
Legislative Advice: Legislative Committee Chairman William “Chick” Ciciotte, left, gives Legislative information to Second District Commander Curtis Merrill.

New Ideas & Techniques: Panel Discussion was held during the morning session of the Mid-Winter Conference to discuss new ideas and techniques. Left to right, District 14 Commander and Milo Post 41 Legionnaire Randy Kluj, Litchfield Post 181 Commander Debra Couture, and Gray Post 86 Commander Jason White.

Brother to Brother: District 3 Commander Jim Veilleux, left, presents his brother and Lewiston Post 210 Commander Gary Veilleux with a 100% Membership Certificate at Mid-Winter Conference Jan. 17.

PR Talk: Public Relations Chairman Patrick Eisenhart gives his talk to those in attendance on Public Relations.

Sweepstake Winners Announced

Mid-Winter Conference concluded on Saturday, January 17, 2015, with our sweepstakes drawing, which saw four of our legionnaires, win the following amounts: The lucky winner of the top prize of $3,500 was J.P. Ouellette, Frenchville Post 145. Other winners were $1,000 – Andrew McQuarrie, Frenchville Post 145; $500 – John H. Johnson, Topsham Post 202 and $200 – Norman Fournier, Eagle Lake Post 176.

Have You Asked a Veteran TO JOIN Today? Help us increase membership for 2015!
THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MAINE
OFFICIAL CALL FOR
NINETY-SEVENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

In accordance with Article IV of the Constitution and By-laws of the Department of Maine, The American Legion, the ninety-seventh Annual Convention is hereby called to convene at Bangor, Maine, June 19-21, 2015.

The first business session will be called to order at 12:00 p.m. Daylight Savings Time, on the afternoon of Friday, June 19, 2015, with the final business session scheduled for Saturday morning, June 20, 2015, at 9 a.m. All general business sessions of the convention will be held at the Cross Insurance Center, Bangor, Maine.

PURPOSE
The convention is called for the purpose of electing Department Officers for the ensuing year; to elect delegates and alternates to the 2015 National Convention to be held in Baltimore, Maryland; to receive reports of all Department Officers and standing committees; to consider the resolutions and actions of subordinate bodies and to transact any other business properly brought before the convention.

REPRESENTATION
Each post is entitled to one delegate and one alternate, and one additional delegate and alternate for each one hundred members or fractional part thereof paid up to May 20, 2015. A post with less than 15 members is not entitled to any delegates. All department officers, district commanders, area commanders and Past Department Commanders, in good standing, shall be entitled to vote and have all the rights of delegates in the convention. These officers and Past Department Commanders are delegates-at-large and must not be named as post delegates.

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

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

MEETINGS
The Resolutions Committee shall hold a public hearing on all resolutions submitted in accordance with the Constitution and By-laws at the Cross Insurance Center on Friday, June 19, 2015, at 9 a.m. All delegates and alternates and members of The American Legion are invited to attend the session. Following this public hearing, the Committee on Resolutions will go into executive session to vote on resolutions to be brought before the body.

The Department Executive Committee will hold the first meeting at the Cross Insurance Center on Sunday, June 21, 2015. All department officers, district commanders, area commanders and Past Department Commanders are requested to attend.

CREDENTIALS
Each post will fill out the credential blank submitted by the Department Adjutant and return same to the Department Adjutant’s office. The Department Executive Committee will return same to the Department Adjutant, with the Department Headquarters listing the delegates and alternates elected to represent the Post. All delegates’ registration must be prepaid.

All credentials must be verified by the Credentials Committee, which will be in session at the Cross Insurance Center, Bangor, Maine, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 20, 2015.

At the first session of Department Convention on Friday, June 19, 2015, nominations shall be made for the offices of Department Adjutant; Department Commander; Department First Vice Commander; Department Second Vice Commander; Department Historian; Department Americanism Officer; and Department Sergeant-at-Arms.

NOMINATION AND ELECTIONS
All candidates for elective department office must file with the Department Adjutant, prior to May 20, 2015, a letter of intent to seek office and furnish a copy of discharge papers, which makes them eligible for membership in The American Legion. The ballots for the Department Convention will be pre-printed indicating those candidates who have filed for office. Any candidate declaring after May 20, 2015 or nominated from the floor of the convention, will be a write-in candidate. Blank spaces will be left for write-in candidates. (DEC Mandate Jan. 26, 1985).

VOTING
Delegates may get ballots from the Credentials Committee at the Cross Insurance Center on Saturday, June 20, 2015. The Credentials Committee will be in session for two hours on Saturday morning, June 20, 2015, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Each delegate will go to the convention hall during the hours specified and secure their voting cards, accompanied by state and national dues, received at Department Headquarters on May 20, 2015. Listed with the membership report will appear the number of delegates allowed each post.

CREDENTIAL reports should be filed with the Department Adjutant as soon as possible to allow for inspection and checking, thus correcting any errors. If there should be any changes in personnel on the list of delegates or alternates, corrections should be made with the Credentials Committee. Delegates must be registered with the convention in order to vote (1975 Convention Mandate). Registration fee of $5 for each delegate and alternate may be paid by sending a check made payable to The American Legion, P.O. Box 900, Waterville, Maine 04903-0900.

Plan Now to Attend!

THE AMERICAN LEGION
97TH ANNUAL
STATE CONVENTION
June 19 — 21, 2015
Cross Insurance Center, Bangor

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

MEMORIAL SERVICE
The Department Chaplain of The American Legion will conduct a Memorial Service to be held just prior to conclusion to the Saturday session, June 20, 2015. Posts wishing to have deceased members included in the Post Everlasting Ceremony are requested to submit a list of the honored dead to Department Headquarters. Lists must include name of deceased comrades and conflict served. If your post files a Post Everlasting list for The Maine Legionnaire and said list is up to date, a second list is not necessary.

LAW AND ORDER
Order will be maintained at all times in the convention hall under the direction of the Department Sergeant-at-Arms and his assistants. Delegates, alternates and members attending the convention are requested to be courteous to all speakers and visitors to the convention.

PRESS
The Department Adjutant’s staff will maintain press facilities during Convention sessions. The Department Adjutant must approve all communications from the Department Convention.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS
A formal installation ceremony will be held Saturday, June 20, 2015, at 7 p.m. All department officers and district commanders will be sworn into office at that time and will automatically become members of the Department Executive Committee.

RAFFLES OR SALES ITEMS
There will be NO sales items or raffles at the Department Convention without specific permission of the Department Adjutant.

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

Official:
Paul L’Heureux
Department Adjutant

Richard Graves
Department Commander
Bits 'N Pieces

Rockland Post 1

Rockland Post 1 is collecting old cell phones. There is a drop box in the lobby. This benefits the military so they may call home for free.

Caribou Post 15

Everyone should try to visit the post and see the wonderful job the Auxiliary did remodeling, painting and decorating the downstairs hall.

Unit 15 brought trays of goodies to the Caribou schools on Nov. 18.

Sanford Post 19

Sanford Post 19 for their donation of $200 to the Good Shepherd Food Bank, $200 to Special Olympics, $200 to the Shrine Hospital and $200 for the Homeless Veterans Standdown at Togus. Sanford Post 19 was also the host for the Reinterment & Ceremony of WWII hero William W. Ouellette.

Madison Post 39

Madison Post 39 for their donation of $150 to Wreaths Across America, $100 to the Togus Maniacs and $200 toward the Senior Citizens Thanksgiving dinner.

Unit 39 for their donation of $300 to the Togus Gift Shop, $30 to each of the two Girl Scout Troops and one Daisy Troop, $50 to the Somerset Residential Care Activity Fund, $50 to Maplecrest Halloween party, $200 to Maine Veterans Home Gift Shop, $15 bingo package for the Luck of the Draw benefit for Roland Allain, Jr., a $50 donation to Roland Allain, Jr. Benefit, $50 to the Senior Citizens Thanksgiving dinner, $25 to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund and $50 to NEADS.

Old Orchard Beach Post 57

Old Orchard Beach Post 57 for their donation of $500 to the OOB Food Pantry, $50 to the OOB FD - Annual Halloween Party, $400 to Hugs of Love, $400 to Huot House, Saco & Veterans Career Center, Biddeford, $100 to Jameson School for Audiometer, $500 to Toys for Tots and $500 to the United Methodist Church for their Thanksgiving dinner.

Berwick Post 79

Berwick Post 79 hosted another American Red Cross Blood Drive on November 15th. 50 units of blood were collected from participants with appointments and a few walk-ins.

Berwick Post 79 donated $450 to the Berwick Fuel Emergency Fund, $300 to the Table of Plenty (a community kitchen serving free meals in Berwick, Kittery and York), $100 to the Somersworth-Berwick Food Pantry, $100 to the North Berwick Christmas Project, $100 to the South Berwick Community Food Pantry, $50 to the Rollinsford New Hampshire Police Thanksgiving & Christmas Food Basket program and $125 to the Dover New Hampshire Police Holiday Food Basket program.

To make the holidays a bit more special, Berwick Post 79 sent a Christmas card and $50 check to each of 17 local active duty military members currently serving at home and abroad, for a total donation of $850.

Guilford Post 119

Guilford Post 119 donated $50 to Pine Tree Camp, $500 to Abner Wade Lodge #207 for their Santa Project, and $1,000 to Partnership Food Pantry in Guilford.

Auburn Post 153

Congratulations to Auburn Post 153 Commander Daniel St. Pierre for successfully completing the required training and passing the final exam of The American Legion Extension Institute Course.

Time to Do It:
Pay Your Legion Dues Today!

Legion membership is annual, the Legion year running from Jan 1 to Dec 31. If dues are not paid by Jan. 1 of each calendar year, the member becomes delinquent. If dues have not been paid by Feb. 1, the member is suspended, is not in good standing, and is not eligible for transfer.

The only method of transferring from one post to another so the continuity of the membership in the Legion is not broken is by formal transfer, which is available only to members in good standing.

If you do not have a membership card that reads “2015” then you are now a delinquent member.

Your post tries so hard to get your dues collected prior to Jan. 1, so that you do not lose any benefits of your membership, including insurance coverage. If you don’t have a “2015” card, please contact your local post today and pay them so your membership in The American Legion remains continuous.

Napoleon Ouellette Post 24
Honors Female Veterans

Ramford Post 24 recently held the 2nd Annual Female Veterans Luncheon in Rumford. Approximately 40 female veterans traveled from as far away as Stockholm, Bar Harbor and New Hampshire. This day was created to honor the service of our female veterans. You may not realize this but many female veterans do not consider themselves veterans. This luncheon has supported many of these women to change their way of thinking.

The day began with a morning of pampering with manicures provided by Melanie Calden, Jennifer Demasco, and Michelle Arsenault, with hair provided by Kelly DeRoche and Lynne Steele, Reiki provided by Birdie Rocur, Anna斯塔cia Delco and Tina Erwin, and massage provided by Heather Richambault and Amanda Hamner. As the morning progressed, the veterans were able to connect with one another sharing stories of their service and sacrifices.

Congresswoman Chellie Pingree sent a letter via email. She shared “Like all veterans, you made great sacrifices and put your own lives in danger to protect the people of this country. But, as women in a historically male-dominated organization, you were also pioneers.” Pingree continued, “Being a veteran is difficult enough as is, but female service members have had to battle an additional set of challenges – among them glass ceilings, hostility, high rates of sexual assault and harassment, and a VA health care system not designed to accommodate women’s needs.”

Congressman Mike Michaud also wrote in a letter, “It is an honor to thank the women veterans participating in today’s luncheon. Veterans continue serving long after they return home. They are integral parts of our communities – they’re our firefighters and police officers; our medics and teachers; our friends and our neighbors.”

State Representative Cheryl Briggs explained that each female veteran from Maine is eligible to receive a silver commemorative coin depicting the Maine Women Veterans plaque located in the Hall of Flags in the State House. During the luncheon she was able to gather contact information from the female veterans and will send applications for the honor. She then called Maritime Sgt. Dorothy “Dottie” McPherson to the podium to receive the commemorative coin as well as legislative sentiments.

More on Female Veterans, Page 20
Female Veterans (Continued from Page 19)

The Women Veteran’s Program Manager, Larhonda Harris spoke briefly on what TOGUS has to offer our female veterans. She and Janet McKenna also provided an informational table to support or veterans.

Guest speaker Navy veteran Ruth Moore was greeted with a standing ovation. She was sexually assaulted during her service and spent 23 years trying to get benefits. She worked hard to ensure that no other female veteran had to deal with the hardships she encountered. Through her diligent efforts, the Ruth Moore Act of 2013 was passed to make it easier for victims of military sexual trauma to receive benefits and treatment.

She began, “Each of us took the oath and served united in a sisterhood, sisters together, sister’s forever.” Less than one-half of one percent of the population belongs to the sisterhood. We learned how to protect each other.”

Ruth shared emails she had received from other female veterans who were not recognized for the service. In these emails many assume that if a woman is driving a car with a veteran’s plate on them it must be their husband’s vehicle. Or not being recognized at a restaurant as a veteran on holidays that give veteran discounts. She shared “being a veteran is hard for us.” She concluded, “Each of us gave the government a blank check for up to and including our lives.”

Commander Thurston shared the following with the audience, “I want everyone to know that the American Legion, Department of Maine treats all women veterans equally. There is no discrimination and as a matter of fact they encourage women to stay actively involved in the American Legion.”

In closing, Department of Maine officers were introduced and had the opportunity to speak. Thank you to all who were able to attend. A huge thank you goes out to our Department Service Officer Amedeo “Deo” Lauria for spending the day with us and providing technical support as well as information for our veterans. Thank you to NECA and Women’s Veteran Advisory/Action Committee Chairman Brenda Dearborn for providing support throughout the day.

This event could not have been done without the wonderful volunteers at Post 24. They are by far some of the best! Volunteers for the day included Susan Richardson, Keith Bickford, Tammy (Young Suk) Parise, Donna Wotton, Heidi Steele, Kathy Richard, Pam Marcellino, Donna Chaisson, Doris Martineau, Rena Nichols, Barbara Arsenault and Greg Ryder.

Pampering Female Veterans: Lynne Steele and Kelly DeRoche donate their time to pamper female veterans. Veteran Judy Bell gets her hair cut to donate to the Locks of Love.

Reiki Volunteers, left to right, Tina Erwin, Birdie Rocray, and Annastasia Defeo.

Locks of Love: Judy Bell generously donated her hair to the Locks of Love Foundation.
Female Veterans (Continued from Page 20)

Melissa Hepburn traveled from Bar Harbor to greet her hero Ruth Moore at Rumford Post 24’s 2nd Annual State Female Veterans Luncheon.

Guest speaker Ruth Moore.

Air Force Veterans, left to right, (front row) Brenda Dearborn, Norma Bondeson, (back row) Donna Alexander, and LaRhonda Harris.

State Representative Sheryl Briggs, left, presents the Women Veterans Coin and Certificate to Marine Sgt. Dottie Mcpherson.

Marine Veterans, left to right, Barbara Finkbeiner, Melissa Hepburn, Joy Bordeau, and Alley Smith (also served in the Navy).

Mitzi Sequoia shares the photo album that she donated to The American Legion, Department of Maine.

Army Veterans, left to right, (front row) Barbara Perkins, Mitzi Sequoia, Theresa Dunagan, Judy Bell, and Bettyann Sheats, (back row) Samantha Szlembarski, Florence Merrill, Deb Morrison, Linda Short, Gloria Hall and Winnie McMorrow.

Navy Veterans, left to right, (front row) Jayne Hendricks, Sue Brunner, Rumford Post 24 Commander Tricia Thurston, Chick Fitzmorris, and Ruth Moore, (back row) June Atherton, Carly Farmer, and Alley Smith (also served as a Marine).

Veterans Gloria Hall, Winnie McMorrow and Tricia Thurston.

Auxiliary volunteers, left to right, Sue Richard, Donna Chaisson, and Pam Marcellino.

2nd Annual State Female Veterans Luncheon: Left to right, SAL member Keith Bickford, Commander Tricia Thurston, AND Auxiliary members Tammy Parise and Sue Richards.
**NEED ASSISTANCE?**

Contact Information For (Veterans and Non-Veterans)

- **American Legion Posts:** Contact your American Legion Post located in your area: AL. Post listings are available by visiting http://www.maineligion.org or by calling The American Legion, Department of Maine at (207) 873-3229.

- **The American Legion, Department of Maine:** For assistance and referrals, please contact The American Legion, Dept. of Maine at (207) 873-3229, or The American Legion, Dept. of Maine Service Office at (207) 623-5726.

- **Maine 2-1-1:** Free, easy, and confidential. Resources include, but not limited to food, clothing, shelter, healthcare, and legal assistance. Dial 2-1-1 or go online at http://www.211maine.org

- **City/Town Office:** Ask them about General Emergency Assistance with help paying for rent, heating fuel, housing, utilities, or food. Specific City/Town office locations & phone numbers are located at http://www.maine.gov/soi/ce/elec/munic.shtml or by calling the Maine Municipal Association Mon.-Fri. 8-5 at (207) 623-8428 or 1-800-452-8786 & request the specific town’s information.

- **The Augusta Community Warming Center:** A safe & warm place for people to stay during the day. Please call (207) 455-8880 or visit http://www.uwkv.org/TheirStory.php?Augusta-Community-Warming-Center-34

- **Catholic Charity Assistance:** [http://www.ccmaine.org](http://www.ccmaine.org)

- **Maine Food Pantries:** [http://www.foodpantries.org/st/mainet/main or contact your local City/Town office for information.](http://www.foodpantries.org/st/mainet/main)

- **Maine Salvation Army Financial Assistance:** Please see below a listing of some Salvation Army’s in Maine:
  - OOB, Maine (207) 934-4381 - [http://www.OldOrchardBeach.SalvationArmyME.org](http://www.OldOrchardBeach.SalvationArmyME.org)
  - Sanford, Maine (207) 324-3134 - [http://www.Sanford.SalvationArmyME.org](http://www.Sanford.SalvationArmyME.org)

- **Goodwill Industries of Northern New England Veterans Fund:** (207) 774-6323 or [http://www.goodwillhme/services/workforce/adult-services/goodwill-veterans-fund](http://www.goodwillhme/services/workforce/adult-services/goodwill-veterans-fund)

- **Temporary Financial Assistance:** Families of deployed service members who have minor children at home can apply for cash grants through The American Legion's Temporary Financial Assistance Program. Contact Department Headquarters at (207) 873-3229 for TFA Applications and a copy of the brochure. TFA brochures are also available by visiting [http://www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org)

- **Emergency Homeless Shelters:** Below are a few available Emergency Shelters by County. For more information, or a complete listing, please visit: [http://www.mainehousing.org/programs-services/homeless/emergency-shelters or dial (800) 452-466 or (207) 626-4600](http://www.mainehousing.org/programs-services/homeless/emergency-shelters)

  - For other shelters or resources, please dial 2-1-1.

  - **Androscoggin:** Abused Women’s Advocacy Project - Auburn (800) 559-2927
  - Aroostook: Homeless Services of Aroostook - Presque Isle (207) 764-5114
  - Cumberland: Family Shelter - Portland (207) 772-8339
  - Franklin: Western Maine Homeless Outreach - Farmington (207) 779-7609
  - Hancock: H.O.M.E. - Dorr House - Orland (207) 469-7961; Emmaus - Ellsworth (207) 667-3962
  - Kennebec: Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter - Waterville (207) 873-8082; Togus Veterans Affairs - Augusta (207) 623-8411 (Ext. 5658)
  - Knox: Hospitality House - Rockport (207) 593-8151
  - Penobscot: Bangor Area Homeless Shelter - Bangor (207) 947-0092
  - Piscataquis: WomanCare - Dover-Foxcroft (800) 564-8165
  - Somerset: Family Violence Project - Somerset Cty. (877) 890-7788; New Hope Shelter - Solon (207) 669-4402
  - Washington: Kilun Kikin Emergency Shelter - Perry (207) 853-6021
  - York: York County Shelter Programs, Inc. - Alfred (207) 324-1137

## District 1

Berwick Post 79 Blood Drive: Berwick Post 79 conducted another successful Blood Drive. Fifty-nine units of blood were collected despite the snowy weather conditions. Auxiliary Unit 79 supported the event. Left to right, Berwick Unit 79 member Heather Sheldon and Berwick Post 79 member Paul Lapierre.

- **The Irvin W. Merrithew Memorial Hall:** Old Orchard Post 57 named its hall The Irvin W. Merrithew Memorial Hall in honor of Irvin W. Merrithew on Oct. 25. Irvin was a member of the USMC from 1961-1967 and served as Post 57 Commander, Vice Commander, Americanism Officer, and Service Officer throughout his years at the post as well as Bingo Officer from 2007-2014. Irvin passed away in July of 2014 and will be dearly missed by many.
Ray Fortier was born in Sanford in 1923 on March 4th. His parents moved from Canada in 1895 and settled in Sanford. They made the move to the U.S. to find work which they found in the Sanford textile mills. The family moved a few years later to Woonsocket, R.I where his mother and father started working in the Woonsocket Woolen Mills. After six years in R.I., the family moved back to Sanford and both parents returned to work in the Goodall Mills.

In the meantime, Ray started school at the Holy Family School and continued his education at the Emerson School until the eighth grade. Like many families during the 30’s, times were hard and money was scarce. Ray joined the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1938 and worked on public work projects until 1939. He then went to work in the Goodall Mill for a year before getting a job building Liberty Ships at the Portland Ship Yard for two years. In October of 1942, he enlisted in the Navy and was sent to Newport Rhode Island for Boot Camp. Upon finishing Boot Camp, he was sent to Little Creek, Virginia for Gunnery Training. He was trained on 20mm, 3.50 inch cannon and 538 inch Anti-Aircraft guns. After Gunnery training, he was sent to the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

Armored for three weeks and given orders to report to the S.S. Sloetvedyck, a transport and cargo ship manning the gunnery station in the Atlantic during the height of Nazi Submarine Warfare in the Atlantic. Ray’s first crossing ended in Oran, Algeria shortly after the invasion of North Africa, November 1943 the ship was then ordered to report to Glasgow, Scotland to pick up assorted allied troops with a destination of Durban, South Africa. Scuttlebutt had it that sailing to the South Atlantic would attract our attention, it did, and for the better part of a week sailed south toward the Antarctic Circle and most on board thought we had bought the farm the seas were so rough and then back to N. Africa arriving in Casablanca. There U.S. troops started building barricades and bunks on the decks below the main deck. One morning 1200 German and Italian P.O.W.’s were escorted aboard with the next stop Hoboken N.J. where they were put on trains with the windows shuttered and closed. I was then given a 30 day leave which lasted 16 days—they need bodies for another ship. After arriving at the Armed Guard Center in Brooklyn I was ordered to report to the S.S. Cushing Eell an “Ugly duckling”, per FDR, “Liberty Ship” going to every port in North Africa from Oran, Algeria to Alexandria, Egypt following the allied troops going east against General Rommel “The Desert Fox”. We then returned to the U.S. to load up with every explosive made for war from aviation fuel, 500 lb bombs, 55 gallon drums of alcohol and everything else that could blow up. We sailed out of the Chesapeake Bay never setting foot on solid ground for 63 days before arriving at Basra, Iraq. The shipments were off loaded on to a railroad for shipment to Russia. I couldn’t wait to leave that Hell Hole. We came back through the Suez Canal with orders to go to Taranto, Italy for refueling, water and take on Army supplies and troops in Bari, Italy. As we left Bari one of the convoy ships struck a mine at the anchor compartment and #1 cargo hole, exploding the cargo and lifting the ship’s stern and propellers out of the water leaving the ship at the mercy of the Adriatic Sea currents. No ships were allowed to help because of the mines. We proceeded to Naples to pick up troops & their equipment. Repeating the process on the Island of Corsica then dropping anchor of the coast of Nez in Southern France for the Invasion of Southern France supposedly with General Patton’s 3rd Army. Returning to the states and the A.G Center and ordered to the West Coast to be reassigned. A Physical & Medical Survey found me no longer fit for duty. They put me on a train with returning casualties from Iwo Jima destined for the Great Lakes Navy Base were on May 25, 1945, I received a 30% Disability rating. Honorable Discharge and $71.00 for transportation home. It took a few days to get back to civilian life, loafing around was not my style so I found work driving a taxi, wholesaling fruit and produce and sales in a men’s and boy’s store. During that time, I joined the T.W. Cole American Legion Post #19. In 1947 being a Legionnaire helped me find a job at the W.T. Grant Store chain, resigning in 1969. I then joined the sales staff at a local Chevrolet Dealer selling cars and finally stopped working permanently in 1991.

Ray has 3 adult children 2 boys and 1 girl. After his first wife passed in 1992 he married his present wife Aline in 1995. He met her at the St. Ignatius Fair and married shortly thereafter. Ray joined American Legion Post #19 in 1945 and was elected Post Commander In 1947 the year that literally half of York County burned. He at that time was the youngest Post Commander in Maine and may well have been the youngest in the entire United States. Ray is still a very active member of the Legion Post #19 and has through the years held many positions including an extensive tour as Post Chaplain. He currently serves on the executive board and is a life member of the Legion as well as VFW and DAV.

If you have ever read Winston Churchill’s Books on World War II and the campaigns in the Mediterranean you will immediately realize that Ray was at every one of those places riding on a ship filled with High Octane Fuel and High Explosives. Ray joking comments that if the ship had been hit by a torpedo or bomb it would not have sunk, but would have probably gone into orbit.

Ray, is a treasure to know, a man who epitomizes the words: Respect, Value and Honor. An American Legionnaire truly for All Seasons.

Korean War Veterans Luncheon

Luncheon: Maine Bureau of Veterans’ Services Director Peter Ogden, right, and Post 19 Commander Gary Metzger, left, presents Sanford Post 19 member William Keilwitz with a certificate and Korean War book at the Korean War Veterans Luncheon held Oct. 26 at Sanford Post 19 in recognition of his honorable service during the Korean War.

The Edgerly brothers in attendance at the Korean War Veterans Luncheon. They each received a certificate and a Korean War book in honor of their service.

Peter Ogden, Maine Bureau of Veterans Services Director, left, and Department of Maine Adjutant Paul L’Heureux at the Korean War Veterans Luncheon at Sanford Post 19 on Oct. 26.

Sanford Post 19 attendees enjoying their meal at the Korean War Veterans Luncheon.
WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 1 continued

North Berwick Vet Waited 61 Years for Medals

North Berwick, Maine - He volunteered to serve his country, went to war and waited 61 years for the recognition he deserved.

On Oct. 27, 1950, at the age of 20, Theodore Towne enlisted in the Army. Assigned to the Heavy Mortar Company, 180th Regiment of the 45th Infantry Division, Oklahoma National Guard, and Ted Towne served nine months on the front lines in Korea.

His discharge form, known as the DD2-14, was not completed properly; it failed to mention he served in Korea at all; and under medals and citations it simply read “unknown.”

When he returned home Towne looked into receiving veteran’s benefits. “I tried early and it bothered me because I failed,” Towne said. “You have to put it behind you and just live your life. As time went on it bothered me less and less.”

Towne, now 84, who lives in North Berwick, was denied the recognition and benefits afforded combat veterans, including a Maine property tax exemption. He couldn’t even get a Maine veteran’s plate.

Enter Command Sergeant Major (Ret.) Anthony J. Cincotta, Jr. Cincotta had experience helping other veterans, so Towne, though fearful of another disappointment, agreed to pursue it. Military service records are maintained by a civilian agency called the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC), located in St. Louis, Missouri. In 1973 a fire on the sixth floor destroyed thousands of records, including Towne’s.

After about a year of letters and fruitless calls, Cincotta wrote to one of the highest-ranking officials in the Army: a four-star general from Berwick. Cincotta says without the help of General Daniel Four-star general from Berwick. Cincotta couldn’t even get a Maine veteran’s plate.

In a ceremony on Monday, Nov 17 Towne was finally presented with his medals; the Combat Infantryman’s badge, the Presidential Unit Citation, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the Republic of Korea War Service Award, given by the country of Korea, and the Korean Service Medal, awarded by the U.S., the National Defense Service Medal and the United Nations Service Medal Korea. Cincotta says there is still one medal missing, “the Army Occupation Medal for Japan. He should have gotten that but the NPRC said he was only in Japan because he was on his way to Korea. He was there for nine months, you only have to be there for 30 days to receive the medal. So we will work on that one,” Cincotta said.

Towne was joined at the ceremony by Gil Ormsby who served beside him in the trenches, as well as nearly 30 friends and family members.

Because of sloppy paperwork and the loss of records Towne was denied both state and federal benefits for six decades, says Cincotta.

“Now if he wants to get a veteran’s plate he can do that. He can join a veteran’s organization if he wants to. He can get the property tax exemption. As a wartime veteran he can apply for disability benefits if he wants to. It’s just the fact that he had to wait 61 years to prove that he was there,” Cincotta said.

Turner Post 111 commander Greg Mrowka along with Post 17 members, Sons of the American Legion, and U.S. Army Cadets put out fifteen hundred flags on veterans’ graves at the Forest City Cemetery in South Portland on May 20, 2014.

Yarmouth Post 91 Commander Bert Kendall manning the first shift for the Salvation Army kettle drive at KMART in Falmouth.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 2

Portland Post 17 Commander Greg Mrowka along with Post 17 members, Sons of the American Legion, and U.S. Army Cadets put out fifteen hundred flags on veterans’ graves at the Forest City Cemetery in South Portland on May 20, 2014.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 3

Auburn Post 153 officers after a Veteran’s Day event. Left to right, SAL Squadron 153 Commander Mike Bellemare, Post 153 Commander Dan St. Pierre, Auxiliary Unit 153 President Audrey L’Heureux, and Department Adjutant Paul L’Heureux.

Turner Post 111 has assumed sponsorship of Boys Scout Troop 187. Post 111 Finance Officer Dale Bryant has become a board member of the Troop and has been participating in the Troop’s activities. The Troop has worked with Post 111 in honoring veterans on Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and Veteran’s Day. Pictured are members of Boys Scout Troop 187 at Turner Post 111 on Veteran’s Day, Nov. 11, 2014.

Korean War Vet Honored After 61 Years: Long overdue!

Korean War veteran Ted Towne receives his medals 61 years after his service ended at a small ceremony that took place at the State House on Nov. 17 in Augusta, thanks to the effort of our fellow Legionnaires! Left to right, Berwick Post 79 member and friend of Towne Tony Cincotta, Governor LePage, Berwick Chief of Police and Ted’s son Tim Towne, and Brunswick Post 20 member and friend of Towne Gil Ormsby.

Turner Students Learn History, Thank Veterans

TURNER — Standing in front of students at Tripp Middle School, veteran Harris Bradeen asked how many had a family member in the military.

A sea of arms shot up.

“Wow. This is great,” said Bradeen, Turner Post 111 commander. “We want to thank your relatives for their service.”

Behind Bradeen, in front of the assembly, sat a group of local veterans, special guests Thursday as students honored them, learned history from them and observed that Veteran’s Day is coming up.

More on TURNER STUDENTS, Page 25
Local veterans Marcel Gagne, Ron Morin, Scott Honaker, Fred Leadbetter, Ed Lepage, John Arsenault, Dale Bryant and Guy Mahon attended the event.

Braden played the role of teacher, explaining how Veterans Day is observed at 11 a.m. on the 11th day of the 11th month, the time when a cease-fire ended World War I.

“We’re here to provide you with a better understanding of what, and who, is a veteran,” Braden said. “We’ve lived what most of you have read about in history books.”

They and millions of other veterans won World War II, fought in Korea, Vietnam and the Middle East. Service members don’t go to war “because they love fighting,” Braden said. “They were called to be a part of something bigger than themselves.” Veterans who fought watched friends die.

Awards, medals and names etched on monuments memorialize those friends, “but nothing can replace the hole left by a fallen service member,” Braden said. Veterans Day is a small way to honor fallen service member,” Braden said. “We’ve lived what most of you have read about in history books.”

Veterans and active members of the U.S. Army salute the flag during the singing of the national anthem during the third annual Veteran’s Day Assembly at Tripp Middle School in Turner. The national anthem was sung by eighth-grader Kristyn Barcelou.

“Thank you. If it weren’t for you, our generation wouldn’t be here today.”

After students recited poems, listened to speeches and sang the national anthem and “America the Beautiful,” dozens of students came out of the bleachers, shook hands and handed out letters they had written to veterans.

Army veteran Ed Lepage stood with a handful of letters, one from student Jacob Vieu, who wrote, ‘I’m glad you’re here.” The student thanked Lepage “for all the hardships you went through to keep the country free.” He shook Lepage’s hand.

The letters mean a lot, Lepage said. “It’s terrific. For veterans to think we’re remembered, it’s a high point for us.”

Lepage said he was at the gas station the other day wearing a cap indicating he was a veteran. “A high school kid comes up and says, ‘Thank you for your service.’ It makes you think.”

Navy vet Scott Honiker, whose grandson attends Tripp Middle School, agreed. “This is great for the young kids. It lets them see what life is about, gives them respect for the military.”

The Veterans Day assembly was organized by social studies teachers Mary Learned, Renee Davis and Mike Thibodeau. It allows students to thank veterans and understand “the significance of what people did historically for our country,” Learned said.

Saying Thank You: Kristyn Barcelou hands U.S. Army veteran John Arsenault of Turner a letter of thanks during the third annual Veteran’s Day Assembly at Tripp Middle School in Turner. Barcelou, an eighth-grade student, sang the national anthem during the event.

Photo by Daryn Slover/Sun Journal

“Thank you if it weren’t for you, our generation wouldn’t be here today.”

A hands-on day of activities followed the program. Students were encouraged to create displays, write thank you notes to veterans, make posters and create a mural. The mural, dedicated to veterans, was unveiled at the end of the day.

Photo by Patricia Thurston

Stitchers also known as our T-GALS have volunteered their time and material to create beautiful works of art they make from the heart. Then they present them to our veterans in the River Valley Area. This beautiful act has been going on for quite a few years at Post 24. Arlene is a Unit 24 Auxiliary member in Rumford. She leads a group of ladies who meet twice a week at Post 24 to create these quilts. Vietnam veteran, Donald Roach of Peru attended and received a handmade quilt presented by his father, Edward J Roach Jr, and Arlene Thibeault, director of The Giving Angel Lady Stitchers. This year the T-GALS have created more than two dozen quilts for local Vietnam Veterans. In previous years they have made and presented handmade quilts to WWII and Korean Veterans. They do not plan to stop until all our local veterans have been presented with a quilt.

Left to right, Rumford Auxiliary Unit 24 member and director of the T-GALS Arlene Thibeault, Rumford Post 24 members Edward J. Roach, Jr. and Donald Roach.

Photo by Patricia Thurston

Oxford Post 24 member and Oxford County Sheriff Wayne Gal-lant addresses Vietnam Veterans and their families at a ceremony held at Post 24 in Rumford on Dec. 8.

Photo by Patricia Thurston

VHA, VBA, the backlog and what makes a good claim. They received an information package containing fact sheets, presumptive conditions for Herbicide Exposure, Maine Veterans Service benefits booklet, and the current VA Benefits handbook as well as updates about the Camp Lejeune contaminated water, Gagetown, and upgrading of other than honorable discharges. Veterans also received an American Legion Military Service “Thank You” challenge coin. Additional seminars will be conducted in Mar. June, Sept., and Dec. of 2015.
Pride and Patriotism at Wiscasset High School Gives Stover Flag and Raises New One

Replacing an American flag in Wiscasset High School’s Stover Auditorium on Nov. 14, students and staff took the opportunity to honor the local education icon the gym is named for; hear some lesser known pearls of flag etiquette; and donate to the local American Legion post.

Wiscasset School Committee member and former Wiscasset selectman, school teacher and school administrator Eugene Stover received the retired flag; and American Legion Post 54 received a check for $200 the school raised for the new flag and for the post’s project to put up American flags in town.

“You have a nice bunch of students and faculty here. Thank you very much,” Post Commander William Cossette Jr. said at Friday’s assembly. He told students he was proud of them.

Stover said he will add the flag he received to others he has at home, including one his grandson Jeremy Main gave him after having it on board the Army helicopter he piloted while serving in Afghanistan. Main’s mother, Stover’s daughter Jeanne Main, attended Friday’s ceremony with her father.

Principal Cheri Towle said that, because the gym is named for Stover, and he has long served the schools and the town, he was the perfect person to receive the old flag. Deb Pooler, the high school’s technology coordinator and student council adviser, said she felt privileged to announce that the flag was going to Stover.

“He is somebody I looked up to as a kid,” she said.

“I’m humbly grateful that you present this flag to me,” Stover told attendees. “I will honor it always ... and I will speak of it proudly when people ask about it.”

Stover was Wiscasset High’s assistant principal in the 1970s when Boothbay Harbor-raised Stan Tupper, a former U.S. Congressman, gave the school an American flag that had flown over the U.S. Capitol. Tupper donated the flag in honor of his grandmother, Stover said.

The flag hung in the school gym (now Stover Auditorium) for about two decades before being replaced by the one that was retired on Friday.

Cossette explained to the students the retiring flag was to be lowered slowly, and the new one raised more briskly.

Cossette passed along other items of flag etiquette. He told students that the American flag should never be worn, such as sometimes seen when an athlete drapes it over his shoulders, but that clothes with the flag pattern are acceptable as long as no part of them was made from a flag.

Attendees of Friday’s assembly gave the new flag its first pledge of allegiance and observed a moment of silence to think of those serving in the U.S. military around the world, and their families.

By SUSAN JOHNS, Assistant Editor
Posted: Monday, November 17, 2014
www.wiscassetnewspaper.com

WHAT’S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 7

Veterans Day Ceremony: Wiscasset Post 54 Commander William Cossette, Jr., left, hands Wally Staples of Woolwich a certificate of appreciation, during a Veterans Day Ceremony in Wiscasset on Nov. 11. Staples is holding a rock memorializing PFC Andrew Small of Wiscasset, who died while serving in Afghanistan.

Boothbay Harbor Post 36 Receives Donation:
Alan Lewis of East Boothbay Methodist Church Men’s Club presents a donation to Bar Harbor Post 36 Commander Bob Raudenbush, right, on Dec. 18 at Sherman Hall, American Legion Post 36 in Boothbay Harbor. Monies are to be used for assistance to local Veterans.

WHAT’S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 8

Squadron 21 held a Thanksgiving Dinner at the Washington House Elderly Apartment Complex in Bath on Nov. 22 in which many assisted. Left to right (front row), Charolette “Kitty” Wing-Doyle holding Rylee Morton, Detachment 8th District Commander Al Morton, Erica Colburn, and Detachment Commander Scott Morton with Bryaunnah Colburn in front of him. Left to right (second row), Chris Gillespie and Squadron 21 Commander Ed Morton, Sr.
WHAT’S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 8 continued

Harpswell Post 171 held its eighth annual Christmas party for Togus VA long-term care patients on Dec. 12, with members of the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Coast Guard assisting patients at the pizza and lobster roll lunch and opening individual gifts afterward. Sixteen members of the USS Zumwalt crew attended the event. Lobster rolls were provided by Roy Knight, aka Santa. The Togus Veterans Village received a MacBook Pro for the community room. Best Buy Manager Ray Poulin received a plaque from Post 171 for his assistance with the major gifts over the last 8 years. Shown are Midcoast Veterans Council Cdr. & Past Post 171 Cdr. Roger Dumont surrounded by the USS Zumwalt crew. Not shown are Commanding Officer James Kirk and Command Master Chief Dion Beauchamp.

Harpswell Post 171

Xmas Party:


Photo by David Sosnowski

Benefit for Special Olympics Maine:

At Bath Post 21’s General Membership meeting, the Smith-Tobey Unit 21 presented Post 21 Commander Al Morton with a check for $500 for sponsorship of the Post 21 Lobster Dip Team to benefit Special Olympics. Left to right, PDP Kitty Doyle, Pam Atwood, Dawn Dreyer, Mary Barger, Lilly Stevenson, Post 21 Commander Al Morton, Ginny Chaput, Angela Frelk, and Unit 21 President Sue LaFlamme.

Photo by Gale Doyle

Harpswell Post 171 Member Dick Parks suggested delivering poinsettias during the Christmas Season to Post widows/widowers in both Harpswell and Brunswick. It was a great success and well received by all! Post 171 Cdr. Mike Doyle, left, and Jeanne Clark are pictured holding one of the many poinsettias that were delivered. Post 171 Adjutant Bob Webber also helped deliver the poinsettias to Post 171 widows residing in Brunswick.

Poinsettia Project:

Phippsburg Post 216 Commander Ken Kellogg, second from the right, accepts an “Award of Appreciation” on behalf of Post 216 for their contributions to the celebration events at the closing ceremony of the Town of Phippsburg’s 200th Anniversary Celebration on Dec. 13. These events included leading the towns first parade, hosting a “Veterans Appreciation Day and BBQ,” participating in the “Blessing of the Fleet and Boat Parade,” providing an Honor Guard at various events, assisting with the set-up and tear-down at major events, and assisting in parking at various events.

Photo by Mark Haskell

Benefit for Special Olympics Maine:

At Bath Post 21’s General Membership meeting, the Smith-Tobey Unit 21 presented Post 21 Commander Al Morton with a check for $500 for sponsorship of the Post 21 Lobster Dip Team to benefit Special Olympics. Left to right, PDP Kitty Doyle, Pam Atwood, Dawn Dreyer, Mary Barger, Lilly Stevenson, Post 21 Commander Al Morton, Ginny Chaput, Angela Frelk, and Unit 21 President Sue LaFlamme.

Photo by Gale Doyle

200th Anniversary Celebration:

Phippsburg Post 216 First Vice Commander Scott Miller, left, is presented the Department of Maine 100% Membership Award from Department First Vice Commander Ronald Rainfrette. The Post gained 6 new Legion members and 5 transfers in 2014 to bring the total post membership to 47 members.
WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 9

POW/MIA Ceremony: Gardiner Post 4 held their annual POW/MIA Remembrance Day Ceremony on Sept. 20 at which they presented a bracelet that had been worn by former Gardiner Code Enforcement Officer Claude Rounds since Feb. of 1971, but broke this past July. While in the Air Force in 1970, Claude had received a POW/MIA bracelet in remembrance of Lt. Terence Hanley, a Gardiner native whose aircraft was shot down while flying over the South China Sea on Jan. 1, 1968. The family of Lt. Terence Hanley was asked to come down front at the ceremony and was presented the bracelet by Master of Ceremony Bill Perry. Left to right, Terence’s brothers John, Post 4 member Steve, Jeff, Mark, and Terence’s sister Faith.

Barbara Kasiola of Pittston holds a U.S. Army flag during a funeral for a veteran July 24 at the Maine Veterans’ Memorial Cemetery on Mount Vernon Road in Augusta. Kasiola is a member of the Kennebec County Veterans Honor Guard, a volunteer group of veterans who, since 2003, have attended more than 1,000 funerals in Maine to bestow military honors.

Honor Guard Services: On a cold and rainy day Nov. 7, Augusta Post 205 members Herbie Mann, Jr. and George Bean (Pictured left to right), Augusta Post 205 Auxiliary member Elaine Brochu, along with Augusta Post 2 members Jim Palmer and Pat Eisenhart provided Honor Guard services at the re-dedication ceremonies presented by the Garden Club at the Blue Star Memorial Highway at the Civic Center Drive Veterans’ cemetery in Augusta. Pictured laying the wreath at the foot of the memorial are Garden Club officer Debra Burnham and First Lady Ann LePage.

Gardiner Post 4 Americanism Officer Roger J. Paradis, right, attended the Gardiner High School Sponsor Appreciation Assembly on Jan. 7, 2015. The Smith-Wiley Post 4 sponsors Gardiner High School Student Renee Barron, left, in her pursuit of attaining a scholarship to aid in the financial burdens of her first-year of college. According to Paradis, Renee is an extremely “pleasant and intelligent young lady.” This sponsorship is just another part of Post 4’s Americanism program.

Litchfield Post 181 Completes Renovations For Veteran’s Day: Litchfield Post 181 held a ribbon cutting ceremony as part of their Veteran’s Day ceremony on Nov. 11. Post 181 was awarded a $5,000 grant from the Home Depot Foundation in March of 2014 to renovate their bathrooms, reinforce stairs, update the kitchen facilities, and install new outside steps. The project has taken nearly 6 mo. to complete. The Post, along with donations from members, invested an additional $8,000 to complete the entire project. Those cutting the ribbon at the opening included Post 181 WWII, Korea, Vietnam, and OIF/ OEF veterans. Left to right, Home Depot Regional Manager Jason, Topsham Home Depot Manager Bruce, WWII Veterans Malcolm Harvey and Bill Quackenbush, Korean War Veteran George Perry, Vietnam Veteran and electrician for the project Ernie Keene, Post 181 Chaplain Russ Thayer, OIF/OEF Veteran and Post 181 Commander Deb Couture, project plumber Richard Pelletier, and project contractor Tom Valley.

Post 5, Bob Sweet proudly made a motion that Post 5 accept Keelan as a new member; Armand Dutil seconded the motion which was then approved unanimously. Keelan DeVogt, his parents Mr. and Mrs. Cory DeVogt, and his grandfather Bob Sweet were invited to Post 5’s regularly scheduled Jan. 5 meeting and were surprised by a Blue Star Banner and pin presentation. Keelan’s great-grandfather, Veteran Lionel “Shady” Breard, was an active Post 5 member and would be extremely proud that his great-grandson is keeping The American Legion membership in their generational family. Left to right, Post 5 Adjutant Carl Paradis, Post 5 Commander Ernie Paradis, Keelan DeVogt, Bob Sweet, and Mrs. and Mr. DeVogt.
WHAT’S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 9 continued

History Students at Monmouth Academy along with teacher Joselyn Gray presented a brief yet moving presentation of the biographical history of the Veteran in whose memory they walked to at the Veteran Monument on Main St. Dec. 12. Many of these veterans had given the last full measure of devotion in their service to their Country. Monmouth Post 204 Legionnaires and several of the Monmouth Fire and Police Department attended in support of the class. The color bearers were Post 204 Service Officer Chuck Shaw, Post 204 Finance Officer Arthur Esman, Post 204 Commander Tracy Gray, Post 204 First Vice Archie Wing, and Post 204 Second Vice Don Morin.

WHAT’S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 11

Stockton Springs Post 157 welcomed 50 members and their families to its Dec. 16 potluck dinner and post business meeting. Post 157 hopes to be doing this again, maybe even on a quarterly basis, as it was such a success.

Stockton Springs newest member Pam J. McCarley, a veteran of the Lebanon/Grenada war period, holding her Certificate of Initiation at the Post 157 Dec. 16 meeting. Left to right (in the background), Post 157 Chaplain Holliis Bagley, Post 157 Commander Langdon Chandler, and Post 157 Adjutant Lee Snyder, Jr. Who says that younger members won’t join if asked?

WHAT’S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 13

Darrell Savage Honored by Others that Served at Veterans Day Event

Darrell Savage has been part of area veteran celebrations and events for several years, serving as commander for the local American Legion Lincoln post and organizing a veteran’s honor guard.

During a special breakfast held at Region Three on Tuesday, Savage was presented with a certificate of appreciation for his efforts, taking him by surprise, he admitted later in the day.

"It just floored me," Savage said before speaking at Lincoln’s Veterans Day ceremony at the veterans monument on Goding Avenue.

The ceremony included the usual elements, including the laying of a wreath on the monument, singing by local Scouts and a salute fired by members of the honor guard, all emceed by Don Polk of Greater Lincoln Marine Corps League Detachment 976.

During a post-ceremony lunch at American Legion Post 77’s hall on Fleming Street in Lincoln, veteran Sheldon Hanington told those attending his reason for honoring Savage. "Darrell is a strong link to this community," he said in a brief speech. "I thought it was fitting to put something together."

The award was presented to Savage during an annual veterans breakfast held at Northern Penobscot Tech Region Three’s Lincoln headquarters on West Broadway.

Savage said that the veterans on hand were asked to move toward flags placed in the upstairs space before Hanington started speaking, culminating with the presentation of the certificate on behalf of area veterans groups.

"It was fantastic," Savage said later. He also credited fellow veterans for their efforts as a major factor in the presentation of the certificate.

"I couldn’t have earned the plaque if it wasn’t for the veterans behind me," Savage said.

Also speaking during the event were outgoing state legislators Jeff Gifford and Emily Cain. Gifford could not run for the state House of Representatives due to the State’s term limits law, while Cain was defeated by Bruce Poliquin for a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Both took time to thank veterans for their service and to the town for its support of veterans.

Also speaking at the event were Paul Shedd, Richard Moore, Brenda Hobbs and Elizabeth McTaggert, representing the U.S. Sen. Angus King’s office.

The wreath was made and donated by Creative Blooms of Lincoln, Savage noted, something the business also does on Memorial Day.

Lincoln’s Veterans Day Celebration: Veterans and guests enjoyed a free breakfast on Tuesday as part of Lincoln’s Veterans Day celebration. The event, also open to the public, was held at Northern Penobscot Tech Region Three.
District 13 continued

Howland Post 97 Annual Boys/Girls State Dinner. Left to right (seated), Justin Ringuette, Elaina Gilman, and Alex Thompson. Left to right (standing), Auxiliary Unit 97 President Gail Wallace and 13th District Piscataquis County Commander John Neel.

District 14

Greenville Post 94 Oratorical Winners. Greenville Post 94 held their Post Oratorical Contest on Jan. 15. Left to right, Post 94 Commander John Guerin, Fourth Place Winner Dakota Collins, Third Place Winner Connor DiAngelo, English Teacher and Advisor Alan Cartwright, Second Place Winner Spenser Lee, and Winner Keegan Cannell.

District 15 continued

Post’s National Colors: Calais Post 3 Commander Mike McLean had the honor of carrying the Post’s National Colors for the Opening Ceremony at the St. Stephen Community Arena on Nov. 1. The Ceremony was supporting Fallen Troops and Law Enforcement Officers in Canada, sponsored by the St. Stephen Legion, St. Croix Branch # 9. With all of the tragedy on both sides of the border, Veterans, Military and Law Enforcement Officers shall all come together to protect our borders. Post 3 Commander Mike McLean would like to thank the Canadian Forces for their invitation for this honor and for representing our Veterans and the Calais American Legion post. Left to right, Canadian Legion member Peter Giddens and Post 3 Commander Mike McLean.

District 16

Houlton Post 47 held a Welcome Back ceremony in which medals were presented to Post 47 Legionnaire (Vietnam Veteran, Marine Corporal) James Schools on Nov. 8, 2014. In attendance were First Lady Ann LePage, Lt. Col. Dean Preston (representing Maine BVS), Assistant Department of Maine Service Officer Dean Shelton, and District 16 Adjutant Duane Belanger. Left to right, Judy Sennett, First Lady Ann LePage, George Schools, Michael Schools, James Schools, Kenny Schools, Linda Bailey, and Maine Army Guard Lt. Col. Dean Preston.
### WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

**District 17**

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**Beals House Donation:**

American Legion Riders Chapter 147 members

- **Nancy Michaud**, **Diane Daigle**, and **Chaplin Barbara Morin** present **Carol Baker** with a monetary donation of $280 during their trip to Beals House on Fri., Jan. 16, 2015. Legion, Auxiliary and ALR members of Post 147 were happy to make the donations to this great Veterans cause. They will be continuing to ask for donations on behalf of the Beals House indefinitely.

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**Madawaska Post 147 Commander Greg Morin presents Carol Baker with a monetary donation of $602 during the trip to Beals House on Friday, Jan. 16, 2015. Legion, Auxiliary and ALR members of Post 147 were happy to make the donations to this great Veterans cause. They will be continuing to ask for donations on behalf of the Beals House indefinitely.**

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ATTENTION: NEXT DEADLINE IS APRIL 24

The deadline for material, stories and/or pictures to be submitted for consideration for use in the May 2015 issue of The Maine Legionnaire will be April 24, 2015.

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

Ineligible 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.

Photos should be clearly marked as to who’s who in the picture as well as who took the picture.

Anyone interested in submitting a guest editorial should contact The Maine Legionnaire business office at:
(207) 873-3229
or via email at:
legionme@mainelegion.org.

Augusta Post 205 Receives 100% Certificate: Department Commander Richard Graves, left, presents District 9 Commander Pat Eisenhart with a Certificate of Appreciation for Augusta Post 205 achieving 100% membership as of Dec. 31, 2014.


National Commander's Pin Incentive Program

During the 2014-2015 membership year, National Commander Mike Helm will award his National Commander pin to any American Legion Family member who obtains three new members or renews five members into The American Legion.

A new member is defined as any eligible person joining for the 2015 membership year who was not a member of The American Legion during the 2014 membership year.

Each member listed must be eligible for membership in The American Legion. Please forward names of S.A.L. members or Auxiliary members to your detachment or unit for use in their respective incentive programs.

To maintain the integrity of the National Commander’s pin incentive program, only one pin will be awarded per individual.

The certification form for this program may be submitted at any time after Aug. 30. Upon receipt, national membership staff will confirm the names and mail the pin directly to the person who earned it. Commander Helm's pin incentive program will end June 30, 2015, or when supplies are exhausted. For more information, please visit: www.legion.org/commander/pin

--Dispatch December 2014


Please visit http://www.legion.org/documents/legion/pdf/commanders_pin_certification_renewal.pdf for a certification form for renewing 5 members.

Flag Presentation: Post 86 Auxiliary Americanism Officer Deborah Small presents Department Commander Richard Graves with a flag at Mid-Winter Conference on Jan. 17. Gray Post 86 Adjutant Jason Hall looks on. The flag was flown over Iraq on Feb 12, 2005 in a VH-60 Black Hawk Helicopter from the 50th Medical Co.