me. Let's work together to be part of the solution."

That led to a series of asks from Bowen:

- "Let's be part of the solution and be the one to help reduce veteran suicides."
- "Let's be part of the solution and be the one to take care of our veterans and their families."
- "Let's be part of the solution and be the one to educate and mentor our youth."
- "Let's be part of the solution and be the first ones out there waving that American flag and showing our true patriotic spirit."
- "And let's be the one and be part of the solution help to advocate for a very strong national security."

"Together, we can take this great organization we belong to and make it even greater," Bowen said. "Thank you for putting your trust in me to represent you and The American Legion this coming year. I vow to you that I will work hard to vindicate that trust you've placed in me."

National Vice Commanders Elected, Constitutional Officers Appointed. The Legion's five national vice commanders also were elected during the final day of the convention. They are:

- Hugh (Homer) Holmes, a member of Coacher-Goetsch American Legion Post 18, Mitchell, S.D.
- Michael W. Westergren, a member of Post 91 in Beebe, Ark.
- Martha (Marti) Bigbie, a member of Post 142 in Sun River, Utah.
- Roy E. Smith, a member of Post 914 in Louisville, Ky.
- Frank J. Peters, a member of American Legion Gold Star Post in Staten Island, N.Y.

The new national constitutional officers appointed in Louisville are Historian Robin T. L. Shingleton, a member of American Legion Post 31, Shinnston, W.Va.; Chaplain Victor DeSloover, a member of Post 279 in Lawler, Iowa; and Sergeant-At-Arms Tina Kyprios, a member of Post 44 in Steamboat Springs, Colo.

By Steven B. Brooks
September 03, 2026
www.legion.org/information-center/news/commander/2026/september/new-national-commander-asks-legionnaires-to-be-part-of-the-solution

SAVE THE DATE

National Wreaths Across America Day
Saturday, December 19

REMEMBER HONOR TEACH
WREATHS across AMERICA

Chaplain's Corner

Be Part of the Solution: A Season of Giving



DAVID P. COTE

Every Legionnaire—every one of us who has served in our nation's armed forces—belongs to a fellowship of those who put others' needs before our own. The core values we shared in the military, "selfless service," "commitment," "devotion to duty," "semper fi", and "service before self", reflect a profound truth and a firm belief – that today in our communities, as in our days of military service, we live our lives for others. National Commander Jay Bowen reminds us of that calling when he urges us to "Be Part of the Solution." It is a simple charge and an especially meaningful one during a season devoted to making others' lives better, happier, and more fulfilling.

We know, deep within ourselves, that the solution to the problems that challenge us is not rooted in material things like more money or superior technology. Commander Bowen doesn't urge us to "find" or "purchase" a solution. He counsels us to be the solution: to selflessly give the gift only we can give—ourselves: our time, our skills, our caring. In our own communities we see far too many of our fellow veterans struggling desperately, trying to carry impossible burdens alone. Some came home with wounds no one can see. Others have grown older and lonelier in too-silent homes, with friends and acquaintances gone and the nearest neighbor miles away, either geographically or emotionally. For them, every minute of every empty day is as lonely as an endless Maine winter. Too many, overwhelmed by hopelessness, come to believe there is no way forward—and we lose them to suicide.

There are programs that seek to remedy this situation and overcome the problems that loneliness and isolation bring—Be the One, Buddy Checks, and a host of suicide prevention programs. They are sound and sensible, but they come alive only when we bring them to life by sharing our lives. We Legionnaires, strengthened by the military's spirit of service, are their heart and hands. We are the indispensable part of the solution. So many people depend on us to regain the hope they once carried and to find anew the friendship and meaning that make life livable.

It begins with a knock on the door or a phone ringing. When we visit a veteran, Legionnaire or not, we do more than check a box. We hear stories that may never have been told. We share our own experiences so the veteran knows someone understands. We offer companionship and notice what is needed: a ride to a medical appointment, a box of groceries, a loose railing on the porch steps, or a smoke detector that needs a battery. Small acts like these can be the difference between veterans who feel forgotten and those who know they still have a family--that they still belong to that small band of brothers and sisters who share and understand their story because they have been there themselves.

An old prayer attributed to St. Francis reminds us that "it is in giving that we receive." It's true. The veteran receives friendship, help, and hope. The post receives purpose, energy, and often new members as veterans join when they see the Legion at work. Our communities receive the same selfless service we gave in uniform, now continued in a new form. And each of us receives something, too: the quiet satisfaction of knowing our service did not end when we took off the uniform.

Many posts across Maine are already

More on "CHAPLAIN'S CORNER" Page 9

Maine American Legion College

The Department of Maine invites you to take part in the Maine Legion College.

The next training session will be held April 16-18, 2027 at 9:00 a.m. at Department HQ, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME.

To reserve your spot, e-mail: Jason@mainelegion.org.

To all Legionnaires who may be attending Legion College at HQ in the near future, remember that the Basic Training Course must be taken online before you can attend. After completing the course, print off the certificate and e-mail it to Department Headquarters or Jason Hall .

Please visit: www.legion.org/alei and sign in to take the course online.



Sergeant-At-Arms

Standing Guard for Our Comrades: Why and How Your Post Must Conduct Buddy Checks - As your Department Sergeant-at-Arms, my primary duty is to maintain order and preserve the decorum of our assemblies. But our responsibility as Legionnaires goes far deeper than the walls of our meeting halls. Our most sacred charge is to guard the well-being of the men and women who served along side us.



JEFF SUKEFORTH

That is why every post in our department must actively engage in The American Legion Buddy Check program. Established under American Legion Resolution No. 18, this initiative is not a membership drive—it is a mandatory lifeline of comradeship. Since its launch in 2019, Buddy Checks have reached over 2.1 million veterans nationwide. It is time for our local posts to step up and ensure no veterans in our communities are left behind.

Why We Must Conduct Buddy Checks

Too many veterans fight their toughest battles in isolation. A simple phone call or a knock on a door can change, or even save, a life. By conducting these checks, posts directly support the Legion's Be the One suicide prevention campaign.

Regular outreach allows us to achieve three critical goals:

• **Identify Critical Needs:** Veterans are a proud lot indeed. Many members and former members face hardships but are hesitant to ask for help. A check-in can reveal a veteran who needs assistance from a service officer, financial aid, or transportation to medical appointments.

• **Re-engage Expired Members:** Often, comrades stop attending meetings or forget to renew their dues simply because they feel disconnected. Reaching out shows them that they still matter to the Legion family.

• **Fight Isolation:** Hearing a friendly voice reminds homebound or struggling veterans that they have a network standing firmly behind them. A lot of our older veterans no longer drive at night. Does your post reach out to these members and offer them a ride to and from meetings?

Best Practices for a Successful Buddy Check

• While National Buddy Check weeks are designated around Veterans Day in November and The American Legion Birthday week in March, effective posts do not wait for the calendar to dictate their care. Many posts now operate quarterly or monthly programs.

To organize a successful Buddy Check at your post, follow these established best practices:

• **Form Your Detail:** Do not leave the burden on a single officer. Gather a team of 10 to 12 volunteers from your Post, Auxiliary, and Sons of The American Legion. If each volunteer makes just 10 calls, your post can easily reach 100 veterans in a single evening.

• **Secure Your Lists:** Log into MyLegion.org to pull current rosters as well as lists of expired members. These individuals are your primary targets. Need help getting the lists? Ask your post adjutant for help.

• **Utilize Official Resources:** Avoid "winging it." Use the tools provided in the official American Legion Buddy Check Toolkit. The toolkit includes pre-written scripts and FAQ sheets to help your team answer questions about local veterans' benefits and post activities. Get the toolkit here: www.legion.org/advocacy/be-the-one/buddy-check

• **Leave a Footprint:** If a veteran is not home during an in-person visit, do not just walk away. Use the customizable, printer-friendly Buddy Check door hanger to leave a note showing that the Legion Family came by to check on them.

• **Document and Report:** Keep track of who you reach and what needs are uncovered. Ensure your post records these efforts on the annual Consolidated Post Report (CPR) so the Department can track our collective impact.

The safety and morale of our ranks depend on the vigilance of our members. Let us resolve to make these contacts, listen with empathy, and **Be the One** to make a difference.

Until next time, get out and support your post! Thank you for your service & Welcome Home!

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.

HONOR FLIGHT MAINE

"NAT'L LEADERSHIP"

(Continued from Page 5)

Nation, she learned to trust her abilities even when facing unfamiliar challenges and conversations. “I definitely learned a lot about myself as a person and realized that I can do more than I originally thought I could.”

Rose also brought lessons from her hometown of Falmouth to ALA Girls Nation. She credits Dirigo State with teaching her how to work through political disagreements constructively.

“The biggest thing I learned was how to talk with people who had differing political opinions and then how to form compromises with them that actually worked for both sides,” she said. At ALA Girls Nation, those skills became even more valuable as students tackled national issues shaped by different perspectives and experiences.

For Carter, who is from Wayne, Boys Nation provided an opportunity to put his leadership skills into practice in a memorable way. He arrived in D.C. hoping to become a campaign manager for a presidential nominee, and when his preferred candidate won the party’s nomination, he got the opportunity to take on that role. After working hard to prepare the nominee for debates and election day, Carter celebrated as his winning candidate was lifted up and crowd-surfed following the election results.

“It was a huge moment of euphoria because we'd all put a lot of effort in to make sure he got elected,” he recalled.

Carter echoed Rose and described the well-rounded nature of the programs.

“It's a really fun program and experience, but I also think it's super beneficial – not just for learning about the government. It really helps participants have productive dialogue and learn to work through disagreements.”

Sawyer, from Rumford, who also attended Boys Nation, was unavailable for an interview to share his experience, but his participation adds to the group of Dirigo State alumni who have gone on to represent Maine at the national level.

All four Dirigo State representatives had the opportunity to meet in-person with Senators Susan Collins and Angus King and Representative Chellie Pingree, and expressed appreciation that the elected officials took the time to listen and engage with their constituents. They also participated in monument tours, other D.C.-based excursions and heard from notable guest speakers during the week at their respective programs.

Throughout their experiences and upon their return, the students have expressed heartfelt gratitude to The American Legion and The American Legion Auxiliary for sponsoring their attendance and running these programs.

“I couldn't be more grateful,” said Rose. “This is such an amazing opportunity to understand how our government works at the state level and then nationally as it brings people together from across the country.”

Their recollections demonstrate the lasting impact of Dirigo State. By giving students a space to practice leadership, engage across differences and discover what they can accomplish, Dirigo State, Boys Nation and ALA Girls Nation help prepare young Mainers to become informed, confident and engaged citizens. For Carter, Rose, Lila and Sawyer, that journey began in Maine and continued all the way to Washington, D.C. – and there is no limit for where it could take them, or any other Dirigo State alumni, in the future.

By Assistant Director of PR and Communications, Dirigo State, Kristin Merrill



Maine Girls Nation Delegates: **Rose Lehane Tureen and Lila Ouellette at the National Mall on an ALA Girls Nation excursion in July.**



Lincoln Memorial: **Rose Lehane Tureen, Lila Ouellette, Sawyer Durant and Carter Bennett at the Lincoln Memorial while attending Boys Nation and ALA Girls Nation in July.**



Maine Boys Nation Delegates: **Sawyer Durant and Carter Bennett in a Boys Nation Senate session in July.**

"ALA ELIGIBILITY"

(Continued from Page 1)

and anytime after Dec. 7, 1941, who, being a citizen of the United States at the time of their entry therein served on active duty in the armed forces of any of the governments associated with the United States during either eligibility periods and died in the line of duty or after honorable discharge;

(3) grandparents, parents, siblings, spouses, and direct or adopted descendants within two degrees of consanguinity of all servicemembers who were in the Armed Forces of the United States during either of the following periods: April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918; and any time after December 7, 1941, who served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States during either eligibility period and died in the line of duty or after honorable discharge; and

(4) to those women who of their own right are eligible for membership in The American Legion.

Does this mean my daughter could join since her grandpa was a veteran who served in the Gulf War?

Yes! In fact, granddaughters of veterans have always been eligible to join the American Legion Auxiliary.

Prior to 2019, The American Legion’s eligibility criteria listed seven war eras/time periods that the veteran must have served in, in order to be eligible for membership in The American Legion. These war eras were also a requirement for American Legion Auxiliary eligibility.

In 2019, the LEGION Act (Let Everyone Get Involved In Opportunities for National Service Act) was signed into law which declared that the United States has been in a state of war since Dec. 7, 1941. The signing of the legislation changed the Legion’s eligibility criteria from seven war eras to two (April 6, 1917, to Nov. 11, 1918, and Dec. 7, 1941 to a time later determined by the federal government) and expanded eligibility for membership in both The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary.

Are great-grandchildren eligible for membership in the Auxiliary?

The IRS defines a 501(c)(19) veterans service organization auxiliary degrees of relationship. Currently, the IRS limits the relationship to within two degrees, which is why we are unable to expand our relationships further.

Does the veteran need to be a member of The American Legion in order for their relative to join the Auxiliary?

Female veterans can join the American Legion Auxiliary without being a member of The American Legion. If someone is eligible under a deceased veteran, they are also eligible to join the ALA without a Legion membership.

Does this mean men can join the American Legion Auxiliary now?

The ALA ceased being an all-female patriotic service organization in 2019 when The American Legion voted at its 2019 National Convention to change “wife” to “spouse,” opening the doors for male spouses to join the ALA.

Does this mean trans women are now able to be Auxiliary members?

The ALA welcomes any and all persons who meet the established membership eligibility requirements to apply for membership. Gender identity, including transgender status, is not a factor in determining eligibility. All heartbeats fitting the eligibility criteria are welcome to apply for membership in the ALA.

Are ALA members eligible for membership in the Sons of The American Legion?

Only the eligibility criteria of the American Legion Auxiliary has been changed by The American Legion. Eligibility criteria for the Sons of The American Legion remains the same. Eligibility information for membership in the Sons of The American Legion can be found at legion.org/about/american-legion-family/sons-of-the-american-legion.

NOTE: The Sons and Auxiliary’s eligibility are determined solely by The American Legion. If you have suggestions for updated Sons eligibility, you’ll need to contact the Legion.

September 29, 2026
www.legion.org/information-center/news/legionfamily/2026/september/auxiliary-expands-membership-eligibility



Service Office Update



SERVICE OFFICER CARL CURTIS

Hello from the Service Office. I love this time of year. It's the reason I retired here in Maine. I know this is when life starts to get very busy for most. The kids are back in school, fall sports are going on, and the holidays are looming. This time of year is also important for the Legion. You should hear from the leadership about membership. We should keep in mind that colder weather is coming, and the veteran population is getting older. If your post is not conducting buddy checks, you should push for it. That buddy check is a great time to find out if the Veteran you are talking to is set for the cold weather. Have a plan in place to assist if needed. That can include, but not limited to, assistance with addressing windows, doors, and other drafty areas in their homes. A little effort can make a world of difference this year. You should also check to see if an oil company in your post area will be willing to donate heating oil if we find a Veteran in need. I would also check with wood suppliers as well.

I was invited to the Brewer Post on the 2nd of November for a post meeting. I am very excited. I enjoy going out to posts to give a quick briefing on benefits. If you want me to come visit your post, just call or e-mail me.

PLEASE READ AND RESPOND TO YOUR MAIL FROM THE VA!

APPEALS OF CLAIMS.

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

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

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

PSO Training Seminar. I had courses scheduled for September and October. The next course will start in April. It will be posted in 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 e-mail 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 e-mail, if we hear from a member in your post that needs assistance.

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



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

NEW WAYS TO APPLY FOR VA HEALTHCARE

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

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

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

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

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

DSO CONTACT INFORMATION. We are located at Togus VA Medical Center, Building 205, Room 318. You can contact us by telephone at 207-623-5726, Fax at 207-621-4821, or by e-mail 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.



"CHAPLAINS CORNER"

(Continued from Page 6)

a vital part of the solution through their steady care for those who have sacrificed for our nation, and through generous support of Department Commander Joe Michaud's project, Special Olympics of Maine.

In this holiday season, let's each pledge to make one visit, make one phone call, or invite one veteran to our table. Ask. Listen. Be the One. Be part of the solution. May the Lord continue to bless you, your families, the veterans you serve, and the communities we all call home.

If you or a veteran you know is in crisis, call 988 and press 1, or text 838255, to reach the Veterans Crisis Line.

Department Chaplain Dave Cote

"ADJUTANT SPEAKS"

(Continued from Page 4)

They don't care if you are a UPS driver, a lost tourist, a guest, DoorDash driver…. It's welcoming. Sometimes even hysterical, you can't help but smile and chuckle.

I don't expect every Post to be this ambitious with new faces. Maybe just one person greet them and introduce them to what your Post specializes in. Give them a tour, tell them some history, ask what branch they served in (hoping they answer with the best branch of all time… AIR FORCE).

They say the first 8 seconds you meet someone, you leave an impression. Make that first impression of your Post magic.

The way you greet people could help gain your next mega-volunteer, your next Post Officer, your next lifelong member. Besides a greeting, offer some of the following:

• A welcoming entrance with an information table or board.

• An elevator pitch simply stating what your Post does. What does the Post do for the community? What do they do for veterans and their families? What projects or programs is the Post working on?

• A positive look. Listen, we know each Post has drama. The public doesn't know this; keep your dirty laundry in the washroom when you have company.

• Introductions to other members or officers.

• Pamphlets, flyers to events, personal invites to come back.

What not to do:

• Assume some genders are not veterans (it's not 1919 anymore).

• Have a new member selling point that "we got cheap beer".

• Stare them down, whisper, stop the music, not smile, and not greet them.

• Don't have the person with no personality do the talking. Some people are just not people persons.

Create that positive first impression. Greet that veteran the way you would want to be greeted.

Department Adjutant Jason Hall

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.

How to Print Your 2027 Membership Card in MyLegion.org

American Legion members, as well as post and squadron group leadership, can print current membership cards for Legion and Sons of The American Legion members.

American Legion Members

To Start:

1. Log in to your myLegion account at www.myLegion.org *To register, click "Register" in the top right corner to register an account.*
2. Click "My Account" from myLegion Home.
3. From the left menu select "Membership Card."
4. Click "View Membership Card" to open a PDF file of your membership card and print your card.



Post/Squadron Leadership

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.

I Will Always be Grateful for the Legion's Support for our Veterans



CONGRESSMAN JARED GOLDEN

My time in Congress is coming to a close, and this is my last letter to you in The Maine Legionnaire. So I want to take this opportunity to reflect on my appreciation and gratitude for The American Legion and for all of my fellow veterans in Maine.

For more than a century, The Legion has shown each generation what service looks like, not by simply talking about it but by practicing it in your advocacy work, in your youth programs and with every veteran you've helped get the resources they need. Your work stands on its own, but I am also proud of the partnership you've provided my staff and me so that we could serve veterans and get results together.

From researching, planning and standing up a first-of-its-kind substance and mental health treatment facility at Togus, to the more than $1 million we've returned to Maine veterans through casework and your outreach, my staff and I could not have done this without your help.

There's one stark example that comes to mind: This past winter, a Legionnaire referred a veteran to our office who lived in a particularly remote and rural region of the state. Without heat or a stable income and facing growing health problems, this veteran was fighting an uphill battle in the middle of a particularly rough winter. He also had a soldier's pride — something we can all relate to — and was determined to take care of himself so that help could go to others. He told one of your members, "Others need the help more than I do."

Luckily, that Legionnaire did the right thing and reached out to our office on his behalf. If they hadn't, I'm fairly certain this veteran faced dire risk. Because of your outreach to that veteran, and your referral to our office, we were able to get him a new heat pump, a non-service-connected pension and assistance to pay for his mortgage.

The reality is that this veteran got help not because of me or my office, but because someone who knew him recognized he was struggling and spoke up when he was reluctant to ask for help himself. No law or program can replace that kind of personal commitment to your community. That's why the American Legion is foundational to our shared work of serving our veterans.

The Marines instilled in me a sense of duty to our nation and commitment to service that I still carry with me to this day. In our divisive political moment, it is more important than ever that we work to cultivate that patriotic commitment and devotion for our fellow Americans.

Service members and veterans live these values every day, and no organization exemplifies them better than The American Legion.

With my remaining months in this office, I will remain available to help any veteran who walks through my doors or is referred to my office for support. If you or a loved one are in need of help, I hope you'll reach out to my office so we can assist you — whether it is service-related or not. You can send my office an e-mail 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

Member of Congress, Jared Golden

Attention District Commanders and Post Adjutants

MyLegion.org training lessons are available at State Headquarters *and now also available virtually via Microsoft Teams for your convenience!*

NEW! NEW!

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 e-mail rachael@mainelegion.org to set up an appointment.

Training lessons last between 1-2 hours.

President's Message

Hello Legion family,

Time is flying by! Since my last update, I have had the honor of speaking at various Posts, Units, and Squadrons, as well as presenting my project at the Fall Conference.



STELLA TRAHAN

I was surprised to learn how many groups were unaware of the resources available through WAA. My apologies in advance to Post 86 if you receive an influx of calls—I continue to highlight your post as a shining example of Maine's Legion family leading the way with the cemetery aspect of WAA. Hopefully, others will follow your lead.

Our project fundraising total is currently at $5,757, which includes $2,107 from pin donations. I still have plenty of pins available, so please reach out if you would like to make a personal donation and receive a "Keeping Our Promise" pin.

I look forward to catching up with more of you at upcoming events and meetings. If you would like more information or would like me to speak about the project at an upcoming meeting, please feel free to reach out.

Best regards.





National Auxiliary President Visits Maine: **National Auxiliary President Dr. Coral M. Grout visits The American Legion Department of Maine Family. During the National Auxiliary President's visit, the Maine Legion Family traveled to the Bangor Veterans Home and to the Wreaths Across America Woody Williams Gold Star Families Memorial Monument dedication ceremony in Columbia Falls, in addition to visiting several posts!**

Military Child of the Year Nominations Open

Help us find Operation Homefront's next award recipients!



What: Operation Homefront's Military Child of the Year Awards celebrate and recognize the tremendous achievements of outstanding military children.

Who: Each year, hundreds of military teens (ages 13–18) are nominated by a parent, teacher, mentor or guardian. Candidates for the Military Child of the Year Awards demonstrate resilience, strength of character, and the ability to thrive in the face of the challenges of military life.

When: The Awards Gala will be held in Washington, D.C. in April 2027 during the Month of the Military Child.

Recipients: Military Child of the Year Award recipients receive a $10,000 cash award, a laptop, and are flown with a parent or guardian for a 3-night stay in Washington, D.C.

Nominations accepted September 2 to December 1, 2026.

For more information, scan the QR code or visit operationhomefront.org/mcoy.

National Sons of The American Legion Commander Elected

Thomas "Thom" Skelley is a dedicated 21-year member of the Sons of The American Legion, earning his eligibility through the honorable wartime service of his father, William M. Skelley Sr., who served in the Pacific Theater during World War II from 1941 to 1945.



THOMAS "THOM" SKELLEY

Throughout his years of service, Thom has held numerous leadership positions at the Squadron, District, Division, and Detachment levels. He has also served nationally on the Sons of The American Legion Children & Youth Committee and as Chairman of both the Veterans Employment & Education Commission and the Membership & Squadron Activities Committee.

Thom is a graduate of the National Management Institute, the American Legion Extension Institute, the American Legion Basic Training Course, the SAL University Pilot Program, and Columbia University's "Be The One" training program.

In addition to his service within the organization, Thom is a proud family man. He and his wife, Amy, have been married for 26 years and are the proud parents of two sons: Nuclear Electronics Technician Evan Skelley of the United States Navy and Kieran Skelley, a marketing major at the University of South Carolina.

Join Sons of The American Legion

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

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

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

Your Letters

National Auxiliary President Enjoyed Visit & Gift

Dear members of The American Legion, Department of Maine,

Thank you for the coin and lobster pin, which I received during my recent visit. I had such an amazing time with your fantastic Department Commander, who spent the entire weekend with me. What a great American Legion Family exists in Maine!

Sincerely,

Coral May Grout
Auxiliary National President
Sept. 30, 2026



National Convention: **The Department of Maine attends National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, Aug. 28 - Sept. 3. Left to right, Past Department Commander Leroy McKenzie, Topsham Post 202 member Caroline Yarmala, and Past Department Commander Patricia "Tricia" Thurston.**

Photo by Past Department Commander Leroy McKenzie

Department of Maine
Annual Mid-Winter Conference
January 9, 2027
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. 9, 2027. The Conference will be hosted by Commander Joseph Michaud and 2nd Vice Commander Thomas Kuespert.

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. 3, 2027.

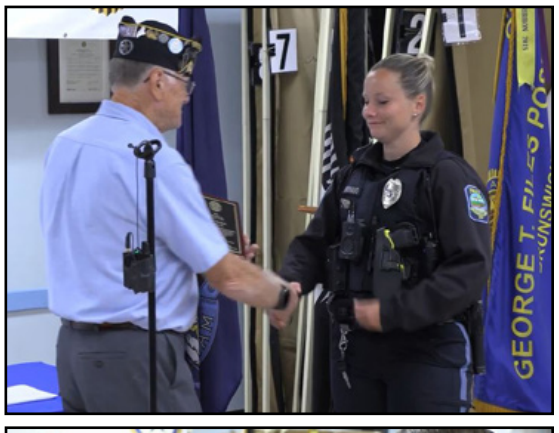
Registration
Fee: $10.00 per person.
Includes unlimited coffee & tea (Regular and Decaf), water all day, and juice, breakfast pastries, and fresh fruits in the morning. This is for The American Legion, Auxiliary, Sons, and Guests that are attending.

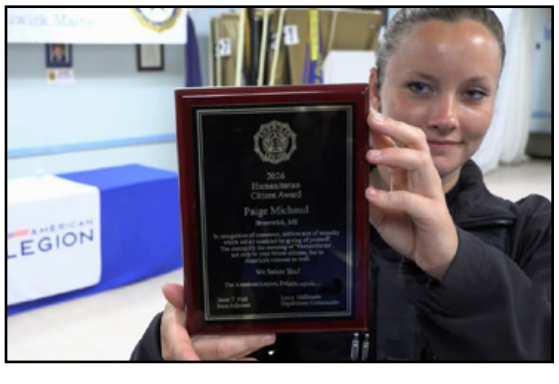
Mid-Winter Conference Lunch Buffet: $10 per person (to be paid to Jeff's Catering by noon.)

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 e-mail legionme@mainelegion.org.





Department Humanitarian Citizen Award: Brunswick Police Department Patrol Officer Paige Michaud is presented the Humanitarian Citizen Award by Brunswick Post 20 Commander David Watson at a spaghetti dinner hosted by Post 20 for Brunswick Emergency Responders (Police, Fire, EMS, and families) on Aug. 1.

Submitted by Brunswick Post 20 Commander David Watson



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

Thomas College
180 West River Rd., Waterville, Maine 04901
February 13, 2027 at 9:00 a.m.
(Snow Date: Feb. 20, 2027)

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

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

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

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

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

The members of the Oratorical Committee will be working with District Commanders to prepare posts and districts for their local contests. We hope to have all post contests completed by Mid-December 2026 and all district contests completed by the end of January 2027.

The 2027 National Finals dates will be held May 14-16 in Hillsdale, Michigan.

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

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

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

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

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

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

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Highlights of National Commander's Official Visit to Maine

October 24 - 28 | Aroostook County

■ **"NAT'L CMDRS VISIT"**

(Continued from Page 1)

Post 47 in Houlton for lunch and a meet-and-greet session. Later, he toured the Southern Aroostook Agriculture Museum and concluded the evening with dinner at the Northern Maine Brewery, joined by the Legion family.

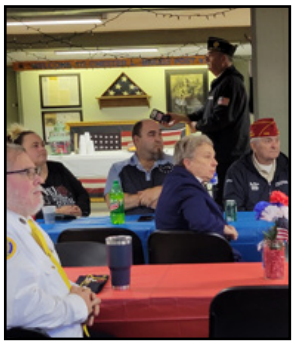
Monday, October 26, began with a meet-and-greet at Levasseur-Farrell Post 49 in Van Buren, followed by lunch at the Caribou Par & Grill. After lunch, he toured the Museum and Fire Tower in Stockholm. The day ended at Perkins-Plourde Post 136 with another meet-and-greet and a pleasant dinner with department officers, members, and guests.

Tuesday was packed with visits to three different posts in northern Maine, each attended by a large gathering of the Legion family. The day started with a meet-and-greet session and lunch at Martin Klein Post 133 in Fort Kent, followed by another meet-and-greet at Cyr-Plourde Post 145 in Frenchville and a tour of Four Corners Park in Madawaska. The day concluded with a delightful dinner hosted by the Thomas O. Cyr Post 147 in Madawaska.

Early Wednesday morning, Commander Bowen set off with his aide to visit another department, continuing his journey during his year as Commander of the world's largest Veterans' organization, The American Legion.

















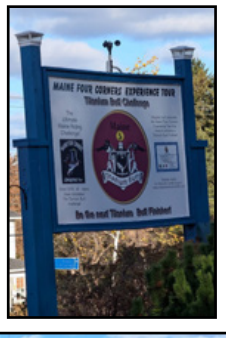


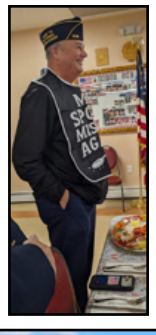






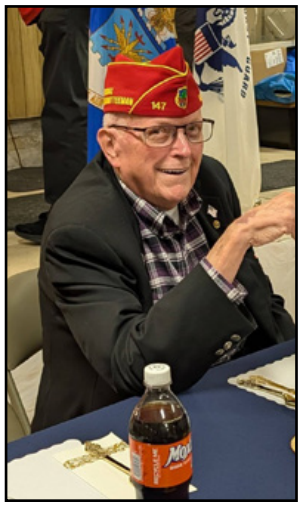














Legionnaire Insurance Trust Accidental Death Plan

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

Member Benefits

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

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

Help protect your family from the financial impact of covered accidents in your car. At home. On the job. On vacation. Anywhere you might be. Your Legionnaire accidental death benefits give you a world-wide, 24-hour safety net against the financial impact of a variety of accidents.

Pays regardless of any other insurance

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

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

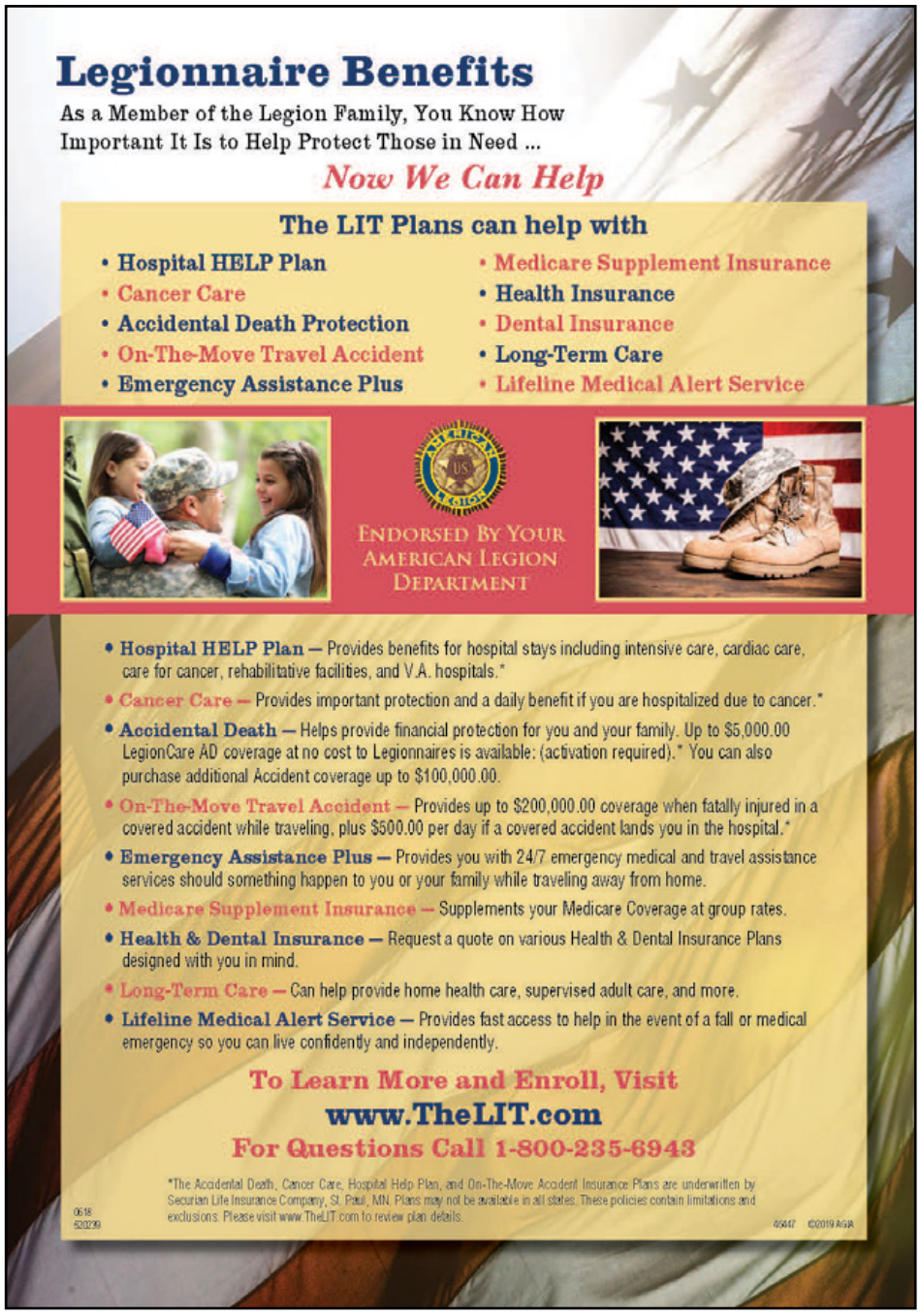
Plan underwritten by Securian Life Insurance Company.

Watch the video 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.



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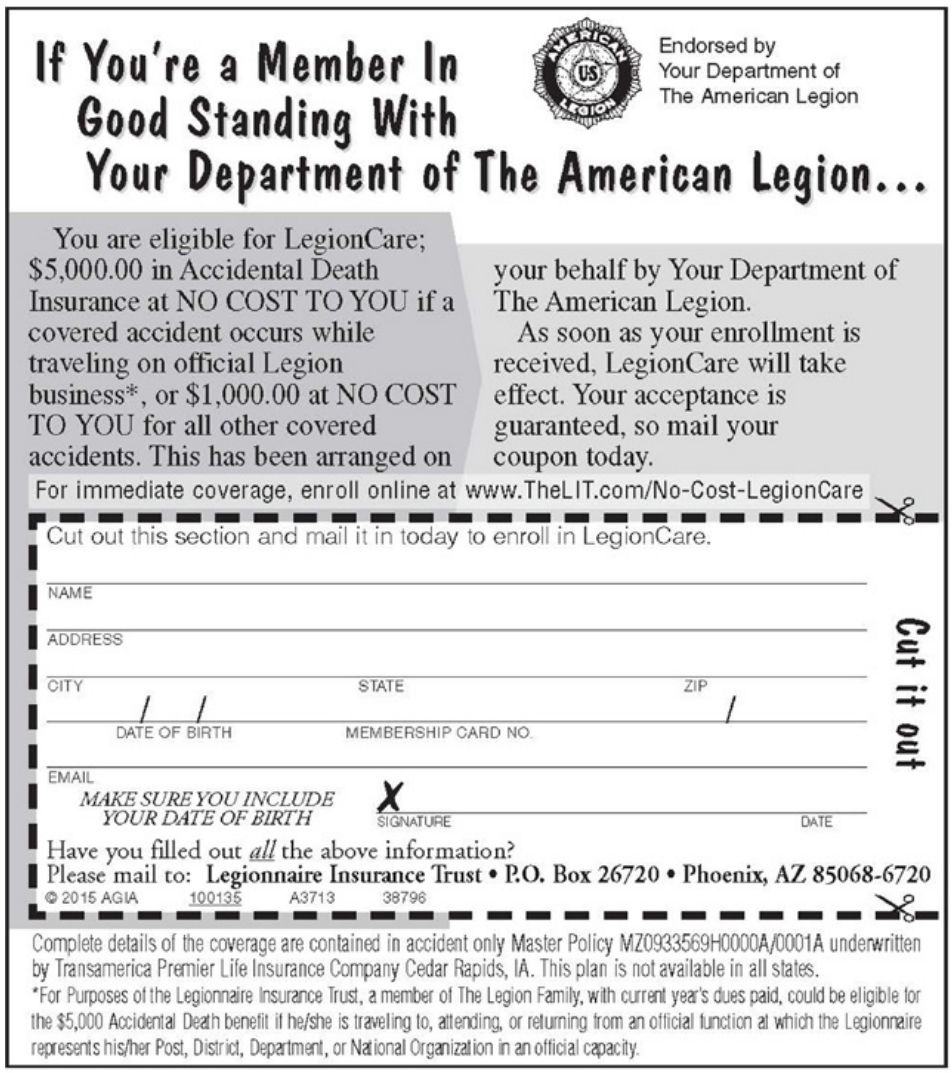
If you have Medicare and Medicaid, limited income, recently lost employer coverage, are turning 65, or you've just moved, you may be eligible for one of many qualifying events that allow you to enroll now.

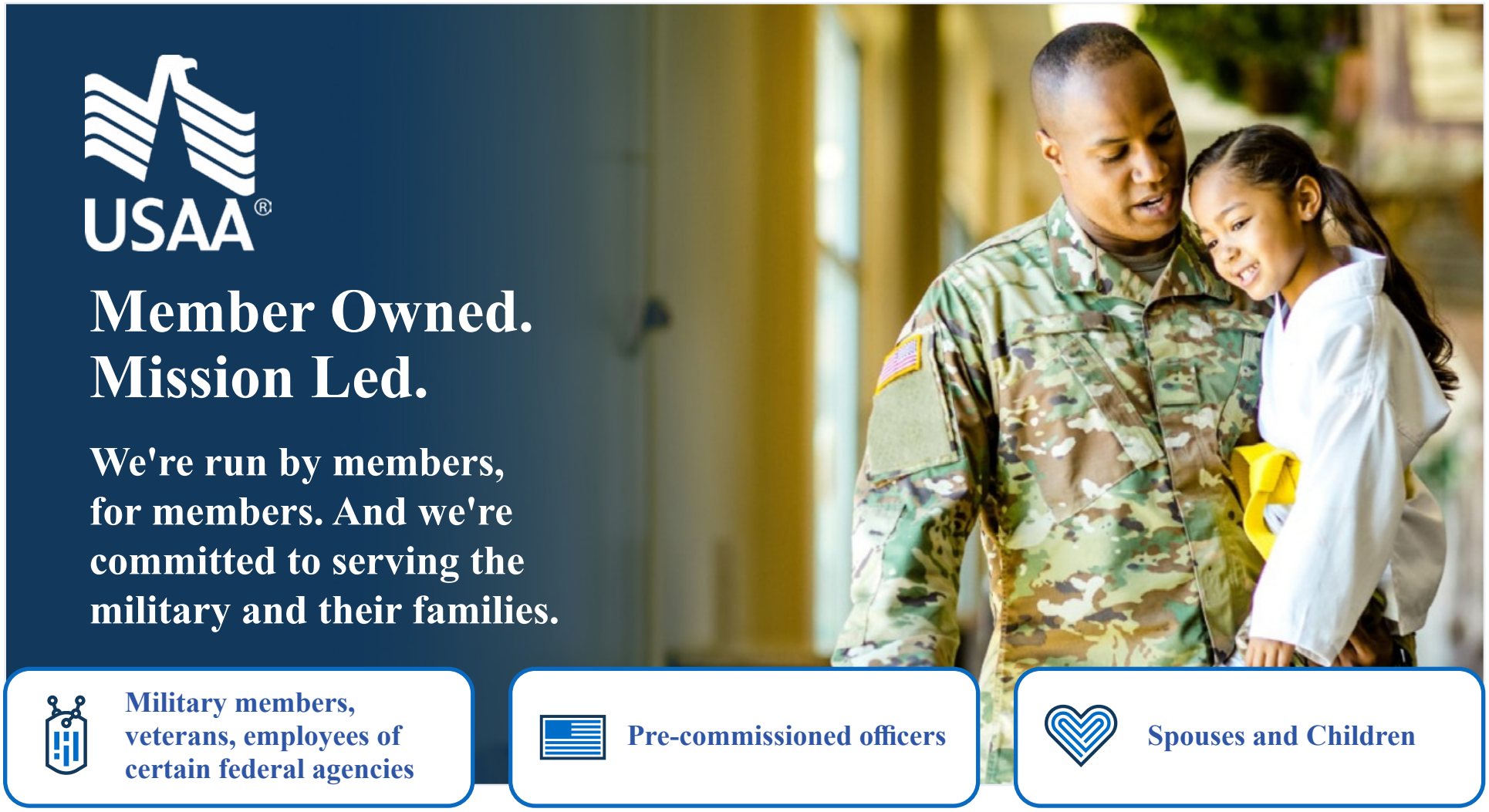
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Pre-commissioned officers

Spouses and Children

We're made to serve your financial goals all in one place.

Here's some of what we have to offer.

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

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- Save up to 10%[3] when you bundle home or renters with auto insurance.

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

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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
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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.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 1

Sanford Post 19; Biddeford Post 26; Limerick Post 55; York Post 56; Old Orchard Post 57; Kennebunk Post 74; Berwick Post 79; North Berwick Post 87; Saco Post 96; Kezar Falls Post 123; Bar Mills Post 130; Alfred Post 134; Wells Post 143; Kennebunkport Post 159; Dayton Post 177; Eliot Post 188; Lebanon Post 214



Kennebunkport Drive Thru BBQs:

Who's Hungry? Post 159 hosted four "Drive Thru BBQs" during the summer in an effort to raise funds for the post's Legion Hall renovations, and to give the people what they want: *Rick's locally famous plates of smoked pork, chicken, and sausage!* Dennis Homa provides the organization, and Post 159 members, family members, and friends sling the BBQ. This event is always packed with hungry fans long before it opens.

Post 159 Charts A Path Forward:



Kennebunkport Post 159 agreed upon its mission and values, and confirmed the post priorities: 1. Veterans, 2. Veteran Families, and 3. Our Communities. Additionally, Post 159 members voted to approve the Legion Hall renovation priorities: 1. Stage remodel, 2. Bathroom Modernization and Handicap Access, and 3. Heating/ Cooling Upgrades. Finally, the post drafted Winter/Spring 2027 events, locked in the Fall/Winter 2026 events, and assigned team leadership of post activities.



Established Web/Social Media Presence:

Over the summer, Kennebunkport Post 159 updated its internet outreach: Facebook: www.facebook.com/kennebunkport.legion; Instagram: www.instagram.com/kportlegion; and Website: www.americanlegionpost159.com.



Salute: Kennebunkport Post 159 salutes a fallen comrade in July.

Kennebunkport Post 159 Leadership: Kennebunkport Post 159 elected and installed new leadership for 2027: Post Commander Chris Meyer, 1st Vice Cdr. Leo Ducas, 2d Vice Cdr. Meg Rioux, Adjutant Bo Balcavage, Finance Officer Rick Matthews, Service Officer John Lesko, Judge Advocate Lee Garrison, Chaplain Rich Blomgren, Historian Paul Zanichowsky, Sgt.-at-Arms Mark Matthews, Sons of the Legion Johnny Johnson, Auxiliary Linda Woodruff, and Legion Riders Craig Curtis.

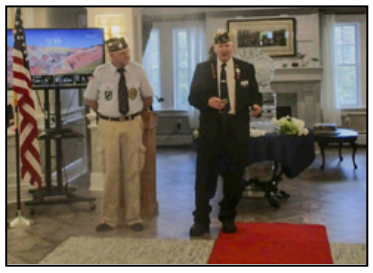
Red Carpet Veterans Appreciation Event & Ceremony Held in York

On Sept. 10, Sentry Hill Assisted Living in York, hosted a "red carpet" veterans appreciation event. It began with a luncheon for all attendees with music by the Seacoast Men of Harmony barbershop quartet. Maine American Legion District 1 Commander Gordon Kendall opened the ceremony with a flag salute and an explanation of the POW / MIA flag and tribute to POW/MIA service members. Legionnaire Donald G. Hands, former commander of Post 56 in York gave a historical presentation of the history of Post 56. Department of Maine Commander Joseph Michaud and Sentry Hill resident Gwyneth Wykes then passed out Maine American Legion 250th commemorative coins to about 25 veterans present. Our thanks to Sentry Hill Assisted Living for hosting the event.

Submitted by Eliot Post 188 Historian Donald G. Hands









Veterans Appreciation: Following the veterans appreciation event and ceremony at Sentry Hill Assisted Living, Legionnaires and Gwyneth Wykes pose for a picture next to the 250th American anniversary ice sculpture. Bottom right photo, left to right, Eliot Post 188 Historian Donald G. Hands, Eliot Post 188 Commander John Richardson, Sentry Hill resident Gwyneth Wykes, York County District 1 Commander Gordon Kendall, and Dept. Commander Joseph Michaud.

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



Community Outreach: Coffee and snack delivery to the Veterans Clinic in Portland on Aug. 1. Back, left to right, volunteers Ken, Elizabeth, and Carlo. Front, Portland Post 17 Sr. Vice Commander Darnell Williams, left, and Luca, right.



Snack Delivery: Portland Post 17 delivers snacks to the Veterans Clinic on Aug. 1. Left to right, Portland Post 17 Sr. Vice Commander Darnell Williams and VA Volunteer Carlo G.



Commander's Project Support:

Portland Post 17 Senior Vice Commander Darnell Williams and Store Manager Jim of Auto Zone in South Portland supports the Commander's Project Special Olympics/Camp Tall Pines of Maine.



Give 20 To Education:

Portland Post 17 Sr. Vice Commander Darnell Williams supports the "Give 20 to Education Auxiliary Challenge"

Submitted by Portland Post 17 Sr. Vice Commander Darnell Williams



Donation In Support Of Veterans:

Modern Woodmen of America Financial Representative and Windham Post 148 member Timothy Pike presents a check for $1,000 to American Legion Field-Allen Post 148 Commander Tom Theriault at the Veteran's Coffee on Wednesday, Oct. 14 at the Windham Veterans Center. The check is the result of Modern Woodmen sponsorship of the Post 148 Jeep Car Show on Aug. 1 this last year as a Modern Woodmen matching donation program. The funds will help support the post's Veterans Heating Insecurity Program this coming winter season.

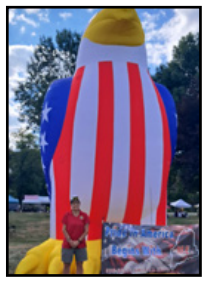
WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 3

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



Eagle Scout Award: District 3 Commander Dani Begert and Turner Post 111 Commander Dale Bryant present Alexander Chaves of Troop 187 with the Eagle Scout Court of Honor award on Oct. 24 in Paris, Maine, sponsored by Turner Post 111. Earning the rank of Eagle Scout requires 21 badges, a distinction achieved by only a few. Alexander earned an impressive 36 badges. Left to right, Dani Begert, Alexander Chavez, and Dale Bryant.





Balloon Festival: Lewiston Post 22 sets up a tent at the Lewiston-Auburn Balloon Festival on the weekend of Aug. 21. Left photo, Androscoggin County District 3 Commander Dani Begert takes a photo with the Legion tent eagle. Right photo, Lewiston Post 22 Commander Jerry DeWitt.

Submitted by District 3 Commander Dani Begert

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

District 5 Hosts Resident B-B-Q at South Paris Veterans Home

Good fortune smiled on Oxford County District 5 for a second year as it held its first meeting of the Legion fiscal year on Aug. 19 at the South Paris Veterans Home, and conducted its Residents B-B-Q, an event that had seen several interruptions since 2020 at the advent of the Wuhan Virus.

Unit 68 Auxiliary attended in force, along with West Paris 151, providing salads and desserts, and serving meals to residents.

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







South Paris Veterans Home B-B-Q: Left photo, left to right, Unit 68 Junior member Jocylyn Crockett, her grandmother Ann Crockett, Alice Deegan, and Unit 68 Secretary Susan Vacca. Across from Sue, with back to the camera, a South Paris Veterans Home staffer, Unit 151 member Doreen Wilbur (who has a wealth of experience in conducting the B-B-Q's) and South Paris Veterans Home kitchen manager. Middle left photo, residents enjoy a homestyle B-B-Q picnic on the outdoor patio. The weather cooperated nicely. Right photo, District 5 B-B-Q supplies went unused, as the home supplied a stunning array of America's 250th paper plates and napkins.





Helping Hands: Left photo, South Paris Post 72 Commander Teresa Drag, grill master extraordinaire. Right photo, Post 81 Commander George Angevine retrieves the B-B-Q supply boxes from storage at South Paris Post 72, as it was Bethel Post's turn to conduct the B-B-Q.

Photos by Locke Mills Post 68 Commander Harry G. Orcutt

Maine Vets Flying Carpet to DC

Locke Mills Post 68 Commander Harry G. Orcutt and Post Chaplain Timothy Twitchell, along with their guardians, Aidan Rodney of Bethel Masonic Lodge, and Todd DeMaio, volunteer at Jackson Silver Post 68 in Locke Mills, were accorded trips of a lifetime by Honor Flight Maine on their excursion to Washington, D.C. from September 18-20.

Post 68, in District 5, has long supported Honor Flight, and participated in past tours. Most notably, when Ring-McKeen Auxiliary Unit 151 member Linda Jack was Department Auxiliary President, her President's Project to support Honor Flight Maine raised a record $81,000 in support of this most worthy cause. According to a WGME Channel 8 reporter, to send a veteran from Maine to D.C. costs about $1,000 per participant. As the latest tour consisted of 76 veterans, her effort covered the cost of more than a single planeload. Each veteran has a guardian, usually a relative, friend, or another post veteran. Guardians pay $500 to cover expenses. Spouses cannot be guardians.

All Maine veterans who have rendered honorable service are eligible. They must be physically able to participate, though requiring a wheelchair is not an exclusion. Preference is given to the elderly, which at present usually means those who served in the Vietnam War era. But if a WWII or Korean War vet is up to making the trip, he or she goes to the head of the list.

Honor Flight Maine conducts four veteran get-aways to D.C. each season. They alternate between Bangor and Portland airports, with Baltimore being their destination for hotels, and sometimes other activities in proximity to the nation's capital. Each trip is planned with care and may differ as special onetime occasions may arise. So many activities are encompassed on each excursion that it is unfair to the effort provided to cover them in a single article. Thus, I have divided "Harry and Tim Go to Washington" into each day, to present our experiences as they occurred.

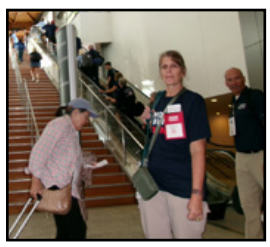
Submitted by Locke Mills Post 68 Commander, Harry G. Orcutt

Honor Flight Day 1





Honor Flight Preparation: Left photo, beginning at 6:00 a.m. is sign in, then the issuance of two Honor Flight shirts, one type for veterans and another for guardians. We then proceeded to a table on the far right to pick up a generous and tasty sausage burrito. Right photo, Honor Flight veterans and their guardians assemble for further instruction.





Welcome & Safety Briefing: Left photo, Honor Flight Maine veterans and guardians ascend an escalator to the mezzanine for a welcome and safety briefing. Right photo, those in wheelchairs take the elevator.

Flight To Baltimore: After clearing TSA, we boarded a Boeing 737 aircraft to Baltimore. Turbulence was encountered and the luncheon was deferred to later. As calm prevailed towards the end of the flight, peanuts and beverages held us over to an early supper.







Bus Ride: Left photo, Tim and Harry arrive in Baltimore and wait to board the bus. Right photo, as veterans and guardians enter the Capital, the bus driver delivers an informative narrative. Who knew that D.C. has only one monument, an Egyptian-style obelisk dedicated to our Pater Patriae, George Washington, the Washington Monument. All of the other commemoratives are memorials.

More on "MAINE TO DC" Page 17

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 5 continued

■ **"MAINE TO DC"**
(Continued from Page 16)



Early Supper In The Park: In a park near Constitution Hall, Honor Flight travelers enjoy a bagged Chick-Fil-A supper.



Documentary Showing: At Constitution Hall, Honor Flight travelers viewed the World Premiere of Gary Sinise's full-length documentary of Vietnam veterans returning to Vietnam for healing, forgiveness, and reflections. Outside the auditorium there were displays and photo testimonials of the returning veterans. During the showing, beverages, candy cigarettes in Lucky Strike lookalike packs, popcorn, and Cracker Jacks were given out to the audience.

Honor Flight Day 2





Breakfast & Bus Ride: Top photo, the BWI Airport Marriott's greeting to Honor Flight Maine is projected onto the entrance floor. In the morning there is an all-you-can-eat breakfast buffet. Bottom photo, before 7:00 a.m., we board the Blue Bus to Arlington National Cemetery. All of the buses carried enough wheelchairs for all who required them. Also attending from District 5 were Bethel Post 81 member Craig Ryerson and his guardian brother.



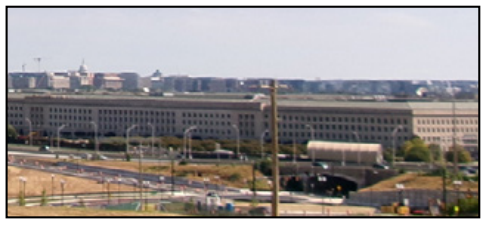
Veterans & Guardians Group Photo: About half of the Honor Flight Maine veterans and guardians. Fifth from left, WWII veteran, 99-year-old Charles Presby, and his Guardian grandson.





Arlington National Cemetery: Top photo, "Remember the Maine" Memorial and burial section. The *USS Maine,* an armored cruiser, sank in Havana Harbor, which initiated the Spanish-American War. On the right, is the grave of WWII's most decorated soldier, Lt. Audie Murphey. Bottom photo, we witness the "Changing of the Guard" at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. At right, either the Arizona or Nevada Honor Flight contingents.





The Air Force Memorial is situated on a hill overlooking the Pentagon.









Military Women's Memorial: Top photos, Honor Flight Maine visits the Military Women's Memorial. Bottom photo, the Red, White, and Blue Buses are ready to transport us to the next stop.







Vietnam Memorial Wall: Honor Flight Maine visited the Vietnam Memorial Wall. Top left photo, a series of conjoined memorials at the entrance to the Vietnam Memorial Wall. Top right photo, the Vietnam Women's Memorial, little enough recognition for duty magnificently rendered. Bottom photo, the Vietnam Wall Memorial, with its 58,000 plus names of those who gave the Full Measure of Devotion.

The Lincoln Memorial: Left photo, Honor Flight members were provided free access to the Lincoln Memorial. Right photo, a tourist utilized Harry's camera to take this photo of Harry and his guardian Aiden.



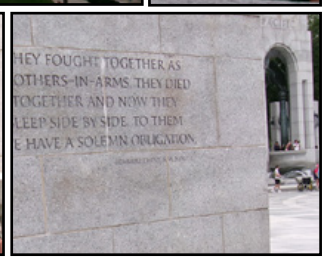












Memorial Visits: Top left photo, on perpetual patrol at the Korean War Memorial. Top middle photo, from the Lincoln Memorial looking toward the WWII Memorial and the Washington Monument at the eastern end of the Reflecting Pool, which is being repaired. Top right photo, the WWII Memorial. Bottom left photo, Harry at the Maine column of the WWII Memorial. Three of Harry's Minnesota uncles, his mother's brothers, served in the conflict. Bottom right photo, memorial statement of Fleet Admiral Chester Nimitz.

US Navy Memorial: Honor Flight Maine veterans and guardians take the bus to the US Navy Memorial. Left photo, the US Navy Memorial. Right photo, on eternal watch, a sailor of the US Navy.





Submitted by Locke Mills Post 68 Commander Harry G. Orcutt

Greenwood Historical Society Holds Last Two Summer Programs at Jackson Silver Post 68 in Air-Conditioned Comfort

The collaboration of Jackson Silver Post 68 in Locke Mills with other local community organizations continued unabated in conducting programs of public interest in Greenwood. For the second and third time this summer, the Greenwood Historical Society (GHS) conducted its programs in air-conditioned comfort and with ample free parking. On Aug. 5, "Growing up in Greenwood, Maine" was the subject, covering the period of the 1940's, 50's, and 60's. A panel of Greenwood native sons and daughters, in other words they were not from away, spoke of their varied experiences in area schools, social activities, family interactions, sports, and career opportunities.

The next program was on Howe Hill, an area that includes the town baseball field and Mt. Abram Ski Resort. Held on Sept. 2, the evening began with the GHS Annual Meeting, during which, Society officers for 2027 were elected.

Coming up in the second weekend of December is the post's most extensive annual collaboration. Jackson Silver Post 68 co-sponsors, with the Oxford County Kora Shrine Club, its annual three-day FEZtival of Trees. At present, 23 fully decorated trees, overflowing with useful products, toys, gift cards, and/or coupons worth hundreds of dol-

More on "GREENWOOD" Page 18

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 5 continued

"GREENWOOD"

(Continued from Page 17)

lars each, will be raffled off.

At the end of the weekend, as the trees are picked up by lucky winners, all of the decorations, signs, extension cords, furniture, and FEZtival paraphernalia are loaded into an enclosed trailer, reminiscent of a circus take-down at the end of its run. During the raffle, take down, and pick up of trees, the post is closed except for veteran service emergencies, as the club adheres to strict rules governing the conduct of raffles and must limit access by the public.

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



The Greenwood Panel: Left to right, Locke Mills Post 68 Finance Officer Raymond Hakala, GHS Secretary James Bennett, Jefferson Lodge Secretary VW Stephen Hakala, Post 68 member Gary "Butch" Fuller, and Karen Hakala shared their experiences growing up in town in areas as disparate as Patch Mountain in Greenwood City to Main Street in Locke Mills.





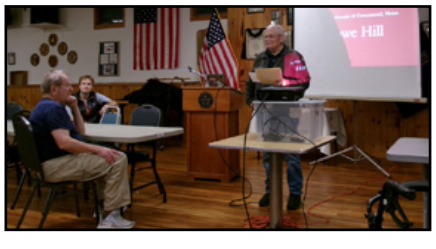
Greenwood Historical Society Program Audience: Left photo, local TV recorded and later broadcast the program. Right photo, the program was well attended; this is one side of the audience.



Q&A: Greenwood Historical Society President Andrew Wheeler, standing, conducts a question-and-answer session on the subject of Greenwood history, including reminisces from other residents.



Book Sales: Greenwood neighborhood book sales were brisk following the summer program. At the sales table are Greenwood Historical Society Treasurer Julia Bennett, left, and Unit 68 Vice President Susan Vacca, right. GHS books are also available at the Greenwood Town Hall, situated on the Legion property.



Greenwood Historical Society Officer Candidates: Presenting the slate of candidates for 2027 Greenwood Historical Society Officers at the Sept. 2 program is GHS Secretary (and soon to be Treasurer) James Bennett.







Howe Hill Road Program: Left photo, Executive Director/Curator, Archivist, and Librarian of the Bethel Historical Society and GHS member William F. Chapman, left, looks on as GHS President Andrew Wheeler conducts the Howe Hill Road program. Observing at table is Dwight Mills, brother of the late Greenwood Historian Blaine Mills, whose many typewritten manuscripts of Greenwood neighborhoods have been, or are being, transcribed for publication. Chapman worked closely with Blaine, and he continues to edit Blaine's books, after they are word processed by GHS Vice President Susan Vacca. Middle and right photos, the audience is spread throughout the Locke Mills Post 68 Great Hall.

Photos by Locke Mills Post 68 Commander Harry G. Orcutt

Locke Mills Post 68 Hosts Sugarsnap's Silent Auction

A Silent Auction was held for Bethel resident Michelle "Sugarsnap" Rogers on Saturday, Aug. 15. The purpose of the auction was to raise a portion of the $28,000 needed for a chance to save her right leg in a two-stage joint reconstruction at the Hospital for Special Surgery in Manhattan, NY. She is afflicted with rheumatoid arthritis, and had previously undergone six surgeries, the last of which resulted in the amputation of her left leg below the knee. The Executive Committee found her condition to be a worthy cause and voted to allow her to utilize the post hall at no cost. $8,500 was raised at the event, for which her family and friends were most grateful.

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



Silent Auction: Top photo, at the sign-in table, auction attendees purchase tickets to bid on donated items in support of Michelle "Sugarsnap" Rogers. Middle photos, attendees put bid tickets in boxes. Suggested donations were indicated on items, many of which were worth quite a sum. Bottom left photo, baked goods are for sale. Bottom right photo, the victual tables hold a variety of tasty foods for attendees.

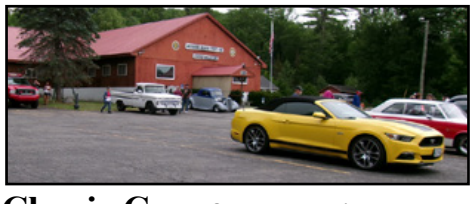
Photos by Locke Mills Post 68 Commander Harry G. Orcutt

2nd Annual Locke Mills Post 68 Auto Show

In yet another popular program brought to Jackson Silver Post 68 in Locke Mills by the late Post 2nd Vice Les Bell, the Post 68 2nd Annual Auto Show was well attended and deemed successful, despite terminating early at 13:00 hours because of an approaching burst of Maine sunshine droplets. The event was held on July 18 in the post's spacious parking lot.

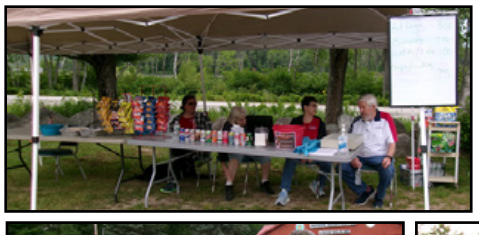
Classic cars through the ages filled the post parking area, while post and unit volunteers in the food and beverage tents sold hamburgers, hot dogs, snacks, and drinks to attendees.

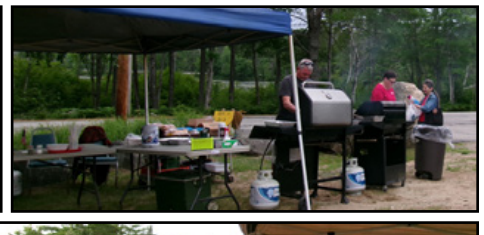
Submitted by Locke Mills Post 68 Commander, Harry G. Orcutt





Classic Cars fill the parking lot at Locke Mills Post 68 during the post's 2nd Annual Auto Show held on July 18.









Food & Beverage Tents: Top left photo, the Locke Mills Post 68 refreshment tent at the 2nd Annual Auto Show did brisk business. Left to right, Unit 68 members Heather Hodsdon, Marie Bartlett, and Patty Bell, and Post 68 Finance Officer Ray Hakala. Top right photo, hamburgers and hotdogs are grilled to order. Bottom left photo, Unit 68 Secretary Susan Vacca brings additional comfort to the Post 68 refreshment tent. Bottom right photo, Unit 68 Post Kitchen Chef Clemma Nichols takes a break from the grill.

More on "AUTO SHOW" Page 19

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 5 continued

■ **"AUTO SHOW"**
(Continued from Page 18)



Flag Replacement: **During the Locke Mills Post 68 2nd Annual Auto Show, the Greenwood Fire Department came by to replace a damaged flag for the town.**



Rare Pickup Truck: **Bethel community activist John "Johnny" Walker and his rare 1957 Antique Dodge pickup truck at the Locke Mills Post 68 2nd Annual Auto Show.**

Photos by Locke Mills Post 68 Commander Harry G. Orcutt

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 6

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



Camden Post 30 Quilts Of Valor Recipient: **A Quilts of Valor Appreciation Presentation was held at Boothbay American Legion Post 36 on Oct. 3. Left to right, Rob Hyssong, recipient and Camden Post 30 member John Hyssong, Delores Hyssong, and Nina Hyssong. John was also part of the Camden Post 30 Color Guard, who presented the colors for the ceremony. Color Guard members were John Hyssong, Stephanie McLain, and Post 30 member Scott Bergey.**

Submitted by Dept. Sgt.-At-Arms / Camden Post 30 Adjutant Jeff Sukeforth



Honor Flight Dinner: **Laurel, Maryland Post 60 hosts all Honor Flight veterans and guardians for a BBQ dinner on Sept. 19. Department Sgt.-At-Arms and Camden Post 30 Adjutant Jeff Sukeforth, left, and Laurel, Maryland Post 60 Commander Josie Lohman, right.**

Submitted by Dept. Sgt.-At-Arms / Camden Post 30 Adjutant Jeff Sukeforth

Camden 25th Anniversary Ceremony for 9/11 Speaks of Maine's Bond, Promises to Never Forget

Their names belong on our monuments just as clearly as those who fell in the initial dust.

"The heroes of 9/11 didn't just give their lives on a single morning," said Camden Police Chief Allen Weaver. "For many, they gave their lives over a span of decades, fighting the invisible wounds brought home from Ground Zero. Their names belong on our monuments just as clearly as those who fell in the initial dust."

Many survivors and responders are in Maine now. They are among us. Those who suffered the scars of Ground Zero, 25 years ago, before moving north. Those from Maine who raced to help, not waiting for an invitation. Those who carry the profound expectations of the uniform, as exemplified by those of that day who ran toward instead of away. And, those who continue to view the events of September 11, 2001, not as a day, but as a lifetime.

Post 30, American Legion, in Camden, hosted a 25th anniversary commemoration, Friday, Sept. 11, 2026, (the 85th anniversary of the day in 1941 when the Pentagon construction broke ground), bringing together speakers representing the military and emergency responders, all entwining a multi-generational promise: we never forget.

In the audience were others with their own stories, such as the couple on the other side of New York City who dropped their work lives for a week and headed to the family community center near Ground Zero to help find resources for the lost and hurting families.

Had speaker Ray Lewis' 10:30 a.m., appointment been moved up an hour, he would have been among the deceased when the Pentagon was hit. He was not the only one at today's commemoration to pause to let tears and throat lumps fade.

Commander Brent Wucher was in the military before and after 9/11 and is now watching younger generations acquire the promise to never forget. Wucher spoke of his enlistment officer, who later died while piloting the fateful plane that went into the Pentagon.

Though the tragedy unfolded in New York, its shadow reaches deeply into the Pine Tree State, said Weaver. In the long, agonizing weeks of recovery at Ground Zero, agencies from all over New England stood up to help. The mutual aid convoy included Maine police officers, State troopers, and Sheriff's deputies. They assisted NYPD and federal agencies with perimeter security, traffic control, and logistical support around lower Manhattan.

Maine firefighters went to help offset the loss of 343 NYFD firefighters, paramedics, and chaplains.

"When the world witnessed unimaginable terror, we also witnessed unimaginable love, duty, and courage," said Camden firefighter Connor Howland. "While no active-duty Maine firefighters were killed in the initial attacks, the bond between the Pine Tree State and the heroes of Ground Zero is deep, permanent, and unbreakable…. They didn't wait for an official invitation. They went because their brothers and sisters were hurting."

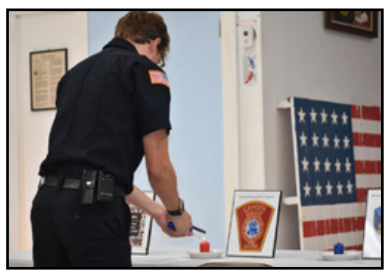
There are also those who lived, but suffered the aftermath: cancer and other health problems.

In October 2019, an NYFD firefighter now living in Wiscasset was diagnosed with an aggressive form of liver cancer, directly related to exposure to toxins at the World Trade Center site. He passed away in 2020 at age 53. Firefighters from across Maine, including Bath, Brunswick, Topsham, and Woolwich, joined a massive procession along Route 1 to honor him as a line-of-duty casualty.

At Camden's 25th anniversary ceremony, the Legion also honored a request from a Warren resident: when reading aloud, please include the names of her friends who'd died that day. The Legion was happy to do so.

As Weaver said: "We must make sure that sacrifices made on 9/11 are never reduced to mere historical footnotes. The 72 law enforcement officers who gave their lives do not do so in vain. They left behind a legacy of resilience, structural vigilance, and a profound call to action for us to carry on our work with the exact same passion, integrity, and compassion. As we look at the badges on our chests today, let us renew our promise to look out for one another, to protect our community with everything we have. And above all: never forget."

By Sarah Thompson
Penobscot Bay Pilot
Sep 11, 2026
https://www.penbaypilot.com/article/camden-25th-anniversary-ceremony-911-continues-promise-never-forget/274306



Ceremonial Candle Lighting: **Camden firefighter Connor Howland lights the fire department's candle during the 25th anniversary of 9/11, at the Post 30 American Legion Hall in Camden.**

Photo by Sarah Thompson, Penobscot Bay Pilot





Remembering 9/11: **Left photo, Camden Police Chief Allen Weaver. Right photo, Camden firefighter Connor Howland lists the New York City fire houses affected by firefighter deaths on Sept. 11, 2001.**

Photos by Sarah Thompson, Penobscot Bay Pilot

More on "9/11 CEREMONY" Page 20

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 6 continued

■ **"9/11 CEREMONY"**

(Continued from Page 19)



Legion Speakers: **Left photo, Camden Post 30 member Ray Lewis describes the basic layout of the Pentagon and where he was in relation to it. Middle photo, as Dept. Sgt-At-Arms and Post 30 Adjutant Jeff Sukeforth listens from behind, Post 30 Commander Brent Wucher talks about his career and of bringing meaningful American flags home from Afghanistan. Right photo, Post 1st Vice Stephanie McLain lists some of the active and retired military personnel who died on Sept. 11, 2001.**

Photos by Sarah Thompson, Penobscot Bay Pilot

Commemoration of the 25th Anniversary of 9/11 Held at Camden American Legion

A number of speakers including veterans, pastors, firefighters and police participated in a solemn remembrance of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, during a ceremony at the War Memorial Post No. 30 American Legion on Friday.

The event included music from the Bay Winds North band led by Marlene Hall and the playing of taps by David Blanchard.

Camden Post 30 Adjutant Jeff Sukeforth introduced the speakers. These included Ray Lewis of the American Legion, who was working in Washington, D.C., on the day of the attacks and was due to go to the affected area of the Pentagon that very morning, but fortunately was spared. However, he lost friends who he had worked with closely.

Camden Police Chief Allen Weaver spoke concerning the losses of police officers in the attacks and the "long blue line" working to keep people safe every day and facing danger in the process.

"On Sept. 11, 2001, thousands of our brothers and sisters in uniform went to work just like any other Tuesday," he said. "But when the skies darkened and the world fractured, they didn't run away from the smoke, they ran straight into it. Sept. 11 remains the deadliest day in United States law enforcement history. On that single morning 72 brave law enforcement officers representing nine different federal, state and local agencies made the ultimate sacrifice."

They evacuated strangers, guided people out of the wreckage and stood between the chaos and civilians.

Weaver also explained the toll beyond that day as officers who retired to Maine suffered from the illnesses caused by breathing in toxic dust.

"They gave their lives over a span of decades, fighting the invisible wounds brought home from Ground Zero," he said.

The chief also pointed out the work of Mainers in helping with the cleanup and the aftermath.

Connor Howland of Camden Fire and Rescue also spoke at the event, highlighting the importance of remembering the history of 9/11.

"When the world witnessed unimaginable terror, we also witnessed unimaginable love, duty and courage," he said. "While thousands escaped down the stairwells of the burning towers, many brave emergency responders ran up. They did not hesitate. They simply answered the call."

He noted the numerous fire houses that lost firefighters that day as they raced to the towers to help and the bond between Maine firefighters and those in New York. He said many firefighters from our state piled into trucks and went to New York, manning their stations while grieving survivors in that state went to funerals and dealt with the aftermath.

He also talked about the long-term impacts on the health of firefighters due to the toxic dust released in the attack.

Pastor David English of the West Rockport Baptist Church offered the opening prayer and Legion Chaplain Dave Franclemont closed.

Those in attendance held several moments of silence, listened as the names of some of those who lost their lives were read, and sang along with songs including "God Bless America."

By Daniel Dunkle
Midcoast Villager
Sep 11, 2026
https://www.midcoastvillager.com/news/we-will-never-forget/article_4ab99c1c-1b3d-44fa-b003-5578ef55c898.html



Ceremony Procession: **The procession to Present the Colors in the 9/11 ceremony at The American Legion in Camden.**

Photo by Daniel Dunkle, Midcoast Villager



Presentation Of The Colors **at the 9/11 ceremony held at Camden Post 30. Color Guard members included Scott Bergey and John Hyssong from Post 30, Officer Mark Bennett from the Camden Police Department, and a firefighter from the Camden Fire Department.**

Photo by Daniel Dunkle, Midcoast Villager



Commemoration Band: **The Bay Winds North Wind Ensemble plays at the 25th Anniversary Commemoration of 9/11 at the American Legion Post 30 on Pearl Street in Camden.**

Photo by Daniel Dunkle, Midcoast Villager

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 8

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





Brunswick Post 20 Jr. Shooting Sports: **Left photo, athletes show targets they shot and the awards they received. Right photo, Jr. Archery Program Coach works with a young athlete.**

Submitted by Brunswick Post 20 Commander David Watson



Brunswick Post 20 Hosts Be The One Training:

Be The One facilitator Darnell Williams leads the Be The One training at American Legion Post 20 in Brunswick. A huge thank you to the Legion Family who took the training and a big thank you to Darnell for his continued support.



Bath Post 21 Honor Flight Donation: **Honor Flight Maine is incredibly grateful to The American Legion Smith-Tobey Post 21 in Bath for their recent donation of more than $10,000! From all of us at Honor Flight Maine, and especially from the veterans whose lives you are helping touch: thank you, Smith-Tobey Post 21! Left to right, Cassie Tarbox, Gena Rollins, Scott Morton, Krista Robinson, Margie Russel, Timberly Harrington, Dolly Young, Carol Edens, Jim Young, and Joe Young.**

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 "flare night" that followed is held to recognize the founding of the Popham Colony in 1607. Later in August, the post held its annual "Legion Family Lobster and Clam Bake" at the Ridleys Landing dock in Sebasco.

In September, the post held its annual Membership Dinner, Awards Ceremony, and 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony. At this event, the members each received their "Continuous Service" certificates and pins. Also, during the ceremony Post 1st Vice Commander Jimmy Wallace received the 2025 Post Legionnaire of the Year award.

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

Fall and winter planned events include Post 216's third participation in the Kids' Trick or Trunk at Town Hall. This year the post is providing two decorated vehicles. In November, post members will visit veterans at the Plant Memorial Home on Veteran's Day. In December, Post 216 will decorate the Phippsburg Town Hall and Veterans Memorial Park for Christmas and host the post's annual Christmas Potluck Supper.

Submitted by Post 216 Adjutant Mike Young

Popham Parade





Honor Guard: Top photo, Colonists lead the Popham Parade, followed by the Post 216 Honor Guard. Bottom photo, left to right, Post 216 Honor Guard for the Popham Parade: Post First Vice Commander Jim Wallace, Comrade Brian Beckman, Post Financial Officer Debra Reddinger, Post Adjutant Mike Young, Post Commander Ken Kellogg, and Comrade Bob Belben.

Top photo by Chilloa Young, Bottom photo by a passing volunteer

Post 216 Family and Friends Lobster and Clam Bake





Lobster & Clam Bake: Legion Families attend the Phippsburg Post 216 Annual Family and Friends Lobster and Clam Bake in August. Top photo, Comrade Fred Hartman and his wife Mare, front left, Post Chaplain Richard Spear and his wife Shyla, front right, and Chrissy Zinke and her husband Dave, across from each other at the end of the table. Chrissy & Dave are daughter and son-in-law of Comrade Harald Zinke who was transferred to Post Everlasting in 2025. Bottom photo, left to right, Post Finance Officer Deb Reddinger gets her lobster meal from hosts Joanne Wells and Proctor Wells.

Photos by Post 216 Adjutant Mike Young

9/11 Ceremony





9/11 Ceremony: Left photo, left to right, Phippsburg Post 216 Chaplain Richard Spear, Post Commander Ken Kellogg, and Post Adjutant Mike Young open the Post's 25th 9/11 Remembrance Service. Right photo, left to right, Post Adjutant Mike Young, Post Sgt.-At-Arms Larry Swizdor, and Post Commander Ken Kellogg bow in respect as Post Chaplain Richard Spear gives a prayer.

Photos by Chilloa Young

Annual Membership Awards





Continuous Service Awards: Phippsburg Post 216 held its annual Membership Awards Ceremony in September. Left photo, left to right, Comrade Bob Belben receives his 41-Year Continuous Service Award from Post 216 Commander Ken Kellogg. Right photo, left to right, Post Commander Ken Kellogg presents Comrade Brian Beckman with his 9-Year Continuous Service Award as Sgt.-At-Arms Larry Swizdor assists.

Photos by Chilloa Young





Post 216 Legionnaire Of The Year Award: Left photo, Phippsburg Post 216 1st Vice Commander Jimmy Wallace, center, receives the 2025 Post Legionnaire of the Year Award from Post Commander Ken Kellogg, right. Post Adjutant Mike Young, left, displays the Legionnaire of the Year plaque with all awardees' names since Post 216 was established in 2010. Right photo, left to right, Post 1st Vice Commander Jimmy Wallace displays his 2025 Post Legionnaire of the Year Award with his wife Donna at his side.

Photos by Chilloa Young

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 9

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





Hallowell Post 6 Color Guard: The Goodrich-Caldwell American Legion Post 6 in Hallowell provided Color Guard for the annual Old Hallowell Day parade on July 18. A service of pride that the post has been providing every year since the very first Old Hallowell Day celebration. Left photo, left to right, David Dodge, Gerald Stuart, District 9 Commander Patrick Linehan, Timothy McGuire, Carroll Whitman, John Mosher, Glen Glidden, William Meehan, and Daniel West. Right photo, staying right in step, as Post 6 represents themselves proudly in the annual Old Hallowell Day parade.

Submitted by Hallowell Post 6 Historian/Sgt.-At-Arms John Mosher

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 9 continued





Hallowell Post 6 Strawberry Shortcake Luncheon: Hallowell Post 6 held its annual Strawberry Shortcake Luncheon, in conjunction with the Old Hallowell Day celebration, with outstanding support and preparation by their spouses and members, immediately after the parade. This is one of the post's successful fundraisers that help with a few of the operations the post participates in. It was a very wonderful day as the weather held out long enough for a great gathering of members, guests and hungry supporters, as they enjoyed a nice lunch and dessert of strawberry shortcake.

Submitted by Hallowell Post 6 Historian/Sgt.-At-Arms John Mosher

Hallowell Post 6 Annual Yard Sale/Raffle Ticket Sale

The Goodrich-Caldwell Post 6 in Hallowell held its annual Yard Sale and Raffle Ticket Sale on Saturday, Oct. 10. The yard sale is the post's second largest fundraiser. On this day, the turnout was exceptional, with cool, crisp fall weather and a bright, blue sunshiny day. People came and enjoyed looking around at all the items that we were selling. All yard sale items come from generous donations from people everywhere and no price is set. We just let the buyer make a reasonable offer. It turned out to be the best yard sale, profit wise, since 2023. Thanks to all who contributed to the setup, purchasing, and cleanup of this annual fundraiser.

Submitted by Hallowell Post 6 Historian/ Sgt.-At-Arms John Mosher





Post 6 Yard Sale Shoppers: Interested shoppers take a look around the Hallowell Post 6 Yard Sale & Raffle Ticket Sale held at the post home on Oct. 10. Shoppers of all ages enjoyed the day.

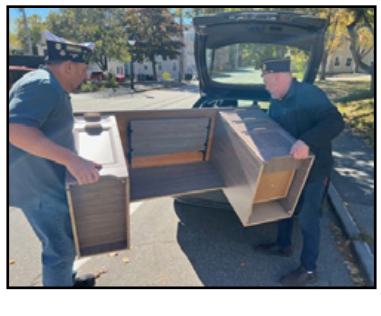


Raffle Ticket Sales: Hallowell Post 6 member Don Garrison maintains the raffle ticket sales side of the house at the post's annual Yard Sale & Raffle Ticket Sale.





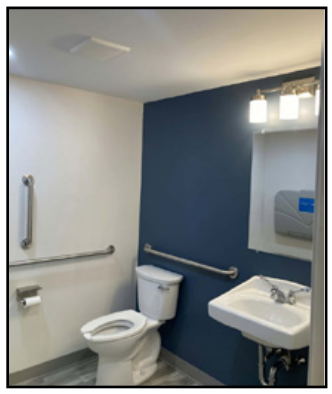
Post Participation: Left photo, Long-time Hallowell Post 6 members Gerald Stuart, left, and Lewis Gipson, right, with his wife Barbara Gipson, participate in the annual Yard Sale and Raffle Ticket Sale. Right photo, three of the newer members of Post 6 are in attendance. Left to right, John Mosher, Daniel West, and Rion Turner.



Assisting Customers: Hallowell Post 6 members Daniel West and Rion Turner help a customer at the post's annual Yard Sale & Raffle Ticket Sale by loading a desk into their vehicle. Question is, will it fit? By gum it sure did. Do these guys know what they are doing or what?

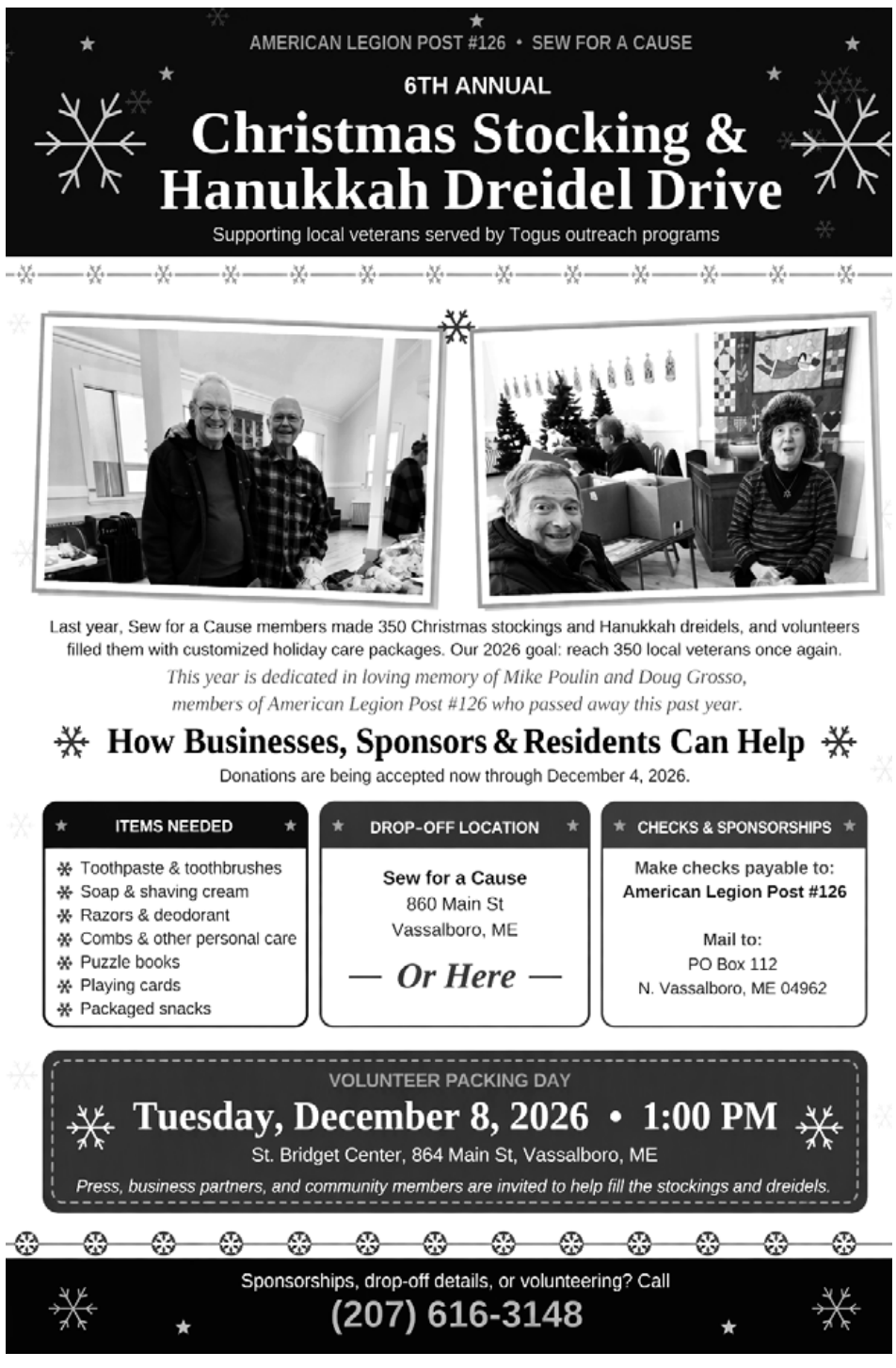
Photos by Hallowell Post 6 Historian/ Sgt.-At-Arms John Mosher





Oakland Post 51 Restroom Upgrade: Over the course of the summer, American Legion Post 51 in Oakland had a team of talented members of the post tackle the task of tearing out the old restroom in the rental hall and building a new, bigger, and ADA-compliant set of restrooms. All of the labor and much of the materials were donated by local businesses. The hall is used for birthdays, anniversaries, celebrations of life, and many other functions. This upgrade makes having a function at the post a much better experience. Left photo, the restroom before, and right photo, the restroom after the upgrades.

Submitted by Wally McKenney



Christmas Stocking & Hanukkah Dreidel Drive: Vassalboro Post 126 is collecting personal care items, snacks, and puzzle book/playing card donations for Christmas stockings and Hanukkah dreidels to support local veterans served by Togus outreach programs. Businesses, sponsors, and residents may drop off donations now through Dec. 4 at Sew for a Cause, 860 Main St., Vassalboro. Volunteers are also needed for packing day, to be held Dec. 8 at 1:00 p.m. at St. Bridget Center, 864 Main St., Vassalboro.

Submitted by Vassalboro Post 126 Adjutant James Kilbride

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 10

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



Skowhegan Post 16 Officer Installation: Back row, left to right, Post Finance Officer Diane Culleton, Post 2nd Vice Commander Cheryl Yannayon, Post Americanism Officer Dave Daigneault, Post Sergeant-At-Arms Greg Shorey, Post 1st Vice Commander Terry Knowles, and Installing Officer/Past Department Commander Patricia "Tricia" Thurston. Front row, left to right, Toby, Post Chaplain Ira Stoddard, Post Commander and Historian Tina Richard, and Post Service Officer Barry Sites.



Flag Day: Skowhegan Post 16 member Gary Holmes properly disposes of a flag on Flag Day.



Post Legionnaire Awards: Skowhegan Post 16 Commander Tina Richard presents two Post Legionnaire Awards to members who have given more than 100% last year. Left to right, Post Finance Officer Diane Culleton, Post Commander Tina Richard, and Post Americanism Officer Dave Daigneault.



Women's Veterans Luncheon: Three members of Skowhegan Post 16 attended a Women's Veterans Luncheon in Brunswick in June. Left to right, Post 2nd Vice Commander Cheryl Yannayon, Post Finance Officer Diane Culleton, and Post Commander Tina Richard.



Veterans Day Memorial Ceremony: Skowhegan Post 16 ceremony Grand Marshal Connie Shields speaks at the Veterans Day Memorial Ceremony at the Skowhegan Federated Church.



Skowhegan Post 16 Visits Augusta Museum: Skowhegan Post 16 visits the Maine Military Historical Society Museum in Augusta. The museum had great information on the history of the wars, lots of weapons, and various uniforms displayed. It's an amazing place to see for veterans, friends, and family members.

Photos by Skowhegan Post 16 Commander/Historian Tina Richard

Presentation Of Scarves: Skowhegan Post 16 Commander Tina Richard gives scarves she made to four Legionnaires at a post meeting. The yarn came from a Legionnaire's wife. Left to right, Post Commander Tina Richard, Gary Holmes, Margaret Williams, Post 2nd Vice Commander Cheryl Yannayon, and Post Adjutant Roxann Hawes.





Maine Legion Baseball Team Support: Members of Skowhegan Post 16 had their photo taken with The American Legion Baseball Team in Skowhegan. Post members stayed to watch the game and the young men played hard and gave their all.



Signed Baseball: Skowhegan Post 16 Commander Tina Richard with a baseball signed by the Skowhegan Maine Legion Baseball team, along with a Maine Legion Baseball patch.



Police Night Out: Skowhegan Post 16 at the Police Night Out. Post members cooked hamburgers and hot dogs for the folks that came out to enjoy what was offered for all.

America's 250th Anniversary Speech: Skowhegan Post 16 Commander Tina Richard speaks in Mercer after marching in the parade celebrating America's 250th anniversary.



Photos by Skowhegan Post 16 Commander/Historian Tina Richard

Water Line & Well Installation: American Legion Madison Post 39 and VFW Post 7865 Commanders, out of Madison, along with several other veterans were present as Pine State Drilling finished installing water lines for a new well for Legion and VFW member Dale Bickford and his wife Jill. Both Commanders would like to thank Legion and VFW members, as well as Auxiliary members, for the generous donations it took to make this happen. Madison veterans would like to thank Chad Grignon and his crew for working with both posts to help local veterans.

Submitted by District 10 Commander William Price





WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 11

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

Winterport Post 138 Co-Hosts Backyard Olympics

Argonne Post 138 in Winterport co-hosted a series of children's games with the Winterport Cub Scout Pack 234 on Aug. 15. Over 30 competitors across area towns converged at Abbott Park to compete in heads on athletic and skills challenges.

For a test of marksmanship, scoped Nerf rifles were loaded with ink tipped darts that competitors fired against targets with local Hampden Rifle and Pistol Club rangemaster Curt Slininger. For a test of dexterity, the team from Evan's Veterans Project oversaw a beanbag dartboard toss. The local Friends of Winterport Recreation came loaded with several track and field events and got those legs moving.

If these competitions weren't enough, local first responders, including the Winterport Ambulance Service, Winterport Volunteer Fire Department, and the Waldo County Sheriff team filled the parking lot, allowing the kids to touch-a-truck and learn more about civic engagement.

This event couldn't have been possible without a tremendous showing of support from local businesses like Harriman & Son's Construction and New England Salt Company, as well as a local DJ, S. Ryerson. The event was well received with many of the youth chomping at the bit for this to come back bigger. Post 138 and Cub Scout Pack 234 are already in the planning stage for this to become an annual event.



Winterport Post 138 Backyard Olympics: Argonne Post 138 and Winterport Cub Scout Pack 234 co-hosted a day of games and activities at Abbott Park on Aug. 15, bringing together more than 30 young competitors. With support from local organizations, first responders, and businesses, the event celebrated teamwork, athleticism, and community engagement.





Bucksport Post 93 Legion Hall Painting: Left photo, progress continues on painting preparation at the Bucksport Legion Hall. Right photo, painting of the exterior begins.

Postcard Signing: Bucksport Post 93 thanks volunteers who helped sign 1,100 greeting cards in support of Evan's Veterans Project goal of mailing 5,000 holiday greeting cards to military members on Oct. 17.





Saturday Flea Markets: Bucksport Post 93 hosts a Flea Market every Saturday from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at 58 Elm Street in Bucksport.

Submitted by Bucksport Post 93 Commander Vincent Christinziano

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





District 12 Officer Installation: On Tuesday, Sept. 8, Hancock County District 12 met with the Rodney Stinson Post 102 in Stonington at the Deer Isle Congregational Church and had a dinner, followed by a business meeting where the District Officers were sworn in. Left photo, District 12 Commander Robert Kramp swears in District Officers to their posts. Left to right, District Commander Robert Kramp, District Chaplain Tom Macdonald, District Adjutant Albert Scott, District Sgt.-at-Arms Colon Smith, and District Treasurer Robert Broussard. Right photo, Robert Kramp, left, is sworn in as District 12 Commander by District Adjutant Albert Scott.

Submitted by Deborah Alley

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







Newport Post 105 Legion Riders Event: A Legion BBQ is held at the Newport Post 105 Legion Riders Event on Aug. 1. Left photo, Etna-Carmel Auxiliary Unit 107 Treasurer Arlene Luzzi and Post 107 Legion member Julia Pike. Middle photo, Auxiliary Unit 107 Treasurer Arlene Luzzi, Post 107 Historian Neil Graves driving, and Post 107 Legion member Julia Pike. Right photo, Post 107 Adjutant Steve Luzzi, Auxiliary Unit 107 Treasurer Arlene Luzzi, Post 107 Historian Neil Graves driving, Post 107 Legion member Julia Pike, and Post 107 Commander and Department 1st Vice Commander Ryan Simpson.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 13 continued



Carmel Veterans Memorial: Etna-Carmel Post 107 Post and Auxiliary officers add names to the Carmel Veterans Memorial in August. Left to right, Don Candage, Arlene Luzzi, Meg Atchue, and Steve Luzzi.











Etna-Carmel Post 107 Banner Hanging: Post 107 hangs Carmel's Hometown Heroes banners in June. Top left photo, Post 2nd Vice Commander Pat Hoff. Top middle photo, left to right, Post 2nd Vice Commander Pat Hoff, Auxiliary Unit 107 President Meg Atchue, Ray Hitchborn, Post Judge Advocate Don Candage, Post Commander Ryan Simpson on tall ladder, Post Americanism Officer Nick Atchue on short ladder, and Post Sgt.-at-Arms Justin Kent. Top right photo, left to right, Unit 107 President Meg Atchue, Post Judge Advocate Don Candage, Post Adjutant Steve Luzzi, Post Americanism Officer Nick Atchue, and Post Sgt.-at-Arms Justin Kent. Bottom left photo, Post Historian Neil Graves. Bottom right photo, left to right, Post Adjutant Steve Luzzi, Post Americanism Officer Nick Atchue, and Post Sgt.-at-Arms Justin Kent.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 14

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



Nursing Home Visit: Dexter Post 53 visits the local nursing home once a month to meet with the veterans. Post Chaplain Gary Burke, center, and Post Service Officer Stephen Gudroe, taking the photo, with Nursing home residents Macy, left, and Rich, right. Donuts are brought in when residents have a birthday. Anywhere from 2 to as many as 7 veterans have shown up for the monthly get together, varying from month to month.



Membership Drive: Dexter Post 53 Commander Tim Tiess, taking the photo, and Post 1st Vice Commander Sandor Seymore, right, spent the day manning the booth to drive up membership and hand out informational pamphlets at the Maine Red-Hot Dog Festival in Dexter on Aug. 8. Several post members and guests stopped by throughout the day, including the person on the left, who stopped by for a needed seat to rest.



Dexter Post 53 Trunk or Treat: Post Commander Timothy Tiess and Past Post Commander Fred Miller participated in the Dexter Trunk or Treat on Sat., Oct. 31.

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

Reflections on POW/MIA Day

As I watched Venture Scout Eliza Bauer of Cherryfield salute the POW/MIA Remembrance Table at Narraguagus Post 8, American Legion, I breathed a silent prayer and remembered Gerry Scott, who went missing in 1951 when his unit was overrun by the Chinese during the Korean War.

Gerry was my trumpet teacher when I was 12-years-old and taught me to play "Taps," so I could become my Scout Troop Bugler. I still proudly wear that Bugler Patch on my Scout uniform as a Scout leader and as a Military Honor Guard member, sounding "Taps" at hundreds of funerals and patriotic events. Gerry's remains have never been recovered, and his brother and family still wait for his return.

About 10 years ago, my wife and I were in Korea visiting friends. With the help of declassified battle maps and records, we were able to locate the exact spot where Gerry went missing.

With the help of three local Korean Army officers, we conducted a memorial service in Gerry's memory with small flags, a POW medal, and "Taps" on an iPhone. The following May, an article I submitted to the local newspaper attracted Gerry's family, who were thrilled and moved that their family member was finally recognized with military honors. They have come to visit from Massachusetts, and we have Gerry Scott's dog tags hanging in the Wreaths Across America "Honor Tipland."

We remember Oscar Sprague of Milbridge, who was identified last year and returned home after 75 years as an MIA soldier.

What the POW/MIA Remembrance Table Represents:

• Every item on the POW/MIA Remembrance Table, found in every VFW and American Legion post nationwide, has a specified meaning.

• The small table itself is set apart from others and represents the frailty of one prisoner alone against his oppressors.

• The white table cloth symbolizes the purity of the prisoner's intentions to respond to the call to duty.

• A single red rose represents the blood they have shed in sacrifice to ensure the freedom of their beloved United States of America.

• The ribbon tied to the vase is reminiscent of the yellow ribbon worn on the lapels of thousands who bear witness to the unyielding determination to return our missing servicemen home.

• A slice of lemon, placed on the bread plate, is meant to remind us of their bitter fate.

• The salt, scattered on the bread plate represents the tears of families who wait for their loved ones to return.

• An inverted glass represents the fact that the missing and their families cannot participate in the toasts.

• An empty chair reminds us that the missing service member is not here.

• The POW/MIA flag reminds us that more than 1,565 Americans are still missing from the Vietnam War, as well as countless others from other conflicts.

• The Bible represents faith in a higher power and the pledge to our country, founded as one nation under God.

• A black napkin represents the unknown fate of our missing, whether they are alive or gone. - "What the POW/MIA Remembrance Table Represents" by Paul Sylvain

Article by 1st LT Peter Duston, USA-retired

More on "POW/MIA" Page 26

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 15 continued

■ **"POW/MIA"**

(Continued from Page 25)



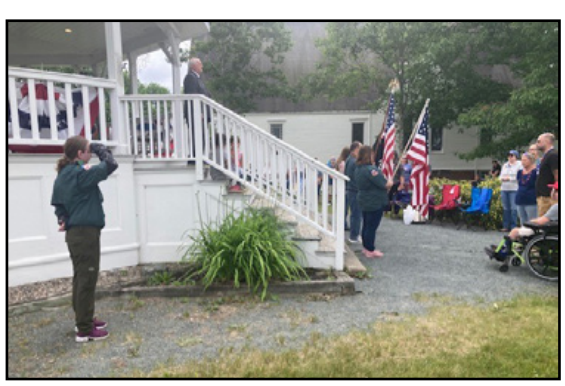
Cherryfield POW-MIA Remembrance Day: Venture Scout Crew 139 of Cherryfield recognized POW-MIA Remembrance Day on Sept. 18. Venture Scout Eliza Bauer renders a salute at the remembrance table of American Legion Narraguagus Post 8 in Cherryfield. Eliza had a special project: to dispose of some of the large accumulation of worn flags that had accumulated at the post. When she disposed of the worn POW-MIA flag that had flown over the post for the past six months, a prayer and moment of silence was held.



Generous Donation To Cherryfield Post 8: Kelley Wescott and Ruth Crowley are thanked for their generous donation to Narraguagus Post 8 in Cherryfield in memory of their two uncles, Foster and "Dickie" Mathews, both USAF veterans. Kelley and Ruth were awarded a Citation by Post 8 Adjutant Peter Duston, left, on Aug. 12 while volunteering at the Cherryfield Congregational Church supper. The supper was hosted by Foster Mathews for many years as he led the diners in that rousing gospel hymn, "When the Roll is Called up Yonder, I'll be There," signaling that it was time to eat.



Cherryfield Venture Scout Color Guard prepares to represent Narraguagus Post 8 in Cherryfield at the adjacent bandstand concent by the 1869 Cherryfield Band in recognition of the 250th anniversary of America on July 1. Left to right, Emma Calderwood of Troop 139, Special Needs Venture Crew 139 Chief Christopher Dupont, and Venture Scouts Rachel Bauer and Jenna Deniger.



The 250th Anniversary Of America Band Concert is hosted by Cherryfield Post 8 and performed by the Cherryfield 1869 Band on July 1. Special needs Venture Scout Eliza Bauer leaves the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance as Army veteran Tom Toottil sings the National Anthem. Color guard left to right, Emma, Calderwood, Troop 139, and Venture Crew 139 members Christopher Dupont and Jenna Denegar.

Photos Submitted by Cherryfield Post 8 Adjutant Peter Duston



Cherryfield Post 8 Hosts Concert: Narraguagus Post 8 hosts the Cherryfield 1869 Band performing a concert during Cherryfield Days on June 27.



Memorial Day: Cherryfield Post 8 Adjutant Peter Duston, left, poses with special needs Venture Scout Randi, who is serving as color bearer at the annual Memorial Day program and wreath laying at the Acadia National Cemetery in Jonesboro. The program speaker was Tiffany Strout, Maine State Legislature. Army band veteran Tom Toottil of Cherryfield sang the National Anthem.

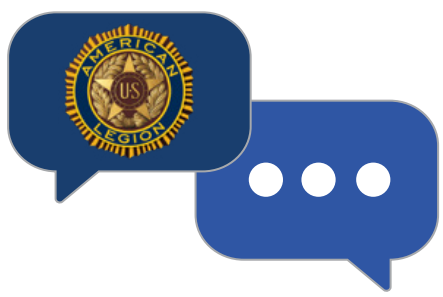


Unit 8 Auxiliary Secretary Honors Daughter: Auxiliary member of Cherryfield Unit 8, Alice Duston, dressed in her daughter's Army jacket for an event on Aug. 7 in which those attending were asked to represent a hero in their life. Alice recognized her daughter, SSG Erika Yates, who is a Flight Paramedic with the Army Reserve in Bangor. SSG Yates has been a long-time member of Narraguagus Post 8 in Cherryfield, has two Air Medals for deployments to Iraq, and was most recently a participant in the rescue of two climbers stranded on a Mt. Katahdin cliff.

Photos Submitted by Cherryfield Post 8 Adjutant Peter Duston

Coming Soon: Text Message Notifications!

A form to opt in to receive Maine American Legion text messages will be available shortly, featuring a QR code for easy sign-up. Stay connected and informed with Maine American Legion! Be on the lookout and join us!



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Taps Column

POST	NAME	CONFLICT
Post 2 – Augusta	George Jovin	Vietnam
Post 3 – Calais	Richard Clark	Lebanon/Grenada & Vietnam
Post 4 – Gardiner	Harold E Keenan	Vietnam
Post 5 – Waterville	Reginald J Duguay	Korea
Post 8 – Cherryfield	Leon Hatt	Vietnam
Post 9 – Machias	Donald W Card	Vietnam
Post 9 – Machias	William E Russell	Vietnam
Post 12 – Bangor	Michael Rolnick	Vietnam
Post 19 – Sanford	John H Bernier	Korea
Post 19 – Sanford	Paul H Charland	Vietnam
Post 19 – Sanford	Peter C Collins	Vietnam
Post 20 – Brunswick	Kenneth Clark	Vietnam
Post 24 – Rumford	Earl E Witas Sr	Vietnam
Post 26 – Biddeford	Carl J Leblanc	Vietnam
Post 26 – Biddeford	Francis Ledoux	Korea
Post 27 – Ft. Fairfield	Paul E Rediker	Unknown
Post 27 – Ft. Fairfield	Charles F Tanzosh	Vietnam
Post 30 – Camden	Edward Gruener	Korea
Post 35 – So. Portland	John P Hyland	Korea
Post 35 – So. Portland	Robert M Kelley	Korea
Post 39 – Madison	John H Bryant	Vietnam
Post 40 – Winthrop	Ronald Burgess	Unknown
Post 40 – Winthrop	Jordan B Mangin Jr	Vietnam
Post 47 – Houlton	Eugene A Jewell	Vietnam
Post 47 – Houlton	Roger E Smith	Vietnam
Post 47 – Houlton	Robert D Cowperthwaite	Vietnam
Post 48 – Washburn	Willie E Drost	Vietnam
Post 49 – Van Buren	Michael Carbonneau	Vietnam
Post 52 – Oakfield	Merwin H Crandall	Korea
Post 53 – Dexter	David S Thomas	Vietnam
Post 54 – Wiscasset	Alan C Pease	Korea
Post 58 – Buckfield	David B Bragg	Vietnam
Post 58 – Buckfield	David W Strout	Vietnam
Post 63 – Ellsworth	Byron H Stradley	Vietnam
Post 65 – Lubec	John McGonigal	Vietnam
Post 65 – Lubec	Steven C Pressley	Vietnam
Post 65 – Lubec	Robert Case	Vietnam
Post 65 – Lubec	George H Olson Jr	Unknown
Post 72 – South Paris	Gilbert F Turner	Korea
Post 72 – South Paris	Kenneth C Butterfield	Vietnam
Post 72 – South Paris	Neil O Tikander	Vietnam
Post 73 – Corinna	Dennis D Nelson	Vietnam
Post 74 – Kennebunk	Richard D Tillotson Jr	Vietnam
Post 74 – Kennebunk	John W Fleshman Jr	Vietnam
Post 77 - Lincoln	Robert Miller	WWII
Post 77 – Lincoln	Paul A Patchell	Vietnam
Post 77 – Lincoln	Robert Vars	Vietnam
Post 79 – Berwick	Floyd E Beavers	Vietnam
Post 82 – Norway	John Crouch Jr	Vietnam
Post 91 – Yarmouth	Walter W Miller	Vietnam
Post 97 – Howland	William B Bowie	Vietnam
Post 99 – Bingham	William H Webb	Vietnam
Post 102 – Stonington	Stephen R Smith	Vietnam
Post 107 – Etna-Carmel	Ralph J Sauter	Vietnam
Post 132 – Richmond	Peter P Lorbeski Jr	Vietnam
Post 132 – Richmond	George A Brawn Jr	Korea
Post 133 – Fort Kent	Philip L Dumond	Korea
Post 149 – Waldoboro	Robert E Jordan	Korea
Post 150 – Mechanic Falls	Clifford N Harris	Vietnam
Post 157 – Stockton Springs	Horace R Seekins Jr	Vietnam
Post 158 – Lisbon	David L Wilson	Vietnam
Post 163 – Palermo	Theodore W Bigos	Korea
Post 163 – Palermo	Carl L Farris	Vietnam
Post 165 – Sangerville	Gerald C Thomas	Vietnam
Post 168 – Portland	Joseph L Martell	Unknown
Post 171 – Harpswell	C V Noyes	WWII
Post 178 – Winslow	John Farrar	Vietnam
Post 178 – Winslow	Robert P Demetros	Vietnam
Post 178 – Winslow	Eric A Savage Jr	Vietnam
Post 178 – Winslow	Leslie I Clark	Korea
Post 178 – Winslow	Arthur A Cote	Vietnam
Post 178 – Winslow	Murray M Drisko	Korea
Post 178 – Winslow	John Freeman	Vietnam
Post 178 – Winslow	Anthony S Fusco	Vietnam
Post 197 – Westbrook	James T Barrett	Vietnam



Attention: Next Deadline is Jan. 22

The deadline for material, stories and/or pictures to be submitted for consideration for use in the **February 2027** issue of The Maine Legionnaire will be **January 22, 2027.**

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 e-mail at:
legionme@mainelegion.org or
rachael@mainelegion.org

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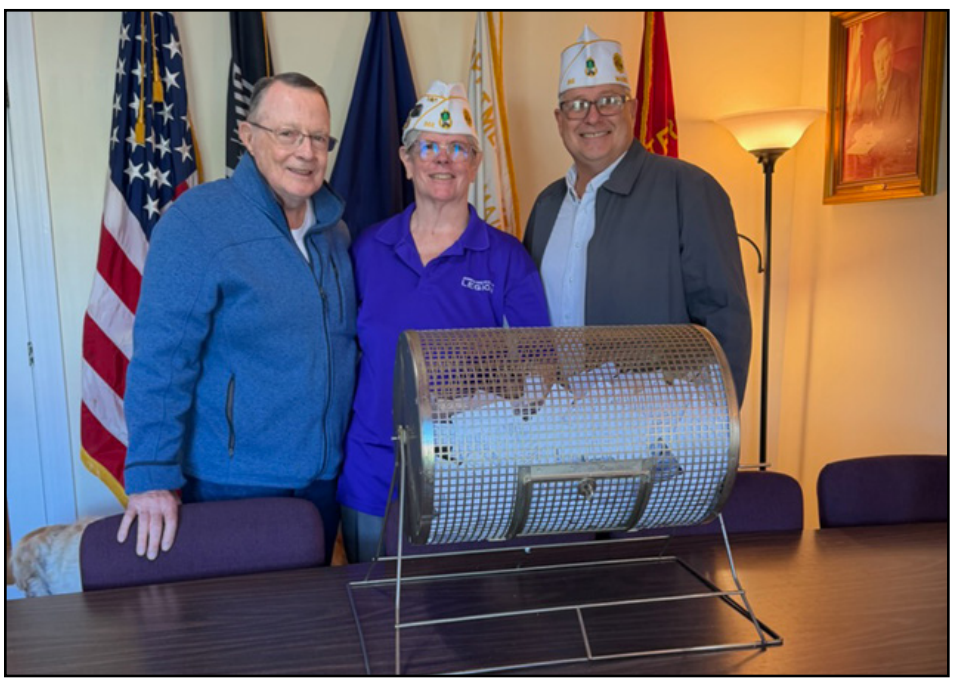
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Remarks_____

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FALL SWEEPSTAKES WINNERS



Fall Sweepstakes Drawing Announcement: The Fall Sweepstakes drawing took place on Wednesday, Oct. 21, at Maine State headquarters in Winslow. The drawing was conducted by Past National Commander Anthony "Tony" Jordan left, Department Finance Officer Mary "Tally" Brown, center, and Department Adjutant Jason Hall, right. The Grand Prize winner of $1,500 was awarded to George R Decker, Litchfield Post 181, $500 to Stuart W Goodwin, Norway Post 82 (Donated Winnings to Norway Post 82), $300 to Stanton N Yeaton, Strong Post 78, and $200 to Frederick Proudman, Cherryfield Post 8. CONGRATULATIONS!

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Deadline for Submission May 14, 2027

$25 DONATION
Your name will be listed as a sponsor in the Maine American Legion Convention Yearbook.

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Receive a 2026 Distinguished Donor pin and have your name listed as a sponsor in the Convention Yearbook.

$100 DONATION
Get the 2026 Distinguished Donor pin, a lobster lapel pin, your name in the Yearbook, and a copy of the 2027 Convention Yearbook.

$150 DONATION OR MORE
Receive all of the above, PLUS we'll send you our newest limited edition 250th Anniversary Challenge Coin to recognize your generosity & support!

Donate to the Maine American Legion Convention Yearbook Program and have your name featured in the 2027 Yearbook. The Yearbook will be available in both print and online at www.mainelegion.org. Your contribution will greatly benefit veterans in Maine!



To donate via debit/credit card, PayPal, or Venmo, scan the QR code with your phone or visit www.mainelegion.org and click on the "Maine American Legion Convention Yearbook Donations Welcome" button.

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Thank you for your support!











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Due to time constraints and staff limitations to fact check all material sent in, we depend on the honesty and integrity of those who submit material for publication and on the expertise of our members and readers to correct misstatements or misinformation whether intentional or not.