I’m calling on you to make ‘Buddy Checks’

As active Legionnaires, you and I have an important stake in our time-honored mission, services and programs. Compassionate care for disabled veterans. Wholesome development of youth. Advocacy for a strong and appreciated military. Employment and education opportunities for those who have served in the U.S. armed forces. Effective response after natural disasters. Respect for the colors of our country. Honor for the fallen. And influence to advance the needs of veterans according to the values such as these:

- Strong America
- Honor for the fallen
- Education opportunities for those who have served in the U.S. armed forces
- Employment and assistance for disabled veterans
- Wholesome development of youth
- Advocacy for a strong and appreciated military
- Employment and education opportunities for those who have served in the U.S. armed forces
- Effective response after natural disasters
- Respect for the colors of our country
- Honor for the fallen
- Influence to advance the needs of veterans

This is not a membership campaign. It’s a comradeship campaign. The week leading up the Legion’s 100th birthday, March 11-16, is a perfect time to make the calls, but posts that have made other plans to celebrate the centennial at that time can choose another week in the centennial month if necessary. A Buddy Check toolkit, including scripts for Legionnaires to use when making personal contact, is available online at www.legion.org/membership/buddycheck.

Remember, this organization was formed a century ago around personal contact and engagement. This “Buddy Check” is about seeing how veterans are doing. To discover that, it takes personal engagement.

---www.legion.org Feb. 4, 2019

2019 American Legion State Oratorical Contest: The 2019 American Legion State Oratorical Competition was held Feb. 9 at Thomas College in Waterville. This year’s first place winner, representing District 1, was awarded to Marina Long of No. Waterboro, Me., 2nd from left. Miss Long, a Junior at Sanford Christian Academy, will represent Maine at the National Oratorical Contest April 5-7 in Indianapolis for a chance to win up to $18,000 in scholarships. Congratulations to all contestants who competed at the State level. Front, left to right, rep. District 3 Emily Farrington—5th place, State Oratorical winner, rep. District 1 Marina Long, rep. District 10 Caitlin McKenney—4th place, rep. District 7 Ciara Pitcher—6th place, rep. District 14 Ashley Bussell—3rd place, and rep. District 2 Lucas Wright—2nd place. Back, left to right, Oratorical Judges Dog Wallace, Jennifer Caron, Kurt Schaub, Sean Currie, and Kirk Thurston.

Maine American Legion Announces its 72nd Annual Boys State Program

The American Legion, Department of Maine is proud to announce the 72nd Annual American Legion Dirigo Boys State program. This year’s program will again be held at Thomas College in Waterville during the week of June 16–20. Every American Legion Post and all subordinate bodies should alert their membership to one of the finest youth programs in the nation.

The American Legion sponsors the Boys State program and we encourage all other groups and organizations to join in promoting the program through sponsorship of candidates to American Legion Dirigo Boys State.

We ask that the officers of your Post contact school principals or guidance counselors for assistance in this program. Make sure that your school officials are knowledgeable of The American Legion Dirigo Boys State program.

The tuition fee for the 2019 program will be $300 per student. Contact The American Legion Boys State, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0727, Tel: (207) 873-3229, or online at www.mainelegion.org or www.dirigoboysetState.com for application materials.

Thank you for your assistance in making the 72nd Annual American Legion Dirigo Boys State Program a success.

Legislative Committee Meet & Greet: Some of those in attendance at the Legislative Committee Meet and Greet held at the State House on Jan. 9. Left to right, Dept. Judge Advocate Jason Hall, member of Topsham Post 202 Joseph Obrin, Maine State Senator & member of Madison Post 39 Brad Farrin, Boothbay Harbor Post 36 Commander David Patch, Department Service Officer Carl Curtis, Dept. Adjutant Paul L’Heureux, Department 2nd Vice Commander Debra Couture, Dept. Assistant Service Officer Maureen Malley, Department 1st Vice Commander Matt Jabaut, Maine State House Representative Scott Cyrway, Dept. Special Projects Coordinator Amedeo Lauria, Dept. Area 4 Commander Gregory Couture, and Maine State House Representative & member of Lincoln Post 77 Sheldon Hanington.
Commander’s Comments

Retention: The Key to Membership Growth

Why do Veterans join The American Legion and not renew their membership the following year? Perhaps the best way to answer this question is to find out why they joined in the first place. If their reason for joining is realized during their first membership year, they will probably renew.

When we consider why Veterans leave The American Legion, we find what we call the three M’s of retention: Move – Mad – Mortality.

Mortality: We can’t do much about this one when our members report to post everlasting.

Moved: Operation Stay Active follows members from department to department so we might transfer those who moved or at least keep them renewed in their current Post but follow-up is necessary to assist the member in keeping his/her membership current.

Mad: This is where face-to-face contact is necessary. This is where the “rubber meets the road.” Who or what is the member upset with? The retention/membership worker must find this out before anything can be resolved. Most “mad” problems can be resolved by discussion and working it out with parties concerned. We must try!

The use of the three “I’s” of retention as described here will help prevent many of the situations that cause members to leave our ranks.

I – Initiate: Tell the story of The American Legion.
I – Indoctrate: Explain individual programs.
I – Involve: Find the interest area and involve the new member.

Many of the things Legionnaires take for granted are not fully understood by the new member. Whether it is a Post, District, or Department event, the content and what is going on. Activities: Who, where, what, when, why and how must be answered to all possible participants.

Involvement: We must get as many Legionnaires as possible involved in the many and varied programs of The American Legion without burning them out or scaring them off.

The importance of retention at all levels is obvious for solid growth not only in membership but also in programs and overall accomplishment. Just like the military, retention begins when the new member joins. This is accomplished with a good sponsorship program. Assign a sponsor to each new member until the Legionnaire feels knowledgeable and comfortable with their membership in The American Legion.

How Important Is Membership Retention? Approximately 11 per cent of Maine Legionnaires do not renew their membership each year. That’s how important it is. Not for the sake of numbers but for our impact on our elected officials and the impact on our many programs at local, state, and national levels.

Thank you for your service and the privilege of your time.

Americanism Report

Get a Scouting Troop, Pack or Den to assist in a Flag Folding Ceremony or invite the Scouts to assist your Post in a Flag Retirement Ceremony.

As the snow and ice leave, get out to the less able Legion member’s homes to do a little spring cleaning. How many Posts have an active School Award Medal Program or similar community services?

Many churches have a 4 Chaplain’s Service, as an example. Support a Town’s school or Recreation Department’s Baseball team at any level. Go to a Veteran’s home or a Care Facility for a visit. A box of coffee, juice and some approved snacks can go a long way in making someone’s day brighter, as well as yourself.

You can get a lot of mileage on the road to happiness for a few cents and a few minutes of time.

Thank you to the Americanism Committee for the great work that has been done, and the work that is ongoing.

A ‘First’ Look

American Legionnaires! I continue to be privileged to serve as your 1st Vice Commander for the Department of Maine. I hope you all had a wonderful holiday and I enjoyed seeing all of you who braved the weather and made it to our Mid-Winter Conference!

If you did make it, you would have heard about the incentive for our Goal to Grow targets. We are offering $1,000 to each district that meets or exceeds their Goal to Grow target! We also had some posts that have already made their post Goal to grow and made their 100 percent by Dec 31! Please also remember the other incentives that are out there like the $5 per member renewal for members that have not renewed since 2014, 2015, or 2016, or that the new National Commander’s pin now includes members that have renewed at least six members, in addition to those that have recruited at least three new members.

We continue to focus on membership and engaging our members as we prepare to deliver on our programs. Hopefully the outreach and engagement we have done so far helps all of you to get people working our programs with you. This will be a great time to showcase all the great work we do in our communities.

We as a community for our programs, now is the time to start shifting to looking at new members who are not familiar with our great organization. Please use all of these opportunities to talk to veterans about our programs and the meaning of membership. Our programs are a great way to get people aware of the great work we do and to recruit new members. Ask questions, applications and other information with you as you work these programs, or just use the Legion app! You can sign up new members right through it, or online through the Department webpage.

While we look to that transition, let’s not forget our current and expired members! By now, hopefully, all of your posts should have received a tool kit for the National week of calling or “buddy check” from national. The National Commander has launched a program to reach out and contact all of our members leading up to all of the 100th birthday celebrations. Please talk about this and plan for this initiative in each of your posts. The toolkit includes, how-to, scripts for the calls, and access to member lists and expired member lists. Please make every effort to connect and re-connect with all of our members past and present that have been a part of making the organization great and invite them to celebrate the 100th anniversary with us! If you have any questions about this program or getting it up and running, please feel free to reach out to me or the Department Headquarters.

I want to again thank each and every one of you for all of your efforts on membership so far this year. We are on the right track and have made every national target date so far. The last 10 or 15 per cent is the most difficult to achieve so we will need to leverage all of our resources and members to get there and I ask for your continued support and dedication to The American Legion, Department of Maine.

Our mission as a Department should be to support and enable our posts and districts to be successful, please let us know what you need. We are here to support you!

Helping Maine Grow!

COMANCER SCOTT PARADIS

What is the event most expected by the new Legionnaire before he/she will make a decision to attend. Words which must become action in order to retain members: Communication: Let everyone know importance of the event must be explained to the new Legionnaire before he/she will make a decision to attend. Words which must become action in order to retain members.

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NEC Update

I would first like to commend 2nd Vice Commander Deb Couture and Department Commander Scott Paradis for the content of the Mid-Winter Conference in Bangor recently. There was a lot of information given out. I think it was a great one to attend even if the weather wasn’t that good for traveling to attend.

As the Department of Maine’s representative at the National Executive Committee my main job and objective is to represent you, the members, on that committee. As I have continuously stated over the past years I am “Proud to Serve” the Department and you as its members.

As a result of being appointed as your

LLOYD WOODS

National Executive Committeeman, I have been assigned by the National Commander as Chairman of the Liaison Committee to the Veterans Employment and Education Commission. The staff member/Director assigned to the Commission is Joseph Sharpe, Jr.

During the last meeting of the NEC there were 27 resolutions considered, 25 were approved and 2 were tabled for further study. All the resolutions topics covered a number of areas pertinent to our work relating to veterans. However, two of the resolutions I feel were very important to us. The first was that since December 7, 1941 the United States has been involved in at least 12 known armed hostilities with a total of 1,600 casualties of our military. In order to recognize the time periods, a resolution has been approved and forwarded for approval that since we have been continuously engaged in a state of war from December 7, 1941 to such date in the future as the United States government may determine that
A ‘Second’ Look

It was wonderful to see so many of you at the Mid-Winter Conference in Bangor in January. We may have been racing against the snowstorm to finish the conference, but all went well and everyone made it home safely.

That was our last conference at the Spectacular Event Center. The owners are selling the building. They have done a great job for us for many years and they will be missed. We thank them for everything that they have done.

A lot of information was shared at the conference, as we “Showcased Our Programs”

Jack Dean Mitchell, the Chester L. Briggs American Legion Post 47 Chaplain, did an outstanding job singing the Star Spangled Banner. We received updates from speakers on Law and Order, Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee, Shooting Program at Brunswick Post 20, Legislative Committee, Constitution and By-Laws; updates from the Department Service Officers; and 1st Vice Commander Matt Jabaut and Judge Advocate Jason Hall brought us up to date on the Maine Legion College. Maine has graduated approximately 30 students in the first 2 classes and a third Maine Legion College class will be starting in March.

Please contact our Department Adjutant, Paul L’Heureux, if you are interested in attending. This is a class that you do not want to miss. The instructors (Matt, Jason, and Kelly) are fantastic and the information that you receive will help to guide you at all levels of The American Legion.

We were fortunate to have Major General Farnham, Commissioner of the Department of Defense, Veterans, and Emergency Management and the Adjutant General of the Maine Air and Army National Guard give an update on the Air Force and Army in Maine and LCDR Netzler, Commanding Officer of the Navy Operational Support Center in Bangor, give an update on Navy forces and deployments for Maine units.

Caleb Richardson, the 2018 Maine Boys State/Boys Nation representative presented on his experiences at Boys State and at Boys Nation in Washington, DC. Steve Moran also presented on the 2018 Boys State program at Thomas College.

Tommy Adkins, our Department Finance Officer, gave us all an update on Department Finances. Tommy is finishing up his tenure as the Department Finance Officer this year. Tommy also just completed an IRS audit with flying colors. He really knows how to make finances interesting. We will definitely miss Tommy’s personality and sense of humor when it comes to giving us financial updates.

Tommy, I thank you for a job well done and for your many years of service. You have done a great job.

The Department of Public Safety presentation and question/answer session on Beano and Games of Chance was a big hit. Both Jim Gade and Milton Champion from the Gambling Control Unit helped to explain the new rules and regulations.

Don Hands brought us up to date on the State’s 100th Anniversary activities and his Centennial Book. If you have not had a chance to read his book, you should. Don did a great job. The book includes information on Maine’s first 100 State Commanders. You can still order it through the Department for just $35.

As we approach the American Legion’s 100th Anniversary on March 15, 2019, I encourage all of you to come to the Hall of Flags at the State House on Friday, March 15th as the Maine American Legion 100th Anniversary Plaque is unveiled. The plaque will be located just outside the Governor’s Office next to the Women Veteran’s Plaque. The ceremony will take place at 3 p.m. that afternoon.

Thank you for all that you do for our Veterans. Have a wonderful Maine Spring.

On the Agenda

MARCH MEETINGS

District 5 – Oxford: Mar. 20, Norway Post 82, 7 p.m. mtg. and election of officers. Refreshments.

APRIL MEETINGS

District 2 – Cumberland: Apr. 9, Gray Post 86, District 2 Past Commanders and 1st District Presidents night, social hour 5 – 6 p.m., dinner 6 p.m. Meeting to follow and nomination of officers.

District 3 – Androscoggin: Apr. 14, Lewiston Post 22, 2 p.m.

District 5 – Oxford: Apr. 17, Rumford Post 24, 2 p.m. night supper, 7 p.m. mtg. and installation of officers.

District 6 – Knox: Apr. 20, Camden Post 30, 11 a.m.

District 9 – Kennebec: Apr. 10, Richmond Post 132, 7 p.m.

District 11 – Waldo: Apr. 21, Unity Post 50, 2 p.m.

District 13 – Penobscot: Apr. 7, Bangor Post 12, 2 p.m., refreshments served. Dist. 13 elections.

District 14 – Piscataquis: Apr. 20, Dover-Foxcroft Post 29, 12 p.m. luncheon, 1 p.m. mtg. Election of officers.

District 17 – N. Aroostook: Apr. 7, Eagle Lake Post 176, 1 p.m. meal, 2 p.m. mtg. Nominations.

MAY MEETINGS

District 2 – Cumberland: May 19, Scarborough Post 76, 2 p.m. Post Everlasting and election of officers. Installation to follow.

District 3 – Androscoggin: Discretion of incoming Commander.

District 5 – Oxford: May 21, W. Paris Post 151, 6 p.m. supper, 7 p.m. mtg.

District 7 – Lincoln: May 3, Damariscotta Post 42, 5:30 p.m.

District 11 – Waldo: May 19, Unity Post 50, 2 p.m.

District 13 – Penobscot: May 5, Howland Post 97, 2 p.m., refreshments served. Installation of officers.

District 14 – Piscataquis: May 18, Greenville Post 94, 12 p.m. luncheon, 1 p.m. mtg. Annual meeting and installation of officers.

District 16 – S. Aroostook: May 4, Mars Hill Post 118, 1 p.m. Meal is at discretion of post.

District 17 – N. Aroostook: May 5, Madawaska Post 147, 1 p.m. meal, 2 p.m. mtg. District elections.

JUNE MEETINGS

District 3 – Androscoggin: June 9, Auburn Post 153, 2 p.m.

District 6 – Knox: June 22, TBD, 11 a.m.

Money Matters

Just thinking out loud—W. Edward Deming, a world-renowned business consultant, once said, “It’s not necessary to change, survival is not mandatory.” That got me to thinking about our (The American Legion) situation with membership. In many respects we are in a similar situation with most social and fraternal organizations today in that our membership continues to drop, and that loss has an impact on our abilities to do things.

Deming also said, “It is not enough to do our best, we must know first what it is that we need to be doing, and then do our best”.

A Battalion Commander I worked for once asked if there was anything more worthless than doing something with great efficiency which didn’t need to be done at all.

Both are interesting thoughts which caused me to reconsider something my wife (Chris) said to me some time ago. I complained that we didn’t have enough members attend our Post meetings. She said, “strange, because every time you have something that needs to be done you never have a shortage of members or resources.” That is true, I remember thinking, and then gave it no more thought.

On another occasion, I was speaking with my wife about the Department membership goals, when she asked what the membership goals were back when The Pillars I would guess.

There it is, the point seems to be when there are things to do people come to do them. Maybe people like to do things not just be a number.

Perhaps our approach should be: Here is what we need to do. If you can, please join and help us get it done. As Chris often tells me, you get more things done when you follow your plan than when you must discover the path as you go.

RAMIFICATIONS OF REVOCATION OR CANCELLATION OF A

More on “MONEY MATTERS”, Page 5
The Adjutant Speaks

As we currently endure the winter weather that we claim does not bother us, we are heading into our busy schedule again. After much planning for our Winter Conference, Jan. 19 & 20, we were challenged with a “big storm” arriving on the evening of the 19th. We cancelled the Executive meeting for Sunday and started earlier on Saturday. Because of the distance many of our members had to travel, we did not expect the turnout that we had. Everyone arrived with a positive attitude and were willing to adapt to the schedule. We had some great speakers and presentations and most of all patience from those present. Our goal because the food had been purchased in advance, was to end the day’s activities and move right into the banquet room with little fanfare and get everyone on the road by 6 pm. Well after a prayer and a thank you to all that attended, we were all on the road by 5:30 pm, I kept track with a few people from York and a couple from Madawaska only to learn that everyone arrived home before the storm. Thank you to all that attended.

Next on the agenda is the State Oratorical Contest to be held in Waterville at Thomas College. It will be over before you receive this paper but I want you all to know that if you ever want to see a program that shows the talents of our youth in this country today, try to attend next year’s program. I guarantee that you will be energized and possibly enough to help promote this in your own Post.

Currently, we are working on our membership goal for the next 3 months. We are starting to see younger members at many Posts around the State, and our leadership within the State Officers, Area Commanders, District Officer and the Post level has changed and we are seeing the positives because of this. After meeting with many of the new members, we know what they look for within the organization. They look for what we are doing? Are we active at the Post level? Do we reach out to the community that we belong to? Are we proactive at the State and National level to make sure that we watch the legislation that is passed and how it affects Veterans’ issues? Imagine that, those principles were talked about at the formation of The American Legion. If you think about it, most of us were looking for the same things when we joined. So let’s see how you’re doing? Let’s look at the following 6 items: Post does not have any active programs; Post is not conducting regular or scheduled meetings; Post membership has declined at an alarming rate; Post leadership has lost interest or vision; Post is no longer providing for current local needs; and Post members aren’t willing to assume any offices. If that sounds like you, well it might be time to step up and call your State HQ and plan to have a Post Revitalization Team go in and help you turn things around. We can even bring in a Team from the Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion. And by the way, part of that team is made up of younger members.

I want to close by reaching out to those members currently reading this paper and have not paid their dues, why not? Do you realize what a difference we make in a Veterans life every day? How about for his or her family? What about the homeless Veterans that The American Legion works with? We were all involved in Maine with the issue of the United States Coast Guard not getting paid; and before we knew it, Legion Posts all over the State were having fundraising events to make sure we could help our fellow Veterans. They never needed guidance; they knew what to do. So, if you cannot get involved at your Post, how about doing the next best thing, PAY YOUR DUES and help make a difference today. And should you feel like helping a little more, sign up a new member. I know you have relatives and friends that could be long and let them know also that this is a TEAM effort and we do make a difference. Stay warm and remember to stay focused and keep moving FORWARD. Thank you for all that you do.

Judge Advocate

My current role has brought me to many Posts across the state of Maine. I find myself sitting in many Post meetings and though we all have access to the Post Officer Guide and Manual of Ceremonies, I find that the meetings are either punctual, professional, and short…… or unstructured, argumentative, and lengthy. If you are in the latter category, there is a tool that can help. A tool that may be stated in about 99% of the Post by-laws across the state……Robert’s Rules of Order. Here is a quick self-assessment tool. You should use Roberts Rules if:

- You find yourself wondering “where to go from here” during your meetings.
- Your meetings regularly stray from topics of conversation.
- Even short agenda’s take hours to accomplish.
- Your by-laws state you will use Roberts Rules.
- Your meeting minutes are missing important parts of previous meetings.
- You are looking to build capacity (do more – more efficiently).
- Your board has a member with a “strong personality” who feels the need to dominate all conversations (Hard to believe).
- Roberts Rules are a Road Map: Roberts Rules will help give your meetings structure by giving you a proven process to follow during your meetings. There are procedures within Roberts Rules that will help you run meetings in an efficient and professional manner. Just follow the process. Start using Roberts Rules and, in just a few months, your meetings will go faster and more tasks will get done.
- Meeting Minutes Made Easy: It can be difficult to track what is being said at a meeting when the conversation strays from topic. The Adjutant’s eyes start spinning and there are talks of getting a recorder to keep up with the side conversations and discussion. By using motions, in accordance with Roberts Rules, the tracking of meetings becomes easier to document and straying off topic, a common problem for many boards, becomes easier to recognize and correct.

Trust me, your Adjutant will thank you for the structure of a more formalized process.

- Everyone Has a Voice: The process of Roberts Rules ensures that everyone has an opportunity to speak on a topic. A good Commander will use Roberts Rules to check in with every person at the table and give them the chance to speak. It can also limit the amount of opportunities someone can speak on a topic. The idea of limiting the number of times members can speak on a topic has advantages:
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Scholarships Available

Applications are now available for the Department of Maine Children and Youth Scholarships, the Daniel E. Lambert Memorial Scholarship, and the James V. Day Scholarship. Any Post, individual or school who would like to receive a copy may obtain one by going online to www.ainp.com, or by contacting us via email at legionme@mainelegion.org or Tel. at 207-873-3229.

**Attention District Commanders and Post Adjutants**

The Maine Legion.org training sessions are available at State Headquarters. If you are interested in learning how to use the site, please call The American Legion Department of Maine 207-873-3229 Ext. 2 or email rachael@mainelegion.org to set up an appointment.

Training lessons last between 45 min. to an hour.
President’s Message

With the holidays behind us, I just want to say what an honor and humbling experience it was to attend and participate in the Christmas Gift Shop at Togus and at the South Paris Veterans Nursing Home. The interaction that we experienced with our veterans was overwhelming. I want to say thank you to all our Chairman’s for doing an awesome job. The Christmas Gift Shop is one of the most rewarding programs that the American Legion Auxiliary sponsors and makes me proud to be a member.

What a wonderful Mid-Winter Conference, Old Man Winter had nothing on our Department Adjutant Paul and Department Secretary Michelle with their quick work in rearranging schedules and working together to make sure everyone was able to leave earlier to make it home safe.

Update on our American Legion Family Project. I was blown away at the Mid-Winter Conference with the generosity and support that we have received. When we first announced our project to purchase Stryker Transport Chairs for the Out Patient Unit at Togus VA Hospital, our goal was to raise enough money to purchase four chairs at $3,000 each. Well, so far we have raised over $20,000! That’s right, we are currently working on our seventh chair and we are not stopping there. We are also working on making a deal that will have all four emblems of our American Legion family to be included on each chair. Again, thank you for your support and generosity.

In closing, let’s not forget that February marks the anniversary of the sinking of the USS Dorchester and when we honor The Four Chaplains who so selflessly did the ultimate sacrifice so others could live. During the month of February, there will be services remembering these four heroes though out the Department, please try to attend this very moving service if possible.

Thank you again for everything you do for our veterans. Yours in Service for God and Country. “WE CARE TO CARE”

Joan Caron
ALA Department President

The American Legion Family Department of Maine
Helping Togus VA Hospital & Maine Veterans

We are pleased to announce our American Legion Family Project for 2018-2019 for Legion Commander Scott Paradis, Auxiliary President Joan Caron, and SAL Commander Scott Morton! Helping our VA Hospital at Togus and Maine Veterans.

We are so fortunate to have one of the best VA Hospitals in the country, and what better way to pay homage to it, by giving back. Chief, Voluntary Services Director Jonathan Barczyk told us about “The Red Coat Ambassadors”; who are the volunteers who greet the Veterans at the Outpatient Unit. These volunteers have to wheel patients to different parts of the hospital, either for blood work or x-rays, and the wheelchairs they have are old and heavy and often have a hard time. So, he introduced us to the Stryker Transport Chair. When it comes to patient experience, details matter. The Stryker TC is designed to create a comfortable, welcoming and safe environment that speaks volumes to caregivers, patients and their family members. The investment in the well-being of patients and caregivers tells them you care about their comfort and safety—it tells them that they matter.

The American Legion Family goal is to raise enough money to buy at least 4 Stryker Transport Chairs for a total of $12,000. As a Legion Family, we should be able to do this to help our Veterans and volunteers. Please mail your donation, payable to The American Legion, Department of Maine, earmarked, “Family Project”, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901 or visit www.mainelegion.org and select the DONATE button.

Thank you for all you do for our Veterans, our military, our children and youth, and our community.

Remember “WE DARE TO CARE” because our Veterans matter.

Your Letters —

Scholarship Helps to Pursue Lifelong Dream

Dear Mr. L’Heureux and The American Legion Scholarship Committee,

My lifelong dream of being a Maine State Game Warden is moving forward, thanks to generous educational scholarships like yours. Since being named one of the recipients of The American Legion Department of Maine C&Y Scholarship, my dream is becoming a reality at Eastern Maine Community College. The $500 award gives me the opportunity to earn skills that will serve the community following graduation. Thank you personally for your generosity. Without scholarship patrons willing to support ongoing education, students such as myself would be unable to pursue advance degrees.

Your scholarship will help me earn credentials in Criminal Justice, which requires special training and coursework. My passion for law enforcement is matched only by my love for my community of which I am very dedicated. Once again, thank you for the vote of confidence and The American Legion Department of Maine C&Y Scholarship. I am committed to my education, the Criminal Justice field, and one step closer to becoming a Maine State Game Warden, thanks to your generosity.

Sincerely,
Cole LaPointe

Experience at Boys Nation Shapes Future

Commander of The American Legion, Dept. of Maine, Thank you to The Maine American Legion and its distinguished members for providing me the opportunity to be one of the Senators from Maine at the 2018 Boys Nation program. It was an experience that shapes a lifetime.

Truly, I have returned with not only a better understanding of government, but also more of a patriot and with a profound understanding of one of the week’s many phrases – Freedom Isn’t Free.

Thank you,
Hagen Jakab Wallace

Boys Nation Truly Amazing!

I want to thank the American Legion for sponsoring me to attend Boys Nation as well as providing me with T-shirts, Boys State pins and spending money. It was very generous of you. I had an amazing time in D.C. and it truly was “A week that shapes a lifetime!”

Sincerely,
Caleb Richardson

Clothing For Veterans:

With the help of members from 3 units (Oakland 51, Fairfield 14, and China 195), a local merchant (Laundry Lounge in Winslow), and community members, The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Maine collected and cleaned an enormous clothing donation to be used for our Veterans. NECA Ann Durost, left, and Dept. Auxiliary Secretary Michelle McRae, right, are seen here doing laundry at the Laundry Lounge in Winslow on Mar. 8.
Good morning. This office has been working very hard to start more of an outreach program. Our first attempt was the Fryeburg Fair last year. It was an eye-opening experience. We learned a lot from the event. Trying to have a program that is effective without disrupting our daily operations at the office is very difficult. I will be working with the department to try to come up with a solution to this issue. Other than that, we have been putting the pieces in place to at least start moving forward. We now have portable access to VBMS. This was a very important step because submitting a claim on a Veteran without seeing what is in the client file can be very dangerous for the Veteran. We have also secured a way to use direct upload instead of faxing all of our claims to the intact center. This step will also save us money every day. The next hurdle is the ability to digitally sign our forms. Once we have that figured out, we can have an effective Veteran’s outreach program. As an example, I could go to the Fryeburg Fair, sit down with a Veteran, have access to his VA record, and smartly submit a claim. This additional service can and will become something we will all be very proud of. The next issue that must be addressed is staffing for events. My vision going forward is to have a booth or display at all major events. My vision going forward is to have a booth or display at all major events. My vision going forward is to have a booth or display at all major events.

### Service Office Update

**SERVICE OFFICER CARL CURTIS**

**Post Office Box**

The Post Service Office of the Year. The Post Office Box is so that members of your post can contact us by phone or email. If you have any questions, please send an e-mail to carl.curtis2@va.gov. You do not have to be a post service officer to attend training. You just have to care and want to make a difference.

**PSO Contact Information.**

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

**DSO Newsletter.** To sign up for the newsletter, please email your contact information to carl.curtis2@va.gov and state in the body of your email if you would like your name listed in the newsletter as well as permission to link to your email address through the newsletter. The newsletter is emailed out monthly. The newsletter was developed as a way to stay in touch with Post Service Officers and to keep them up to date on changes and sources of information that may be of value to our veterans. The newsletter contains links to new information and to resources for veterans as well as to links to you, so you can better serve the members of your post. We are not doing mailings at this time.

**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 one 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.

Paper - VA Form 10-10 EZ.
Call 1-877-222-VETS (8387). Mon.–Fri between 8 am and 8 pm, EST.

**TOGUS VA WOMEN’S CLINIC.**

If you haven’t already heard, there is a women’s 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 ENHANCES THE PAPER TRAIL AND EVIDENCE IT WAS SUBMITTED!** You can either mail it or drop it off in the office!

**DSO CONTACT INFORMATION.**

We are located at Togus VA Medical Center, Building 205, Room 318. You can contact us by telephone at 207-623-5726, Fax at 207-621-4821, or by email at maureen.malley@va.gov, or julie.kern@va.gov. We are here to assist you Monday through Thursday, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm, on Friday the hours are from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. 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 AREADISTRICT OR SPECIAL EVENT.** If you are interested in having us speak at your area or district meeting or event, just contact us to set up a time and date! Requests are handled on a first come first serve basis subject to the availability of travel funds. Please set aside at least 30 minutes of your agenda for the presentation.
The Boots

They will protect your feet as you carry your weapons, bags and fatigued bodies across the mountains, deserts, oceans and more. These are the same boots peaking out from under the white cotton cloth of a soldier just killed in the battlefield. The same boots standing atop a makeshift memorial holding the rifle and dog tags of our sister who just paid the ultimate sacrifice. These are boots of a United States Veteran.

All of us wore these boots and stood proudly taking the same oath to defend the Constitution of the United States of America under the Red White and Blue of Old Glory. There is no person more proud than a Veteran wearing those Tall Black Boots. As each of us moved through our military careers, we traveled the world. We saw the beauty the world had to offer. We saw the terror and awful sights the world also offered. Those boots stood witness with us. As we fell, they fell, as we advanced, they advanced.

When we deployed, those boots deployed with us; we never left without our boots. We left our husbands and wives, our children, and friends. Over and over we left to stand the endless watch of freedom wearing those tall black boots.

As time progressed, each of us were ordered down a different path. Some of us injured on the outside and lost or maimed our limbs. Some of us injured our backs and necks. Some of us burned unrecognizable, while some of us received mental injuries. All while wearing the same boots as our brothers and sisters.

Some of us were unknowingly exposed to agents and poisons resulting in cancer, and diseases with no cure, all while wearing those boots.

Some of us received injuries so great, that those boots had to be put on a shelf below a flag, never to be worn again.

The one thing that stands true is those Black Boots were worn by every United States Veteran, fighting to defend our country. It doesn’t matter what branch of service, it doesn’t matter if they were on the feet of a man or a woman, young or old. At one point they were laced up and cared for with pride like no other.

Our disabilities may all be different and not always seen on the outside. They were all acquired performing the same mission, while wearing those same tall black boots.

So next time you go to judge that disabled Veteran that looks “fine” on the outside, take a moment to look at his or her feet and remember. At one time, he or she strapped up those boots for your freedom and is now paying the price with no regret. God Bless America.

Mother & Son Memorial Day Celebration: American Legion Department of Maine Sgt.-At-Arms Kelly Ela, left, with her son, Nathaniel Elsaesser, a future Legion Rider Chapter 155 and Maine, honor the 2018 Memorial Day Ceremony held in Naples.
Coast Guard Keeps Us Safe, Despite Unnecessary Shutdown

The men and women proudly serving in the U.S. Coast Guard were like hundreds of thousands of other federal employees called up in a 35 day partial government shutdown that was both reckless and avoidable. Despite being voluntarily em-broiled in Washington’s squabbling, Coast Guard personnel from Eastport, Maine to Kodiak, Alaska upheld their duties to protect our country and continued to patrol our waterways and coastline.

Thankfully, with the shutdown over, Coast Guard members will receive the paychecks they missed; I was happy to cosponsor the bill to ensure federal employees received the pay they were due. But it should never have to be this way. Over the course of the shutdown, we heard stories from Coast Guard families who were forced to take out loans to pay their bills and care for their children. Others still had to rely on food pantries and the good will of neighbors and community members to meet ends meet.

This is why we cannot and must not shut down the government for temporary political gain, and it’s why I repeatedly called on the President to take yes for an answer by accepting the bipartisan agreement that overwhelmingly passed the Senate before Christmas and immediately re-open the government. I supported increased border security, because I believe it is necessary for national security, but those who protect our shores and border shouldn’t have to suffer as this complicated policy debate unfolds.

As we move on from this unnecessary political maelstrom, I urge my colleagues to remember the damage this shutdown has caused for hundreds of federal employees and for thousands more federal contractors. We cannot take for granted the vigilance and dedication of the U.S. Coast Guard who, in the face of adversity, continued to stand watch.

As a senior member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I advocated for the inclusion of $181 million for the National Family Caregiver Support Program in the 2019 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill that was signed into law in September in-cludes $865 million – an increase of $369 million over the amount requested in the administration’s budget – for the VA Mission Act, which I authored that will establish a coordinat-ed strategy to support family caregivers.

In March of 1919, just four months after they won the peace that ended World War I, veterans of the American Expeditionary Force gathered in Paris for the first American Legion caucus, and that great organization was chartered by Congress before year’s end. Among the American Legion’s first accomplishments was leadership in establishing of the U.S. Veterans Bureau, the forerunner of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

A century later supporting our Veterans and those who serve today remains one of America’s “hidden heroes” – the 5.5 million family caregivers who provide essential daily care to spouses, children, parents, and other loved ones who bear the wounds of war physical, emotional, and financial well-being to do so.

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In addition, following my advocacy, the 2019 Military Construction and Veteran Affairs Appropriations bill that also was signed into law in September in-cludes $865 million – an increase of $369 million over the amount requested in the administration’s budget – for the VA Mission Act, which I authored that will establish a coordinat-ed strategy to support family caregivers.

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While it is true that Congress passed this legislation to expand access to health care services to all Veterans, and I look forward to continuing to work with the VA on its implementation in Maine.

Last November, I was honored to receive the first Congressional Caregiver Champion Award from the Elizabeth Dole Foundation, the preeminent organization empowering and supporting our military caregivers.

Former Senator Elizabeth Dole began the Foundation after she came to know family caregivers in 2011 when her husband, wounded World War II hero and former Senator Bob Dole, was hospitalized at Walter Reed. The Foundation’s Hidden Heroes campaign brings vital attention to the untold stories of military caregivers and provides a network for military caregivers to connect with their peers and access vital resources.

It was a particular honor to be presented with that award by Maine’s 2017 Dole Foundation Caregiver Fellow, Mar-jorie Pennington, whose husband, Mat-thew, was grievously wounded in Iraq. Her words describe the dedication of our family caregivers: “He fought for our freedom, and I will always fight for him.” These patriots caring for a wounded war-rior are among America’s hidden heroes and they need our support.

Supporting Military Caregivers, America’s “Hidden Heroes”
Kittery Legion Post is Reactivated
Posts Need to Change with the Times to Survive

Henry Wallingford was born on Mar. 9, 1893 in Rochester, New Hampshire. By the 1900’s, he was attending school and living with his uncle, Samuel A. Jackson, in Kittery, Maine. By all accounts he became a well-respected and responsible young adult. He owned his own motorcycle and worked for B & M Railroad in the roundhouse. He joined the Riverside Lodge of Oddfellows in Kittery on Oct. 5, 1914.

He answered the nations call to war on May 28, 1918. He was a Private and served with the American Expeditionary Forces. He was killed in action on Nov. 28, 1918. His gravestone reads his quote: “I realized that this might happen, but it is all for a good cause, and I am glad that I came.” As the first casualty of the war from Kittery, Maine, he became the namesake of its American Legion Post.

During World War II, Keith Harris was an aviator and the son of prominent local Pastor C. Basil Harris. He was declared missing in action and later lost. He was an aviator and the son of prominent American Legion Post.

The Post had high and low points of its long life. It was a particularly low point and the local home for traveling service members. Itself was opened to be a home away from home for traveling service members. As parades and flag placements. The Post Legion Baseball teams and the local Boy Scouts, sponsored a block party where they featured an American Legion Baseball team and the local Boy Scouts. Radios were donated for Veterans at the hospital at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. On Aug. 1, 1941, the Post sponsored a block party where they featured an “iron lung” they had bought for the community.

Of course, the Post participated in Veterans and Memorial Day exercises such as parades and flag placements. The Post itself was opened to be a home away from home for traveling service members.

The Post had high and low points of participation over time. The late 1960’s was a particularly low point and the local barber, Roger Gauthier, kept the post alive – at least on paper. Hearing of this predicament; Vietnam Veteran Douglas Burnell accepted the challenge to rejuvenate the Post.

Douglas Burnell joined the U. S. Navy in 1946. He served on the USS Chadron PC-564, (a sub chaser), as an electrical engineer. He was discharged in 1951 and entered the CB reserves in 1966 where he went to school for diesel engine and was put on fire fighting and damage control duties as part of the Reserve Mobile Construction Battalion building bases and airfields in Vietnam. He was recalled to active duty on May 13, 1968 and served as a First Class electrician.

His ribbons and awards are numerous including: Combat Action Ribbon; Navy Unit Commendation; Meritorious Unit Citation; Naval Reserve Meritorious Medal; Vietnam Service Medal; Vietnam Presidential Unit Citation; Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation; Civil Action Color; Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device; and M-16 expert medal.

In addition, he was involved in Civic affairs as a member of the Elks Club, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers financial secretary, and the local Veterans of Foreign Wars. He served as Parade Marshal for several years.

I interviewed him and asked him what he remembers about the Post. He told me the Post “did a lot for the teens” They could hang out and play pool. Once again, the Post had become a focal point in the community. Friday night dances were very popular; cost $4 and were held for the teenagers, some of which would help clean up the Post for the Saturday night socials. The Saturday night socials were an adult affair with as many as 120 people attending. There were New Year’s Eve parties, Halloween parties, and Costume parties. The Post held Bingo contests. The Post Auxiliary was very active having as many as five or six ladies in the kitchen making dinners.

As the Post was a rather large building, it came with a rather large heating bill which the Post was behind on because of the lack of fundraising events and member participation for most of the 1960’s.

Rejuvenating the Post proved to be very difficult and here is where we as Legionnaires could learn from the eventual demise of the Post. Commander Burnell was “practically an outcast” in the Post as he was a Vietnam Veteran or a “new kid on the block” as some others would say. Many members were resistant to any change.

Most World War I Veterans were stalwart in their positions. They viewed Post social activities such as the dances and Saturday socials as “liabilities” and not something the post should be involved in. They, of course, didn’t participate in these activities leaving more work to the few. For their part, most World War II Veterans saw the activities as money makers and were somewhat supportive yet the two factions could not get along. Add to this, many were unhappy having a Vietnam Vet as Commander.

The different factions caused a constant and unpleasant churn in the Post. The Post was no longer a fun place to be. Some members felt the Post lost its identity when they couldn’t get their own way. When I asked Past Commander Burnell why the Post shut down, he simply answered, “People were tired of arguing – people stopped coming.” I then asked what could be learned from his experience that might help other Posts and Leaders. He thought for a moment and answered, “We need to re-main principled but change with the times.”

Submitted by Donald G. Hands
Dept. of Maine 100th Anniversary Chairman

Steps for Submitting your Post History:
1. Before you begin, you will need to have some information ready to be uploaded to the National site. Continue only if you nameake(s) or Post/District First Commander, and know history if available.
2. Collect these items and write up in advance so that they can be uploaded. Any additional information needed is typed directly on the site.
3. When you log-in, retain your log-in information, so you can go back to the site for edits and additions.
4. Go to: www.legion.org/centennial
5. Scroll down to: “share your history” (about half way down the site)

By David Tangany
District 2 Adjutant

100th Anniversary Update: 100th Anniversary Committee Chairman Donald G. Hands gives an update on the 100th Anniversary Celebration to those attending the Annual Mid-Winter Conference in Bangor on Jan. 19.

Photo by Jeffrey Stevenson

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Photo by Jeffrey Stevenson

Steps for Submitting your Post History:
1. Before you begin, you will need to have some information ready to be uploaded to the National site.
2. Provide a brief history of nameake(s). Paragraph or two.
3. Post/District First Commander, and brief history if available.
4. Post/District significant individual(s) (historical) and history.
5. History of the Post/District (narrative).
6. Photos optional but great if you have them.
7. Collect these items and write up in advance so that they can be uploaded. Any additional information needed is typed directly on the site.
8. When you log-in, retain your log-in information, so you can go back to the site for edits and additions.
9. Go to: www.legion.org/centennial

Scroll down to: “share your history” (about half way down the site)
Bits ’N Pieces

Rockland Post 1

In the last seven years 175 quilts have been presented to Veterans who have served during war time on foreign soil.

Squadron 1 gave three $500 scholarships in January to three deserving high school graduates.

Gardiner Post 4

Gardiner Unit 4 donated two bags of gifts to the Betsy Ross House. Also they went shopping for three veterans for Christmas.

Caribou Post 15

Caribou Post 15 for their donations of $50 to Camp Sun Shine, $50 to Girl Scouts, $50 to American Heart Assoc., $50 to St. Jude, $50 to Salvation Army, $50 to Memorial Day Foundation, $50 to Hope & Justice, $400 to Caribou Veterans Home, $100 to Angel Flight, $25 to Camp Capella, $125 to Leadership, $200 to Breakfast for Vietnam Veterans, $50 to United Veterans of Maine, $75 to Holy Rosary Blanket Ministry, $50 to Maine Blind Camp and $50 to T.A.M.C. Survivor Health Care.

South Portland Post 35

Post 35 delivered thirteen baskets to the Vet Center in Portland and seven to the Coast Guard base in South Portland. Personnel at these locations move the boxes on to needy Veterans. A portion of the cost is a budgeted item in the Post budget and about 35 percent of the funds are donated. Items in the baskets include a 8 – 10p frozen turkey, yams, potatoes, squash, carrots, celery, canned vegetables, sugar, flour, graham crackers, cranberries, cake mix with frosting, Jell-O and pudding and many more items including apples, tangelos and bananas.

Madison Post 39

Madison Post 39 spent approximately $3,000 for boots and coats for Madison and Carrabec students. Thanks to all the businesses who supported this project.

Thank you to Luke Perkins, a junior at Madison Area Memorial HS, who performed the National Anthem and played taps on the trumpet at the Veterans Day Ceremony.

Unit 39 member Maxine Dube has mailed out $20,346.96 worth of coupons over the summer. Thank you to Maxine and Barbara Wyman for their hours of gathering and cutting coupons. Thank you to all who donated coupons.

Unit 39 for their donations of $50 to a family who lost their home due to fire, $50 to the Senior Citizens Thanksgiving dinner, $300 to the Gift Shop at Maine Veterans Home, Augusta, $50 to the President’s project, $50 for Comfort Items for VAVS at Togus, $30 each to three Girl Scout Troops, $50 to sponsor an Auxiliary member running for Mrs. Maine, $50 to a Jr. Auxiliary member for her American Heritage trip, $25 to Cedar Ridge Resident’s Council in memory of Unit 39 Jean Fortin, $10 to Camp Capella, $50 worth of items for Camp Tall Pines, $100 to a Legionnaire member and family who lost their house in a fire, bought Christmas gifts for two Veterans at MVHA and for three members of Madison Post 39 who are in nursing homes for $143, $50 each month for comfort items at Togus for December and January and $50 to NEADS in memory of Colonel. They also mailed out care packages to two of their deployed Legion members. Local food cupboards will be the recipient of $700.

Squadron 39 donated $500 to the Waterville Chapter Maine Home for Little Wanderers, $500 to the Travis Mills Foundation and $150 to Wreaths Across America. They also helped defray the cost of a Junior member’s up-coming Heritage Tour trip and allocated a $250 scholarship to a senior at Madison High School.

Pembroke Post 59

Pembroke Post 59 donated $1,000 in debit cards to the Coast Guard in Eastport.

Berwick Post 79

Berwick Post 79 for their donations of $400 to the Berwick Fuel Emergency Fund, $200 to the Table of Plenty, $50 to the Somersworth-Berwick Food Pantry, $100 to the North Berwick Bethel Chris- tian Church (Christmas Project), $100 to the South Berwick Community Food Pantry, $30 to the Dover, NH Police Department (Christmas Baskets), $35 to the Rollinsford, NH Police Department (Christmas Baskets), $150 to the Lebanon Union Free Will Baptist Church (Christmas Baskets), for a total of $1,065 in donations to area charities. These monetary donations were made possible through the Post’s annual Fall raffle and the generous donations of raffle items from Maine and New Hampshire area businesses.

Windham Post 148

Each Wednesday Post 148 collects non-perishable food items to be delivered to the Portland VET-CENTER on Thurs- day to support the homeless Veteran popula- tion.

Windham Post 148 Commander Mel Greener received a National Recruiter Hat Pin at the last Awards and Recognition night.

Windham Unit 148 supported the Vet-Coffee program by a donation of two $100 Hannaford gift cards to help defray the cost of donuts and fruit for the weekly event.

American Legion Baseball Important Notice

The American Legion Baseball Committee, Department of Maine has announced that any American Legion Post, town or high school wishing to enroll a team in American Legion Baseball in Maine during the 2019 season must do so by April 1, 2019. Anyone interested in having a team, should contact State Director David Gray at dgray_103@hotmail.com or call 778-4375.

For more information go to www.mainelegion.org. Click on “Programs” and toggle to “baseball”. See “registration open for the 2019 American Legion Baseball season”.

The mandatory Senior Legion State Meet- ing will be held on April 28, 2019 at 10 a.m. American Legion Headquarters, 5 Verti Dr., Winslow, Maine. All teams must have a representa- tive present at this meeting.

The American Legion Baseball Scholarship

In 2018, The American Legion awarded $22,000 in scholarships to deserving players. Each Department Baseball Committee may select a player from their Department to receive this scholarship. The American Legion will award several scholarships this year depending on the number of applicants and interest earned from the trust fund.

Award Amounts

Department Baseball Scholarship

Winners receive $500.

Each certified Department Baseball scholarship winner shall be considered for The American Legion All-Academic Team sponsored by Diamond Sports, annually.

Eight players selected by a scholarship selection committee at The American Legion World Series will receive an additional $2,500 scholarship.

2019 Legion Baseball Registration Now Open

Returning coaches may renew their teams or register new teams. New coaches should contact their department’s chair- man to find out more information about state- specific rules and deadlines.

Registration will run through the early deadline on May 15. Teams registered after May 13 will be subject to $200 late fee through the final deadline on June 1.

Each state may set an earlier deadline for registration, however.

Teams registering in 2019 will spend the same amount in national fees and ad- ministrative fees as they did last season, while only spending $6 more for insur- ance.

Fees for senior teams will remain $50 for national registration, $35 for adminis- trative fees and either $155 for season personal accident or $225 for year- round coverage. General liability costs increased by $6 to $106. Fees for junior teams will remain $25 for national registration, $35 for adminis- trative fees and either $130 for season personal accident or $185 for year- round coverage. General liability costs increased by $6 to $74.

State fees, if applicable, will vary by state.

To learn more about your specific department’s state fees and deadlines, contact your department chairmen.

For more information on Legion Baseball, visit www.legion.org/baseball.

Insurance purchases will be available after Jan. 15.

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www.legion.org

Jan. 1, 2019
Sixth Annual Women Veteran’s Luncheon a Huge Success

Rumford Post 24 along with support from the Women Veterans Advisory Committee held their 6th Annual Women Veterans Luncheon in October. Even though the weather was not the best, it was once again a huge success. Our community and members are the best. As always, they donated toward our free giveaways. Dunkin Donuts provided coffee and donuts. Hannaford gave a gift card toward our cake. So many businesses and personal donations were given for this event.

Rumford Post, Unit and SAL 24 volunteers again gave so much of their time and are always the best at supporting our luncheons. Valerie, Carol, Rorrie, Joy B. Keith, Sue, Pam, Renna, Jo, Kirk and Jessica, your endless hours of volunteering are truly appreciated. Our Reiki volunteers Birdie, Kim, Kathy and Rodney were amazing. Diane did an amazing job leading our Paint N Take. Jan and Elizabeth led our book group (Poetry in Motion) and shared. It was amazing. Claire Starnes shared her book and spoke on her Vietnam experiences. Michelle brought her essential oils and explained how they can support us. Senator Angus King was our guest speaker. He joined us for lunch and addressed our women Veterans then opened it up for discussion. Our Junior Girl Scouts 910 was as usual truly amazing performing the National Anthem and other songs. The Scouts brought homemade cards and also helped serve lunch.

Information tables were set up by TOGUS American Legion Service Office, Vets Center, Bruce Poliquins’ and Angus Kings’ office.

Thank you to all the Women Veterans Advisory Committee members who also attended and supported this event.

A special thank you to 1st Vice Commander Matt Jabaut and Americanism Officer Alfred McKay for attending and helping with dishes and clean up.

We had a total of 39 women Veterans in attendance which was not bad considering the weather we had. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all who supported this event. Without your community and personal support, this would not be possible.

Patricia Thurston
Women’s Advisory Women Veterans Action Committee Chairwoman

Should the Cadet Nurse Corps be Recognized as Veterans?

“They saved lives at home, so others could save lives abroad”. This quote is etched on the plaque at the Eisenhower Memorial Plaza in East Meadow, New York. This plaque was created to honor all those who served in our Cadet Nurse Corps.

The U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps was created by Congress on June 15, 1943. President F.D. Roosevelt later signed into law on July 1, 1943. The Corps began in 1943 and ended in 1948. Approximately 124,000 women graduated from the Cadet Nursing Corps.

When World War II began, those who were already trained as nurses were transferred to military service. This created a shortage here at home. The Cadet Nursing Corps was created to provide enough nurses for here at home while other nurses were sent away during World War II. This program allowed all who were interested to apply no matter what their race was.

Any woman between the ages of 17 to 35 could apply as long as they were in good health and had graduated from a high school with good accreditation. If applicants were accepted, they were then eligible to have their tuition, books, uniform, as well as receiving a stipend. In order to receive this they had to agree to serve and provide services throughout World War II. Cadet Nurses came from all walks of our entire nation. There were many reasons for wanting to become a Cadet Nurse, but the most important was because their country needed them. This program was considered the largest of the federal programs. This program provided a way for young women to serve their country. They did this in uniform and without being discriminated against. The Cadet Nurse Corps worked stateside and their efforts were extremely important to our war effort. They took care of our soldiers returning home that needed medical treatment. The Surgeon General, Tomas Parran Jr., told the U.S. House Committee on Affairs in 1945 “We cannot measure what the loss to our country would have been if civilian services had collapsed, any more than we could measure the cost of failure at the Normandy beaches.”

As of today our Cadet Nurse Corps are not recognized as Veterans. They do not receive benefits that others do who have served our country. How can this be okay? I find it puzzling that these women served our country, wore uniforms and to this day have not been given Veteran status. I realize that they did not go overseas. In the words of Amedeo Lauria, “One Team One Fight”. To me this statement means that, it should not matter where they served as long as they served their country. We all joined for one reason and that is to support the United States of America.

Several bills have been filed in Congress over the past few decades. Nothing so far has worked to help these women. Senator King shared that the Senate passed his resolution honoring the 75th anniversary of the Cadet Nurse Corps. It is wonderful to honor these women but they want more than that. Doris Kent of Green City, Mo. wrote a letter to President Trump stating “I believe that the women who served in the United States Cadet Nurse Corps 1943-1948 should receive full veteran status.” Kent’s daughter Mary Riley shares “My mom said at one time they were Veterans without benefits,” Riley said. “Well, that’s not really a Veteran.” I personally have to agree. “Harry S. Truman told our superiors that we would earn such benefits,” Kent wrote. “Unfortunately, that was not the case. I stood by my husband’s side while he received the honor, recognition, and benefits of being a Veteran for over 65 years, while I received no such recognition.” Doris Kent passed away on Jan. 5, 2019. She died receiving no Veteran’s benefits and no military honors at her funeral service. This in my opinion is a disgrace.

Our Veterans of WWII came home to a strong health care system due to these women serving in the Cadet Nurse Corps. They received critical care by these nurses. They wore their uniforms with pride and were promised they would receive military benefits. My answer to the question would be “yes”, I believe they deserve the honor of being recognized as a Veteran. My hope is that someday they will receive full Veteran status.

By Tricia Thurston
Women’s Advisory Women Veterans Action Committee Chairwoman

Women Veterans Committee Update: Women’s Advisory Women Veterans Action Committee Chairwoman Patricia Thurston speaks on Women Veterans to those in attendance during the Annual Mid-Winter Conference in Bangor on Jan. 19.
A DIFFERENT VIEW...

CHANGING PEOPLE’S PERCEPTIONS ABOUT THE AMERICAN LEGION

“There may be only one reality, but there are many perceptions of it.”

As Legionnaires, we are or should be very concerned about the public perception of our Posts. The more involved you are with your Post – the more you realize the good your Post does. I believe that most Posts do good work and support the Four Pillars of The American Legion. Remember, you and your Post are where people get their perceptions about the American Legion.

Still, the public perceptions of our Posts are sometimes misunderstood. How many times have you heard such comments as?

“I wouldn’t go to the Legion – all they do is drink alcohol.”

“That Post is dead.”

“My Dad was active but the Post doesn’t do anything anymore so I didn’t join.”

“Nobody ever asked me to join.”

Or worse yet:

“American Legion Post – I didn’t know this town had one.”

As Legionnaires, it is our responsibility to care for the reputation of The American Legion. There are steps we can take that do just that. Let’s look at a few of them.

If your Post has a bar; maintain an atmosphere that doesn’t tolerate over indulgence. Over indulgence is not good for the drinker, will eventually get the Post negative publicity, and possibly even sued. As a Legionnaire – it’s a good idea not to drink alcohol with your hat on. Something as simple as a well-meaning friend could put your picture on social media and inadvertently feed the perception of alcohol abuse at the Post.

Make it obvious that your Post is not “dead”. Schedule activities at the Post and encourage members to bring guests. Wear your hat or uniform to appropriate public events. Develop a close liaison with community leaders such as the mayor, police chief, and other community organizations. Invite them. Have someone in the Post develop a good working relationship with the press. It doesn’t have to be the Commander but he or she would be the ideal person. I am speaking from my experience; if the press knows who you are, you can develop credibility – they will work with you.

On the subject of the press, let them know when you are doing a community service or holding another community interest function. Most everyone knows you will be there for Veterans Day, Memorial Day, and parades. I am talking about other activities such as visiting nursing homes, sending out care packages, and donating money to charities. Make sure you have a sign identifying your Post and contact information. While we do not do these services for the personal recognition, the press received can go a long way to disprove the perception that the Post “doesn’t do anything anymore”.

When I hear, “Nobody ever asked me to join”, I am generally surprised. It may be that someone has asked this Veteran in the past but it wasn’t clear to him or her and the opportunity was soon forgotten. In any case find ways to reach out to Veterans in your area. My Post puts informational tags on windshields of Veteran’s cars. You may get these tags through the Department of Maine. When we have Post functions or go to community functions, we will have a few applications on us – just in case. I printed out a business card that says “Meet me at the Post” and gives meeting times and our location. In addition, go on www.legion.org and print out meeting notices you can put your Post information on and hang up in supermarkets, libraries, and town offices. Remember to ask permission first.

These are behaviors that will posture us well in our second hundred years of service to God and Country. If you follow these suggestions, eventually you will hear less and less of “American Legion Post - I didn’t know this town had one and more of “How can I join”? By Donald G. Hands

Department of Maine, 100th Anniversary Chairman

Welcome Remarks: State Commander Scott Paradis, left, looks on as Past National Commander Anthony Jordan delivers his welcoming remarks to those in attendance during the Annual Mid-Winter in Bangor on Jan. 19.

THOUGHTS ON LEADERSHIP

“I’m not true in our democratic government that is the ideal situation. Having said that, and true to the issue, The Leadership of The American Legion comes from the ranks of its membership whether at the Post, District, Department, or National level. Each Officer started as a Veteran and a Blue Hat Legionnaire.

At the last District meeting, District 2 Commander Curtis Merrill mentioned that it is not too soon to be thinking of a future leadership position in the Post or District. The formal nomination process for most will start in Feb. or March with elections in April/May for the 2019-20 cycle. Do you have a skill set to offer the Post or District? Advertise these officer positions as an opportunity to serve your fellow Veteran at the next level. Most Department or even National Commander did not initially think that some day they would rise to that position. I think this is why with taking that first step, Officer in the Post.

One of the current issues within Post and Districts is a tendency of Officers to remain in the same position for several years. The comment often heard is, no one wants the job, so, I’ll stay another year. I’ve got to admit, I’ve used that phrase myself as a Past Commander. A way around this situation is to institute “Term Limits” in the Post and District By-laws that limit most positions to 2-3 years before having to be replaced. (one year to learn the job and one or two to make a difference). There are exceptions: The Post Finance Officer and Adjutant often provided training and continuity in the organization and should be retained for longer periods (but not indefinite).

Rotation of Officers in the organization provides opportunities for newer members to step up and make a difference.

This process should not be done in a vacuum. The natural progression is to take a position such as Chaplain, Sergeant-At-Arms, Historian, Service Officer, etc. to learn the internal workings of the organization then move up to Adjutant, Finance Officer, Vice Commander, with a goal of becoming the Commander a few years down the road. This progression allows for training and understanding of how the Post or District operates.

One way of getting a jump on any Post or District position is to attend the department level training, Legion College. The Department Legion College is based on a one week long National Legion College Program that each Department sends one or two candidates annually each October to Indianapolis for the training. Graduates of the last three National Colleges have returned to Maine and are now Department of Maine Officers as well as leaders in their respective Districts and Posts. They are also the Administrators and instructors of the more consolidated, Department of Maine Legion College.

So, where do you fit in as a relatively new member to the Post? First, I would advise learning as much about the Post and its history as possible. Be available to support the needs of the Post and learn about its members and their needs. Next, take a look at your service history both military and another chance to assess your skill sets. Look at where you might be able to make a difference.

Some of our members prefer to be “Worker Bees”, and, are great at what they do. Others may have some organizational skill sets and would like to help plan or administer a program. We have several in this category at the Post level that are making a difference. The next step is owning a position as an Officer and accepting the responsibilities that go with the position. At a recent training session, I attended one concern that was voiced, was “that some members only wear the hat”, (that they fail to comprehend or do the job required). The lack of acceptance might be due to lack of training or lack of initiative. For whatever reason, the failing places a drag on the Post or District. Someone else must pick up the slack or the job just doesn’t get done.

One avenue to learn the ropes might be to attach yourself to a mentor or take an assistant position, (Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms, Service Officer, Adjutant, etc.) with an Officer. This is a great way to gain experience and see if the job fits.

The good news is that most members that accept additional responsibility do a good job and are rewarded with a certain gratification of a job well done. That is really all there is. We are a volunteer organization, so the rewards must be intrinsic, the feeling of helping and providing a service.

So, I’ve gone on way to long, the time is now to consider a future as a leader in your organization, build on your skill sets, provide service where you can, get that taste as an apprentice or more formal training at the Department of Maine, and don’t be afraid to throw your hat into the ring. The rewards are immeasurable! By Windham Post 148 Adjutant David Tanguay

Windham Post 149 Receives Meritorious Service Award: Department 2nd Vice Commander Debra Couture, left, and Department 1st Vice Commander Matthew Jabaut, right, present Windham Post 148 Adjutant David Tanguay, center, a Meritorious Service Award at the Annual Mid-Winter Conference in Bangor on Jan. 19.
THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MAINE
OFFICIAL CALL
FOR THE
ONE HUNDREDTH AND ONE ANNUAL CONVENTION

In accordance with Article IV of the Constitution and By-laws of the Department of Maine, The American Legion, the one hundredth and one Annual Convention is hereby called to convene at Brewer, Maine, June 7-9, 2019.

The first business session will be called to order at 12:00 p.m., Daylight Savings Time, on the afternoon of Friday, June 7, 2019, with the final business session scheduled for Saturday morning, June 8, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. All general business sessions of the convention will be held at Jeff's Catering & Event Center, Brewer, Maine.

PURPOSE
The convention is called for the purpose of electing Department Officers for the ensuing year; to elect delegates and alternates to the 2019 National Convention to be held in Indianapolis, Indiana; 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 8, 2019. 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 be named as post delegates. Alternate delegates are entitled to a seat in the convention but will have the right to vote only in the absence of the duly elected delegates. The decision of the selection of alternate delegates to represent absent delegates is a matter of decision within the respective delegations. All Legionnaires, Auxiliary members, Sons of The American Legion and guests are invited to attend the convention as guests, but have no voice or vote unless delegates.

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

MEETINGS
The Resolutions Committee shall hold a public hearing on all resolutions submitted in accordance with the Constitution and By-laws at Jeff's Catering & Event Center on Friday, June 7, 2019, 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 Jeff's Catering & Event Center on Sunday, June 9, 2019. 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 Headquarters listing the delegates and alternates elected to represent the Post. All delegates' registration must be prepaid.

All credentials must be verified by the Credentials Committee, which will be in session at Jeff's Catering & Event Center, Brewer, Maine, from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 8, 2019.

The Department Adjutant shall issue to each Post, 30 days prior to convention, a statement of the number of 2019 members elected to the posts of the Department or by delegates-at-large attending the convention. Nominating speeches are limited to three minutes. There will be no seconds to nominations authorized (DEC Mandate Jan. 20, 1991).

All candidates for elective department office must file with the Department Adjutant, prior to May 8, 2019, 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 8, 2019 or nominated from the floor of the convention, will be a write-in candidate. Blank spaces will be left for write-in candidates. (DEC Mandate Jan. 27, 1985).

Voting
Delegates may get ballots from the Credentials Committee at Jeff's Catering & Event Center on Saturday, June 8, 2019. The Credentials Committee will be in session for two hours on Saturday morning, June 8, 2019, from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Each delegate will go to the convention hall during the hours specified and secure ballots. No ballots will be issued after 10 a.m. Delegates will cast ballots immediately. Delegate's card, badge, convention registration and your 2019 membership card must be displayed during voting.

Ballot Boxes will close promptly at 10:15 a.m.
Resolutions to be Presented by May 1

All resolutions to be presented for action at any Convention shall be presented to the office of the Department Adjutant on or before May 1 of the preceding year. Said resolutions shall be published and printed in the official organ of the Department of Maine, The American Legion, in the next issue following said date of May 1. Resolutions must be presented to the Department Adjutant’s office in writing, dated and signed by the Commander and Adjutant of the sponsoring groups or Chairman and Secretary of sponsoring committee. Resolutions may be presented by two-thirds majority of the Resolutions Committee meeting at the convention.

Candidates Deadline: May 8

Anyone wishing to run for a Department Office must submit a letter of intent and a copy of his or her discharge papers making them eligible for The American Legion to the Department Adjutant’s office on or before May 8, 2019, to be included on the official ballot at convention in June. If you wish to be included in The Maine Legionnaire, the above information, plus a photo of you must be at Department Headquarters by April 19, 2019. Also be advised that the Department Constitution and By-Laws must be at Department Headquarters by June 1, 2019, plus a photo of you included in The Maine Legionnaire, the convention in June. If you wish to be included on the official ballot at convention in June. If you wish to be included on the official ballot at convention in June. If you wish to be included on the official ballot at convention in June.

Basic Training

The American Legion’s official training program for officers, members, Legion College applicants and those who simply want to expand their knowledge of the nation’s largest veterans service organization is available online at https://www legion.org/alei.

Humanitarian Sought

The Humanitarian Award Committee is again seeking nominations for the annual Humanitarian Award. The Humanitarian Award, considered one of the most prestigious awards bestowed by The American Legion, is presented annually at our State Convention.

An American Legion Post must endorse applicants for the annual Humanitarian Award. Accomplishments of the individual must be over and above his or her usual vocation; in most cases his/her deeds would not be in their chosen field of endeavor; but consideration would be given to someone whose activities in their field of work was far in excess of what one would expect in that field. Applicants may be male or female, veteran or non-veteran, legionnaire or non-legionnaire. A majority vote of the Humanitarian Award Committee will be final.

If an individual was previously submitted and not selected, please submit it again. We will consider anyone who has not received the award previously. Nominations should be received by May 1, 2019. Nomination forms can be obtained online at https://www legion.org/alei.

Eligibility Information

If you have served federal active duty in the United States Armed Forces during any of the war eras listed below, and have been honorably discharged or are still serving, you are eligible for membership in The American Legion!

*August 2, 1990 to date of cessation
(Operations Desert Shield/Storm)
December 20, 1989 to January 31, 1990
(Operation Just Cause - Panama)
August 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984
(Lebanon/Grenada)
February 28, 1961 to May 7, 1975
(Vietnam)
June 25, 1950 to January 31, 1955
(Korea)

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.

Legionnaire of the Year Sought

Is that exceptional Legionnaire, the one with unquestionable leadership ability, a member of your Post? Do you have that member within your post that seems to stand above the rest in all phases of your post activities? Does he or she aspire to higher positions within the American Legion?

If your post has that member who would qualify for the honor and prestige for the Past Department Commanders Award, why not submit their name and resume? Being chosen for this award is indeed a great honor. When in doubt, ask those who were previously chosen. It is a title you will be known for during your entire Legion career.

Maybe your Post has previously sent a candidate for this award who was not chosen. Why not submit the name again? There are no rules stating how many times you can apply. Your candidate could be this year’s winner. Remember, everything in life is a gamble. The deadline for applications is May 1, 2019. Applications can be obtained through Department Headquarters or on-line at www mainelegion.org.

Send completed applications to The American Legion, State Headquarters, Attention: Past Department Commanders Award Chairman, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0727.
Legion Activities Continue Despite Winter Weather

Mid-Winter Conference

South China Post 179 Meritorious Service Award: Department 2nd Vice Commander Debra Couture, left, and Department 1st Vice Commander Matthew Jabaut, right, present South China Post 179 a Meritorious Service Award during the Annual Mid-Winter Conference in Bangor on Jan. 19. Accepting the award is District 9 Commander Donald Chase.

Etna-Carmel Post 107 Meritorious Service Award: Department 2nd Vice Commander Debra Couture, left, and Department 1st Vice Commander Matthew Jabaut, right, present Etna-Carmel Post 107 a Meritorious Service Award during the Annual Mid-Winter Conference in Bangor on Jan. 19. Accepting the award is District 13 Commander Donald Candage.

Public Safety Guidelines: Maine Department of Public Safety, Gambling Control Unit Inspector James Gass & Executive Director Milton Champion present public safety guidelines for Post Legions to follow.

Navy Units & Deployment Overview: Navy Operational Support Center, Commander Officer, LCDR Carl Netzler gives an overview of Units and Deployments.

A Surprise Visit: After returning from a meeting in the Northern part of Maine, Congressman Jared Golden made a surprise visit to the Annual Mid-Winter Conference. He was brief but updated the Legionnaires present about the status of the Government Shutdown and the Committee assignments that he will serve on. Congressman Golden, a fellow Veteran, is also a member of Corey Edwin Garver Post 202 in Topsham.

Sweepstakes Winners Announced

The Mid-Winter Conference concluded on Saturday afternoon, January 19, with our Sweepstakes drawing, which saw three of our Legionnaires win the following amounts: Timothy Politis, Augusta Post 205, $4,000 (grand prize winner), Margaret Brady from the Auxiliary, $750 and Christopher Sirois, Howland Post 97, $250.

Washington Conference

American Legion “Storms the Hill” in Washington D.C. to ask for support for Maine Veterans and Legion Programs. Visited with Senator Collins, Senator King, Congresswoman Pingree and Congressman Golden. Also ran into Maine Governor Mills who was in D.C. for meetings.

A Visit with Senator Collins: Left to right, Dept. 1st Vice Matthew Jabaut, Jarrod Crockett, David Patch, Senator Collins, Dept. Judge Advocate Jason Hall, Jeri Greenwell, and Amedeo Lauria.

A Visit with Senator King: Left to right, Jeri Greenwell, David Patch, Senator Collins, Dept. Judge Advocate Jason Hall, Senator King, Jarrod Crockett, and Amedeo Lauria.

A Visit with Congresswoman Pingree: Left to right, Amedeo Lauria, Congresswoman Pingree, David Patch, and Jarrod Crockett.

A Visit with Congressman Golden: Left to right, Dept. Judge Advocate Jason Hall, Congressman Jared Golden, Jeri Greenwell, Dept. 1st Vice Matthew Jabaut, and David Patch.

State Oratorical Contest Winner

2019 Oratory Winner: Marina Long, a Junior at Sanford Christian Academy representing District 1 at the 2019 State Oratorical Contest placed first in the constitutional speech contest with her award winning speech Feb. 9 at Thomas College in Waterville. State Commander Scott Paradis, left, awards Miss Long with a check in the amount of $1500 along with a medal and Certificate of Achievement for her accomplishment.
Help Support Maine American Legion Today!

Help Keep our Maine American Legion Programs Alive!
Support our Veterans and Donate Today!

Your donation will help support Veterans in the state of Maine as well as Children & Youth Programs and other various programs of The American Legion. A few of our programs are listed below. For a complete listing, please visit www.mainelegion.org.

Maine American Legion Programs:
- General Fund, Vet Aid, Homeless Vets, Legion Baseball, Dirigo Boys State, Oratorical, Jr. Shooting Program, Beals Hours, and Maine Special Olympics.
- To pay by credit card, please visit www.mainelegion.org and select the DONATE button.

The American Legion, Department of Maine Foundation is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) Charitable Organization exclusively for charitable purposes. All donations to the foundation are tax-deductible under the United States Tax Code and Internal Revenue Service.

The Foundation's mission is to provide resources to programs and services of The American Legion, Department of Maine that will enhance the lives of our veterans, their families, and communities in the State of Maine today and for future generations.

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

You may also mail your check payable to The American Legion, Department of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0727. Please indicate on the check The American Legion program you are contributing to.

Thank you in advance for your donation. It is generous donors like you that help provide the assistance needed to keep our programs alive so we can continue to provide support to our fellow Veterans, service members and their families.

To make a donation to The American Legion, Department of Maine Foundation, a non-profit 501 (c)(3) Charitable Organization, please see below.

Online donations can be made by visiting us on the web at www.mainelegion.org. Click on the FOUNDATION tab located on the navigation bar and scroll down to the DONATE TODAY button.

Checks should be made payable to American Legion Department of Maine Foundation and mailed to: American Legion Department of Maine Foundation, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0727.

Please make sure to provide your name and address so that we may send you a tax receipt.

Thank you in advance for your generous contribution!

Amazon Smile Fundraising Program

Dear Friends of the American Legion Department of Maine:

We are up and running! American Legion Department of Maine Foundation can now accept contributions from Amazon through the “Amazon Smile” program as an IRS 501 (c)(3) Charitable Organization.

It does not cost anything to sign up or donate! When you make purchases on “Amazon Smile” Five cents (.05) of every dollar you spend will be sent to the American Legion Department of Maine Foundation for veterans and community programs.

Here is how to sign up:

If you already have an Amazon Account, there is no need to create another one.

You just log in at this link: http://smile.amazon.com. When you are asked to designate your charity, type in American Legion Department of Maine Foundation and start shopping.

Please note: (You must log in through the Amazon Smile portal each time you shop for our Foundation to receive the donation. Do not go in through the regular Amazon portal when you shop.)

The funds come directly to “American Legion Department of Maine Foundation to help Maine Veterans in need and support Legion programs in Maine!”

Please help us get the word out and email to your friends and family!

Support Maine Veterans and Buy your Centennial Coin Today!

The Department of Maine recently released a Centennial Coin in celebration of 100 years of service to Veterans, families and local communities. All proceeds will go towards helping Veterans in the State of Maine, their families and various programs in The American Legion that require much needed assistance.

Coins can be purchased online by visiting www.mainelegion.org, calling Department directly at 207-873-3229 or by check or money order. The coins are $10 each plus $5 shipping/handling.

To PAY BY CHECK OR

Car Donation Fundraising Program

Owners of unused vehicles can donate them for possible tax credit and benefit Veterans in the state of Maine.

This is a free, convenient service for converting that extra car, truck, or RV into a tax deductible donation.

Our affiliate program makes sure your vehicle is properly handled so you get your tax deduction and Veterans in Maine get the benefit of your donation.

You can currently donate online by visiting www.v-dac.com, or call 877-999-8322 to make your donation.

For more information, contact The American Legion, Department of Maine at 207-873-3229 or via email at www.legionme@mainelegion.org.

Get your Engraved Henry Rifle Raffle Ticket Today!

Ticket Price $10

Contact your local Post for tickets or call Department HQ at 207-873-3229.

Drawing will be held June 1, 2019
District 1 Community Making a Difference “The All Veterans Monument”

I am writing on behalf of our Veterans. This last year, four volunteers worked and paid for the ALL VETERANS MONUMENT located at the Fairgrounds Restaurant in Cornish. Its location is very nice. One side of the restaurant has flowers, soldier’s shadows and much more.

Together, we asked our Veterans if they would like to purchase a military paver with the names on it, and it went over well. We now have 70 pavers sitting in front of the ALL VETERANS MONUMENT.

We have spaces left for 20 more people. If any Veteran would like to purchase a paver, please let me know. The cost is $39.04 for two lines or $44.37 for three lines. This entire project is being done by the owners of the restaurant, VP of the Bangor Bank and myself.

Send me an email at calista@fairpoint.net if anyone you know of would like to fill in those last 20 spaces. We plan on having this done before Memorial Day.

We love doing as much as we can for our Veterans. This monument is in such a nice area and the restaurant has such good food for those who come here. I did see a van of DAV’s there this summer, I was told they enjoyed the monument and pavers.

By Calista Cross

Meritorious Service Award: Department 2nd Vice Commander Debra Couture, left, and Department 1st Vice Commander Matthew Jabaut, right, present District 1 Commander Gordon Kendal, center, a Meritorious Service Award for Limerick Post 55 at the Mid-Winter Conference held in Bangor on Jan. 19.

Photo by Jeffrey Stevenson

100th Anniversary Celebration: During the regular meeting of Kennebunk Town Selectmen on Jan. 8, the selectmen unanimously approved designating 2019 as the Year of Centennial Celebration for both The American Legion and Kennebunk Post 74. Representing Kennebunk Post 74 at the meeting, left to right, Chaplain John Fleshman, Paul Mossner, Kennebunk Post 74 Post Finance Officer Brian McBride, Post Deputy Commander John Gouveia, Shirley Deschaves, Bob De Clercq, John Dulude, Kennebunk Post 74 Post Commander Donald Lamontagne, and Paul Gregoire.

Berwick Legion Post 79 Donates Ten Bicycles to 2018 Toys for Tots Drive

This past Christmas, Santa wore a somewhat non-traditional color in addition to his usual red and white: Home Depot Orange! Members of Berwick’s Post 79 lent a hand to Toys for Tots by buying and donating ten boys and girls bikes. The bicycles were purchased from several area Home Depot stores at a black Friday price, with an unexpected additional 10 per cent discount offered in support of this cause. Additionally, one Home Depot Manager elected to provide seven bicycles at half the black Friday price when told the purchase was for Toys for Tots and also pledged their support for Christmas 2019! The end result: ten brand new bicycles that list online for $86 each were purchased for less than $450. In addition to making Christmas special for ten lucky boys and girls, the outstanding support and generosity of Home Depot managers and employees, who also assembled all ten bicycles, helped Berwick Post 79 to “stretch” their dollars, making this a Christmas to remember for all involved. Home Depot, we salute you!

By Roseanne Martin

Toys For Tots Drive: Berwick Post 79 prepare 10 bicycle donations for Toys for Tots. Left to right, Pamela and Chuck Bogdan, Post 79 Commander Jeff Chase (in disguise!) and Phil Jenks.

Photo by Bob Place

Charles S. Hatch Post 79 Recognized by York County

As noted in the November 2018 issue of The Maine Legionnaire, Berwick Post 79 was recognized by their Board of Selectmen with the Spirit of America Foundation Tribute. That same month, members of the Post were also lauded at the County level and awarded a plaque recognizing their selection within York County. Berwick Post 79 is now listed as a Spirit of America Foundation (SAOF) recipient on the SAOF website (www.spiroaf.com), along with many other individuals, non-profits, committees, departments, charities, Girl and Boy Scout troops, churches, clubs, thrift shops, libraries, granges, lodges and societies previously honored. Charles S. Hatch Post 79 now also holds the honor of being the first and only (thus far) recipient of the SAOF Tribute from the town of Berwick. Post 79 now proudly joins the handful of other Maine American Legion Posts and Auxiliaries recognized by the Spirit of America Foundation, Wiscasset Post 54, Mechanic Falls Post 150, and Stockton Springs Post 157.

By Roseanne Martin

Spirit of America Foundation Tribute: York County Manager Gregory T. Zinser, left, presents Spirit of America plaque to Berwick Post 79 Commander Jeffrey Chase.

Photo by Bob Place

2018 Kennebunkport American Legion Memorial Post 159 Year-In-Review

Kennebunkport Post 159 Year-in-Review

27 December 2017 – Sons of the American Legion Chapter 159 established
22 February 2018 – Legion Riders Chapter 159 established.
24 February 2018 – First annual Cornish Torte Tournament held. Raised $1,240 for Post 159
7 March 2018 – Post 159 celebrates the 70th anniversary of its charter.
26 May 2018 – First of six All-You-Can-Eat monthly Pancake Breakfast’s held – veterans eat free. Former President George H.W. Bush attends. This would end up being President Bush’s last public appearance. Post 159 Commander John Leach presented President Bush with a Certificate of Honorary Membership as a member of Kennebunkport American Legion Memorial Post 159.
28 May 2018 – Memorial Day events held including: rifle salutes in Kennebunkport at cemeteries containing veterans; a wreath laying and rifle salute at Post 159 first Commander’s grave; and participation in three parades: Kennebunkport, Cape Porpoise and Mechanic Falls.

Kennebunkport

21-22 July 2018 – Annual Antique Show held with various antique dealers from around northern New England participating.
27 October 2018 – Second Live Pro wrestling tournament held.
10 November 2018 – Veteran’s Day All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast held. Veteran’s from various assisted living facilities in the area (Avita in Wells – specializing in Alzheimer’s and dementia care; Huntington Commons in Kennebunk – assisted living facility and Atria in Kennebunk – assisted living and memory care) were transported to and from the breakfast by their respective facilities. All veterans attending were given American Legion Certificates of Appreciation for their service.
18 November 2018 – American Legion Memorial Post 159 annual “Turkey Shoot” held. Raising $700 for the post.
22 December 2018 – American Legion Memorial Post 159 “Pig Shoot” fundraiser held to raise money for Iraqi war veteran who lost his home and all belongings to a house fire. $800 raised and presented to him.

Submitted by Post 159 Adjutant Mark Matthews

Pancake Breakfast: Kennebunkport Post 159 held their first of six All-You-Can-Eat monthly Pancake Breakfasts where Veterans eat free. Former President George H.W. Bush attends. This would end up being President Bush’s last public appearance.

Kennebunkport Post 159 Commander John Leach presented President Bush with a Certificate of Honorary Membership as a member of Kennebunkport Post 159 on May 26. Left to right, (facing camera) Post 159 Commander John Leach, President Bush, and Kennebunkport Post 159 member Clifton Campbell.

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**WHAT’S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...**

**District 1 continued**

| “Year-In-Review” |
| (Continued from Page 18) |

**Wrestling Tournament: Kennebunkport Post 159** had a Live Pro Wrestling Tournament sponsored by North Atlantic Wrestling Camp on March 23. North American Wrestlers are seen here confronting each other during introductions. All photos by Post 159 Adjutant Mark Matthews.

**WHAT’S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...**

**District 2**

Portland Post 17 put on a Veterans’ Day Parade on Congress Street in Portland that went from Longfellow Square to City Hall on Nov. 11. The Grand Marshal was 95-year-old World War II Veteran Leo Foisy. Several hundred people waited in front of City Hall to hear Leo give a speech. Hundreds of people let out a gasp of horror as Leo stood up and immediately tripped and fell forward. It looked for a horrible couple of seconds as though Leo was about to fall face-first down 14 granite stairs. But Leo, as quick as lightning, stuck his cane out in front of himself stopping his fall and the first words of Leo’s speech were, “I’m ok!” And indeed he was ok. After a few hundred people heard those words, there was a loud chorus of laughter and much cheering. Leo proceeded to give one of the best speeches of the day. Indeed, he was ok, and then some. By Thomas P. O’Connor


**South Portland Post 35 Veterans Day Celebration**

South Portland Post 35 Veterans Day was celebrated on Nov. 12 with a parade to honor those who served our country on its wars. The parade was a mixture of marching bands, cub scouts and brownies, fire trucks, Coast Guard Companies, City Dignitaries, American Legion Commanders, and VFW Commanders. Leading the parade was a newly formed Honor Guard consisting of four American Legion members and one VFW member. The riflemen wore their CP0 uniforms and the flag bearers wore blue blazers with grey trousers with white shirt and ties. The average age of the Honor Guard is 72. It was a crisp 1/2 mile march with the cadence counter getting hoarse at the end of the line. A short ceremony was held at the South Portland Veterans Memorial. After the parade, the members of Stewart P. Morrill Post 35 welcomed all Veterans to lunch. The Maine Veterans Home in Scarborough brought several Veterans to share in the meal and had a chance for some of the younger Veterans to meet some World War II and Korea Veterans. Everyone left warm, fed and happy.

**Partial Government Shutdown Support for Local Coast Guard Personnel**

So. Portland Post 35 Executive Committee met on Jan. 13 to discuss what we as a Post could do to help the Coast Guard Personnel station two blocks away at 259 High Street in South Portland, officially called U.S. Coast Guard Sector Northern New England. The decision was made to ask our members and local citizens for donations. Former Post 35 Adjutant Ed Tyler suggested purchasing $50 food gift cards. Post 35 Commander Guy Linscott met with Coast Guard Representatives who stated that as Federal Employees they were unable to accept cash donations. Upon further investigation, Post Commander Linscott met with YNC Mikel Zachmann, the President of the Northern New England Chief Petty Officers Association. On Jan. 25, Commander Linscott presented YNC Zachmann with a check from Post 35 for $865. Half of that money was a direct collection from Post members and other local businesses. Additional donations have been received since this morning. One donation for $100 cash was from a Korean War Veteran, who we call Mrs. Anonymous, who said she was a Navy Corpman in Korea. We invited her to our next supper and asked if she would like to join our Post. We have decided to continue collecting until the Coast Guard personnel pay has been restored. It never hurts to get our message out to the public. Post Adjutant Michael Pock gave a short TV interview that cast a positive light on the American Legion.

**Showing Support:**

Signage in front of So. Portland Post 35 showing support for Coast Guard personnel through the partial shutdown.

**Coast Guard Personnel Receive Assistance:**

So. Portland Post 35 Commander Guy Linscott, left, presents YNC Mikel Zachmann, President of the Northern New England Chief Petty Officers Association, right, a $865 check.

**South Portland Post 35 Thanksgiving & Christmas Tradition**

South Portland Post 35 carried on a Thanksgiving and Christmas Tradition of packing and distributing baskets for the Holiday Season. This traditional basket, which are actually Banana Boxes, was started by the American Legion Auxiliary some twenty years ago and has had help from the DAV, American Legion, as well as the American Legion Auxiliary over the years. Today, 10 people packed boxes with the equivalent of a turkey dinner starting with eight 10 lbs. frozen turkeys including all the fixings, yams, potatoes, squash, carrots, celery, canned vegetables, sugar, flour, gravy, cranberries, cake mix with frosting, jell-o, pudding and many more items including apples, tangelo’s and bananas. This year, Post 35 packed 20 boxes and delivered 13 to the Vet Center in Portland and 7 to the Coast Guard Base in South Portland. Personnel at those locations move the boxes onto needy Vets. A few days before Christmas, this happy band of volunteers will start the whole process over again for Christmas. A portion of the cost is a budgeted item in the Post budget but about 35% are donated funds.

**South Portland Post 35 Sea Cadet Advanced to Cadet Chief Petty Officer**

Cadet Petty Officer 1st Class Lucas Wright, right, was presented before the Corps of Cadets on Sun., Nov. 11. Chief Selectee Lucas Wright stood at attention while Sea Cadet Commanding Officer Lt. Shannon Williamson, left, read his promotion order. Following the order, the Cadet Chief Petty Office from the Portsmouth Sea Cadet unit placed Chief Wright’s hat on his head. The next order is to move a step closer to the Star rating, the highest level a Cadet can achieve. More on “SEA CADET”, Page 20

More on “SEA CADET”, Page 20
WHAT’S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 2 continued

“Sea Cadet”
(Continued from Page 19)

punches. As they were dismissed, they all gave a resounding “Yes Chief” yell in true Sea Cadet gusto. CPO Wright is the senior “enlisted” person in the Sea Cadet Command and shoulders a great deal of responsibility. The chain of command in the Sea Cadets is just as strong as in the U.S. Navy and rightly so. Congratulations CPO Wright.

POST HISTORY
Stewart P. Morrill Post 35—So. Portland

The Exterior of the Stewart P. Morrill Post 35 in So. Portland

Post Sign: Stewart P. Morrill Post 35 sign in front of the Post building.

Interior Look: The meeting room at Stewart P. Morrill in So. Portland

Banquet Hall
Kitchen

All Photos by Post Adjutant Michael R. Pock

Honoring Fallen Veterans: Westbrook Post 62 Veteran’s Day was celebrated and memorialized at Riverbank Park on Nov. 11 with members of the Post. Mayor Mike Sanphy and other Post 62 members were on hand to participate in this honor of fallen Veterans.

Tuskegee Airman Fighter: Westbrook Post 62 welcomed Robert Sheppard, son of an original All Black Tuskegee Airman Fighter Group assigned during World War II at a recent meeting at the Stephen W. Manchester Post. In his presentation, he gave an eye opening and informative speech about his father, James Sheppard’s World War II experiences which pioneered a major military change about the role change for the All Black Fighter Group and Squadrons. EXCELLENT!

Flag Ladies Receive Invite To Post 62: Westbrook Post 62 started the New Year in grand style by inviting the famous Post 9/11 Flag Ladies from Freeport, Maine as their guest on Jan. 2. Left to right, Carmen, Elaine and JoAnn with Westbrook Post 62 Commander Gary York, Westbrook Post 62 1st Vice Commander Roger Barr and Westbrook Post 62 2nd Vice Commander Dennis Marrotte. It was a great tribute to the American Flag. HAND SALUTE!

Reviving the Legion

BRIDGTON—A group of like-minded Legionnaires have gathered together to revitalize and rehabilitate Bridgton’s Historic Post 67. This is one of the original posts in the state of Maine going back to 1920. The American Legion itself is celebrating its 100th Birthday and it only seemed fitting that this post be brought back to life in Bridgton to serve our Veterans and our community. A team has been formulated with Commander Dennis Moynihan to begin the project. We will once again turn this post into a vital asset to Bridgton’s Veterans and community. Plans are already underway to reestablish contacts with the school system, chamber of Commerce and other civic minded organizations.

The revitalization and the operation of this post will be based once again on the “Four Pillars of The American Legion” Veterans affairs and Rehabilitation (VA claims back log, access to VA health care, service officer, Veterans with special needs, homelessness, GI Bill benefits); National Security (support of the troops, quality of life, POW/MIA’s, Operation comfort warriors); Americaism (flag protection, Pledge of Allegiance, illegal immigration, voter registration and participation, Scouts of America); Children and Youth (catastrophic illness, intellectual disabilities, family integrity, family support networks).

The first priority will be to open a “Service Officer’s office” in the community. District 2 Service Officer Kelly Ela will now be based in Bridgton at Post 67. The team is excited and looking forward to serving our Veterans and the community.

Publisher Wayne E. Rivet of The Bridgton News— January 10, 2019

Article submitted by District 2 Vice Commander Donald Mulcahy

Revitalization At Bridgton Post 67: In front of Post 67 on Depot Street in Bridgton, left to right, Department Adjutant Paul L’Heureux, Bridgton Post 67 members Clayton “Skip” Brown, Ron Edson, Post 67 Commander Dennis Moynihan, Post 67 member Vinny Yedynak, District 2 Vice-Commander Donald Mulcahy, District 2 Commander Curtis Merrill, and District 2 Sergeant-At-Arms Bill O’Neil.

Bridgton Post 67 Inventory: Inventory displayed of all items within Bridgton Post 67.
WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 2 continued

American Legion Randall-MacVane Post 142 Loans Military Artifacts to the Maine Military Museum

South Portland, Me—January 13, 2019—The American Legion Randall and MacVane Post 142 of Peaks Island has loaned a collection of military artifacts to the Maine Military Museum, located at 50 Peary Terrace.

Frederick W. O’Keefe, Adjutant/Judge Advocate of Post 142, presented the items, which had been discovered in the Post’s attic. “We are pleased to be able to bring these out into the open,” O’Keefe said. “In particular, we are happy to share a carbine from the Vietnam War and a Civil War era dress sword as well as a steel helmet and gas masks from World War I.”

Museum Director Lee Humiston accepted the items and will explore displaying them at the Museum. “We appreciate the opportunity to add these items to our collection,” Humiston remarked.

The carbine is a 7.62mm, Type 56 with Bayonet from Communist China and was retrieved in the Republic of Vietnam by U.S. Army Captain John Shute of Montgomery, AL. The 1860 staff field officers’ dress sword was manufactured by the Oak Hill Clothing Company in Boston. The name “C. Dolan” is inscribed on one side of the blade and the initials “A.O.H.” on the other.

O’Keefe explained that, thru the years, Peaks Island residents and visitors have donated items to the Post. “We are happy to be able to share these with the public thru the terrific Maine Military Museum,” he added.

Humiston said the items will be part of the thousands of military history artifacts the Museum displays. “We appreciate the Peaks Island Post’s generosity,” he said.

Museum exhibits include every aspect of military service from the Revolutionary War to Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts. One main focus is American Prisoners of War (POWs) from the US Civil War to Vietnam. Authentic artifacts displayed in several formats, enable visitors to witness the experiences and sacrifices of U.S. Armed Forces.

Vietnam War & Civil War Sword Presentation: Maine Military Museum Director Lee Humiston, left, accepts a Chinese carbine from the Vietnam War and a Civil War sword presented by Peaks Island. Peaks Island Post 142 members, Fred O’Keefe, center, and Dominick DeAngelo, right.

76th Anniversary Of Pearl Harbor Remembered: Each year The American Legion Field-Allen Post 148 of Windham remembers Dec. 7, “Pearl Harbor Day”, with a Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Town of Windham’s Veterans Memorial in front of Windham High School. This year, joining the Post’s Honor Guard for the ceremony were two World War II Veterans, Bob Miele and Carroll McDonald, both Post members. Left to right, World War II Vet Bob Miele, Carroll McDonald along with Post 148 Honor Guards, Wally Clark, Dick Graves, Eric Bickford and Chuck Whynot placing a wreath at the Town of Windham’s Veteran’s Memorial in front of Windham High School.

Veterans Day Wreath Placement: Windham Post 148 held a Veterans Day Ceremony at the Windham Veterans Memorial Garden. The Memorial was established in 2015 to honor the KIA from Cumberland County Lost in Vietnam. A Floral Wreath was placed on the Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Memorial by 3 USMC Veterans and Post members, front row, left to right, Walter Braley, Service Officer Henry “Chuck” Whynot and Rod Voisine. Background, left to right, Field-Allen Post 148 Honor Guard members Craig Pride, Eric Bickford, Dick Graves, Dick Drapeau, and Post Sergeant-At-Arms Larry DeHof.

Windham Post 148 3rd Annual Awards Recognition Night and Dinner

Windham Post 148 celebrated their 3rd Annual Awards Recognition Night on Dec. 5. Some highlights from the event included the celebration of Post personnel achievements and the 100th Anniversary of The American Legion. In attendance were over 70 Vets, family members and guests.

During the ceremony, the following members received recognition as being new members of Windham Post 148: 2018-19 not previously recognized went to Richard Drapeau, Robert Clark, Phyllis Page, Susan Walker, and Lyndon Verney. New members for 2019 went to Robert Almstrom, Stephen Ambrose, Maryanne Bickford, Duane Cummings, Michael Eaton, Ben Emmons, Simone Emmons, William Keltner, David Langway, Edward McAlinden, Alola Morrison, James Pruett, and Daniel Smart.


Recognition for Post Meritorious Service Awards were presented by Windham Post 148 Post Commander Mel Greenier to Eric Bickford, Richard Small, Larry Dehof, David Rendall, David Horne, Henry “Chuck” Whynot, and Past Commander Don Rogers.

Windham Post 148 took a pause during the Awards Ceremony, to recognize a significant contribution in support of the Post and Veterans in the community. The Fourth Estate Award recognizes a local media for their support to Veterans. A citation was presented to the Windham Eagle owner Kelly Manks with a certificate to Editor Lorraine Glowaiczak. The Windham Eagle Writer Walter Lunt and Kelly received recognition for the Windham Eagle Newspaper for their work with Veterans. Other recipients include Melissa Carter, Mary Emerson, and Matt Pascarella. The Windham Eagle has “Made my job easier...” noted the Post Adjutant Dave Tanguay who presented the plaque.

Post Longevity: District 2 Commander Curtis Merrill, left, presents Past Commander Don Rogers, center, an Eagle plaque commemorating his 60 years of continuous service to the Post. Windham Post 148 Commander Mel Greenier, right, presents Don a 60 Year Longevity Citation.

Meritorious Service: District 1 ALA President Marian Curtis, left, presents a Citation for Meritorious Service Award to Unit 148 President Pam Whynot, right.

Honor Guard Table: Windham Post 148 3rd Annual Recognition and Awards Night. At the Honor Guard Table, left to right, Dick Graves, Chaplain Dick Drapeau, Bob Clarke, David Rendall, Craig Pride, Wally Clark, Bob Christie, and David Horne.
District 2 continued

New Membership Recognition: Lynden “Bo” Varney, center, receives a New Membership Certificate from District 2 Commander Curtis Merrill, left, and Windham Post 148 Commander Mel Greenier, right, at the 3rd Annual Recognition and Awards night Dec. 5, 2018.

Post Service Award: Windham Post 148 Commander Mel Greenier, right, presents Service Award plaque and citation to Post Service Officer Chuck Whynot, left.

Fourth Estate Award: During the 3rd Annual Recognition and Awards Ceremony held Dec. 5, Windham Post 148 Commander Mel Greenier, right, presents the Fourth Estate Award to owner of the Windham Eagle newspaper, Kelly Manks, left, in support of the Post and Veterans in the community.

Recognition of Post Meritorious Service Awards

David Rendall
Richard Small
Eric Bickford
David Horne
Larry DeHof

Right Photo: Henry “Chuck” Whynot, left, receives Service Award for Past Commander Don Rogers.

Post Longevity Recognition: Windham Post 148 Commander Mel Greenier, right, presents Post Longevity Certificate for 25 years.

Remembering American Legion Member Norman Spear

At the height of the cold war, when the Soviet Union and U.S. were in the midst high stakes’ nuclear sword rattling, in the waters of North Korea, the North Koreans intercepted and captured a U.S. Navy vessel purported to be in international waters. The ship? The USS Pueblo.

From that moment the crew of the Pueblo became pawns in an ugly, international game of chess and a black mark on the Nixon Administration. In that ship’s crew, in the engineering department was a Navy Sailor from Maine, Norman Spear.

He and his fellow crew members endured brutality and severe conditions prior to their release eleven months later. The ship, after fifty years, remains a memorial in North Korea dedicated to the sins of the West.

Norman Spear passed away about a month ago. He was a Windham resident and a quiet man.

I met Norm on March 21st, 2016. I remember the day because it was the first day of the American Legion Post 148’s Veterans Coffee Social advertised as a drop-in for local veterans to gather each Wednesday. Norm was one of the early arrivals and sat quietly on the far side of the table.

From all appearance he was a man who had seen a hard life, bent, but not broken. He didn’t say much that first encounter and I wondered if he would return the following week.

He did, and except for illness, never missed a Wednesday gathering in two and a half years; always the first to arrive to claim his seat. After a few weeks, the group learned more about his military service and his status as a former POW in Korea. He never spoke much about his service, but occasionally would pass on a little bit about his past. Many days he half-hearted played a game or two of solitaire as he listened to others in conversation and would occasionally join in.

In the spring of 2017, I was working on a project to locate the grave of a Medal of Honor recipient buried in Forrest City Cemetery, South Portland. Norm overheard the conversation and perked up. He had worked in Forrest City Cemetery in an earlier time in his life and felt he might be of help in the search. He was. Within two weeks, Norm had located the pauper’s grave site and was able to get copies of documents that confirmed the location of Emile Lejeune, the Medal of Honor recipient. With that information, I was able to forward the information to the Medal of Honor Association and get approval for a dedication of the grave by the VA with a VA provided bronze plaque.

On October 10th of that year, a formal Medal of Honor dedication ceremony was conducted with the assistance of South Portland Legion Post 35. Many dignitaries from the state and city were present. Norm was invited to attend and was included in the ceremony with the duty of placing the Medal of Honor flag on the grave. You could see the sense of pride as Norm undertook the task. It became a defining moment in his life which he would speak about often.

Norm continued to come to each coffee hour without fail. He could also be seen almost daily, sitting in his car in the parking lot of the Windham Veterans Center with a cup of coffee, his newspaper and a pack of smokes. Norm enjoyed the solitude of the Center and even when he could not drive due to a recent accident, would ask family or Post members to drive him, stop by McDonald’s for a coffee and take him to the Vet Center. It became his second home.

Norm had his own table and an elevated chair that allowed him to sit more comfortably. His table always had the same vets around him. They were family.

Norm was a bit of an eccentric, but, noted once to me that the Legion Post, “was an organization worth belonging to.” Norm was a member worth having in the community to support the program.

Photo By Dave Tanguay
Special to The Windham Eagle
Jan. 4, 2019
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

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

Auburn Post 153 Passing In


WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 5

Rumford Post 24; Buckfield Post 58; Lack mills Post 68; So. Paris Post 72; Bathel Post 81; Norway Post 82; Dixfield Post 100; Oxford Post 112; Fryeburg Post 137; West Paris Post 151; Peru Post 199

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

Veteran’s Day Gathering: Rumford Post 24 had a great group of Veterans at Post 24 to celebrate Veteran’s Day along with representatives of the S.G. Thibault’s Funeral Home. Thank you for always providing our beautiful cake for this event.

Annual Boys & Girls State Ceremony: Napoleon Ouellette American Legion Post 24 and Unit 24 of Rumford held their annual Boys and Girls State supper and recognition ceremony on Sun., Dec. 2. Front row, left to right, Post 24 Commander William Petrie, Girls State Delegates Leigha Carrier, Kylee Pelletier & Courtney Carrier, and Unit 24 President Rorrie Blanton. Back row, left to right, Post 24 Boys State Chairman Kirk Thurston, Boys State Delegates Alex Gorham, William Sorensen, Aaron Cameron, & Bryce Cormier, and Unit 24 Girl State Chairman Tricia Thurston.


Post 68 Veterans Day Address

As we gather today in remembrance of the Centennial of the Armistice that restored peace to a troubled World, perhaps it should be a time to reflect on how that first terrible conflict of the 20th Century began. It is an incontestable fact that the German Empire started World War I by declaring War on the Russian Empire on August 1, 1914. Germany’s principal ally, the Austro-Hungarian Empire had already declared war on Russia’s ally Serbia on July 28, after a Serbian National had assassinated the Austrian heir-apparent to the throne, Arch Duke Franz Ferdinand, and his wife, Sophie, in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, a month earlier on June 28. The Austrian declaration of War caused the Russians to fully mobilize, thus ignoring Germany’s warning that such an act would cause Germany to order mobilization leading to a declaration of war upon Russia. And then the dominoes fell:

Germany declared war on Russia’s ally France on August 3, followed by France’s ally, Great Britain declaring war on Germany on August 4. This caused the entire continent to mobilize. And what with each country’s various colonies and protectorates soon following suit, before anyone had time to take a deep breath, the whole world, with the exception of the United States, was engaged in war.

One question that has been examined by various historians is the root cause of the conflict. One rather amazing fact is that so many of the belligerents involved, though their peoples may have occupied their respective territories for millennia and were thus known to the world-at-large, were rather newly created states or had lost significant territories to former selves. As an address of this nature can only provide a quick snapshot of this phenomenon, the following points are intended as a guide for anyone interested in pursuing further research on the matter.

The Germans have been recognized as a folk since Roman times, yet the countries of the present-day Germany have been part of what was once the Holy Roman Empire. This German state morphed over time into the Holy Roman Empire, which dissolved in 1806, during the Napoleonic Wars. One of its constituent Kingdoms, Prussia, was an even more efficient military regime, began to attract other German states into a united Federation, as it repeatedly won wars against other European states whose reputation was that they were more powerful than Prussia. After alliance between three Southern German States with Prussia’s North German Federation (the Norddeutsche Bund), war resulted with the French 2nd Empire of Emperor Napoleon III, which was decisively defeated. Two times French Provinces, Alsace and Lorraine, were ceded to the victorious Germans. (This is a most interesting area of Europe, as the French still speaks French with a German accent, or German with a French accent, never secure in knowing to whom they are to pay their taxes).

Napoleon III was deposed, a new Republic of France was declared, and the French, believing they had lost a grievances portion of their national honor, swore vengeance and began to prepare for the next bout. Meanwhile, the last German states signed on, and relinquished a portion of their sovereignty to a united Germany, which was led by the Prussian King, now Kaiser (Emperor) Wilhelm II, who was the titular head of 22 Kingdoms (think ancient tribal areas), 3 republics, 1 Reichsland. Additionally, the Kaiser appointed the Governor of Alsace-Lorraine, thus providing himself an additional vote in both the Bundesrat and Reichstag.

Italy became a united peninsula, and thus a sovereign power, a feat that not even the Romans were able to accomplish, in 1866. Canada, former colonial territories of Britain in North America, became a Dominium in 1867. Russia, named for the Swedish tribe “Rus,” having been conquered in the 13th Century by the Mongol Golden Horde, regained its sovereignty circa 1480, with the Grand Duchy of Moscow becoming the most dominant remnant. Fifty-three years later, Moscow began its march to the East. After crossing the Ural Mountains, its mostly Cossack armies conquered a vast expansive spanning time zone after time zone, until it reached the Pacific in 1647, its total territory (including Alaska and a small colony in mid -coast California) being 14 time zones in all.

In 1867, Russia sold its interests in Alaska to the United States, mainly because it knew it could not defend the territory if it were engaged in another war with Britain (they lost to Britain in the Crimean War of 1855). One last point about Russia’s conquest of Siberia (from the Urals to the Pacific) it was not a gentle affair. The Russians only cared about their fur trade, forestry, fisheries, and extracting mineral resources. They swept across the vast continent to the East exterminating whole tribes in what today would be termed genocide or ethnic cleansing. A good many of these people were genetically DNA matched and culturally the same as the Americans of the Americas. Ten of thousands of those Russians who had occupied the Asian steppes for more than forty thousand years either ceased to exist, and I mean every man, woman, child, and infant, or if having surrendered, were so reduced in number that they had difficulty retaining their identity.

About the only improvement Russia made within this vastness was to build the Trans-Siberian Rail Road from Moscow to Vladivostok in 1914.

Australia, occupied by Aborigine Stone-Age humans for more than fifty thousand years, was colonized by a combination of civil persons, soldiers, and convicts, displaced with great ease and speed. Germany only had the Silesian people, who was decisively defeated. Two some-
trained armies with dispatch both West and East. But being very much apprised that most of the Atlantic/Mediterranean coastal nations, all of whom possessed modern navies, used these forces to govern and dominate colonies and “protectorates” in the Americas, Africa, Asia, and the Pacific Islands, Germany very much wanted to enjoy like privileges.

France and Britain, being the self-appointed colony/protectorate membership committee, let the Germans know that membership was closed. France was at that time maneuvering in Morocco to make that Sultan take a protectorate. In 1906, the German Emperor, on a cruise of the Mediterranean, visited Morocco and announced his intention of recognizing the country as a sovereign power. France, with Britain’s full backing protested. By 1911, the French managed to insert 20,000 of its soldiers into the Moroccan capital at Fez, where its domination France and Britain thought to be a fait accompli. Germany responded by sending “Panther”, a small gunboat, to Agadir, a small Atlantic Moroccan port. The crisis appeared to be heading toward a European War, when France proposed, and Germany accepted, domination of certain Italian colonies in Central Africa, in exchange for Germany’s recognizing France’s protectorate in Morocco. Germany thereby joined the Imperialist Colony Club. Needless to say, neither the Moroccans nor the Africans were consulted.

Soon thereafter, Germany, having built powerful new Dreadnaughts and Cruisers, induced China to surrender the Port of Tsingtao for use as a German Naval Base, and claimed possession of a part of New Guinea, the island of Samoa, all the Carolines, Mar- shall and Mariana Islands. (The United States claimed Guam as a protectorate, which it took from Spain during the Spanish-American War, when it sent the Cruiser USS Charleston to take possession of the island, and initially employed the harbor of Agana as a coaling station for its Pacific Naval forces.) Germany lost its Pacific possessions to Japan after that country joined the Triple Alliance of Austria, Germany, and Italy, to build a rail system from Berlin to Bagdad, and thereby influence the Ottoman Empire. All of these rail connections as an opening to bind and control the Ottoman Empire, to build a rail system from Berlin, Czarist Russia, and Britain to Japan after that country joined the Triple Alliance.

In last year’s Adjutant Address we examined in detail how and why Germany finally induced the United States to declare war upon it, and how we raised, clothed, and equipped four million military personnel, the majority of which were of German descent, throughout Europe. We have had so many demands for the record that we have therefore decided to re-examine the total cost to the warring nations in terms of those killed or wounded in combat or dead from other causes.

No precise total is possible, given the records available. However, the best estimate is that between 15 to 19 million people were killed, of whom 9 to 11 million were military personnel, the civilian death total being about 8 million. Military wounded amounted to 22 or 23.65 million casualties. Taking into account the number of military killed, the ratio was around 60% for the Allies (Britain, France, Russia, and Italy), and 40% for the Central Powers (Germany, Austria-Hungary, and the Ottoman Empire).

When we consider Germanic peoples as casualties, it may be worth noting the following ironies. France was largely a Germanic nation in that its original Celtic population was assimilated when its territory was overrun and occupied by the Franks, a Germanic tribe, and later when the Province of Normandy was occupied by Danish/Norwegian Vikings. The exception in France was Brittany, founded and occupied by Welsh peoples who had escaped the conquest of England by Germanic tribes; a majority of so-called Bretons, in fact, Breton-Gallic peoples.

Germany had calculated that it would be faced with a disastrous war, when it was struck at France through neutral Belgium. Had it not been for the valor of the small Belgian army which refused to yield a corner of its soil to the relentless invasion, the forces referred to as “The Miracle of the Marne”, when they were able to stop the German drive on Paris, France would likely have been defeated, losing Britain to stand alone in the West. The Germans did succeed in driving Russia out of the war by transferring armies on their railroad system, and initiating the Russian defeat at the battle of Tannen- berg at the end of August 1914.

The Austro-Hungarian, Ottoman, and Russian empires, three of four imperial dynasties that had survived for centuries had ceased to exist at the conclusion of the war. The German Empire continued to exist for mere decades. After the Armistice that we celebrate today, both France and Britain insisted that Germany be completely humbled, pay heavy reparations, and stripped of her ability to wage war. This policy led within twenty years to a resurgent Germany and World War II, Part II – what came to be called World War II.

Such was the legacy of World War I.

By Harry G. Orcutt
Jackson-Silver Post 68 Adjutant
WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 6 continued

Camden Post 30 Breakfast: Camden Post 30 held a breakfast for our local Coast Guard Station on Jan. 27 in Rockland. Maine House Representative Vicki Doudera attends just about every event that Post 30 puts on as a supporter of our Military Veterans. Vicki was front and center wearing her red, white, and blue apron, handling orders, serving and washing up. Post 30 Commander Frank Carr, left, presents Representative Doudera, right, with an American Legion Certificate of Appreciation for all she has done for Post 30. Representative Doudera is serving her first term in the Maine House for Camden, Islesboro & Rockport in District 94.


Warren Post 218 Meritorious Service: Warren Post 218 receives a Meritorious Service Award at the Annual Mid-Winter Conference in Bangor on Jan. 19. Presenting the award are State Department 2nd Vice Commander Debra Couture, left, and State Department 1st Vice Commander Matt Jabaout, right. Accepting the award is District 6 Commander Ray Lewis, center.

Surprise Visit: Santa makes a surprise visit to the Waldoboro Post 149 weekly Bingo. Players enjoyed holiday refreshments and treats from Santa and fun was had by all. Bingo is held every Saturday night at our Post at 181 Jefferson Street, Waldoboro. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. and games start at 6:30 p.m. Bingo is open to the public and all are welcome; come join the fun! Left to right, Waldoboro Post 149 Adjutant Donna Wallace, Santa (John Gatcombe with his natural beard) and Unit 149 Vice President Katie Winchenbach.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 8

Brunswick Post 20 Hosts Wreaths Across America Convoy to Arlington

The annual convoy of wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery from Maine has become known as the country’s longest Veterans’ parade, and this year, the week-long journey kicked off on Saturday, Dec. 8, 2018, at West Quoddy Headlight, Lubec, Maine. The escort wrapped vehicles which included, Wreaths Across America employees, volunteers and partner organizations— including twelve tractor trailers carrying 253,000 sponsored wreaths, were destined for Arlington National Cemetery on the morning of Saturday, Dec. 15, 2018 – National Wreaths Across America Day.

Locally, Brunswick Post 20, led by Commander W. David Watson hosted the convoy on Dec. 9, 2018, with the Post hosting an evening meal and recognitions. A total of five local Boy and Girl Scout groups, and Explorer Scouts helped in welcoming the participants, helping to serve the evening meal and clean up after the event. Also a big thank you to our major sponsor for this event, Bangor Savings Bank. Local branch manager Tim Keene and his staff along with Bangor Savings Regional Market Manager Tricia Duchesneau participated, helping serve the 170 or so participants. A meal consisting of a roast turkey dinner with all the fixings that was prepared and catered by Fiona’s Catering of Bath was well received. Locally, people of Brunswick showed up in force to view the convoy as it passed through town for the Sunday evening stop in Brunswick (with the majority of the convoy traveling to Bath for the evening stay following the event at Brunswick Post 20) and again on Monday morning as they exit Bath/Brunswick headed South for the next scheduled stop.

“The Escort to Arlington is an annual Wreaths Across America tradition that allows us to interact with thousands of the supporters who make our mission to Remember, Honor and Teach possible each year,” said Karen Worcester, executive director of Wreaths Across America. “This year, we’re focusing on our annual theme, Be Their Witness, and encouraging supporters to keep the memories of our fallen heroes alive through stories, gratitude and education.”

Grand Marshal – National President of American Gold Star Mothers Inc. (AGSM), Becky Christmas, led the caravan as it traveled down the East Coast stopping at schools, memorials and other locations along the way to spread the mission and honor our nation’s Veterans.

Escort participants included American Gold Star Mothers, Blue Star Families, Gold Star Wives of America, Veterans and the Wreaths Across America extended family. Members of the Patriot Guard Riders, Patriot Riders of America and Rolling Thunder, flanked the escort along with law enforcement from Maine, lead by Westbrook Police Chief Janine Roberts, all to ensure safe transport for all participants throughout the week.

What began as a pilgrimage by Maine wreath maker, Morrill Worcester, in a single truck to deliver 5,000 wreaths he donated to Arlington back in 1992 has become a national mission more than 25 years later to Remember, Honor, and Teach.

By Brunswick Post 20 Member/WAA Local Coordinator Richard Butter
WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 8 continued

The Proposed Plaza to Honor All Maine Veterans

After a year of major planning, efforts are underway that will more deeply honor Maine military Veterans through the building of a newly designed Veterans Plaza. It will be located on the downtown Brunswick, Maine Mall, a site currently serving as a WWI Memorial.

Planning thus far includes the design of the Plaza that has gained full and formal approval from both the Brunswick Town Council and the Brunswick Village Review Board. The architects for the Plaza are Richardson and Associates, the firm that designed the well-known General Joshua Chamberlain Statue and Memorial.

“This unique design embraces the concept of honoring ALL Veterans from ALL Branches of military service,” states David Watson Commander of American Legion Post 20, and a Brunswick Town Councilor, “and it invites everyone to sit, spend time, and be reminded of the efforts of all our military to preserve our freedoms that none of us can ever take for granted. Many people have remarked that a Plaza with this mission is long overdue.”

An organizing committee has been formed and is currently developing efforts to attract the funding needed to construct the Plaza. American Legion Post 20 is serving as the fiscal agent for the Plaza Project.

Included in the Plaza will be 320 granite honor blocks that people can adopt to permanently honor those veterans they wish by engraving the name of their honoree, their branch of service, and the years they served.

Bath Post 21 Xmas Party: Bath Post 21 Children’s Christmas Party was held on Dec. 23 at the Post home. Left to right, Program Coordinator for 15+ years Lilly Stevenson & Santa (Jeff Stevenson) arriving to hand out toys to local area children.


Ringing The Bell: Bath Post 21 member and Department of Maine Historian Jeffrey Stevenson donates his time to ring the bell for the Salvation Army.


Veterans Day Ceremony: Harpswell Post 171 Veterans Day Ceremony was held at the Old Town House in Harpswell Center. Left to right, Bugler Rollie Weeman with Post 171 members Bill O’Connell, John Ott, Commander Mike Doyle, Bob Webber, and Gale Doyle.

Photo by Lili Ott

Transitional Housing For Women Veterans: Harpswell Post 171 visited the Betsy Ann Ross House of Hope in Augusta on Dec. 18 to present 22 sets of bed linens to this nonprofit that provides transitional housing for women veterans. It was another effort on the part of Post 171 to help female veterans in Maine. Left to right, Bob Webber, Al Golden, Executive Director Martha St.Pierre of House of Hope, Commander Mike Doyle, Bill O’Connell, Diane O’Connell and John Ott also attended the event.

Photo by John Ott

Harpswell Post 171 held their Togus Christmas Party on Dec. 7. The major gift was a projector with sound and a projector screen. All long-term care and hospice patients received individual gifts and $10 in canteen coupons. Santa Roy Knight, Elf Rachael, Coast Guard members from Sector Northern New England, South Portland and Post 171 members Commander Mike Doyle, Bob Webber, and Bill O’Connell distributed the gifts. Post 171 members Gale Doyle, Bill Sabrowski, members of the SUVCW (Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War), Auxiliary members Tracy Williams, Lee Dione, and Anne Sosnowski attended. 1st Sergeant Kevin Kurlas, Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 25th Marines came from Brunswick. Lobster rolls and pizza were served. A good time was had by all!


Phippsburg Post 216 Receive State House Wreath: District 8 Sergeant-At-Arms/ Phippsburg Post 216 Past Post Commander Ken Kellogg, left, and Phippsburg Post 216 Sergeant-At-Arms David Barnes, right, receive State House Wreath from 2018 Grand Marshall Becky Christmas, center, during the Wreaths Across America event held at Brunswick Post 20 on Dec. 8
District 9

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

Augusta Post 2; Gardiner Post 4; Waterville Post 5; Hallowell Post 6; Winthrop Post 40; Oakland Post 51; Togus Post 90; No. Vassalboro Post 126; Richmond Post 132; So. China Post 179; Litchfield Post 181; Clinton Post 186; China Post 195; Monmouth Post 204; Augusta Post 205

Augusta Unit 2 New Member Initiation Ceremony: Augusta Unit 2 Initiation Ceremony was held for seven ladies who joined the American Legion Augusta Auxiliary Unit 2 during 2017-2018 on Sept. 16, 2018. Each new member received a Certificate of Initiation, an Auxiliary pin, a new member book-let, a poppy, a copy of the Unit By-Laws, an Auxiliary pen, and a small American flag. The four great principles, Justice; Freedom; Democracy; and Loyalty, were explained, as well as each part of the American Legion emblem. The new members were sworn in by Past Department President Joyce Thurlow after they pledged to obligate themselves to the Principles of the American Legion Auxiliary. Third row, left to right, Unit 2 President Soraya Umphrey, and Past Department President Nancy True. Second row, left to right, Past Department Presidents Ann Durost, Joyce Thurlow, Terry Owen, Alice Severence, & Mary Jane Mcloon, and Past Department Chaplain Myrtle Brown. Front row, left to right, new members Laurie Jo Farrar, Melody Rousseau, Lynn Hiner, Diana Smith, and Mary Keller. (Not pictured: Joana Hamilton)

Post 2 Eagle Scout Ceremony: Augusta Post 2 Commander Fred Umphrey, left, attended the Eagle Scout Ceremony for Scout Joshua Hoffman, right, of Troop 603 in Augusta on Sept. 28, 2018. The Commander congratulated Eagle Scout Hoffman on his achievement and presented him with The American Legion Eagle Scout Citizenship Certificate and the American Legion Citizenship Medal. Eagle Scout Hoffman described his community support project which he completed as part of his Eagle Scout requirement. Joshua used his project requirement to complete the refurbishment of a children’s playground in Augusta. Commander Umphrey cited the importance of the Eagle Scout program and the many hours of work the scout is required to do to achieve the high award. Photo by Soraya Umphrey

Recognition Of Faithful Service: Past National Commander Anthony “Tony” Jordan, left, presents Waterville Past Post 5 Commander Ernie Paradis a plaque from The American Legion National Headquarters at the Waterville Post 5 meeting Nov. 19, 2018. This plaque was to recognize Ernie’s 25 years of faithful service on the Americanism Commission. Ernie is a past Sergeant-At-Arms, past State Assistant Adjutant, past Post 5 Adjutant as well as past Waterville Post 5 Commander.

Eagle Carved By Inmate: An inmate at the Maine State Prison took four months/1600 hours of labor to complete the carving of an eagle. It was said that knowing this sculpture was on display at the Togus VA Medical Center in Augusta gave him a sense of pride and honor and humility. The photo was taken during the Togus VA Veteran’s Day Ceremony, World War I and 100th Year Observance held Nov. 12, 2018. Photo by Jeffrey Stevenson

Veterans Day Ceremony, WWI & 100th Year Observance held Nov. 12, 2018 at the Togus VA Medical Center. In attendance, front to rear, Togus Post 90 Color Guard Timothy Donovan, George Eastman Jr. and Leon Cummings, Rumford Post 24 Finance Officer Joy Bordeaux, Representative for Angus King Teague Morris, Representative for Senator Collins Chuck Mahaleris and Representative for Bruce Poliquin Tim Gallant.

Rifle Salute & Taps: Army National Guard conducting Rifle Salute & Taps at Togus VA Medical Center in celebration of Veteran’s Day, World War I and 100th Year Observance held Nov. 12, 2018. Photo by Jeffrey Stevenson

One Man’s Dedication Above & Beyond to Veterans in Veteran Hospitals & Veterans Homes

One Man’s Dedication Above and Beyond to Veterans in Veteran Hospitals & Veterans Homes

This article had been drafted and put together hoping it will be read by a large number of Americans to show them the sacrifice and dedication of one person. Said person being a member of The American Legion Post 40 of Winthrop. This person is known to a large number of residents in the town of Winthrop. He is a popular and sincere person and extends himself to many people and in many various ways. Now that I’ve got your attention let me describe him and his persona as well as the lessons he learned.

His name is Arthur Herbert Wells and he was born in the year 1942. Looking at that year we see that it was just after the start of World War II, which began in December of 1941. I touch upon this fact because it seems that unfortunately we’re surrounded by wars. As his life progressed so did the wars.

In the early 1950’s, we had the Korean War which was first called a Police Action. That supposedly ended and Korea was geographically divided with a Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) and was now known as North and South Korea. These divisions were independent of each other and so remain today.

Early months of 1965, U.S. sent 100,000 troops and got involved in the ground war in Vietnam. Moving onward to 1967, the United States assisted South Korea in the cold war against North Korea in the DMZ. Also the Dominican Civil War was just ended 1965 thru 1966. The United States assisted Do-
WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 9 continued

“Dedication”  
(Continued from Page 27)

minican Loyalists. Brazil, Paraguay, Nica-
ragua, Costa Rica, El Salvador and Hondu-
aras.

Arthur, seeing all these worldly wars, de-
cided to join the armed services of the United States. He then decided he wanted to
join the Navy and he enlisted in 1967. He
signed up and served two years of ac-
tive duty, which included part of the year
1967 into 1969.

During that time he was assigned to
active duty in the Vietnam war zone aboard
an ammunition supply ship AE17 USS
Great Sitkin in the year 1968. Then his next
mission was assigned to AE12 USS Randell
in 1969. Both of said ships supplied ammu-
nition to the Aircraft Carrier "Enterprise" and the Battleship "New Jersey" and to other war ships in the
Vietnam war zone.

During his service time he attained the
rank of 3rd Class Boatswain Mate.

After finishing his tour of active duty he
was assigned an additional four years in the
Naval Reserve. Upon completion this being a total of 6 years he spent with the
US Naval Service.

When he finished active duty with the
Navy, he returned home and in 1969 he
joined The American Legion.

He then found employment at Carlton
Woolen Mill in Winthrop and was assigned
to the 2nd shift which was the night shift.
He became friendly with his supervisor
Leopold (Leo) Sawtelle who was not a
Veteran. In 1974, Leo mentioned to him
that he made a weekly trip, every Sunday
to the Veterans Administration Hospital
(VA) at Togus, Maine. He went and assist-
and the handicapped and medically recover-
ning Veterans at said location. Arthur be-
came interested in what he heard and told
Leo that he would start going with him on
Sundays. Thus it began and it was an every
Sunday thing with both of them going to the
VA. They would arrive at the VA at 9 a.m.
and leave at 1 p.m. It was a 30 minute and
18 mile drive from Winthrop to the VA
and a 30 minute and 18 mile ride home
every week. This brought the total of time
donated to five hours a week.

While at the VA, they would each take
two wheelchair bound Veterans from the
Nursing Home Ward to the cafeteria at 9 a.m. for coffee and donuts, and
upon completion, take them to Protestant
Church Services on the Grounds from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and then
back to their wards upon completion. They
would then go to different wards and talk
to and cheer up the sick, ailing, recovering
and all other Veterans that needed a boost in
life.

These joint trips and visits to the VA
for Arthur & Leo lasted until 1994 when
Leo began losing his sight and could no
longer make said trips. Being the man he
was, Arthur continued the journeys on his
own.

Among other things, they would visit
VA Hospitalized Veterans and could do so
at their leisure. These bedridden Veterans
were very happy to have someone to con-
verse with. Sometime around 1989 or thereabouts, the visiting privilege was end-
ed. The VA set up the Hospitals as being
under Quarantine and off limits. They
were still able to visit other sections of the
VA hospitals, which they did.

In 2012, the VA established and al-
loved televising the Church Services from
VA grounds to all the Wards on Sunday
a.m.’s. This became Arthur’s duty running
the cameras. He did this for a number of
years.

Another service Arthur recalled was a
Special service they would do for the Vet-
erans, one being on Memorial Day and
others on Military Holidays. They would
also assist at the Christmas Party. Each
year afghan’s (clothing) were made by vol-
unteers and Arthur would see that these
were given to the Veterans to wear and
keep when they ventured out into the win-
ter cold.

Speaking of winter cold, the State of
Maine is in the upper northeastern quadrant of
the United States and is about five
miles west. If there were any Veterans he
would make a weekly trip, every Sunday
week with those weather conditions? It has taken much dedication
and perseverance to continue doing this and
he has enjoyed the trip.

In the title of this article “Veterans
Homes” are mentioned. There are a number
of these homes located within the State as
well as throughout the U.S. The nearest
Veterans Home to Togus is about five
miles west. If there were any Veterans he
knew from Winthrop or anywhere for that
matter Arthur would always stop there on
his way home from Togus. Again these
visits encompassed another two hour time
time period or longer in which Arthur felt
good raising the Veterans spirits and boosting their morale

As if he had nothing else to do, he ran
for Post Commander’s position and was
elected to same and served in that position
for three years from 1984 thru 1986.

To add to his idle hours, he has been
very active in all his years of membership in the Legion. He spent 25 of those years as
Post 40 Chaplin. He was elected to same and served in that position or longer in which Arthur felt
good raising the Veterans spirits and boosting their morale.

The question in many people's minds
was posed and he was asked “Why he did
it?”. His response follows: quoting him, “I
was posed and he was asked “Why he did
it?”. His response follows: quoting him, “I
did this for so many Veterans of this great Country.

Many of these members of Post 40, includ-
ing Wom-

Corinna Post 73 Adjutant

The Legion is very thankful to have
participated in this meaningful program
provided by Maine Military Supply.

Any organization who might know
of needy Veteran's in their area are en-
couraged to contact Richard White,
Maine Military Supply, 179 Main Rd.,
Holden, Maine  04429 or call 207-989-6783.

It was our pride and honor to have
participated with the Maine Military Sup-
ply to assist these two worthy Veteran's.

By Dave Bolstridge, Corinna Post 73 Adjutant

Have You Asked a Veteran
TO JOIN Today?  
Help us increase membership for 2019!

Join online at www.mainelegion.org
WHAT’S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 13 continued

First Time Member: Etna/Carmel Post 107 Commander Bob Sibley, right, presents first time member of Post 107 Ansel Zetterman his membership card.

Volunteer:

What’s Happening in Your District...

District 14

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

Miracle Tree Event: Dover-Foxcroft Post 29 members recently participated in the Miracle Tree Event as a part of the Hometown Holidays Celebration in Dover-Foxcroft. Post 29 donated a beautifully decorated patriotic tree for auction. All money benefits local charities.

District 14 Oratorical Contest: Greenville Post 94 conducted the Post and District 14 American Legion Oratorical Contest at Greenville High School on Jan. 23. The contest requires the students to have an 8—10 minute presentation on a provision of the U. S. Constitution on a subject of their choice, and to respond with a 3 to 5 minute presentation to one of the four listed topics on the constitution that is selected at the competition. The winner of the competition qualifies for participation in The American Legion State Contest at Thomas College in February. Left to right, Greenville H.S. English Teacher & Contest Coordinator Alan Cartwright, Greenville Students, Sophomore Christian Trujillo, Freshmen Ashley Bussell, Eva Patrick, Kayla Berthiaume, Greenville Post 94 Commander Peter Johnson. 2019 results are Winner Ashley Bussell and 2nd Place Eva Patrick.

District 14 Places 3rd In State Contest: Ashley Bussell of Greenville is shown receiving the third place award at the 2019 American Legion State Oratorical Contest held at Thomas College on Feb. 9. Presenting the award is American Legion State Commander Scott Paradis with Americanism Officer Alfred McKay looking on. Presented with the award was a $300 scholarship. Ashley’s 10 minute speech was based on an aspect of the U.S. Constitution and was titled “In Search of Equality”. The presentation described the challenges women in the United States have experienced attaining equal rights and the relationship of those challenges to the rights protected by the constitution.

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; Vancocera Post 173; Topsham Post 191

A Big Surprise & Great Honor: I want to thank Dr. Niayesh and the O.R. Staff for their professional and courteous care I received during a recent surgery I had at the Calais Regional Hospital. I also want to thank the St. Croix Valley Chamber of Commerce for presenting me with the ARLO T. BATES Award 2018. This award is "in recognition of the time and effort dedicated towards serving and improving the quality of life in the St. Croix Region". This was a big surprise and a great honor. Any correspondence: Commander Calais American Legion Sherman Brothers Post #3, PO Box 311, Calais, Maine 04619, email: callie3@yahoo.com, Facebook: Calais American Legion. Tel: 207-214-4410(cell). Please leave message. Remember our Veterans!

By Calais Post 3 Commander Mike McLean

A Big Surprise & Great Honor:

Committed Support From Down East Credit Union: Calais Post 3 Support Fund receives a $1,000 check from Down East Credit Union staff. Left to right, Branch Manager Becky Perkins, Post Commander Mike McLean, and Loan Officer Jessica Brown. The Credit Union has committed to $1,000 for the Support Fund for the next four years.

Cherryfield Post 8 Wreaths Across America: Scouts of Pack and Troop 139 serve as Color Guard for the Cherryfield Wreaths Across America Program co-hosted by Cherryfield Post 8 and the Scouts on Dec. 15, 2018. The program featured the National Anthem played by Post 8 Adjutant Peter Duston, Pledge of Allegiance led by the Webelos Scouts and the placing of wreaths on the WWI, WWII and Korea/Vietnam Memorials. Following the program, volunteers organized by Vietnam War Veteran Larry Brown’s wife, Cheryl, spread out to the many cemeteries in Cherryfield, Unionville, Beddington and Deblois to place the wreaths.

Wreaths Across America Volunteer:

Wreaths Across America Volunteer: Cherryfield Post 8 member and disabled Veteran, Clyde Merrill, has been a volunteer at the Wreaths Across America trucker station in Columbia for several years and well known by many of the truckers. His dream has been to accompany the convoy to Arlington National Cemetery and this was to be the year but Stage 4 cancer intervened and Clyde had to cancel. Although disappointed, he managed to have a few good days in between treatments and was able to be honored at the send-off dinner and was able to ride in the convoy for most of the first day experiencing the excitement of a 5 mile convoy loaded with hundreds of thousands of wreaths to honor our deceased Veterans and Warriors. Left to right, Wreaths Across American founder Merrill Worcester, Volunteer Clyde Merrill, and Post 8 Adjutant Peter Duston.

Volunteer:

District 15

The American Legion Department of Maine

Office of the State Commander

4410 Mallard Lane, Augusta, Maine 04330

Telephone: 207-623-3022

Fax: 207-623-3311

Email: mainelegion@maine.legionnaires.org

Website: maine.legionnaires.org
WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 16

Caribou Post 15; Fort Fairfield Post 27; Houlton Post 47; Washburn Post 48; Oakfield Post 52; Presque Isle Post 88; Mars Hill Post 118; Limestone Post 127; Easton Post 187; Masardis Post 208

Area 7 Commander Rod Collins, District 16 Commander Renee Wells, and Tom Connors of Mars Hills Post 118.

Veterans Receive Pins for Holidays

Many veterans residing in nursing homes received a special visit from members of Houlton Post 47 on Dec. 18, 2018, to receive a lapel pin for the holidays.

Adjutant Scott Brewer, who also serves as the District 16 Sergeant-At-Arms, said the purpose of the gift, a small lapel pin with an American flag with the word Veteran on it, was simply meant as a symbol of kindness.

“There are a lot of military servicemen and women who are residing in nursing homes now, and we didn’t want them to feel left out this holiday season,” Brewer said. “Their service to our country is what made it possible for us to be free today. We are here to support our Veterans during the holiday season and to make sure they are not forgotten.”

Legion members presented about 21 Veterans, who reside at either Madigan Estates or Gardiner Nursing Home in Houlton, with lapel pins during the visit.

Brewer added that Jerry Riley, who serves as the Legion’s bugler at events in the community, was the person who spearheaded the effort.

By Joseph Cyr Senior Reporter/Sports Editor Houlton Pioneer Times, Houlton, ME December 26, 2018

Caribou Post 15 Upgrades Floors: The new and restored floor at Caribou Post 15.

Caribou American Legion Upgrades Floor

Caribou Post 15 has had a very busy January. Our Post has been in the process of upgrading our Post home in preparation of the Legion’s 100th Birthday. Our Post has had a small committee, supported by Post Commander Wayne Little, that has made some major upgrades, but the most recent was our biggest endeavor yet. Post Commander Little said, “We were trying to get it done for the 4 Chaplains Ceremony on Feb. 3 which is the 70th anniversary of the Chaplains.”

The Post floors were in sad shape; being old, uneven, tiles pulling up, tiles missing, and different colors due to re-placing tiles. Because of this, one of the main objectives was to replace the worn floor. We had to start with the fundraising before we could do that and thanks to the fundraising we have been able to achieve our goal.

The flooring project started on Jan. 13. The group came together along with Loring Job Corp and made it happen. First was to pull up the old tile, move it to dumpsters, sweeping and making sure there was no debris left on the floor.

The major task of removing the old glue used to put those old tiles down was taken care of. Five days later using rented belt sanders, working days and evenings, we were finally able to see our old hardwood floor. Clear of debris, we set to work staining the floors and then sealing them with polyurethane.

As of Jan. 20, our floors are complete! The project took more time than we thought, but with the help of the crew and Job Corp, the floors look awesome. We have more work in our Post to do, including new bathrooms and ceilings, but we have come so far thanks in part to all our volunteers. Legionnaire Jack Dixon and his wife & Auxiliary member Becky Dixon said, “That it had to be done and we came together as a group and did it, and we enjoyed it and had fun doing it. We look forward to completing the rest of it.” Post Commander Little also added, “I want to thank everyone who helped, had a part of this, and it could not be done without our volunteers.”

Written By Cuppy Johndro, Post Vice Commander and Committee Chair for Upgrades

Quilts of Valor: At Van Buren Post 49 Recognition Night held Nov. 10, 2018, Quilts of Valor were presented to 4 Legion members from the Quilts of Valor Organization from South Carolina.

All 4 of these quilts are registered in their organization. Here is Post 49 1st Vice Commander Alphy Durette, right, and Post 49 Finance Officer Clayton Belanger, left.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 17

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

Van Buren Post 49 Post History: Van Buren Post 49 found a long lost bronze plaque made in 1953. Post Adjutant Roy Doucette buffed it up and re-installed it inside the building.

Van Buren Post 49 Continuous Year Recognition: Van Buren Post 49 Commander Harold Lausier at Recognition Night on Nov. 10, 2018 was given a Legionnaire of the Year jacket for his 6 continuous years as Commander.
WHAT’S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 17 continued

Van Buren Post 49 Presentation: Van Buren Post 49 hosted a presentation by Licensed Social Worker Peggy Gagnon with membership and community listening to the presentation about the Maine Veterans Home in Caribou concerning coordination and benefits provided.

Potato Harvest BBQ: Every fall for the past 40+ years during Potato Harvest, members of the Cyr-Plourde Post 145 in Frenchville/St. Agathe has a BBQ where all the local farmers buy meals by the dozen for their crews. Part of the working crew, left to right, Clifford Morneault, Philip Michaud (in the smoke), Jean Paul Cyr, Post 145 Commander & Chief cook Roger Bosse.

Madawaska Post 147 Donates To Legion Project: Members of Thomas O. Cyr Post 147, Madawaska, present a check in the amount of $500 to Commander Paradis from the Post to the Legion Family Project for the wheelchairs at Togus. The check was presented at the Annual Mid-Winter Conference in Bangor on Jan. 19. Left to right, Commander Paradis, Post Commander Greg Morin, NEC Lloyd Woods, Gaetan Bourgoine, and Mike Lloyd.

WHAT’S HAPPENING AT...

St. John’s Newfoundland Post No. CN-09

St. John’s Post CN09 Scholarship: Post Commander John Walther, left, presents a Post Scholarship to Rachel Louise Howells, right, at the annual Thanksgiving Dinner.

Hockey Game Opener With St. John’s CN09 Color Guard: At the opening hockey game for the St. John’s Growlers. They have a Color Guard for the first game of the month that is played against a U.S. Hockey Team and St. John’s Post CN09 always have a member carry the American Flag. Flag Bearer’s, left to right, Corporal Russell, Post CN09 Finance Officer Ray Reiser with American Flag, Canadian Flag Leading Seaman Hacket, Newfoundland Flag Canadian Veteran Jim King, and Corporal Ford.
The deadline for material, stories and/or pictures to be submitted for consideration for use in the May 2019 Issue of The Maine Legionnaire will be April 19, 2019.

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.

Attention: Next Deadline is Apr. 19

The 101st Annual State Convention will be held June 7-8, 2019 at Jeff’s Catering & Event Center, 15 Littlefield Way, Brewer, Me. 04412.

Please plan to join us in support of our Veterans and Legionnaires around the State of Maine by making every effort to attend.

Mark your Calendar!

Birthday Money Donated To Support Legion Family Project: Brycen Waugh of Mexico, Maine, visited The American Legion, Department Headquarters in Winslow on Dec. 27, 2018 to present money he raised for his birthday in the amount of $520 to Department Commander Scott Paradis. This money will be added to the Legion Commander, Auxiliary President and S.A.L. Commander’s 2018-19 American Legion Family Project to raise money in support of purchasing Stryker wheelchairs at TOGUS. Brycen, along with his mom Katie Waugh and grandmother Colleen Gurney were treated to a tour of The American Legion Headquarters by Department Adjutant Paul L’Heureux. Left to right, American Legion Area 2 Commander Kirk Thurston, Department Chaplain & Post 24 Finance Officer Tricia Thurston, Brycen Waugh and Department Commander Scott Paradis.

Camden Post 30 Receives Meritorious Service Award: Dept. 1st Vice Cmdr. Matthew Jabaut and Dept. 2nd Vice Cmdr. Debra Couture present a Meritorious Service Award to Camden Post 30 during the Annual Mid-Winter Conference in Bangor on Jan. 19. Left to right, District 6 Cmdr. Ray Lewis, Dept. 2nd Vice Cmdr. Debra Couture, District 6 Service Officer Dave Franclemont, Dept. 1st Vice Cmdr. Matthew Jabaut, and Camden Post 30 Cmdr. Frank Carr receiving the award.

DISCLAIMER

Neither The Maine Legionnaire editor nor layout editor is responsible for misinformation, discrepancies, or embellishments, intentional or unintentional that may be contained in communications in any form that appear in The Maine Legionnaire.

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.