

# THE MAINE Legionnaire



NOVEMBER 2019 Vol. 34, Issue 4

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MAINE

28 Pages

## James W. Oxford, National Commander of The American Legion

James W. "Bill" Oxford was elected national commander of The American Legion on Aug. 29, 2019, in Indianapolis, during the organization's 101st national convention.



NATIONAL COMMANDER  
JAMES W. "BILL" OXFORD

He has been a member of the nation's largest veteran's organization since 1986.

A native of Lenoir, N.C., Oxford is a paid-up-for-life member and past commander of Post 29 in Lenoir. He served as department (state) commander of the North Carolina American Legion from 2010 to 2011. A veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, Oxford was an aviation electronic technician for the A-6 Intruder and served in Vietnam during his initial enlistment. After being discharged as a sergeant in 1970, Oxford joined the North Carolina National Guard. He subsequently attended officer's candidate school and

transferred to the U.S. Army Reserve, where he ultimately retired as a colonel after more than 34 years of military service.

Oxford has served at every level of The American Legion. A former mayor and city council of Cajah's Mountain, N.C., he has worked since he was a high school student, with most of his career choices being in the maintenance and engineering field. He earned a bachelor's degree in environmental studies and multiple safety and environmental certificates.

Oxford has volunteered as a coach, umpire, referee and administrator in several youth athletic programs, including service as the public address announcer for the Post 29 American Legion Baseball team.

An active volunteer with several organizations, Oxford is a member of Masonic Lodge-York Scottish Rite and the North Carolina Army Retirees Council. His theme as national commander of The American Legion is "A Foundation for the Future," as the organization enters its second century of service.

Oxford and his wife, Frances, have been married since 1967. They have a son, Charles (married to Deah Reid), and a daughter, Jackie (married to Mike Carr). They also have four grandsons, Isiah, Micah, Jaggar and Dawson.

## Pin Incentive Program Offered

American Legion National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford will award his national commander "A Foundation for the Future" membership excellence pin to any Legionnaire who obtains three new members into The American Legion.

A new member is any eligible person joining for the 2020 membership year who was not a member of The American Legion during the 2019 membership year.

Each member listed must be eligible



for membership in The American Legion. Forward names of Sons of The American Legion members or Auxiliary members to your detachment or unit for use in their respective incentive programs.

Only one pin will be awarded per individual. Upon receipt, national membership staff will confirm the names and mail the pin directly to the person who earned it. For details, visit <https://www.legion.org/commander/pin> or [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org).

## Oxford to Award Family Honor Ribbon

American Legion National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford will award his 100 percent American Legion Family Ribbon to any American Legion Family that achieves 100 percent membership by May 30, 2020.

For this award, the Legion Family is defined as a post and any combination of

an Auxiliary unit, Sons of The American Legion squadron or Legion Riders chapter. Each branch must achieve 100 percent membership to qualify for the award.

Download the form at [www.legion.org/commander/ribbon](http://www.legion.org/commander/ribbon) or by visiting the state website at [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org).



## Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony:

Over 200 people attended the POW/MIA Memorial Dedication Ceremony at Department Headquarters in Winslow on Sept. 28. Many of those in attendance included Legionnaires, members of the Auxiliary, Sons of the Legion, Riders, and guests, as well as American Legion officials and dignitaries seen here performing the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new memorial.

Front, left to right, American Legion Auxiliary State President Virginia Chaput, American Legion State Commander Matthew Jabaut, American Legion National Commander James Oxford, and District 78 (Winslow and part of Benton) Rep. Cathy Nadeau. Back, left to right, U.S. Rep. Jared Golden, American Legion Past National Commander of Maine Anthony Jordan, Sons of the American Legion Ronald Marr, and American Legion Riders State Commander Mike Lallemand.



## POW/MIA Ceremony: A

POW/MIA Ceremony was held at Department Headquarters on Sept. 28. Top, left to right, Damariscotta Post 42 Commander Bruce Poland, Post 42 member Al Benner, Post 42 Auxiliary President Bonnie Poland, Past National Commander from Maine Anthony "Tony" Jordan, 2019/2020 National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford, and National Commander's Aide Larry Cline. Right, National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford, left, and Waterville Post 5 member Pearley LaChance.



Photos by Department Historian Jeffrey Stevenson



## Commander's Comments

**M**y Fellow Legionnaires! It is my privilege to serve as your Commander for the Department of Maine. What a great start to our Legion year! We dedicated our POW/MIA monument at Department Headquarters, hosted the National Commander, had a great Fall Conference on membership with the National Vice Commander, hosted a Past National Commander to observe our Department Legion College & Women's Advisory Committee and completed our latest class of Department Legion College. Whew! What a great bunch of accomplishments for our Department!

I am looking forward to a great November as well! We have a great event in Fort Kent highlighting our relationship with Student Veterans of America. This is a great partnership to support our veterans in their transition as they retrain for their next careers and show them who we are as an organization and why they should belong while and when they are done being "students".

Please enjoy and take the time to celebrate Veterans Day with all the history and honor of your Post and community. Celebrate our members and their service and check in with them as part of the "Buddy Check" program. Take the month



**MATTHEW  
JABAUB**

to connect and talk to all our members, current and un-renewed, and help remind everyone the value that our organization brings in celebrating and honoring our Veterans of all ages and eras.

For this year, my Commander's project is building our Department of Maine Foundation. I feel like this is appropriate as our National Commander's slogan this year is "building a foundation for the future". This is exactly what we would be doing. By fund raising in many different ways, we can build this foundation so that it can ensure the future of our programs that distinguish our organization. Our programs have developed the youth of our country for over 100 years now and we have a responsibility to keep the going. Our foundation is the best way to do this and to help our organization to continue to strengthen our nation. We will be approaching this in many different ways such as social media and internet campaigns, fundraising events, and sponsorships. We are also asking for your help with this project. Anything you can do, individually, as a Post or district, would be much appreciated and will help to make sure we are building our foundation for the future.

As we do the great work of this organization, please also remember to focus on family. The holidays are also our time for spending time with loved ones and appreciating all the support and love that they provide us.

As always, you are the lifeblood of our organization, our membership! We continue to be here to support you!

Breathing Life into the future of the American Legion!

## Americanism Report

**C**omrades, as we start to enter the season of b-r-r-r, September thru December, we must start looking forward to the New Year and the season of scholarships and Oratorical Programs, and yes, Dirigo Boys State. If you have time, please visit [www.dirigoboyssstate.com/about.shtml#selection](http://www.dirigoboyssstate.com/about.shtml#selection) for details. We do not need to have the names, until spring. Well, guess what, spring will be here be-



**ALFRED  
MCKAY**

fore you are ready. Let's get out there promoting the Legion and the scholarships that are available. This includes the local Post, District, Department and National programs. As you contact schools about promoting scholarships, remember these are open to all high school students. Have a gathering at the Post and invite all students public, private, Christian or home schooled candidates to attend. Advertise this in the local media; it gets our name out there doing community service and may get you a new member.

Let's get 17 contestants for this year's Department Oratorical Contest. We can also recruit for Boy's State candidates with information/applications available. It's only about 20 weeks before the names must be into Department. Comrades, have a great Veterans Day, you earned it. Also, Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and a Happy and Safe New Year.

**RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP  
ONLINE TODAY!**

**VISIT [WWW.MAINELEGION.ORG](http://WWW.MAINELEGION.ORG)  
OR VISIT [WWW.LEGION.ORG/RENEW](http://WWW.LEGION.ORG/RENEW)**

## A 'First' Look

**M**y Fellow Legionnaires, I hope you are enjoying the fall weather. Hunting season is here. The hunters will be out in full force, so make sure you are wearing the right colored/safety clothing if out hunting, walking or on ATVs or snowmobiles.

I want to thank all who made it to the Fall Conference in Gray in September. We had a good turnout and Kevin Mook from American Legion National Headquarters had some great presentations on membership. If you were not able to attend and would like some copies of his presentations, I do have electronic versions of several of his presentations that I could send you. Please email me with any requests. Additionally, there was discussion about DMS (Direct Mail Solicitation) and how your post could gain members from those expired DMS lists. Each post adjutant has access to this information via [mylegion.org](http://mylegion.org). (If you are a post adjutant and are not familiar with [mylegion.org](http://mylegion.org), please contact Rachael at Maine's American Legion Headquarters at 207-873-3229 to receive adjutant training.) The following is a step by step process in accessing the expired information once the post adjutant has logged in to [mylegion.org](http://mylegion.org).

Select Reports/Labels  
Select Post Reports  
Select Revitalization  
Select Find Members in My Area by Distance Listing

Fill in the following info: Your Post's zip code; the number of miles from that zip code that you want to search; the last year that the member paid their dues (2015, 2016, 2017, 2018); and Post 0178 (I would recommend adding your Post's number to the search, too.). I have suggested years 2015 to 2018 for your information search to ensure that the membership has expired.

The report you receive can either be



**DEBRA  
COUTURE**

printed as it appears or you can export it to Excel or another program to print it. This is a great resource. Please utilize it.

Also, with the passage of the Legion Act, there are changes to eligibility dates. The changes under The LEGION Act (Let Everyone Get Involved In Opportunities for National Service Act) opens the door for approximately 6 million veterans to access American Legion programs and benefits for which they previously had not been eligible. Please invite these veterans to join your post.

Membership is very important, but interacting with those new members is the key to keeping them. Ask them what they like to do and how they would like to be involved in your post and its activities.

Maine has done well so far this year in meeting our 50 percent and 55 percent membership goals. We currently stand 18<sup>th</sup> in the nation. However, we are over 300 members short from our total membership renewals from last year. We have some tough deadlines to meet in the coming months. November 14 is 65 percent and December 11 is 75 percent. I know you are all working hard to meet these goals. Weekly membership information is posted on our Headquarters website. I have also been sending information to Area Commanders, District Commanders, and Post Commanders and Adjutants as I receive membership information from National Headquarters. If you are not receiving this information, your address may be incorrect or not included in the Maine American Legion Headquarters Directory. Please double check on your email address that is on file or send me your information if you are not currently receiving these emails.

Please reach out to your members for "buddy checks" during this important time of year. Make sure they are doing OK and invite them to any gatherings that your post may be having. This can be a lonely time of year for many and we are veterans helping veterans. Take care of each other. May you all have a safe and blessed Veteran's Day, Christmas, and New Year's holiday with family and friends. See you at the Mid-Winter Conference in January 2020. Thank you, and May God Bless all of you.

## Senator Cyrway Visits State H.Q.:

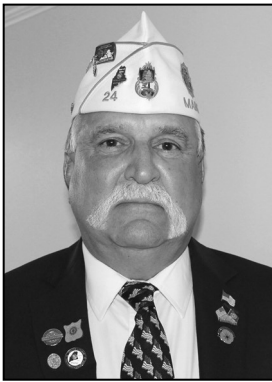
Senator Scott Cyrway, left, and State Adjutant Paul L'Heureux stand in the POW/MIA Memorial located on site of The American Legion, Department of Maine Oct. 22.

Senator Cyrway visited State Headquarters for a tour and special meeting organized by the Department of Maine's Special Projects Coordinator Amedeo Lauria.



## A 'Second' Look

Greetings, hopefully everyone has had a wonderful summer and was able to enjoy the fantastic weather that we had over the past few months. Due to other Legion commitments, I was unable to attend the Fall Conference.



**KIRK  
THURSTON**

The months of September and October found me attending meetings at Legion National Headquarters in Indianapolis. I thought that I would include my trip reports in this article and hope that you find some of the information interesting and helpful.

### CHILD & YOUTH CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 21-22, 2019

Welcome and opening remarks from Herbert J. Petit Jr. (LA), Chairman Committee on C&Y.

Distinguished guest in attendance was Bill Oxford (NC), National Commander, The American Legion, Lisa Williamson (AK), C&Y Chairman American Legion Auxiliary, William Clancy (NY), C&Y Chairman Sons of The American Legion and Loren Sperry (WA), Chairman Junior Shooting Sports Program Conference.

SAL Chairman, William Clancy (NY) discussed the challenge to all Squadrons to sponsor a C&Y event at their Post home. Publicize the event in the local social media and if possible join with other squadrons within their area and, of course, include it in their Consolidated Squadron Report. The Son's Children Action Team (CAT) raised over \$766,000 and presented to 24 different organizations. They raised \$51,000 for CWF and \$75,000 for TFA.

Auxiliary Chairman, Lisa Williamson (AK), discussed a couple of awards that Units could present to youth within their communities. One was 'Good Deed Award' #ALAGOODDEED. This is self-explanatory. She presented one that day to an Eagle Scout that created a sensory room at a local elementary school for children with special needs. This was also his Eagle Scout project. It was pretty impressive. The second one was called 'Youth Hero Award' #ALAYOUTHHERO. This one is harder to present as it requires a physical act of bravery. Contact local schools and explain these awards so they can be on the lookout for possible awardees. Their program called KDH2 is in regard to military kids. They also have a Juniors Patch Program and you can include young SAL members with this as well. On April 3, 2020, will be Purple up Day where you wear purple in support of Military Children.

Michelle Emery (IN), Alumni Program Development Coordinator, The American Legion talked about the alumni program within The American Legion with the big one being The American Legion National College. The Alumni Program raised over \$18 million in the year 2018-2019 for the C&Y programs.

Bob Crandall (IN), Compliance & Risk Manager (Legal Division), The American

Legion reports to the National Judge Advocate. Talked about different types of insurance/liability coverages for the Children & Youth Programs. One of the new ones is called Sexual, Abuse & Molestation (SAM). Of course, everyone is aware of the background checks done on American Legion Baseball coaches and their assistants. National encourages Departments to conduct background checks on Boys State Staff as well.

Frequency of Background Checks. Background checks will be conducted on all Designated Individuals on an annual basis prior to the start of the national youth program they have been selected to staff.

Stacy Cope (IN), Youth Welfare Program Manager, the American Legion. Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) is meant to be a last resort. In order to be considered for a TFA grant, all other forms of possible assistance must be applied for and exhausted. Failure to completely document this and attach official supporting documentation will result in delay or denial of the application. The form is extensive and needs to be filled out correctly. This is something that cannot be rushed. A thorough job needs to be done to protect the American Legion and the applicant.

Doug Chace (IN), Member Engagement Coordinator, the American Legion – Consolidated Post Report (CPR). In the year 2019 only 68 percent of the American Legion Post submitted a CPR which is 1/3 of the Posts Nationwide. The Sons of the American Legion in the same year only 27 percent of the Detachments submitted a report. This needs to improve! In the Department of Maine, 137 out of 177 Post submitted a CPR which is 77 percent. This, too, can be improved. How can this be accomplished? Well, come to the Mid-Winter Conference, and you will learn how to accomplish this very easy task. It is not time consuming by any means.

### THE AMERICAN LEGION AMERICAN- ISM COMMISSION Oct 14-15, 2019

The meeting on Monday, Oct. 14, 2019 was called to order by Richard W. Anderson (CT), Chairman, Americanism Commission at 08:30 a.m.

Attendees heard presentations and received reports from Chairman Michael Westergren (AR) Committee on Youth Education, Chairman David King (KY) Oratorical Conference, Bill Megnin (IN) Program Manager Youth Activities, Chairman Loren Sperry (WA) 2019 Junior Shooting Sports (JSSP), Jeff Hendrick (IN) Deputy Director Americanism Division with the report of 2019 Scouting Conference, American Legion World Series update from Eddie Holbrook Chairman World Series Committee, Robert Crandall from Internal Affairs Compliance & Risk Manager discussed Senate Bill 534 Youth Protection Act 2017 that was signed into law February 2018 and National Chaplain Edward Harris Jr. (IN) discussed the four things that each Department/District and Post Chaplains should include in their respected programs and they are as follows: Four months that all chaplains must remember:

- February - The Four Chaplains Service is one of the most honored events that should never be forgotten.

More on "SECOND LOOK", Page 4

## On the Agenda

### DECEMBER MEETINGS

- District 2 – Cumberland: Dec. 8, Yarmouth Post 91, 2 p.m. Annual holiday party/gift exchange
- District 5 – Oxford: Dec. 17, Locke Mills Post 68, 7 p.m., appoint nominating committee. District Christmas party.
- District 9 – Kennebec: Dec. 11, Augusta Post 205, 7 p.m.
- District 12 – Hancock: Dec. 12, Northeast Harbor Post 103, dinner 6:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m. mtg.

### JANUARY MEETINGS

- District 5 – Oxford: Jan. 21, South Paris Post 72, 7 p.m. Oratorical contest, refreshments after.
- District 7 – Lincoln: Jan. 6, Boothbay Harbor Post 36, 5:30 p.m.
- District 9 – Kennebec: Jan. 8, South China Post 179, 7 p.m.
- District 11 – Waldo: Jan. 19, Belfast Post 43, 2 p.m.

### FEBRUARY MEETINGS

- District 2 – Cumberland: Feb. 16, Westbrook Post 197, 2 p.m.
- District 5 – Oxford: Feb. 18, Dixfield Post 100, 7 p.m. Nominations. Light supper 6 p.m.
- District 9 – Kennebec: Feb. 12, Maine Veterans Home, Augusta, 7 p.m.
- District 12 – Hancock: Feb. 11, Trenton Post 207, TBA
- District 14 – Piscataquis: Feb. 15, Dexter Post 53, lunch noon, 1 p.m. mtg.
- District 15 – Washington: Feb. 9, Machias Post 9, 2 p.m.
- District 16 – S. Aroostook: Feb. 9, Van Buren Post 49, 1 p.m. Meal is at discretion of the Post. Four Chaplains with District 17.
- District 17 – N. Aroostook: Feb. 9, Van Buren Post 49, dinner 1 p.m., 2 p.m. mtg. Four Chaplains service.

## Money Matters

How time flies. Six months of the Department of Maine fiscal year has passed, and it is time to start thinking about the new budget for 2020-2021. While it is too early to ask for budget requests from those responsible for program budgets, please start thinking about your program needs for next year and jot them down. When we do start to finalize the budget for next year, a non-request from a program will be considered the same as saying "we have enough for our needs at the current level of funding."

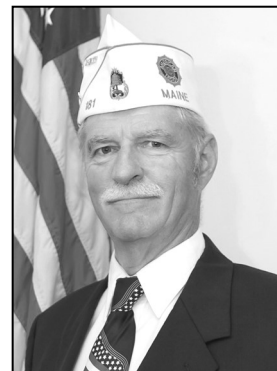
In July, I had the opportunity to give a 40-minute overview to the Department of Maine Legion College class on sound financial practices and information a Post Finance Officer should be giving their membership on a monthly basis. There were a lot of good questions, and I hope the students

brought the information back to their Posts.

At Headquarters, we continue to discuss developing an Adjutant/Finance Officer training session for Posts and Districts. Many Post's and District's finance report consists of only the checkbook total on the day of the monthly meeting. There is little information given to the members as to what revenue is brought in monthly as well as what payments are made. Far too many Posts operate without an approved budget and even fewer do not routinely have an annual audit.

The Veterans Emergency Financial Assistance Program (VEFAP) is underway and working well. The Department of Maine has received the first year's grant money in the amount of \$125,000. (10 percent or \$12,500 is to pay for administration, and the balance of \$112,500 is used to assist veterans with qualified financial need.) The program is administered through Headquarters or through Easter Seals Maine. The applications are available through the Department website ([mainelegion.org](http://mainelegion.org)) or if you do not have computer access, check with your service officer at your Post.

Have a great winter. See you at the Mid-Winter Conference in January.



**GREGORY  
COUTURE**

### **\*\*Attention District Commanders and Post Adjutants\*\***

**M**yLegion.org training lessons are available at State Headquarters. If you are interesting in learning how to use the site, please call The American Legion, Department of Maine Headquarters at 207-873-3229 Ext. 2 or email [rachael@mainelegion.org](mailto:rachael@mainelegion.org) to set up an appointment.

Training lessons last between 1-2 hours.



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## NEC Update

Hello again, Legionnaires,

Well, here we are again. The Fall Meeting of the National Executive Committee has been concluded once more and we got a lot accomplished during the meetings held Oct. 16-17

in Indianapolis. On a sad note, The American Legion lost two more Legionnaires during the meeting dates. One was our National Treasurer, George Buskirk, and another was the NECA from Kentucky who passed sometime either Sunday or Monday.

We discussed 20 resolutions that were referred to the NEC from various committees which of the 20, 19 were approved with one being returned to the committee for further study and correction.

Res. #1 Amendment To The Pre-



LLOYD  
WOODS

amble Of The Constitution Of The American Legion

Changes the phrase "the Great Wars" to "all wars"...

Res. #2 National Oratorical Contest Of The American Legion

Amends the structure to nine first-round quarter-finals, three second-round semi-final contests and a national finals contest involving three finalists. Effective with the 2020 contest the award structure will be:

- up to 53 department winners competing in the first-round will receive \$2,000 each;

- up to 15 first-round winners advancing to the second-round semi-final who are subsequently eliminated receive \$2,000 each;

- First place national contest winner receives \$20,000

- Second place national contest winner receives \$17,000

- Third place national contest winner receives \$15,000

Beginning with the 2021 contest, first place will increase to \$25,000; second place to \$22,500 and third place to \$20,000.

More on "NEC", Page 7

## SECOND LOOK

(Continued from Page 3)

- May - Ensure that Posts honor the grave of every veteran within their community, across the country over Memorial Day. Post Everlasting is a poignant reminder for all of those who have passed on throughout the year and we must find the time to honor them.

- November - Veterans Day is a time to remember the sacrifices made by those who served at home and abroad, each giving of their time. We must remember all veterans who came before us and that we, The American Legion stand for something. Never forget.

- December - Pearl Harbor Day

In closing, I looking forward to seeing you in my travels and wish each and every one a Joyous Holiday Season.

## The Adjutant Speaks

Since the last issues of this paper, we have attended the National Convention and apparently, we've caught the attention of other states in this great country of ours. We were constantly questioned on the attitudes and the younger age of our representatives, whether it was Legion, Auxiliary or Sons. The pride and attitudes shown reflected the changes in how we are doing business in the great State of Maine. As I stood by to watch that pride and energy, I also was informed that our current State Commander Matt Jabaut is the youngest State Commander in The American Legion. Many compliments were received, and our own Past National Commander Anthony "Tony" Jordan had a smile on his face as other National Officers commented on the Department of Maine as well. The pride is alive in Maine.



PAUL  
L'HEUREUX

We returned and finalized our plan for the dedication of the POW-MIA Monument which was held on Sept. 28 at your Department HQ in Winslow. The event went beyond expectations. Everything went according to plans, except for the turnout of our members. What started out with about 200 exceeded 300 and, best of all, the weather was perfect for this event. The attendance included dignitaries from Federal, State and Local Government as well as our own National Commander. We had over 20 motorcycles in formation representing our own Legion Riders as well as a group from the Combat Vets. The 15-piece band, Volunteers Jazz Band, set the tone with patriotic music as well as

the service song of each branch of service. Many of the families in attendance were relatives of those names on the monument. Since that event, we have had a constant flow of visitors at HQ showing respect to the 480 names on the wall. We will also be included in the in the local Chamber of Commerce informational packet which will be sent out to hundreds of businesses in Maine. In your travels, please take the time to visit The American Legion POW-MIA monument located at your Department Headquarters.

The next thing that came to a close was our ongoing State of Maine American Legion College. Our third and final weekend class for 2019 was held on Oct. 26 & 27 at Dept. HQ in our training building, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow. This is the third class that is broken down in three modules of three complete weekends. These classes are for those that want to make a difference and are dedicated to making that commitment. Thanks to our Instructors, Matt Jabaut, Dean of the College, Jason Hall, Lead Facilitator, and Ethan McKenney, Facilitator, who have taken the Department Leadership to a different level. Because of them and the Department of Maine support we are currently the #1 Dept. in the country, setting the standards on all levels of the course. The results of these classes are starting to show at different levels within the Dept. of Maine. At the Post level, we have seen those improvements, not only with leadership but with involvement at the post level with Legion programs and growing membership within those Posts. Some of those examples are Post-67 in Bridgton and Post-37 in Thomaston. At the District Level, we have seen growth in membership and increased attendance at District meetings. District-6 and District-7 has set new standards in success with District-6 starting a new Post as well. These Posts

More on "ADJUTANT", Page 7

## Women Veteran's Advisory Committee Update

The committee would like to thank The American Legion Post 202 and Post 148 for holding a Women Veteran's Luncheon. Post 202 in Topsham held their luncheon in April. Thank you to Nancy Gillespie and her committee for a great event. Post 148 in Windham was recently held in October. Thank you to Rebecca Cummings and David Tangway for all your hard work. I attended both events, and it was evident that a lot of hard work was put in to making sure those in attendance had a great time. Guest speakers were in attendance as well as resources to support those seeking information.

As always, we are looking for anyone from The American Legion Family who is willing to support one of these events. We are here to support you in planning. Please reach out to a committee member if you would like to plan a luncheon.

Your committee members for 2019-2020 are as follows: Chairwoman Nancy

Gillespie e-mail: [nanslaf@gmail.com](mailto:nanslaf@gmail.com), Tricia Thurston, Advisor e-mail: [tricia425@roadrunner.com](mailto:tricia425@roadrunner.com), Joy Bordeau, e-mail: [hummingbirdjoy1225@gmail.com](mailto:hummingbirdjoy1225@gmail.com), Deb Couture, e-mail: [navycaptpom-i0031@gmail.com](mailto:navycaptpom-i0031@gmail.com), Brenda Dearborn, email: [b\\_dearborn@yahoo.com](mailto:b_dearborn@yahoo.com), Gloria Hall, e-mail: [ghalltc23@hotmail.com](mailto:ghalltc23@hotmail.com), Maureen Malley, e-mail: [maureenmalley.66@gmail.com](mailto:maureenmalley.66@gmail.com) Catherine Merrill, e-mail: [catherinemerrill54@gmail.com](mailto:catherinemerrill54@gmail.com), Renee Wells, e-mail: [rwells118@yahoo.com](mailto:rwells118@yahoo.com), Caroline Yarmala, Christie King, e-mail: [christieking1971@aol.com](mailto:christieking1971@aol.com), Robin Greene, email: [rwitneygreene@gmail.com](mailto:rwitneygreene@gmail.com). Please do not hesitate to reach out to any of the committee members. We are here to support all Veterans.

Thank you.

Submitted by The American Legion Department of Maine Sergeant-At-Arms & Women Veteran's Advisory Committee Advisor Patricia Thurston



## President's Message

Greetings, Legion Family,

The Holidays are right around the corner, thoughts are full of reflection, gratitude, various emotions, and of memories of those no longer with us. With the recent passing of my oldest son, John, my emotions have become ups and downs, unpredictable from moment to moment. The one thing that has been constant has been the physical and virtual hug and support that I and my family have received and continue to receive, from my "Legion Family", near and far.

Being a member of this Family, an active member of the American Legion Auxiliary, has always been a way for me, in some small way, to give back to those who have sacrificed so much and some who have given all, to those who have suffered emotionally and/or physically as a result of making a decision to serve this great Country and to protect the

citizens that call it home.

In the past, I have struggled with the phrase, "Service, not Self". The struggle has been that, in serving our Veterans, I always feel I walk away with a fuller heart, a greater appreciation and gratitude, for the life I have lived and a renewed sense of motivation to continue to serve.

The friendships I have acquired through this organization are irreplaceable, nurturing and growing. The self-worth, self-esteem and self-confidence that has built and continues to build, with the help of so many others of like mind, often makes me feel that I get so much more than I could possibly give. Through serving our Veterans, their Families and Communities, through working side by side with members of The American Legion, The Sons of the American Legion, The American Legion Riders and fellow American Legion Auxiliary members, I have learned to be comfortable with my "Self".

For all the above mentioned, I wish to express my most heartfelt Thank you, for the gifts that being a member of the American Legion Family gives to me continually and unconditionally.

In Grateful Service,  
"Aiming to Inspire and Mentor, for the Next 100 Years"

GINNY CHAPUT  
President, Dept. of Maine  
The American Legion Auxiliary



**PRESIDENT  
VIRGINIA CHAPUT**

## POW/MIA Program

**Discussion:** Left to right, NECA Randall Kluj and American Legion Auxiliary State President Virginia Chaput discuss a few important items on the program before the POW/MIA Ceremony at Legion State Headquarters on Sept. 28.



**Honor Flight:** An Honor Flight ceremony took place at Portland Jetport on Sept. 22. Left to right, Auxiliary President Virginia Chaput pins Bob Fairfield with Charlotte Hagan looking on.

Photo by Department Historian Jeffrey Stevenson

## — Your Letters —

### Thank You for Children, Youth Scholarship

Dear American Legion Children and Youth Committee,

Thank you for awarding me with the Children and Youth Scholarship. This scholarship will make a huge difference in helping me be able to finance my education and, for that, I am grateful. Most of all, thank you for believing in me and my goals.

I will be starting school at Maine College of Health Professions on August 12 and I am very excited for my next chapter.

Thank you,  
Madison Greenlaw

at the Warren Prison.

We have transitioned 16 women and five children through this house in 18 months. We have never been empty.

Thank you again.

Respectfully,  
Martha Everatt StPierre,  
Founder and Executive Director  
Betsy Ann Ross House of Hope

### Gift Card Has Come in Handy for Purchase of Books

Thank you all for the wonderful gift card. I have used it for the purchase of several books which I have long waited to purchase.

Now I just need to find the time to read them.

Miss you all,  
Tom Adkins

### Legion Riders of Maine Thanked for Donation

Legion Riders of Maine

Thank you so much for your generosity in donating \$3,753 to The Betsy Ann Ross House of Hope.

As you know, we are a transitional house for homeless and in need female Veterans and their children. These funds are truly appreciated.

Thank you so much for actually coming to see the house and our program. As you could see, we are always working on this house, now painting the back of the house (finally). We will be insulating the attic this fall and putting in interior storm windows donated by "Window Dressers"

Paul,

I'm writing to you to thank you very much for the grand tour of Headquarters. To me, it was very amazing to see all the hard work that was put in to bring this post headquarters to where it is now.

Thank you again for the tour and also everything you're doing for the American Legion posts around Maine. There's a lot of work on your hands and you're doing a fine job.

Gerald Boulette, Service Officer,  
Athens Post 192



## View from the National Convention

By DAVID TANGUAY

### Special to The Maine Legionnaire

Just back from The American Legion 101<sup>st</sup> National Convention in Indianapolis with lots to contemplate.

With dozens of training sessions and too many speakers to recall everything that was said. I find myself focusing on a couple of themes that I would like to discuss.

Many times, people look at an American Legion Post as just a "Good Old Boy's" "club or maybe the local "watering hole". I'm sure There are a few Posts that fit that category. Many Post members view their membership in the Legion as being part of an organization that is bigger than themselves. All Posts are local, but all Posts have the potential to be more than that. The Four Pillars of the Legion provide the framework for each Post to reach into the community to support our Veterans and our youth.

One question that resounded with me was, "where would we be as a country if there had not been an American Legion over the last 100 years?" Think about it.

Maybe some other organization would have come along to support some Veterans, but, the founders of The American Legion (including Teddy Roosevelt Jr, stated that, "A Veteran is a Veteran!") There were no divisions by battles, class, rank, gender, race, etc. All Veterans should be treated equally. That has been the goal that is still being pursued even today.

It was The American Legion who lead the charge for a Veteran's Administration and The American Legion who presented the first draft of the GI Bill; An Act that has benefited more Veterans than any other Law on the books today whether it was to purchase a home; go to school; get retrained after their service; and so much more. If you do not know your Legion History, take the time to go online or get the History venues for your Post from the National website.

So, what has the Legion done for me lately? Good question. National Commander Brett Reistad highlighted just a few of the items that transpired during the Legions 100<sup>th</sup> year.

More on "CONVENTION", Page 12

## Service Office Update

There are a few things that I want to talk about in this issue. The first is a local veterans assistance book. To me this is important for a few reasons. The most important reason is that I have heard of cases where a veteran was turned away from a local American Legion Post. The reason was because the individual that the veteran talked to did not have any idea how to help them. A local assistance book would have stopped that from happening. It is nothing more than a three-ring binder that lists local agencies that have agreed to help veterans. This binder should be in the post where everyone can get to it. No veteran should ever be turned away. This is something that the Post Service Officer should be putting together. Call if you have questions on this.



**SERVICE OFFICER  
CARL CURTIS**

Latest and greatest from the VA on Blue Water Navy. The date that the VA will start working the Blue Water Navy claims is fast approaching. The VA has requested that if a Blue Water Navy veteran has ever been denied for exposure to Agent Orange, they must submit a supplemental claim review. The VA will be sending out letters to all veterans that fall into this category. This includes surviving spouses whose husband passed away from a presumptive condition of Agent Orange exposure. Have them contact our office for assistance.

The weather is turning colder, and the holiday season is coming up fast. Buddy checks are becoming more important. Does the veteran have heat? Is the veteran all alone? Does he have food? Many of our comrades do not come into the post very often. In short, we have no idea how they are doing. If we don't act, no one will. As veterans, we normally will not ask for help. It is important that we ensure that our comrades are taken care of. We have an entire state of resources that we can use to help.

### **PLEASE READ AND RESPOND TO YOUR MAIL FROM THE VA!**

#### **APPEALS OF CLAIMS.**

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

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

**Financial Assistance.** Keep in mind

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

**PSO Training Seminar.** There will not be another PSO course this year. They will start up in April of 2020. If you are interested in attending, then let me know. 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](mailto: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 is of value to our veterans. The newsletter contains active links to a variety of resources for veterans as well as 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.

1. Paper - VA Form 10-10 EZ.
2. Call 1-877-222-VETS (8387), Mon-Fri between 8 am and 8 pm, EST.
3. On-Line at [www.vets.gov](http://www.vets.gov)!

### **TOGUS VA WOMEN'S CLINIC.**

If you haven't already heard, there is a Women Veterans Clinic here at Togus.

It specializes in women's health issues. Please keep in mind that there are medical

conditions that may be claimable for the children of women veterans who served in certain areas and/or on certain ships that are presumptive for Agent Orange. If you are a woman veteran, it is a good idea to give us a call or look for more information on [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov).

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

### **DSO CONTACT INFORMATION.**

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

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

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



**Parking Attendants:** American Legion Department of Maine Officers prepare to direct traffic at the POW/MIA Ceremony at State HQ in Winslow, Sept. 28 to provide a safe and orderly parking of vehicles. Left to right, Department Service Officer Carl Curtis, Department 2nd Vice Commander Kirk Thurston and Department Americanism Officer Al McKay.



## ■ “NEC”

(Continued from Page 4)

**Res. #3** Extension of Agreement With Baseball Factory

Allows extended 5 year contract to provide clinics and tournaments for Legion baseball players.

**Res. #4** American Legion Junior Shooting Sports Air Rifle National Championship Award

Renames the trophy to the above title.

**Res. #5** National Convention Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Screening Committee

Establishes a five member committee to consider all resolutions assigned to the VA&R Commission.

**Res. #6** 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of World War II

Departments and posts to work with state and local governments for any event.

**Res. #7** The American Legion Veterans & Children Foundation Authorization

To solicit funds to raise an additional \$25,000,000.

**Res. #8** Authorize Issuance Of Temporary Charter To A Foreign Post

To Molesworth Post 0303 Molesworth, England affiliated with Department of France

**Res. #9** Updated Eligibility For Samsung American Legion Scholarships

Conforms to the dates of eligibility for The American Legion per the Legion Act

**Res. #10** 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Remembrance Of Our Comrades In The 1919 Centralia Tragedy

Remembrance of those Legionnaires killed in the Centralia, Washington Parade

**Res. #11** Abolish Premium Penalty For Delayed Enrollment In Medicare Part B For Veterans Eligible For - Abolish the 10% premium penalty for all veterans delaying enrollment while eligible for VA medical benefits.

**Res. #12** Rescinding Resolutions

from the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission

**Res. #13** Tracking Of Veteran Unemployment In All U.S. Territories

DOL to track unemployment rate of all U.S. Territories also the veteran community.

**Res. #14** Reauthorize and Fund the U.S. Small Business Administration's Patriot Express Loan

The American Legion encourages legislation to reauthorize and fund said program which would allow faster access to capital needed to start or expand a veteran's business.

**Res. #15** Support Greater GI Bill Outcomes by Closing 90-10 Loophole

**Res. #16** Develop Training For Employers who Utilize Veterans' Preference in their Hiring Practices

**Res. #17** Oppose Deportation of Non-Citizen Immigrant Veterans (returned to committee for further study)

**Res. #18** Funding of the Department of Defense STARBASE Program

Students explore real world scenarios using computer aided design, robotics, engineering design process, mathematics and chemistry, while stressing the “soft subjects” of teamwork, communication and goal setting originally conducted in middle schools.

**Res. #19** Liaison Committees

The National Commander to appoint, without duplication, members from the NEC at the post-convention meeting of the NEC to serve until adjournment of the National Convention next ensuing convention.

**Res. #20** Rescinding of Non-Legislative Resolutions

The full resolution can be obtained at the digital archives at legion.org if desired.

Thank you for allowing me to represent you and our department on this committee. I will do my best to represent you to the utmost. If I can be of any assistance please contact me via email or by my cell, lloin@ainop.com / (207) 557-4971.

**PROUD TO SERVE**

## Standing Up for Maine Veterans

As a percentage of the population, Maine has the 3rd largest Veterans population in the United States. We have a proud tradition of service in this state, and I'm proud to be one of the roughly 57,000 veterans in Maine's Second District. One of my top priorities in Congress is standing up for veterans and making sure they get the care and benefits they have earned.

I know that many vets have struggled to get the mental health care they needed when they returned home. In Maine, one area where the VA falls short is providing long-term mental health and substance abuse care. Togus doesn't have a facility to provide this care, so veterans who are struggling can be sent hundreds of miles from home to Massachusetts or Connecticut.

That's why I've been focused on pressing the VA to bring long-term mental health care beds to Togus. This year, I led the Maine delegation to call on the VA to address this serious shortcoming for Maine vets. I also successfully secured an amendment in the VA funding bill that passed the House to increase funding for long-term mental health and substance abuse programs. These are just the first steps in what will be an ongoing fight to improve mental health care for veterans.

But, as any Legionnaire knows, veterans count on more than robust health care when they come home. We look for the sense of community and support that we had when we served. Many veterans want to feel connected to fellow veterans and to their communities. That's why I've been a strong supporter of The American Legion and their long legacy of community service. I'm a proud member of Post 202 in Topsham.

One of the great honors of my work so far has been the time I've spent at Legion halls around our state. Since January, I've met with Legion members at coffee hours, anniversary celebrations, memorial dedications and

monthly meetings to listen and learn how I can help address the challenges they're facing.



**CONGRESSMAN  
JARED GOLDEN**

And earlier this year, it was an honor to swear in my good friend, Matthew Jabaut, as Maine Commander.

I'm taking what I learn in my conversations with Legionnaires and putting it to work in Washington. I co-

sponsored the LEGION Act, which expands the number of veterans who are eligible for membership in the American Legion and gives more veterans an opportunity to get involved with others who have served. This is an important, bipartisan issue for many veterans I have met. I'm proud to report that the president signed that bill into law this summer.

For any veterans reading today, I want to make clear that my office is here to support you. If you're having trouble with the VA, have concerns you'd like me to hear about, or just want to see what I've been up to, my office is here to help you. If you'd like to visit in person, come see us in Bangor, Caribou or Lewiston. Or if you'd rather call, the phone numbers for each of my offices is listed below. We look forward to hearing from you.

**Bangor Office:** 6 State Street, Bangor ME 04401. Phone: (207) 249-7400

**Caribou Office:** 7 Hatch Drive, Suite 230, Caribou ME 04736. Phone: (207) 492-6009

**Lewiston Office:** 179 Lisbon Street, Lewiston ME 04240. Phone: (207) 241-6767

**Washington Office:** 1223 Longworth HOB, Washington DC 20515. Phone: (202) 225-6306

Submitted by U.S. Representative Jared Golden

## Promote Your Business with the Maine American Legion

The American Legion, Department of Maine will be taking a new direction this year to improve our Annual State Convention Yearbook.

Various changes will take place including the format of the publication as well as a digital copy which will be made available online at

[www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org). To submit your sponsorship ad and payment, please visit <https://form.jotform.com/RachaelJ/ALDOM-Yearbook-Sponsorship-ReqForm> or [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org) and click on the image of the Maine American Legion Convention Yearbook Sponsorship Request Form.



## ■ “ADJUTANT”

(Continued from Page 4)

and Districts have Legionnaires that graduated in the first class so we know that the other two classes are already setting new goals and we will track those success stories for future articles for sure.

During these events, we have also sent a Revitalization Team to a number of Posts that required a little guidance to get them back on track. There are a couple that have stood out because of new Leadership and ideas. Post-180 in St. Francis (Allagash area) was ready to close the doors, but after a few trips and follow-ups with the District -17 Commander Joseph Michaud, a new Commander named Keith Jandreau has taken that Post to over 100 percent membership and still signing up new members. And then a few miles from there another Legionnaire. Leroy McKenzie just recently surfaced with new ideas and energy to work with the Veterans that

currently go to the UM at Ft. Kent. He has also taken the Dept. Service Officer Class which will enable him to help Veterans in the County as well as in the college. Now what do Keith & Leroy have in common? They have what so many of you keep telling me what is missing, younger members with new ideas and the energy to make things happen. Yes, no matter the location they are coming to join, but if you do not give them a chance to do things, they will leave. These are but a few that are currently making a difference and there are many others enrolling in the Service Officers Class and the Legion College Classes now offered.

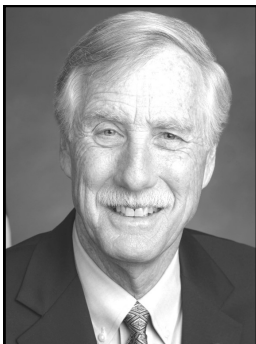
As we enter the Holiday Season, I want to thank all of those new Legion Members that have come forward to help with the programs and challenges that we have taken on. Because of you many of these success stories would not have happened. Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year to all. FORWARD & FOCUSED



## On Veterans Day, a Chance to Honor American Heroes

It was the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, 1918, when the Allied Forces and Central Powers laid down their arms to formalize the end of the First World War. One year later, in 1919, the United States observed the first Armistice Day to remember the Americans who fought and died in the muddy trenches of Europe. In the 100 years since, we have come to recognize November 11th as Veterans Day – a day to pay tribute to American veterans of all wars who have bravely stood up in defense of liberty and democracy – from Bunker Hill to Baghdad.

On this Veterans Day, it is my privilege to thank all the men and women who answered the call to serve in defense of our nation. These patriots and their devoted families represent the best of America. Today, we acknowledge not only what they have done to keep us safe, but also



SENATOR  
ANGUS KING

what they have done to inspire future generations. For years to come, young Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen will endeavor to emulate their hard work, integrity, and commitment to our country and its citizens.

In Maine, we are proud that so many of our neighbors and friends answered the call to serve our nation – indeed, over ten percent of Maine citizens are veterans. When they return home to civilian life, these men and women form the backbone of our communities: they are teachers, first responders, business owners, and mentors. They are people bound together by an ethic of service, dedicated to furthering the American experiment and fostering a more free and just America.

But Veterans Day should not just be a day of gratitude and remembrance. It should also be a day to reaffirm our commitment to care for those who have fought on our behalf. All across America, too many veterans are left struggling with homelessness, mental health, unemployment, and a lack of access to healthcare. So today, let us both celebrate America's veterans and rededicate ourselves to President Lincoln's promise, "[t]o care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan."

Submitted by Senator Angus King

## Honoring the Timeless Heroism of a World War I Veteran

On July 18, 1918, Private Arthur Labbay was engaged in a fierce battle in France during World War I. During his dangerous assignment of running from one foxhole to another reloading machine guns, he was shot in the right arm by enemy fire. While Private Labbay was seeking a medic to treat his serious injury, he received another nearly fatal wound from a bullet that punctured his throat.

More than 101 years later, I was honored to present the Purple Heart this American hero earned but never received to his daughters, Pauline Labbay Blais and Charlotte Landry, along with his granddaughter Kathy Dostie.

In addition to other family members, the ceremony in my Lewiston Constituent Service Center was attended by Major General Douglas Farnham, the Adjutant General of the Maine National Guard, and Colonel Andrew Gibson, Maine Army National Guard Chaplain. It was so inspiring to join the family and friends in paying tribute to Arthur Labbay's exemplary courage, sacrifice, and devotion to duty.

On July 18 of this year, the 101<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the day Private Labbay was wounded, his daughter Pauline, who lives in Greene, reached out to my office to inquire whether her late father was eligible for the Purple Heart. I contacted the Department of Defense and provided them with a packet of information regarding Private Labbay's service. The Army then determined that he had indeed earned the medal.

One of the most rewarding experiences I have as a United States Senator is to help our veterans and their families obtain the medals they earned but never received. It is humbling to reflect upon the valor each medal represents. I have often been called upon to work on getting



SENATOR  
SUSAN COLLINS

long overdue medals for our service members, but it has never been for a WWI service member, and that made this event incredibly special. Arthur Labbay was born in 1894 and enlisted in the Army when the United States entered World War I. He was assigned to Company H, 3rd Battalion, 58th Infantry Regiment and sent to France. The combat in which he was wounded was one of the first battles the American Expeditionary Force fought against a powerful and experienced German foe.

His wounds were so grievous that he required months of hospitalization in France. He returned home on Christmas Eve 1918, married, and had four daughters and two sons. He lived in Lewiston and worked making coils at a local foundry. He was affected by the wounds for the rest of his life and was a patient for many years at Togus VA Medical Center, yet he confronted his injuries with the same courage and determination he demonstrated in combat. When he passed away in 1980, his final resting place was at Saint Peter's Cemetery in Lewiston.

The meaning of the Purple Heart Medal carries the sentiments of troops going back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The Badge of Military Merit, the Purple Heart's origin and inspiration, was established by George Washington in 1782.

Submitted by Senator Susan M. Collins



### Special group pricing for Posts and members



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## Membership Renewals

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

The renewal process begins in July for the upcoming membership year. Renewal notices are sent out in July, October, January, March and May. When a

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

—www.legion.org

**RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP  
ONLINE TODAY!**  
VISIT [WWW.MAINELEGION.ORG](http://WWW.MAINELEGION.ORG) OR  
VISIT [WWW.LEGION.ORG/RENEW](http://WWW.LEGION.ORG/RENEW)

## How to Become a Maine Legionnaire! It's Easy—Join Today!

Veterans who qualify can join The American Legion in Maine by using one of the following options:


**Option 1:** Join the traditional way—fill out the form provided below and give to a recruiter or Legionnaire who will then sign it and take it to a local Post. If a candidate is signed up at a Post, he or she can receive their membership card on the spot or will be sent a new card shortly thereafter.

**Option 2:** Join via snail mail—fill out the form provided below. Mail the form along with a check in the amount of \$40 to The American Legion, Department of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0727. By joining The American Legion, Department of Maine, you automatically are placed in Headquarters Post 178. If you wish to transfer to a local

Post, please wait until you receive a 9-digit membership ID #, then contact the Post you wish to transfer to.

**Option 3:** Join online—visit [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org) and click on the Join Button. Fill out The American Legion, Department of Maine application and proceed with the payment options provided. By joining The American Legion, Department of Maine, you automatically are placed in Headquarters Post 178. If you wish to transfer to a local Post, please wait until you receive a 9-digit membership ID #, then contact the Post you wish to transfer to.

Need Help! Call The American Legion, Department of Maine at 207-873-3229 and someone will be available to assist you.

The American Legion Membership Application			
(Name)		(Date of Birth)	
(Mailing Address)		(Phone Number)	
(City)	(State)	(Zip)	(Post #)
(E-mail)		<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female (Gender)	(Dues)
<input type="checkbox"/> I certify that I served at least one day of active military duty since December 7, 1941 and was honorably discharged or am still serving honorably. Please check appropriate service era and branch of service below			
<input type="checkbox"/> Global War on Terror <input type="checkbox"/> Gulf War <input type="checkbox"/> Panama <input type="checkbox"/> Lebanon/Grenada <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnam <input type="checkbox"/> Korea <input type="checkbox"/> WWII <input type="checkbox"/> Other Conflicts	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Army <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Navy <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Air Force <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Marines <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Coast Guard <input type="checkbox"/> Merchant Marines (WWII only)		
Signature of applicant		Date	Name of recruiter

Receipt of Dues  
(Please Print)

From

\$

for 20

Post #

Recruiter's Name

Recruiter's Signature

Recruiter's Phone #

Listed below are just a few of the many programs The American Legion sponsors. Please check the one(s) that are of interest to you. If the program you like is not listed, please indicate it in the "other" area.

- ☐ Volunteer work at VA Hospital.
- ☐ Work with youth.
- ☐ Help/participate in Post's social activities... dances, dinners, etc.
- ☐ Participate in educational activities... (essay contests, oratorical contests, scholarships)
- ☐ Work with sports teams.
- ☐ Supervise groups (drill team, drum & bugle, scouts, etc.).
- ☐ Post improvement projects.
- ☐ Membership drives.
- ☐ Community projects.
- ☐ Other:
- ☐ Spouse would be interested in the Auxiliary.
- ☐ Son would be interested in the Sons of The American Legion.



## Eligibility Information

If you have served federal active duty in the United States Armed Forces since December 7, 1941, and have been honorably discharged or are still serving - you are eligible for membership in The American Legion!

\*Because eligibility dates remain open, all active duty members of the U.S. Armed Forces are eligible to join The

American Legion at this time, until the date of the end of hostilities as determined by the government of the United States.

\*\*U.S. Merchant Marine eligible only from December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946 (WWII).

—www.legion.org

## Eligibility Questions

**What are the eligibility dates for membership in The American Legion?**

Thanks to the LEGION Act (Let Everyone Get Involved In Opportunities for National Service Act), Congress expanded the current eligibility period to cover Dec. 7, 1941, to the present, and includes the current war campaigns. Previously, there were seven declared war periods. Now there are two, the current war period dating back to World War II and another war era covering World War I. No other restrictions to American Legion membership changed.

**I'm currently on active duty. Am I eligible?**

Yes, you are a veteran. All current active duty military are eligible for membership.

**I didn't retire from the military, but was on active duty during one of the qualifying time periods. Am I eligible?**

Yes, you are a veteran. As long as you have served at least one day of federal active duty during any qualifying period, you are eligible for membership.

**I served during one of the qualifying periods, but was never in a combat zone. Am I eligible?**

Yes, you are a veteran. Location of active duty service is not a consideration for membership.

**I'm currently in the National Guard/Reserve. My unit was activated under Title 10 orders during a qualifying time period. Am I eligible?**

Yes, you are a veteran. Title 10 orders are issued by the Secretary of Defense and therefore are federal orders.

**My National Guard unit was activated for crowd control under Title 32 orders during one of the qualifying periods. Am I eligible?**

No. Title 32 orders are issued under a governor's authority, whereas Title 10 orders are issued from the Secretary of Defense.

**I'm currently a cadet at one of the U.S. Military Academies. Am I eligible?**

Yes, you are a veteran. The American Legion has considered service in the military academies as eligible for membership since WWI.

**Can I be an honorary or social member of The American Legion?**

No. Per National Constitution and By-laws, no form or class of membership is authorized except regular active or paid up for life.

**I served my entire military career in the National Guard/Reserves, and only have a DD214 from my Active Duty for Training that I was in during one of the qualifying dates. Am I eligible?**

Yes, you are a veteran. In the mid-60s all basic training and occupational training schools were considered federal active duty service.

**I served active duty as a SPAR, WAC, WASP, or WAVES during the one of the qualifying periods. Am I eligible?**

Yes, you are a veteran. Even though women served separately than men, their service is equal.

**I served with allied military forces during one of the qualifying periods. Am I eligible?**

Yes, you are a veteran, only if you were a U.S. citizen at the time of entry.

**I served with the Civil Air Patrol/Civilian Technical Corps/USPHS as a civilian during two qualifying periods. Am I eligible?**

No. Eligible members must have federal military service during a qualifying period and received an honorable discharge or discharge under honorable conditions.

**I enlisted and went to basic training, but received an uncharacterized discharge due to a medical condition. Am I eligible?**

Yes, you are a veteran. Uncharacterized discharges for medical discharges are assumed to be under honorable conditions unless specifically stated otherwise. There are other categories of uncharacterized discharges and before they are determined eligible for membership the discharge should be sent to National for determination and a record will be maintained at National on final determination.

**I'm eligible for The American Legion, but do not have a copy of my DD214 to show as proof of eligibility. How can I get one?**

You can go to [archives.gov/veterans](http://archives.gov/veterans) to request another copy of your discharge papers. A copy of orders putting you on federal active duty can be used as proof of eligibility as well.

—www.legion.org

## — Bits 'N Pieces —

### Thomaston Post 37

A celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Post 37 was held on August 17. Thomaston Post 37 Historian George Robinson, Jr. gave a short talk on the 1919 founding of the post. Presentation of American Legion Continuous Service Certificates were presented to members by Commander William Demmons and First Vice Commander Jeremy Miller. This year the awards ranged from five to 60 years and totaled more than 700 years of service.

A Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster was presented to Mrs. Shirley Richards, the widow of Darby's Rangers, Lloyd D. Richards by Service Officer Jeffrey Wright and Historian George Robinson, Jr.

### Madison Post 39

Madison Post 39 for their donations of \$50 to MAD@Cancer Ride for American Cancer Society, \$180 worth of coffee to Togus VAVS, \$125 to the Sea Cadets for their voyage on a Windjammer, \$15 Bingo package for the Cayford/Pollis benefit, \$100 to Diadema Golf Classic Tournament to benefit patients undergoing treatment for cancer in the Oncology Department at Redington Fairview General Hospital, \$15 Bingo package for Somerset Special Olympics Luck of the Draw Auction, and a \$15 Bingo package and \$25 for a Unit member's son who needs a liver transplant.

Unit 39 donated \$44 worth of comfort care items for VAVS, \$150 to the Sea Cadets, \$100 to a Unit member who lost her home due to fire, \$50 sponsorship of a Unit member for American Cancer Society, \$25 to B Co. JMCA in memory of a Unit member, \$100 to a Legionnaire for traveling to Boston for medical treatments, \$25 to Maine General Home Care and Hospice in memory of a Unit member, \$25 gas card to a Legionnaire for traveling expenses to Boston for treatment in memory of a Unit member, \$150 to VAVS for comfort items, \$15 Bingo package for a Luck of the Draw for the Cayford/Pollis benefit, two \$15 Bingo

packages for Somerset Special Olympics Luck of the Draw Auction, \$25 to Wounded Warriors Project in memory of a Unit member, \$50 to Diadema Golf Classic Tournament to benefit patients undergoing treatment for cancer at the Oncology Department at Redington Fairview Hospital, \$25 to Madison Trunk of Treat, \$25 to Madison's Informational Booth, \$25 to Maplecrest Rehab & Living Center for their Halloween Walk Through, \$25 to Maine Parkinsons Society, \$15 Bingo package for Unit #16 Luck of the Draw Auction and \$50 for the Standdown at Togus.

The Legion family held a benefit and raised \$1,400 for a Unit member, her husband, who is a SAL member, and their family who lost their home due to a fire.

Post 39, Unit 39 and SAL Squadron 39 raised \$4,692.50 for a Unit member's son who needs a liver transplant.

Squadron 39 contributed to the Town of Madison's Trunk or Treat and the Information Booth to help fund the candy that was handed out.

ALR Chapter 39 donated \$100 to the wife of a fellow rider and charter member to help with travel expenses to the hospital in Portland, \$50 to Togus Creative Arts and \$40 to Unit 39 for turkeys for the annual Thanksgiving dinner.

### Bridgton Post 67

Bridgton Post 67 hosted the ALR Summer Rally which brought together Riders from all over the state. The Riders of Maine made a substantial donation to the Betsy Ann Ross Home for women Veterans with children.

### Scarborough Post 76

Scarborough Post 76 has been sponsoring free coffee and donuts the third Wednesday of each month. All Veterans, Scarborough Police, Scarborough Fire, Scarborough Public Works and Scarborough School bus drivers are welcome. In the last couple of months, they have been hosting a free lunch for all. They serve roughly 90 folks each month.

### Bench

#### Donation:

The Sons of The American Legion State Detachment Officer Al Morton and Squadron Post 21 member Ed Morton donate a granite bench to The American Legion, Department of Maine, on June 3 on behalf of the Sons of The American Legion in celebration of 100 years of service.



Left to right, Department Adjutant Paul L'Heureux, Department Judge Advocate Jason Hall, Ed Morton, and Al Morton.



## Down Memory Lane American Legion Baseball

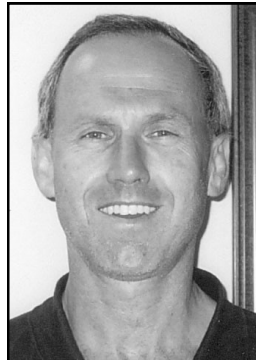


By DAN WARREN

Special to The Maine Legionnaire

This is a photo of my late father, Harvey Warren, Navy Pilot, World War II.

I suppose, if you look at his photo, you will understand immediately why I took his suggestion 36 years ago to get involved with the Libby-Mitchell Post 76 in Scarborough to "help the boys at the Legion out," he said.



DAN  
WARREN



HARVEY WARREN

And you may also understand why, in 1999, after I bellyached that they wanted me to take over the struggling American Legion baseball program—and, in doing so, raise the money, buy the equipment, order new uniforms, hire and supervise the coaches, arrange for fields to play on, umpires to do the games, he just stared at me.

"The gentlemen at the Post were at Guadalcanal, Iwo Jima, D-Day, Korea, or Vietnam. I would not say to them what you just said to me about the sacrifice required of you. I am sure you will do what they have asked of you. I know they will all appreciate your help with their ball club."

I did and they did.

My father was one of a bunch of Veterans in Maine who, more than five decades ago, invigorated the fledgling Dirigo Boys State program. My father was not a "baseball guy," but I remember meeting several Libby-Mitchell Post guys in the 1960's, such as Ken Dolloff, Don McLewin, and others, when I was a little kid, and seeing them work with local home builder George Stanford to make wooden baseball bats in his workshop for Scarborough boys.

Ken Dolloff, a D-Day Veteran and member of the Scarborough High School Class of 1940, was one of the Post guys who asked me in 1999 to take over the Post baseball team. It was a "combined" team that included teenaged boys from Scarborough, Gorham and Saco. There had been off-field discipline problems. Player interest was down. Things were about to fold.

After I agreed to take over as General Manager of Baseball Operations (Ken's military phrase, not mine!), he said to me, "I just have two requests—One is that you put the Post name and an American flag patch somewhere on the shirts or ball caps; and two, that you require some type of community service by the players."

I agreed (not that, with these guys, I ever felt their very modest occasional requests was every "debatable"—especially

in the face of all the help they gave the team—fundraising, year-end player-parent BBQ, trophy case in the Post main room).

My father once said to me: "Many of us after the war settled down here and wanted to help our towns." No resting on their laurels, with this bunch.

And Ken had a phrase—"Better human beings make better ballplayers." He was right.

There is an old comical saying among volunteers—"No good deed goes unpunished!"

There is some truth to that.

In my 20<sup>th</sup> year as GM and occasional coach, I became the target of an organized campaign by two (well-intentioned, I am sure) dads who wanted me out so they could coach, and also allow their sons to play BOTH Legion ball for Libby-Mitchell Post and AAU private-team baseball on a "travel team" that played out of state etc. We had dealt with forfeits one year; players were stretched too thin; some would play out of state and miss our games. Not good. We developed a policy—if you want to play for our team that is the only baseball team you will play on this season.

Most people understood it. Our coaches loved it. Legion baseball officials in Togus mentioned us to other teams in the state dealing with similar forfeit problems.

We ended up having a meeting at the Post with the disgruntled parents. I was reminded of this recently by current Libby-Mitchell Post stalwarts—Commander Phil Ceaser, and Past Commander Dave Dolloff.

I was defended by two current or Past Commanders at that meeting. I will be forever grateful to them---Duane Jutting, and Ken Dolloff.

Duane Jutting said,

"Mr. Warren has organized skills clinics for the boys. Former pro and college players have taught fundamentals to

More on "BASEBALL", Page 11



## Legion to Congress: 'Fix the Gold Star Kiddie Tax!'

INDIANAPOLIS - (Aug. 19, 2019) The head of The American Legion called on Congress to address a tax that unfairly penalizes Gold Star families once lawmakers return to Washington.

"There is a real problem with this provision of the tax reform but the Senate and the House already passed different solutions to fix it," National Commander Brett P. Reistad said of the measure. "For many Gold Star family members the tax penalty has become unbearable. In some cases the taxes on the survivor's benefits received after a military member's death have increased from \$1,000 a year in 2018 to nearly \$4,500 in 2019. It redefines certain benefits for children as 'unearned income,' subjecting them to higher rates. Increasing the tax burden on these families who lost a loved one is unconscionable."

The law, which is often referred to as "the kiddie tax," increases the marginal tax rate for some to as much as 37 percent.

"It's outrageous to hammer these families with such an unjust tax hike. Haven't they already sacrificed enough? How can a family plan its financial future

for such things as rent, food or the basic necessities of life when the tax rate on the important benefits they received is held up in limbo? In addition to the 'kiddie tax,' there is a 'widow's tax' that The American Legion has long opposed," Reistad said. "The House version of the National Defense Authorization Act includes the elimination of the widow's tax and The American Legion has called on the Senate conferees to adopt the same language and pass it as part of the budget deal as soon as they return from recess."

With a current membership of nearly two million wartime veterans, The American Legion was founded in 1919 on the four pillars of a strong national security, veterans affairs, patriotic youth programs and Americanism. Legionnaires work for the betterment of their communities through nearly 13,000 posts worldwide. From the drafting of the original GI Bill to the creation of the Department of Veterans Affairs, The American Legion is the most influential voice for America's veterans. The American Legion, [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org), will be celebrating its centennial through Veteran Day.

## ■ "Baseball" (Continued from Page 10)

boys. He has hired top flight coaches—current and former college and high school coaches. He has had rules for players both on and off the field. He runs a right ship. They have won a Zone championship, and other times, finished very close to the top. They show up and play hard. They do not forfeit Libby-Mitchell Post games. They play a strong schedule and do things the right way. We are pleased he has been our GM for 20 years."

Ken Dolloff added, "And something Dan has done that you may not care about, but we do—he has the boys decorate a patriotic red white and blue float each year for the town Memorial Day parade. Players ride on back. They do a public service project each summer—a beach cleanup or a visit to the Maine Veterans Home. Our Post name is on the shirts—on the chest where everybody can see it. The American flag is on the hats. They have team trophies named after our Veterans here. They have set up



two scholarships to give each year at Scarborough High. They have a team BBQ each year here at the Post so the boys get to meet Veterans. This is what he promised us. This is what he has done. Case closed."

As Legion baseball drifts off into the sunset, having succumbed to the all-powerful societal force of money in youth sports, these are fond memories for me. When people ask me how I look back on my time and service in Legion baseball, I say—"Well, let me tell you what two great Post members said, better you hear it from them, not me." I am pretty sure my late father would not want to hear his youngest son "bragging on himself," even if it involved trying to help out some guys who, at a young age, seem to have done a pretty fair job of helping our their country.

(Dan Warren is a lawyer in Scarborough, a 1975 graduate of Scarborough High where he played baseball, soccer, and basketball, and a member of Sons of Legion at the Libby-Mitchell Post 76 in Scarborough. He can be reached by e-mail at [jonesandwarren@gmail.com](mailto:jonesandwarren@gmail.com), or by phone at (207) 219-9414).

## Sweepstakes Winners \*\*\*Announced\*\*\*

The Annual Fall Conference concluded on Saturday afternoon, Sept. 21, with our Sweepstakes drawing, which saw four of our Legionnaires win the following amounts:

Kerry Bowden, Winslow HQ Post 178— \$1,500 (grand prize winner)  
Richard Keene, Bar Harbor Post 25—\$500  
Theodore Bracy, York Post 56— \$300  
John Macomber, Winslow HQ Post 178— \$200  
**CONGRATULATIONS!!!**

## 2020 High School Oratorical Contest State Finals set for Feb. 8 at Thomas College

The American Legion, Department of Maine High School Oratorical Scholarship Contest will once again be held at Thomas College in Waterville on Feb. 8, 2020 at 9 a.m. Snow Date: Feb. 10, 2020 at 9 a.m.

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

Young orators will have the opportunity to earn some of the most generous scholarships. At the Post and District level, the scholarships offered range from \$50 - \$1000, and at the State level \$50 - \$1500. At the national level, each department (state) winner who is certified into and participates in the national contests 1st round receives \$2000 and those who advance through the 1st round get an additional \$2000. The overall national contest winner gets a \$20,000 scholarship. Sec-



ond place takes home \$17,000, and third gets \$15,000.

The members of the Oratorical Committee will be working with both Area and District Commanders to prepare Posts and Districts for their local contests. We hope to have all Post contests completed by Mid-December 2020 and all District contests completed by the end of January 2020.

The 2020 National Finals is April 17-19 in Indianapolis, at the Wyndham Indianapolis West. Quarterfinal and semifinal contests are scheduled for Saturday, April 18, with the finals scheduled for Sunday, April 19. Certification of Department winners is due to National by March 16, 2020.

For more information about the Oratorical Contest in Maine, please contact Oratorical Chairman Dale Midgley at 207-590-3532 | e-mail: [midgleyd@earthlink.net](mailto:midgleyd@earthlink.net). More information can be obtained by visiting [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org), your local American Legion Post, or The American Legion, Department of Maine Headquarters at 207-873-3229. Please check out the state and local Oratorical Contests by visiting National's website at [www.legion.org/oratorical](http://www.legion.org/oratorical).



## Maine American Legion Announces its 73rd Annual Boys State Program June 21-25 at Thomas College

The American Legion, Department of Maine is proud to announce the 73rd 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 21-25. 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 2020 program will be \$300 per student. Contact The American Legion Dirigo Boys State, 5



Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0727, Tel: (207) 873-3229, or online at [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org) or [www.dirigoboyssstate.com](http://www.dirigoboyssstate.com) for application materials.

Thank you for your assistance in making the 73rd Annual American Legion Dirigo Boys State Program a success.

## ■ “CONVENTION”

(Continued from Page 5)

He started with one issue that may have significant implications around the country. A World War I Monument in the shape of a simple Latin cross, the Bladensburg Cross, was constructed with Legion Support in 1925 on private property to remember World War I veterans in Bladensburg, Maryland. Over the years, road construction surrounded the cross and it eventually became public property. In “The American Legion vs. American Humanist Association, the U.S. Supreme Court held that a free-standing, 40-foot cross on government land in Bladensburg, Maryland, did not violate the First Amendment’s “no establishment” clause, reversing the lower court’s ruling. Commander Reistad pointed out that the Supreme Court could go three ways: One, agree with the lower courts and have the cross taken down; two, allow this cross to stand as a symbol of the losses from World War I; or three, allow this cross to stand and further to make a judgement about all religious symbols in public areas, “The court also avoided sweeping arguments that the cross lacked religious content and had become a universal symbol of sacrifice. Thankfully, the court rejected this offensive argument by acknowledging the obvious — that the cross is a Christian symbol, albeit one in its view that had taken on additional meaning in this specific instance”. Further, “...perhaps most important to the outcome of this case, the court worried about the divisive impact to remove or alter the monument, especially to the local community for which it has taken on particular meaning.” This ground-breaking ruling will be established precedent in every community in the country that has challenges pending on their memorials with religious symbolic shapes or with a religious symbol affixed to it.

Everyone by now has heard or should have heard about the “Blue Water Navy” Act. The Legion was in the forefront of this legislation to provide VA support for thousands of Navy and U.S. Marine Corp Vets that compelled them to duties off the Coast of Vietnam. These veterans worked boats and aircraft that were exposed to agent orange and therefore the personnel and crewmembers exposed to the agents. One of our own Post members worked aircraft on the deck of an LPH and was responsible for washing down aircraft after a mission. As a result of this Bill signed by President Trump, thousands of Veterans and their families will now receive VA medical support.

Commander Reistad was particularly proud of The American Legion for their support of the U.S. Coast Guard service personnel who, during the National Government shutdown were left without pay while the other service continued to receive their paychecks. The glitch was in the fact that the Coast Guard falls under the Homeland Security Department during periods of non-conflict. The Legion stepped up and provided one million dollars in grants to Coast Guard Personnel in need. In Maine, Department of Maine, provided more than 57 such grants. These were grants, not loans. The Legion is now supporting legislation that would correct



**James W. “Bill” Oxford of North Carolina was elected to lead The American Legion for 2019-2020 at the 101st National Convention in Indianapolis Aug. 29. Oxford said membership is the key to the Legion’s mission succeeding. He set a goal of adding 100,000 new members in 2019-2020 and establishing a 90 percent retention rate.**

Photo by Legion.org

this injustice.

Mission Act, a revision to the VA medical support system that allows qualifying Veterans the option of seeing their own doctor instead of traveling great distances to a VA facility. The significance of this ruling cannot be overstated. Veterans will now have more choices in their own health care. Along with this program, the Commander briefed the new requirement that Veterans medical records will now be digitized and made available through a master database that will allow both civilian and VA medical staff to review what each doctor has done for the veteran. The record transfers will take time so don’t expect instance access.

And, as if the above was not enough for the 100<sup>th</sup> year of the Legion, The Legion finally, finally, was able to have “The Legion Act” signed by President Trump on July 31. The act in brief states: “Congress and the White House agree to expand definition of war eras to include all who served since Dec. 7, 1941. More than 1,600 members of the U.S. Armed Forces were killed or wounded in periods of time not designated as war eras since the end of World War II. The newly signed Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service Act of 2019 – The LEGION Act – honors those Veterans, their spouses, and descendants extending membership eligibility in The American Legion Family to hundreds of thousands who had previously been excluded. The LEGION Act offers American Legion membership eligibility to any U.S. military Veteran who served at least one day of active military duty since Dec. 7, 1941 and was honorably discharged or is serving now. The act also affects membership in The American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion, expanding eligibility for those groups as well.” The implication of this act is that 420,000 Veterans who have been previously denied membership in The Legion are now eligible. The ramifications are that this also extends to the entire Legion Family.

VA stats indicate that Vet Suicide is on the decline, but, still too prevalent. With over 20 self-inflicted deaths each day, one in six do seek help with the VA. The response by the VA has been significant once identified a Vet gets same day screening and follow-on support.

The problem areas, nationally, continue to be Vet Homelessness, Vet Drug usage, and as noted, Vet Suicide.

There have been great accomplishments at the national level that will permeate down to the Post level and the veteran. Some of the problems, however, may require a different view, from the ground up. Give some thought to what you as a veteran who made a pledge, “to support and defend”, can do work on some of these issues. You might establish, with the help of local professionals, a Vet forum like one in Virginia that meets weekly with local Vets who have a variety of needs. For some veterans, just the ability to talk with fellow Vets is significant. How about working in the community to find a home for a veteran in need? A Post in South Carolina does just that for three homeless Vets. One Post to the proceeds of their Poppy program and donated the entire amount to the Legion National Vet support program.

Sometimes it is hard to see how National programs and good works translate into local Post activity. Well, one connection, believe it or not, is the Post “Consolidated Post Report” (CPR); the report’s checks and questions are built on the Legion’s Four Pillars. Each check on a Post action is recorded and accumulated to define the good works the Legion is doing throughout the country. As a side note, last year, the rate of CPR submission, nationally, was 67 percent. Roughly 2/3rds of all Post submit their CPR. That is not good for the Legion. Either 1/3 of the Posts nationally are not doing anything or certainly not reporting their programs. The new National Commander, James W. (Bill) Oxford, has made 100 percent CPR submission a priority and goal for the coming year, a daunting task. How can we at the Post level help? Submit Your CPR on time. How can the Districts Help? Keep a tab, work with their Post to help them reach the goal of 100 percent CPR submission. and, the Dept.? They would love to see a 100 percent CPR return. It is not too late to establish goals for 2019-20. Every Post should be getting their CPR completed, submitted.

New National Commander Oxford also addressed membership. He is asking that each Post maintain at least 90 percent retention and continue to grow each Post.

Nationally, the Target Goal is 190,000 members for 2020, about the same as for 2019. His Comment, “It would be great if each current member brought in one new member” with the estimated 420,000 Vets now eligible for Legion membership. Maybe it isn’t so far-fetched as a goal.

One last thought sequence. I had Monday off (nothing scheduled) and had made plans to visit The Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Unfortunately, it rained that day and I thought better of going, so, picked up a training session instead. The topic I chose was “Media” thinking is was about Facebook use etc. It was but so much more.

Did you know that the average age for joining the Legion is 56? Or, that most Vets join approximately 16 years after leaving the military? The trainer mentioned that most “Younger Vets” are not joiners and that this has become a critical issue with many Posts. What is meant by younger? 60 may be younger for many Posts. He did, however, caution that many Posts when the get a “Younger” member often try to put them in a leadership position such as Adjutant or 1<sup>st</sup> Vice. etc. He recommends strongly against such a move. For many of these young Vets, it becomes a turn-off when they are still having many other responsibilities in their lives. He recommends that they be brought along at their pace of interest and make every effort to “Buddy” them up and provide them with training opportunities. At some later date, they will more than likely take on the reins of leadership.

The trainers next gem was “Ask yourself Why should someone join your Post?” You need to be able to answer this question before you can present yourself to the community in the various media (written or digital).

Lastly, the trainer noted that every Post needs to be either in the local media or on Facebook at every opportunity Every Post event should be prefaced with an article or posting before the event as well as a write-up or posting after the event. Positive visibility in the community is one sign of a great Post. So, we’ve come full circle, how is your Post viewed?

Enough for now, Veterans Serving Veterans!

Submitted by District 2 Adjutant  
David Tanguay



## National Commander Visits Maine



**National Commander's Official Visit:** Above, National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford's official visit to The American Legion, Department of Maine Sept. 27 at State Headquarters. Department Officers, front, left to right, NECA Randy Kluj, Sergeant-At-Arms Tricia Thurston, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Kirk Thurston, Commander Matthew Jabaut, National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Debra Couture, Assistant Service Officer Maureen Malley; back, left to right, Historian Jeffrey Stevenson, Judge Advocate Jason Hall, Finance Officer Gregory Couture, NEC Lloyd Woods, Service Officer Carl Curtis, American Officer Al McKay, and Adjutant Paul L'Heureux.

Right, Oxford visits the West Quoddy Head Lighthouse in Lubec on Sept. 26. West Quoddy Head is in Quoddy Head State Park, Lubec is the easternmost point of the contiguous United States.

Photos by Department Historian Jeffrey Stevenson



**Pembroke Post 59 Visit:** National Commander Oxford visits the Pembroke Post 59 on Sept. 26.

Photo by Department Historian Jeffrey Stevenson

**Maine Visit:** National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford visits The American Legion Headquarters in Winslow. [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org)



## Paid Up For Life Membership - PUFL

We've revised the Paid Up For Life program and streamlined the application process.

Current members may now enroll in the Paid Up For Life program online or can print a personalized application and mail in their payment. Pay in full or choose 12 monthly installments.

- No more renewal notices. No more paying annual dues.

- No more worrying, "Did I renew my membership or not?"

- Join the other 184,000 PUFL Legionnaires in saying, "I believe in The American Legion and what it's doing. I'm in this for the long haul."

- Avoid future dues increases. No

matter what inflation does, you never have to pay another penny in dues.

- Lifetime subscription to The American Legion Magazine!

Each Paid Up For Life member receives a permanent plastic card, as well as an annual paper card to verify continuing membership in The American Legion. The annual card is mailed in July of each year.

To get your Paid Up For Life membership, please visit [www.legion.org/join/PUFL](http://www.legion.org/join/PUFL) and enter your name and member ID. For more information about the Paid Up For Life program, contact customer service at (800) 433-3318 or Maine State HQ at 207-873-3229.

## American Legion adds criteria for 2019-2020 Post Excellence Award

The American Legion announced new criteria for the Post Excellence Award for the 2019-2020 membership year.

To qualify for the Post Excellence Award, a post is required to achieve excellence in four areas: membership, submission of the Consolidated Post

Report, attaining a 90 percent renewal rate and community activity.

The purposes of this award include membership growth, exposure of American Legion values to the youth of the community and increased visibility of the American Legion Family through service projects. A post achieving this

qualification will have had numerous post members involved in planning and achieving these goals. Many posts are most likely already active in these areas and will qualify without extra effort. Others, however, will need to increase their efforts in one or more areas to qualify for the award.

The standard to be achieved in each area is as follows:

**Membership:** An American Legion post must attain at least 103 percent of their membership goal. And at least one post officer attends district meetings.

**More on "AWARD", Page 14**





# FALL CONFERENCE 2019



The American Legion Annual Fall Conference was held at Gray Post 86 on Sept. 21. Attending were Department State of Maine and National Headquarters officers.

Right: Department Commander Matthew Jabaut, left, and Oratorical Committee Chairman Dale Midgley, right, present Donald Chase the Oratorical Committee Chairman Award.

Below: National Vice Commander Frank MacDonald.

Bottom Left: Past National Commander Anthony “Tony” Jordan gives opening remarks to those in attendance. Bottom Right: National Member Engagement Coordinator Kevin Mook.

Photos by Department Historian Jeffrey Stevenson



## ■ “Award” (Continued from Page 13)

Consolidated Post Report: CPRs must be submitted by July 1. The American Legion’s federal charter requires the submission of an annual report to Congress on activities for the year. MyLegion.org has made it simple for a post to submit its CPR in a timely manner.

Renewal rate: The post must renew at least 90 percent of their members that were on the 2019 roster.

Community activity: The post must conduct an event that connects the local community with The American Legion post. The objective is to open your doors, welcome the community in and educate them on what The American Legion is all about and how the post is an asset to the community. Posts do not need to have a physical building to accomplish this. This activity can be held in a park, a community center or anywhere the post can welcome and interact with the local community.

The district commander responsible for the post will certify a post as having

achieved the four specified criteria. The district commander will submit a list of posts meeting the criteria to department headquarters. That list should include the post name, phone number, address and commander’s name. If possible, accompany the last two criteria with copies of press releases submitted to the local media about the community projects to show that the projects were not only accomplished but that an attempt was made to enhance the image of The American Legion through local media. Copies submitted should include a date and time stamp showing receipt by the

media outlet.

The district commander is to submit a letter along with the required information (for more information, visit the website [www.mainelegion.org/pages/formsapplications.php](http://www.mainelegion.org/pages/formsapplications.php)) with any additional pages and supporting documentation to: The American Legion; Department of Maine; 5 Verti Drive; Winslow, ME 04901-0727.

The department adjutant may transmit information as posts qualify to: The American Legion national headquarters; Attn: Membership; P.O. Box 1055; Indianapolis, IN 46206-1055.





## Help Support Maine American Legion!



### 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](http://www.mainelegion.org).

Maine American Legion Programs: General Fund, Vet Aid, Homeless Vets, Legion Baseball, Dirigo Boys State, Oratorical, Jr. Shooting Program, Beals House, and Maine Special Olympics.

To pay by credit card, please visit [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org) and select the

**DONATE**

button.

You may also mail your check payable to The American Legion, Department of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 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.

Show your Support to our Veterans in the State of Maine!

MAKE A DONATION TODAY!

AMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF MAINE  
FOUNDATION

(A 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization)

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

The Foundation's mission is to provide financial assistance, promote Americanism, Youth Programs, National Security, and Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation that will enhance the lives of our Veterans, their families, children and communities in the State of Maine today and for future generations.

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

Online donations can be made by visiting us on the web at [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org). Click on the FOUNDATION tab located on the navigation bar and scroll down to the **DONATE TODAY** button or the AL Dept. of Maine Foundation brochure.

Checks should be made payable to American Legion Department of Maine Foundation and mailed to: American Legion Department of Maine Foundation, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 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!

### Shop "Amazon Smile" & Give While You Shop!

Dear Friends of the American Legion Department of Maine:

**American Legion Department of Maine Foundation** now accepts contributions from Amazon through the "Amazon Smile" program as an IRS 501 (c)(3) Charitable Organization.

"Amazon Smile" is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The only difference is that when you shop on "Amazon Smile", Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice and it does not cost anything to sign up or donate!

**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 to 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!**

**amazon**smile  
You shop. Amazon gives.



### Support Maine Veterans and Buy your Centennial Coin Today While Supplies Last!

The Department of Maine previously 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](http://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 MONEY ORDER**, please send payment in the amount of \$10/coin, plus \$5 shipping and handling up to 5 coins to: The American Legion, Department of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901-0727. Please make sure to include a return address for shipping purposes. Please include an additional \$5 for every 5 coins purchased.

Coins are also available for free pick up at \$10 each. You may pick up your order at The American Legion, Department of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901-0727.

### 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](http://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](mailto:www.legionme@mainelegion.org).



## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

### District 1

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



**Dynamic Duo:** Left to right, Andrew Buckman and Ronald Vigue with one of their memorial flag cases.

Photo by Post 79 Historian Robert K. Place

## Berwick Post 79's Dynamic Duo Honors the Memory of Departed Veterans

There have been many dynamic duos over the course of history, but none more famous locally than the dynamic duo of Buckman and Vigue. Better known to their friends, wives, and fellow Legionnaires as Andy and Ron, these two military veterans donate their time and talent constructing hand-crafted memorial flag display cases in Ron's Berwick workshop.

Andy initiated the idea in 2013, and since that time, he and Ron have made and presented more than 40 flag boxes. In creating these beautiful presentation cases, they've utilized more than a dozen different types of wood donated either by Kenneth R. Place, (son of award-winning Post 79 Historian Robert K. Place), Post 79 Chaplain Paul Lapierre, Mr. Jeff Saucier of Hussey Seating Company in North Berwick, Maine or by Andy and Ron themselves.

Initially, the glass they used was purchased from the Portland Glass Company of Somersworth, N.H., and paid for by Post 79, but now that the owners are aware of this heartfelt initiative, they are donating the glass. The military decals and plaques/nameplates have been donated since 2013 by Elisha Kinch and Jeff Parmley of Seacoast Printing and Awards of South Berwick, Maine. Andy and Ron cover the cost of the backings and fasteners (the flags are obtained from the government by the respective funeral homes) and have been known to complete each memorial flag dis-

play case in as little as two hours, depending on how much coffee they consume!

After military honors are performed, Ron takes the flag from the family member to whom the flag was presented, and with Andy's help, places the flag in the box and presents the flag box to the family member. Each and every one of these one of a kind wooden flag cases serve to honor the memory, service and sacrifice of a departed member of The American Legion Post 79 or local veteran. Thanks to this dynamic duo these memorial flag cases serve as a tangible reminder to the families left behind that their loved ones, while absent, are not, nor will they ever be, forgotten.

While this is but one of many projects that Andy Buckman and Ron Vigue have initiated while members of Post 79, it is most certainly one of the most personal and meaningful to these two selfless veteran craftsmen. Upholding The American Legion's time-honored values of service, patriotism and camaraderie, Andy and Ron set an example for us all, while lifting the spirits of the family members who homes are graced by the fruits of their labor.

Submitted by Berwick Post 79 Public Relations Officer Rosanne Martin

## Post 74 Exhibit at the Brick Store Museum, Kennebunk

**K**ENNEBUNK—The Brick Store Museum and American Legion, Webber-Lefebvre Post 74, both of Kennebunk, have collaborated on a museum exhibition to honor the American Legion's 100th anniversary. The exhibit displays various artifacts, historical documents, photos and military uniforms on loan from the Post and its members; and asks for visitors to share their own memories of the Legion. The exhibit will run through Dec. 31.

A special gathering is planned for Sun., Nov. 10 from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. at the Museum to celebrate the Anniversary of the Legion and local veterans. This event will be free and open to the public, as well as regional veterans, to celebrate their service and talk with Legion members. Food and beverages generously supplied by local businesses and neighbors.

The American Legion was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans organiza-

tion devoted to mutual helpfulness. The Webber-Lefebvre Post 74 supports local community and veterans' programs such as funding a scholarship program for Kennebunk High School seniors, placing flags on veterans' graves, donating to local charities and organizing Memorial Day activities.

A recent law changed the eligibility criteria for joining the American Legion to anyone who has served at least one day of active military service from Dec. 7, 1941 to the present.

The Brick Store Museum is open Tuesday through Sunday, year-round. In addition to the Legion Centennial exhibit, the Museum is also currently showing Patterns and All Hands on Deck: A Maritime Show. To learn more about upcoming events and exhibitions, visit [www.brickstoremuseum.org](http://www.brickstoremuseum.org) or call the Museum at (207) 985-4802 for more information.

Submitted by Post 74 member Bob De Clercq

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

### District 2

Portland Post 17; So. Portland Post 35; Gorham Post 60; Westbrook Post 62; Bridgton Post 67; Scarborough Post 76; Freeport Post 83; Gray Post 86; Yarmouth Post 91; Standish Post 128; Harrison Post 139; Peaks Island Post 142; Windham Post 148; Cape Elizabeth Post 152; Naples Post 155; Portland Post 161; Falmouth Post 164; Portland Post 168; Westbrook Post 197



### Local Air National Commanders Present At Westbrook Post 62:

The Oct. 2 meeting was an unusual night for the monthly Post 62 gathering. Two current active Air Force Lt. Col. Commanders and two Retired Air Force Lt. Col. Commanders from the South Portland 265<sup>th</sup> Combat Communications Squadron and the 243<sup>rd</sup> Engineering & Installation Squadron attended. The active commanders made presentations about their Squadrons and their worldwide unit missions. Also present were two active Post 62 Legion Members who served with the 265<sup>th</sup> CCSQ. Both Commanders expressed their Thanks to the members and Veterans of the Stephen W. Manchester American Legion Post 62, "Who set the Bar before us (Them)". Both spoke of "Their pride in serving the State of Maine and the Nation". Left to right, Post 62 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander & retired member of the 265<sup>th</sup> CCSQ Dennis Marrotte, Lt. Col. Member & retired Commander of the 265<sup>th</sup> CCSQ Harry Gorham, Guest Speaker Lt. Col. & current Commander of the 243<sup>rd</sup> E & ISQ Clinton Reed, Guest Speaker & current Commander of the 243<sup>rd</sup> E & ISQ Brian Camire, Guest Lt. Col. & retired Commander of the 243<sup>rd</sup> E & ISQ David Rolfe, Post 62 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander & retired member of the 265<sup>th</sup> CCSQ Roger Barr.

Photo by Post 62 Americanism Officer and Retired U.S. Navy Commander Phil Spiller, Jr.



## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

**District 2 continued**

**Fryeburg Fair Recognized By Bridgton Post 67:** At right: On Oct. 6, American Legion Bridgton Post 67 Commander Donald Mulcahy presented Fryeburg Fair representatives, left to right, President Roy Andrews and Midway Superintendent Dean Baker, a small token of appreciation for the fair's generosity and support in allowing a Veterans' Outreach Program to be active at the fair for the last five years. Allowing this Veterans' Outreach Program on the fairgrounds has benefited over 200 veterans in the last five years. These veterans who so richly earned these benefits now have been entered into the VA system. They have prescription eyeglasses, hearing aids, many now are getting much-needed help with P.T.S.D., and several are receiving help regarding pensions. All because of the generosity of the Fryeburg Fair and the work of The American Legion Bridgton Post 67 and The Legion Riders. We, at the Legion, salute the Board for taking a chance and allowing us to serve those who served. We salute you!

Written by Post 67 Commander  
Donald Mulcahy



**“Save The Post” Fund Breakfast:** Bridgton Post 67 Vice-Commander DJ and Sergeant-At-Arms Mike Brady put their grandchildren to work. The three volunteers came all the way from California to help Post 67 serve the Community Breakfast and raise money for “Save the Post” Fund.

**Going Above & Beyond:**

Bridgton Post 67 Chef Barry Bischo went above and beyond the call of duty, cooking breakfast at the crack of dawn for 50 plus folks from the community; and then picked up and cooked for the Council of Churches in Bridgton at the lower ball-field. Please join Post 67 for all-you-can-eat Pancakes and Sausage breakfast every first Saturday of the month at the Bridgton Community Center; \$5 pp, 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.



**Post 67 Building Repairs:** On the roof is Scott Burnham with help from Robert Murphy. Bridgton Post 67, while hosting our brothers from California, and brothers and sisters from the State of Maine, managed to get their historic Post a new roof. Thank you to Everlast Roofing and Murphy Construction! The front façade of the building has been completely rebuilt internally and strengthened. The water is on for the first time since 2007. The plumbing has been repaired and replaced; a new entry deck constructed; and soffits rebuilt. It's been a busy month for Post 67.



**Making A Difference:** Live from the Fryeburg Fair, The American Legion Post 67 of Bridgton making a difference everywhere they go.

**Lake Region High School Interact**

The students from the “Interact Astra” of Lake Region High School came to The American Legion Bridgton Post 67 on Depot Street to help with the building cleanup. They meant business! Sleeves were rolled up, work gloves on and they dove into work. They raked, swept, stacked lumber, and loaded a trailer to almost overflowing. They accomplished in five hours what we would have spent a week doing. We, at Post 67, can't thank them enough for their hard work. The group has offered to come back and help landscape and build a flower garden to bring attention to “Veteran Suicide Prevention”, a personal passion of the members of Post 67. They also volunteered to work and help at the Grand Ball on Nov. 9.

We often hear people say, “Kids today!!” We were honored to be visited by some of the finest our future has to offer, and I must say the future looks Very Bright!

**Lake Region High School Interact:**

Astra Advisors, left, Christina Gaumont and right, Ian Carlson. Students Abby Elsaesser, Brooke Toole, Shelby Sheldrick, Emma Cole, Ainsley Pendexter, Kathryn Rose, Hannah Fitzpatrick, Rene Carver, Sabrina Lopez, Alli Vogel, Leah Plummer, Liz Smith, Cierra Grover, Becca Roy, Sophie Leighton, Mya Grant, Chiara Schmidt, and Julii Daniella.



## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 2 continued

## Local Legion Family Members, Delegates to the National Convention

Just back from a week in Indianapolis, Indiana at the American Legion National Convention, Dave and Lin Tanguay of Windham Post 148 are glad to be home. After a week of Commissions, Committees, Caucus, and convention floor activities from Aug. 23 to Aug. 29, Lin and Dave as delegates to the Legion's 101<sup>st</sup> and the Legion Auxiliary's 99<sup>th</sup> conventions will now spend some time presenting the work of the Convention to their respective Department, District, Post and Unit organizations. Dave was a Maine delegate and assigned to the Convention National Security Commission and Lin was an Auxiliary delegate from Maine and sat on the History and upcoming Auxiliary's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committees. Lin also sat in on the Constitution and By-laws Committee. All these meetings make for a very busy week-end prior to convention.

This 100<sup>th</sup> year of the Legion and its 101<sup>st</sup> convention celebrated several major National events in support of veterans. Noteworthy that have both national and local implications to our veterans follows: The Blue Water Navy Act signed into law this year allows those Naval and Marine Corps personnel attached to ships working off the coast of Vietnam during the conflict to be compensated for and treated by the VA for their exposure to Agent Orange. Windham Post 148 has one individual who as a Marine Corp was assigned to a helicopter carrier and was exposed to the agent while washing down the Hello's upon their return to the ship. He and thousands of Vets will now be added to the support structure for agent orange.

The Legion Act, signed by President Trump on July 31, this year, now makes 420,000 veterans eligible for membership in the Legion as well as their qualifying family members in the Legion Family. The Act, strongly supported for years by the Legion, recognizes the service of those veterans placed in harm's way not during times of official armed conflict. Over 1,200 Vets lost their lives during these periods of "Non-Conflict". The Act reads: Any veteran serving after Dec. 7, 1941 with at least one day of active military service and honorably discharged is eligible for membership in this country's largest veterans' organization, The American Legion. There are over 19,000 local veterans in Cumberland County eligible to join The American Legion.

When the national government shut down last year, many critical groups continued to be paid including our armed



## National Convention

**Attendees:** Department of Maine District 2 Adjutant and delegate David Tanguay with wife, Lin, Auxiliary Unit 148 member and delegate, at the American Legion National Convention in Indianapolis.

forces. Not so, the U.S. Coast Guard who falls under the Department of Homeland Security during peacetime. The American Legion stepped up and provided over a million dollars in grants to the enlisted personnel of the Coast Guard during this crisis. In Maine, well over 60 families were supported out of the Legion Department of Maine. Another milestone this year was the implementation of the Mission Act that allows veterans to use local medical support when VA support is too far away or not reasonably available. The other important factor is that veterans' medical records are being digitized for use by both VA and civilian doctors. This program, when fully implemented for all Vets, will allow any doctor to see what other doctors have prescribed or recommended.

Each and every one of these laws and programs was instituted and/or endorsed by The American Legion. Like the GI Bill or the Veterans Administration Acts before them, these bills were the product of The American Legion, and any member can be justifiably proud of their involvement in the Legion.

There were also many briefings and discussions on two major veterans issues, Homeless veterans, and the veterans drug and suicide crisis. In these areas, much has been done, but much still needs to be done. On the local level, developing Vet camaraderie with the Field-Allen Post Vet Coffee Program (every Wednesday from 9 to 11 a.m. at the WVC) and the very-much appreciated collection of non-perishable food items on Wednesdays at the WVC by the Legion Post 148 and delivered to the Homeless Vet Food Pantry at the Portland Vet Center has made an impact in the local area. There is an open invitation to all Vets to drop in for coffee each Wednesday from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Windham Vet Center behind North Windham Hannaford. We will also gladly accept any non-perishable food items for our fellow Vets with food insecurity issues. The American Legion: Veterans Serving Veterans for 100 years and looking to the next 100 years.

Not everything was work. Lin and Dave managed to sneak in some fine dining and went to the National Commanders Banquet where they were treated to music from the '60s & '70s by "The Fab Four," a Beatles-style band just back from Liverpool.

Submitted by Windham Post 148 Adjutant  
David Tanguay



**Treking Along:** Brian McCarthy coming into Bug Light with South Portland Police escort. Traveling with Brian, left to right, Bath Water District Engineer Mark Courtenay, who rode the entire trek with Brian, and Joe Fay from North Conway, N.H., who rode the last day of the event.

## Man On A Mission

South Portland Police Officer and Field-Allen Post 148 member is driven to support his Waterville MP Unit Family Readiness Group with an annual trek across Maine. This year, Brian McCarthy was dropped off in Van Buren by Post member Richard Graves, Brian's Windham Neighbor. Brian started his trek on Sunday, Sept. 8, and over the next week traveled approximately. 50 miles a day to finish on Sat., Sept. 15 at noon at Bug Light in South Portland. Over the last couple miles, from Route 1 along Broadway, Brian received a Police escort with blue lights flashing and the occasional siren from his South Portland fellow Officers. From Brian, "Once again, this Fall I'm embarking on a seven-day, 350+-mile, self-sustained bike ride across the State of Maine, with the hopes of raising funds for my former National Guard unit's Family Readiness Group (FRG)."

"The purpose of the FRG is to share information with family members of soldiers in the unit, to connect families with community resources, and to help with any problems that arise whether their spouse is deployed or not. Funds donated to the FRG go toward events and resources for soldiers' families. The FRG hosts family-oriented

events throughout the year and can use funds for unit families in need" Last year, he was able to donate \$2,000 to his cause. His goal this year was \$2,500 which has already been exceeded by online donations and will be over \$3,000 with cash donations. Another great example of Veterans Serving Veterans and their Families.

Submitted by Windham Post 148 Adjutant  
David Tanguay



**On The Road Again:** Brian McCarthy on the road.



**Cake At End of Trek:** Brian's mother, Bernadette Manley of South Portland, helping with the cake.



## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

**District 4**

Farmington Post 28; Kingfield Post 61; Phillips Post 64; Strong Post 78;  
Wilton Post 117; Rangeley Post 120



**Dinner Served To Firefighters & First Responders:** Farmington Police Officer Jacob Richards, left, picks a dessert at a turkey dinner served to firefighters and first responders Sept. 29 at the Farmington Fire Station. Members of Roderick Crosby American Legion Post 28 and American Legion Auxiliary Unit 28 served the meal and plan to continue serving meals Sunday nights for all firefighters, their families, retired firefighters, and other first responders. Tom Saviello, right, helps serve the meal.

## American Legion Serves Sunday Dinners to Firefighters, First Responders

**F**ARMINGTON - Firefighters, their families, police and other first responders gathered Sunday evening around long tables set up in the truck bays at Farmington Fire Department to share a turkey dinner together.

Members of Roderick Crosby American Legion Post 28 and American Legion Auxiliary Unit 28 hosted and provided the meal. They plan to continue providing a meal each Sunday evening for some period of time, Legion Commander Matthew Smith said.

All firefighters, their families, retired firefighters and first responders are welcome to come to the meal, which is served at 5:30 p.m.

It is about gathering as a family to talk and share especially with those on duty from other towns. A Sunday meal used to be a special event for many families, and we want Sunday evening to be a time for this family to sit down together, Smith said.

The American Legion is one of several local organizations, businesses, and private citizens who have stepped up to provide a meal for the covering firefighters. They are working 12-hour shifts and sleeping on air mattresses set up in the conference room on the third floor of the Municipal Building, said Stephan Bunker, firefighter, town selectman and Legion member as he greeted people at Sunday's meal.

Fire departments from across the state have provided crews and equipment to help the Farmington department since the explosion of the LEAP building on Sept. 16 when a LEAP maintenance manager and five firefighters were injured and one firefighter killed, he said.

People were so generous and brought

more food than we could refrigerate last week. The meals have since been organized so that each meal is covered, he said.

Sunday nights were allotted to the American Legion, said Smith. The menu would include meatloaf for the coming Sunday, Sept. 29, with the menu changing each week.

While the American Legion and Auxiliary provided the previous Sunday's turkey dinner, they are seeking help to continue with the meals. People are welcome to help with either food or financial donations. To offer a food donation, contact Tom Saviello by email at drtom16@hotmail.com or Matt Smith at 491-2743, or for monetary donations, either Smith or Jim Wilson, Legion financial officer, at 703-795-3004.

While the department always appreciates the mutual aid given by local fire departments, the larger state brotherhood of firefighters and the outpouring of support from local citizens has shown the strength of the firefighters' bonds and the generosity of the public, Bunker said.

Town management has quickly endorsed the department's readiness to come and help, he said. They know the Farmington department would be one of the first to go and help them.

The covering crews even stepped up to help with the Farmington department's two booths at Farmington Fair last week. Proceeds from the booth help support scholarships for Mt. Blue High School students and other charitable causes supported by the department, he said.

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Sept. 26, 2019



**Farmington Post 28 Members Help Serve Turkey Dinner:** Paul Dalrymple and Ron Smith, Roderick Crosby American Legion Post 28 members, left, help serve a turkey dinner to Brunswick firefighters Sunday, Sept. 29 at the Farmington Fire Station.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

**District 5**

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

### March to Freedom

**Resolution:** At Buckfield Post 58 on Oct. 15, The American Legion Department of Maine, Oxford County District 5 Posts approved and signed a resolution calling for March 5, 2020, on which day in 1770 the Boston Massacre occurred, to be recognized as the true beginning of the commemoration of 250<sup>th</sup>

Anniversary of the march to freedom. Left to right, front row, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Harold Wilbur, Commander Randal Canwell, Chaplain Randall Jack; back row, Finance Officer Richard Grover, Service Officer Charles Green, Sergeant-At-Arms Joy Bordeau, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice



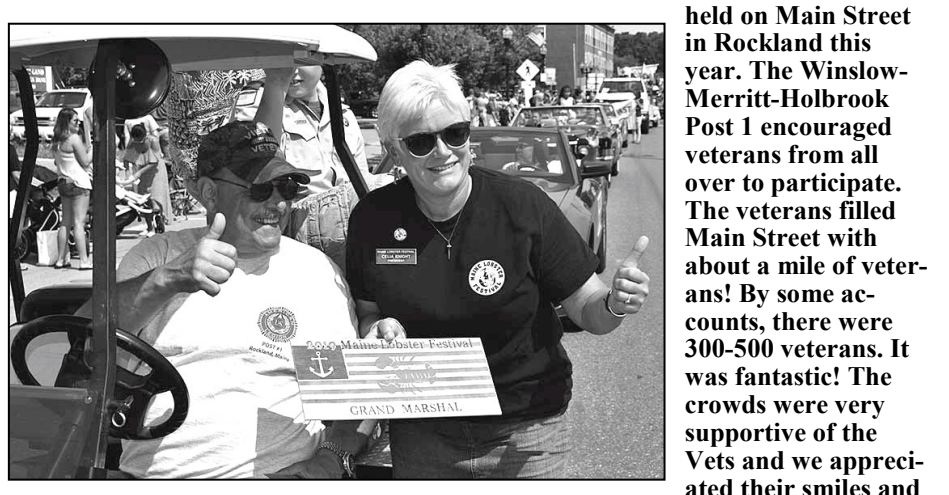
Commander James Lowell, and Adjutant Harry G. Orcutt.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

**District 6**

Rockland Post 1; Vinalhaven Post 18; Camden Post 30; North Haven Post 33; St. George Post 34;  
Thomaston Post 37; Union Post 110; Warren Post 218

### Rockland Lobster Festival Celebrates Veterans: The Lobster Festival decided to have Veterans as the Grand Marshal for the 2019 Parade



held on Main Street in Rockland this year. The Winslow-Merritt-Holbrook Post 1 encouraged veterans from all over to participate. The veterans filled Main Street with about a mile of veterans! By some accounts, there were 300-500 veterans. It was fantastic! The crowds were very supportive of the Vets and we appreciated their smiles and waves! Rockland Post 1, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Russ Wolfertz Jr., left, receives Grand Marshall Plaque from Maine Lobster Festival President Celia Knight.

Photo by Rockland Post 1 Historian Bob Rugar

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

**District 8**

Brunswick Post 20; Bat5h Post 21; Harpswell Post 171; Topsham Post 202; Phippsburg Post 216



### New Dishwasher & Change Of Command At

**Togus:** Harpswell Post 171 gave a new dishwasher to the Hospice Unit at Togus. Post 171 Commander Mike Dole, right, at change of command.



## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

### District 9

Augusta Post 2; Gardiner Post 4; Waterville Post 5; Hallowell Post 6; Winthrop Post 40; Oakland Post 51; Togus Post 90; 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



#### 33rd National Veterans Golden Age Games:

This year's National Veterans Golden Age games were held in Anchorage, Alaska, in June 2019. Our own Barbara Kasiola, center, of Team Maine-iacs came home with two Gold Medals, one for Air Pistol Competition, the other for Shuffle Board, and, if that wasn't enough, she won three Silver Medals in Bocchia Doubles, Bowling, and Horseshoes. Congratulations Barbara, keep up the good work, you make us proud. Others in the photo are District 9 Commander Don Chase, right, and Department Assistant Service Officer Maureen Malley, left.

## District 9 All Out for Veterans Family Day at 2019 Windsor Fair

District 9 Posts and volunteers turned out in force to put together another great show for veterans and families at the recent Windsor Fair organized by former District 9 Commander Pat Eisenhart. Peter Knight, former member of the nationally famous Impalas, kicked things off by singing acapella the National Anthem. Pete was followed by the POW/MIA ceremony followed by "Taps" played by Augusta Post 2 Commander Al Donnell.

Bagpiper volunteer Jim Thibodeau, former high school music director, led in the full Kennebec County Veterans Honor Guard, composed of Legionnaires from Posts 2, 4, 40, 181, and 205. The guard presented a parade of service colors and the American flag.

After the close, of the POW/MIA and Flag Presentation Ceremony, Rich Hysong, of the national touring Hyysong singers, sang L.C. Greenwood's hit "God Bless the USA".

Next, Bobby Reed and the Wild

Horse band kicked off their fourth year at the show with a blend of country music.

Special guests at the gathering were Iraq/Afghanistan Veteran Mark Snyder and his two grade-school sons, Luke and Levy, whose mother is currently deployed in Afghanistan.

Guest speakers included Hallowell Post 6 Adjutant Jerry Stuart, who, along with Post 6 Historian Mike Madden and District 9 Historian Dana Parker, hosted a table for and spoke about the Wreaths Across America. Nancy Billingsly spoke on behalf of the Maine Veterans Center represented by its large mobile van on site. The last speaker was D. Brandon from the DAV Service Officer Supervisor at Togus.

The show ended with a prayer by the Kennebec County Veterans Honor Guard Chaplain from Litchfield Post 181 Carlton Tripp and the playing of "Amazing Grace" by bagpiper Jim Thibodeau.

Submitted by former District 9 Commander Pat Eisenhart



#### 100% Award To Squadron 2:

At left, Sons of The American Legion Augusta Squadron 2 member Andy Mann, left, accepts the Squadron's 100% Award from Department Adjutant Paul L'Heureux.



**POW/MIA Observance:** Above, District 9, Smith-Wiley Post 4 of Gardiner holds its POW/MIA observance Saturday, Sept 21. Post Sergeant-At-Arms Tom Smith helps with the ceremony.

## Augusta Auxiliary Unit 2 School Supply Drive

With the generosity and continued support of our Augusta American Legion Post 2 family and friends, the Augusta American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Unit 2 has successfully conducted our third annual School Supply Collection. Wish Lists were requested and generated for two Autism classrooms and a Functional Skills classroom at the Lincoln Elementary School in Augusta. ALA Unit 2 President Theresa Clifford's

daughter, Amy Eisenbach, was this year's Chairperson for the Bath Back to School Program sponsored by the Bath Masons. Through President Clifford, Amy Eisenbach offered 26 free backpacks filled with supplies for the children in the three sponsored classrooms. A sincere thank you to another community for reaching out to the ALA Unit 2 project and an Augusta Elementary School.

Mid-July through August School Supply donations more than satisfied the three teachers' "Wish Lists". With the increased cost of living, assistance with school supplies for our students is truly welcomed. New markers, colored pencils, pencils, individual notebooks and folders, stress relievers such as putty and squish balls, highlighters, big erasers, wipes, velcro, stickers, and many addi-

tional, helpful resources were collected. Classroom teachers spend much of their own monies on classroom supplies for their students. As a former 45-year elementary teacher, I can truly appreciate "the gifts" given to these classrooms. The ALA Unit 2 affords me the opportunity to continue to support our schools with the Annual Back to School Supply Program, Children's Christmas Party, and Meat Raffle for Dirigo Girl's State.

ALA Unit 2 President Clifford and I were ever so proud to bring two large totes a large box, two shopping bags and 26 backpacks filled with school supplies and two additional backpacks purchased by an Auxiliary member to Lincoln Elementary School on Tuesday, Sept. 10, at 3:15 p.m.

Submitted by Unit 2 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Alice D. Drummond

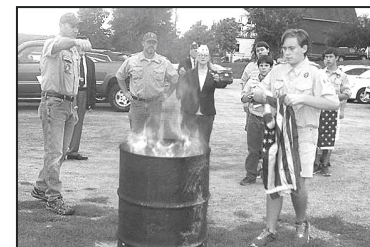


**Auxiliary Aids School Supply Drive:** Left to right, Special Ed Functional Life Skills Grades 4-6 Doreen Franklin, ALA Unit 2 President Theresa Clifford, ALA 1st Vice President Alice Drummond, Special Ed. Autism Grades 4-6 Debra Crump, and Special Ed. Autism K-4 Megan Biter.



#### Flag Removal With Help From Troop

**647:** Goodrich-Caldwell Post 6 of Hallowell at a flag removal ceremony assisted by members of Troop 647 Boy Scouts 819 on Saturday, Aug. 24.



**Flag Retirement Ceremony With Scout Troop 647:** Goodrich-Caldwell Post 6 held their Flag Retirement Ceremony along with members of Scout Troop 647 and District 9 members on Sept. 9 along the boardwalk in Hallowell. Above left, from left to right, Scoutmaster Glen Glidden, Tim McGuire, District 9 Finance Officer Dana Parker, Post 6 Adjutant Gerald Stuart, District 9 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Howard Betts, members of Troop 647 with Flags, and Post 6 Commander/Department Assistant Service Officer Maureen Malley. Above right, from left, Glidden; Troop Leader Jason Goldrup; Malley; and members of Scout Troop 647.



## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

**District 9 continued**

**Windsor Fair Veterans Program:** Members of Goodrich-Caldwell Post 6 promote the Wreaths Across America program at the Windsor Fair Aug. 29. Left to right, District 9 Historian Mike Madden, Donna Chase, Dana Parker, and Post Adjutant Gerald Stuart.

**Legion Act Completes Family Membership**

With the new Legion Act, our Family is now complete. My family has a long line of members servicing in the United States Military. Mom met dad at a Legion Post event back in the '50s. Dad was in the Army serving during the Korea Conflict. Dad joined The American Legion; mom was already a member of Auxiliary. They married and raised six children in George P. Vanderveer, Post 129 N.J., as Sons of The American Legion and a daughter as a Junior of the Auxiliary. As we became of age, all six of us joined one branch or another, some serving in multiple branches, of course not at the same time. Not straying far from The American Legion, we all joined a Legion Post where we were planted.

The week before Hallowell Post 6 was having their annual Legion Family Picnic, two of my brothers came to visit. Because we spent so much time with the Legion, I never thought one of us was not a member until my younger brother James said can we make Paul a Legion member? Of course, at first, I was confused, thinking he was a member. Under the new Legion Act, he was qualified. I had a copy of his DD Form 214 and ran the question by a few Post members; They were most gracious of the idea. So, during our picnic as Commander of Post 6, I addressed the members with an application for membership, explaining how one of the six of my family is not a member and now is eligible if they would accept him to our Post family. At this point, Paul had realized we were talking about him. The room was overjoyed in welcoming him to The American Legion as our newest family member. Paul stood proud before Post members as Jerry Stuart, Adjutant conducted the Initiation ceremony with the assistance of Comrades Larry Auger, Mike Madden and Paul's youngest brother, James, who pinned

Paul with The American Legion lapel pin. To make this event even more special, James pinned Paul with our father's Past Commander's Pin.

Yes, each one of us still living has raised to the position of Commander of our respective Posts. Thank you, The American Legion, for fighting for the rights of all who have served, for the right to belong under the new Legion Act. Thank you, Post 6, for making this dream of Paul's to belong with his brothers and sister as a Legion member and in belonging to the largest veteran's organization serving veterans.

By Hallowell Post 6 Commander  
Maureen Malley



**Hallowell Post 6 Initiates Its Newest Family Member Under The Legion Act:** Left to right, Paul Watson of Georgia, sister Department Assistant Service Officer & Hallowell Post 6 Commander Maureen Malley, and brother James Watson of Georgia.

**New Flag Pole At Monmouth Post 204:**

The American Legion Post 204 placed a new Flag Pole in North Monmouth to replace the old one. A Ceremony and Dedication in North Monmouth was held Veteran's Day, Nov. 11. Donations are welcome to help with upkeep of flags and poles and can be made to American Legion Post 204, P.O. Box 420, Monmouth, ME 04259 - Attn: Tracy Gray.

Photo by Marcia Gray

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

**District 10**

Fairfield Post 14; Skowhegan Post 16; Pittsburg Post 32; Madison Post 39; Bingham Post 99; Jackman Post 122; Hartland Post 141; New Portland Post 173; Athens Post 192

**American Legion 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Marked In Madison/Anson Parade:** Madison Post 39 Past Commander Ralph Withee & his wife Claudette designed and constructed the float for The American Legion 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary that rode in the Madison/Anson Parade on Aug. 24. On the float, waving, are Ray Soucy, back, and Nunszio Biodello.



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**Auxiliary Members Partake In Madison/Anson Parade:** Top left, Auxiliary Members are seen here in the car and marching in the Madison/Anson Parade Aug. 24. Front passenger side, Marie Wing, back passenger side Betty Dow, and back driver's side Shirley Emery. Standing outside of the car are Tiara Nile, left and Harriet Bryant, right.

**Cruising On The Parade Float:**

Below left, Nunzio Bipodello, left, Ray Soucy, back right, and Clara Gilbert, front right, cruise on the float that rode in the Madison/Anson Parade.



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

## District 10 continued



**Athens Post 192 Receives Certificate Of Appreciation:** A Certificate of Appreciation from the National Commander was recently presented to Athens Post 192. Presenting the Award is District 10 Commander Joseph Lefebvre, right, to Post 192 Service Officer Gerald Boulette, left, on Sept. 10 at Department Headquarters.

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

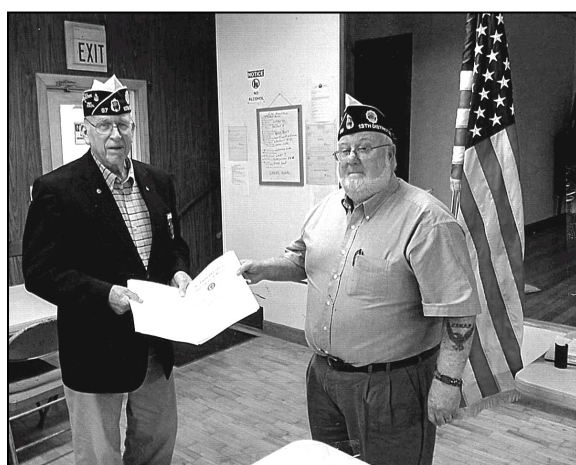
## District 13

Bangor Post 12; East Millinocket Post 13; Corinna Post 73; Old Town Post 85; Lincoln Post 77; Millinocket Post 80; Orono Post 84; Howland Pos 97; Brewer Post 98; Newport Post 105; Etna-Carmel Post 17; East Corinth Post 115; Lee Post 160; Hermon Post 200; Dixmont Post 201; Glenburn Post 211; Hampden Post 213

## District Meeting Held at Post 107

District 13 meeting was held at Etna-Carmel Post 107 on Sept. 8. The meeting was led by Commander Tom Healy, who spoke to all the Post members present to share upcoming events for their Post. Commander Tom Healy read the article from the Dispatch about the changes in membership. This will open up a large number of veterans now qualified to join The American Legion.

The meeting was attended by Legion members representing 6 Posts in District 13. There are 16 Posts in District 13. The officers from the Post not taking advantage of these meetings are doing a disservice to their members.



**Howland Post 97 Awards:** Left, Howland Post 197 receives 100% membership and most meritorious service award for exceeding the Post 100% membership goal. The Award was presented at the District 13 meeting held at Etna-Carmel Post 107 on Sept. 8. District 13 Commander Tom Healy, right, presented the Award to Post 97 Commander Jack Neal, left.

Photo by District 13 Historian Tom Carle

### Hermon Post 200

**Awards:** Right, Hermon Post 200 receives 100% membership and most meritorious service award for exceeding the Post's membership goal. The Award was presented at the District 13 meeting held at Etna-Carmel Post 107 on Sept. 8. District 13 Commander Tom Healy, left, presented the Award to Post 200 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Dalton Hodgins, right.

Photo by District 13 Historian Tom Carle



**Veteran Engagement Session Attendees:** Left to right, Staff Assistant Jim Doherty, Woman Veteran Program Manager LaRhonda Harris, RN, Medical Center Director Tracie B. Davis, Chief VA Community Care Corey Vail, Lincoln Post 77 Commander Darrell Savage, and Acting Public Affairs Officer Jonathan Barczyk.

## Veteran Engagement Session

Several members of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs held a Veteran Engagement Session at the Carl E. Burrill Post 77 in Lincoln.

Many areas of the VA Maine Healthcare System were discussed, including Women Veterans Health Care, VA Video Connect, Veteran Emergency Care - Urgent Care - VA Mission Act of 2018, Veteran Emergency Care Eligibility, Veteran Prescription Benefits and information on the Lincoln Clinic.

Medical Staff Director Tracie B. Davis and her associates answered many questions and held one-on-one interviews with attending veterans.

Director Davis stated that the Fisher House, which is a facility to house veterans' dependents while they get treatment at Togus, would be opening in November. An open house will be scheduled for all

to attend shortly.

LaRhonda Harris, RN, Women Veteran Program Manager, discussed the "I Am Not Invisible" Project. More information on the Women Veteran Program can be obtained from the Program Manager at 207-623-8411 ext. 4017.

Dorrian Patillo RN-B, MA, VHA-MA, Operational Manager at the Lincoln Outreach Clinic, spoke about the many services available to veterans in Lincoln.

Information for the many programs and updates of events at Togus can be found on Facebook at "VA Maine Healthcare System".

Also in attendance were staff member of Senator Susan Collins, Michael Noyes, staff member of Congressman Jared Golden, Barbara Hayslett, and staff member of Senator Angus King, Edie Smith.

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

## District 14

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

### Dover-Foxcroft Post 29 Honors Boys & Girls State:

Chadbourne-Merrill Post 29 in Dover-Foxcroft had the privilege of honoring and thanking our Boys and Girls State representatives with an award and a fine meal on Oct. 14 at Post Headquarters.

The students represented us well! Thank you, Ethan Curtis, Jacob Raynes, and Hunter Clarke for taking time out of your busy summer schedule to attend Boys State!





## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

**District 14 continued****Humbled and Honored to be Part of The American Legion**

I can still remember the first time I went with my dad to the American Legion. I was four years old, and we were living in Olive Hill, Kentucky. The post there was mostly composed of old guys, and the usual thing they did there was drink—whether it be coffee or beer. I remember thinking, “Is this what it’s like to be old? You sit around in the middle of the day, drink beer and complain about young hooligans who are now loitering around town?”

Let’s fast forward 20 years. I moved to Greenville, Maine in December 2018. As I was putting roots down, I decided to get more involved in the community. With my entire family having some sort of military background, I felt a draw to get involved with the Legion in town Cecil R. Post 94. I began by volunteering to make desserts for fundraisers and cook in the kitchen during bingo nights. I began to notice a kind of way they operated, there is much respect for elders in this place. I started to understand the chain of command, taking note on their particular dialect, and really empathized with their desire to serve others. I wanted to dive deeper and learn about the empowering organization I was learning to love. As I conducted my research, I found that there are many branches of the American Legion.

The Legion itself only accepts membership applicants who are currently in active duty or who have served in any of the eligible war eras. Family of the military are also invited to join the Legion, too. The Women’s Auxiliary Unit is made up of solely women—wives, daughters and mothers of soldiers. Finally, the Sons of the Legion is the last branch of the Legion composed of, well, sons of military members. The branches of the Legion work together as a non-profit organization.

The chain of command is taken very seriously within the American Legion. The National Department consists of the National Commander (President) and five Vice Commanders (Vice Presidents). The National Commander has the full power to enforce the Legion’s constitution within all 12,000 posts in the United States, while the VP’s act as representatives of the National Commander. Next are the Constitutional Officers. Six are elected annually by the NEC. Their roles are as follows: adjutant, treasurer, judge advocate, historian, chaplain and sergeant-at-arms. The National Executive Committee is made up of the National Commander, the Vice Commanders, one National Committeeman (and their alternate) from each department.

There are 55 departments in the American Legion—one in each state plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, France, the Philippines, and Mexico. The NEC holds administrative power, responsible for voting on the Legion’s budget, approving contracts, and signing off on the Legion’s spending. Each year, a national convention is held to unite all repre-



**Author Of American Legion College Essay:** Recently, this essay was submitted to Moosehead Matters by a member of the local American Legion Auxiliary (Unit 94). Its author, Lauren Parsons, seen here, wrote it for a college class assignment.

Photo by Jonathan Pratt, Moosehead Matters Newspaper

sentatives of the Legion. At this meeting they determine membership dues, are able to make an adjustment(s) to the Legion’s constitution and by-laws, pass programs that determine the course of the Legion, and elect the new National Commander and Vice Commanders that will serve until the end of the next convention.

The American Legion is a group that deserves the utmost respect for the benevolence they exude every day of the year. This organization is made up of men and women who have given everything to defend our freedom, and now have come together to support each other and others back on the home-front. It is the nation’s largest wartime veterans service organization, committed to mentoring youth and sponsorship of wholesome programs in our communities, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national security, and continued devotion to our fellow service members and veterans (from Legion.org). Being part of this family has taught me selflessness, honor, respect, and the importance of helping your fellow brothers. I am humbled and honored to be a part of the American Legion.

Published by Jonathan Pratt  
Moosehead Matters, Koppenhaver Publishing

**Please note: The “Legion Act” on membership was passed shortly after this article was written. The Legion Act changed membership eligibility both in the Legion and the Auxiliary. For more information regarding “Eligibility,” see page 9 in this edition of The Maine Legionnaire.**

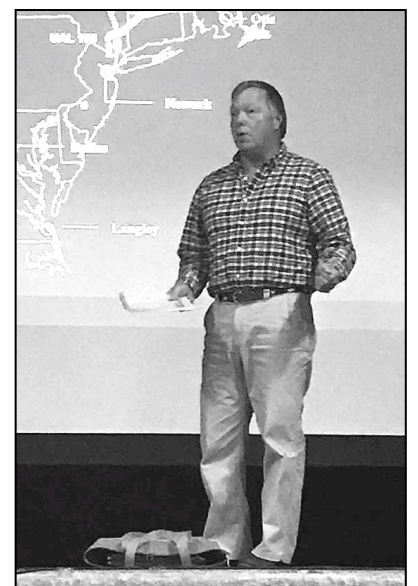
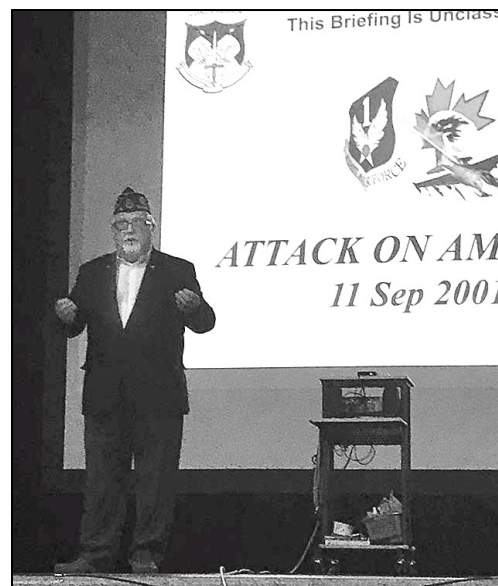
**Honoring Five Veterans with Quilts of Valor**

A very moving ceremony was held on Friday, Aug. 17 to honor five veterans of Greenville Post 94 who are residents at the C.A. Dean Nursing Home.

**Five Veterans Honored With Quilts Of**

**Valor:** Left to right, Ralph Gauthier, USA European Theater WWII and Battle of the Bulge; Walter Crossman, USN WWII, Pacific Theater; Lawrence Budden, USA Korean Era, European Theater; Raymond Shaffer, USA WWII Pacific Theater; Clarence Laskey, USN WWII and Korean War, Atlantic and Pacific Theaters.

The brainchild of Marilyn Goodwin of Crazy Moose Fabrics, she arranged for some of her customers to quilt five beautiful quilts to be given to the five veteran residents. Marilyn also arranged for the Maine State Coordinator of Quilts of Valor to do the presentations. Prior to that, Cecil R. Cole Post 94 Commander Pete Johnson presented the veterans with paid up Post membership cards for 2020. The veterans were wrapped in their quilts and thanked for their service to our country. After that, retired Army nurse Major Donna Mabee gave a heartfelt hug to each of them.



**Speakers In Attendance:** Above left, Colonel Doug Damon (retired) and current Commander of Bangor Post 12 speaks at the 911 Remembrance Ceremony at the Greenville Consolidated School on Sept. 11. Above right, Colonel Al Wickel (retired) and current Commander of Greenville Post 94 speaks at the ceremony.

**‘Attack on America’ Presentation**

The 911 Remembrance was organized by The American Legion Post 94 for grades 7 to 12 and the public at the Greenville Consolidated School on September 11<sup>th</sup>. The briefing was conducted by two warriors from the Air National Guard. Colonel Doug Damon (Retired) and current Commander of American Legion Post 12 in Bangor and Colonel Al Wickel (Retired) & current member of Post 94 in Greenville.

Colonel Damon presented a briefing

that he has previously given to the National Command Authority and Joint Chiefs of Staff that outlined the events of leading up to and the response by Air National Guard fighter and air refueling operations following the attack on 911. Colonel Wickel, the Vice Commander of an Air National Guard F-15 Fighter Wing, at the time, outlined fighter response operations during and following the attack.

Submitted by Greenville Post 94 Commander  
Peter Johnson



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

District 15

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



**Down East Credit Union Donates To Calais Post 3:** The Down East Credit Union made their second annual donation of \$1,000 to Calais Post 3 to help the Post continue to support their administration and community! Left to right, Loan Officer Jason Theriault, Branch Manager Becky Perkins, Calais Post 3 Commander Mike McLean, MSR Kayla Pottle, and MSR Michelle Takach.

**Canadian Legion 46<sup>th</sup> International Festival:** Calais Post 3 Commander Mike McLean marches with the Canadian Legion in July celebrating their 46th Consecutive Annual Festival of bringing world-class memories with 17 Festival Village Halls for all to enjoy.



**Cherryfield Post 8 Hosts Two Blood Drives Annually:** Steuben resident Doug Smith Jr. donates blood at Cherryfield Post 8's fall blood drive, helping the Red



Cross meet the critical shortage of the national blood supply.

**9/11 Remembrance Program:** Narraguagus Post 8 of Cherryfield conducted a 9/11 Remembrance Program in partnership with the Deblois Fire Department. Flags were lowered to half-staff to the Bugle of Post Adjutant Peter Dustin; poems were read by local resident Lori Barbee and Cindy Gay; the Fire Chief was reflecting on the tragedy followed by reflections of the audience as to where they were on that fateful day in 2001. Tribute was paid to our military who have suffered in the War on Terror since. Prayers and Taps were offered at each time of the plane attacks: 0846 - North Tower, 0903 - South Tower, 0937 - Pentagon and 1003 - Field in PA. Cherryfield Post 8 Adjutant Peter Dustin is seen here playing "Taps."



**Memories of Friends in Combat:** Commander Jon Gay, a Marine Veteran of Iraq, shared memories of losing buddies in combat, all later casualties of the wars spawned by 9/11.

**Cherryfield Post 8 and Deblois Fire Department:** Cherryfield's Post 8 and the Deblois Fire Department partner together to conduct a 9/11 Remembrance Program: Left to right, on the flag dais are Fire Chief Cindy Gay, Post Adjutant Peter Dustin, and Assistant Fire Chief Bill Kinter.





## 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



**Anniversary Celebration:** Frenchville Post 145 celebrates the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The American Legion in conjunction with the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Town, with a flag burning conducted by the local Boy Scouts under the supervision of two of the Scout leaders. Left is Post Sergeant-At-Arms Roger Bosse, and back left, Post Commander Roger Gervais.

## Celebrating Frenchville's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary & 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The American Legion

July was a very special month in Frenchville with the Town celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and The American Legion celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

On July 26, The American Legion Post 145 of Frenchville had a wonderful day of celebration. We had a display of pictures of our World War I, World War II, Korean, and Vietnam Veterans, Commanders, and Auxiliary Presidents from 1 to 4 p.m. The American Legion Auxiliaries put on a spaghetti dinner from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Post followed by a flag burning ceremony in the Frenchville Park across the street from the Post. We finished the day with a dance at the Post from 8 to 11 p.m. Fun was had by all.

Proceeds were for our scholarships.

On July 28, we had a beautiful parade with The American Legion Honor Guard leading the parade. There were many Legionnaires and Auxiliaries participating in the parade. We had three generations participating: mother Cindy, granddaughter Isabella, and grandmother Bern. Isabella is very proud of being a Junior Auxiliary and enjoys being active with her grandmother and mother. We had a van carrying several of Auxiliary Charter members, who reside in two assisted-living facilities, and several World War II Veterans were riding in convertible cars.

Submitted by Unit 145 Secretary Denise Sinclair

### Celebrating in Style:

In the parade is a van carrying several of Auxiliary Charter members who reside in two assisted-living facilities. Seated in front, Odette and Aline; seated in back, Therese and Dora.

Photo by Donald Raymond



**3 Generations:** Three generations of Auxiliary members march in celebration of Frenchville's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary & 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The American Legion on July 26. Left to right, Bern, grandmother of Junior Auxiliary, Isabella, and Cindy, mother of Isabella. Behind them are Theresa, Denise, and Doreen.

Photo by Donald Raymond



**Awaiting Their Turn:** Auxiliary members waiting for the parade to line up. Left to right, back row, Claudette, Beatrice, Cleo, Bern, Muriel, Victoria, Doreen, Monique, Jackie, Marie Jeanne, Muriel; front row, Cindy, Junior member Isabella, and Denise.

Photo by Donald Raymond



**A Spaghetti Dinner To Celebrate:** Unit 145 Auxiliary members put on a spaghetti dinner at the Post home on July 26 in celebration of Frenchville's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The American Legion. Kitchen help, left to right, Claudette, Kelly, Peighton, Beatrice, Muriel, Doreen, Muriel R., Victoria, Jackie, Stella, Denise, Ginette, and Bern.

Photo by Donald Raymond



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 17 continued



**St. Francis Post 180 Receives 100% Membership Award:** Jandreau-Connors St. Francis Post 180 Commander Keith Jandreau Jr., center, proudly displays the 100% Membership Award presented by Department Americanism Officer Alfred McKay, left, as District 17 Commander Joseph Michaud, right, looks on.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ...

## St. John's Newfoundland Post CN09



**Canada Post CN09 Meeting:** Canada Post CN09 held their meeting on June 24. Front row, left to right, Finance Officer Ray Reiser, Terry Clower, Don Cook & Millard Star. Back row, left to right, John Gulich, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander/Service Officer/Chaplain George Walter, Adjutant Harlow Snippen, Anne McFarlane, Bob Cobb & Commander John Walther.



In advance of Veterans Day, President Trump signed into law the National POW/MIA Flag Act.

## American Legion Welcomes President's Signing of POW/MIA Flag Act

The head of the nation's largest veterans organization thanked President Trump for signing a bipartisan act which will require certain prominent federal properties to display the POW/MIA Flag every day with the U.S. Flag.

"Yesterday I was humbled to stand with my fellow veterans inside the Oval Office and watch the president of the United States sign this symbolic but important legislation," said American Legion National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford. "It is important that Americans never forget that there are still more than 82,000 men and women who were taken prisoner or never had a full accounting. The American Legion reveres their memory and will continue to honor them at all of our meetings. I plan to visit the headquarters of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency later this month to observe their work firsthand. DPAA does a remarkable job of identifying and repatriating so many heroes who paid the ultimate price for freedom. The American Legion is eager to explore additional ways to lend our support."

Cosponsored by U.S. Senators Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), Tom Cotton (D-Ark.), Jack Reed (D-R.I.), and several others, the law will require the POW/MIA flag to be displayed whenever the Ameri-

can flag is displayed on prominent federal buildings and national war memorials to honor the more than 82,000 Americans who are listed as Prisoners of War (POW), Missing in Action (MIA), or otherwise unaccounted for from our nation's past wars and conflicts, according to a press release from Reed's office.

On the House side, the National POW/MIA Flag Act was led by Representatives Chris Pappas (D-N.H.) and Jack Bergman (R-Mich.). The legislation had the support of Rolling Thunder, Inc.; the National League of POW/MIA Families; Veterans of Foreign Wars; The American Legion; American Ex-Prisoners of War; and the National Alliance of Families for the Return of America's Missing Servicemen.

With a current membership of nearly two million wartime veterans, The American Legion was founded in 1919 on the four pillars of a strong national security, veterans affairs, patriotic youth programs and Americanism. Legionnaires work for the betterment of their communities through nearly 13,000 posts worldwide. From the drafting of the original GI Bill to the creation of the Department of Veterans Affairs, The American Legion is the most influential voice for America's veterans.

—www.legion.org

## THE AMERICAN LEGION 102nd ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION June 12-14, 2020

Jeff's Catering & Event Center,  
15 Littlefield Way, Brewer, Maine 04412

**PLAN NOW TO ATTEND!**



# Taps Column

POST	NAME	CONFLICT
Post 4 – Gardiner	Robert B. Lewis Sr.	Vietnam
Post 5 – Waterville	Robert L. Carrier	Korea
Post 5 – Waterville	Robert LaGrange	Korea
Post 5 – Waterville	Joseph L. Theriault Sr.	Korea
Post 5 – Waterville	Donald P. Breton	Korea
Post 5 – Waterville	Reginald G. Joler	Korea
Post 12 – Bangor	Henry G. Wyman	WWII
Post 24 – Rumford	Henry Zinck	Korea
Post 24 – Rumford	Antonio Diconzo	Vietnam
Post 24 – Rumford	Arthur E. Bordeau	Korea
Post 24 – Rumford	Felix Ricci	WWII
Post 40 – Winthrop	Charles R. Mann	Korea
Post 40 – Winthrop	Robert L. Fisher	Vietnam
Post 42 – Damariscotta	Wayne R. Elliott	Vietnam
Post 42 – Damariscotta	Robert N. Reed	Korea
Post 50 – Unity	Derrill W. Brooks	Vietnam
Post 50 – Unity	Bacil L. Ames	Vietnam
Post 52 – Oakfield	George B. Clarke	WWII
Post 52 – Oakfield	Martha J. Dickinson	Vietnam
Post 52 – Oakfield	Barry C. Higgins	Vietnam
Post 52 – Oakfield	Wayne Sanford	Vietnam
Post 58 – Buckfield	Scott L. Kendall	WWII
Post 65 – Lubec	William B. Ramsdell	Vietnam
Post 65 – Lubec	Edwin Knight	Korea
Post 88 – Presque Isle	Frank J. Allen Jr.	Vietnam
Post 116 – Monson	Clowes L. Brown	Vietnam
Post 135 – Sabattus	Rodney Woodrum Jr.	Korea
Post 138 – Winterport	Raymond Porter	Vietnam
Post 158 – Lisbon	George M. Couture	Vietnam
Post 158 – Lisbon	Brett L. Griffin	Vietnam
Post 158 – Lisbon	Lewis G. Crafts	Vietnam
Post 171 – Harpswell	Thomas H. Conway	Korea
Post 197 – Westbrook	Thomas Harrington	Vietnam

**Legion Riders Help House Of Hope:**  
Maine Legion Riders Director Mike Lallemand, right, donates a check in the amount of \$3,753.80 to the Betsy Ann Ross House of Hope located in Augusta on Aug. 20. Receiving the donation is Founder & Executive Director Martha Everett StPierre.



## The Maine Legionnaire Submissions

Please be reminded that only those articles and/or pictures which are sent in proper form will be considered for publication in The Maine Legionnaire. As we continue to receive an overabundance of photos for publishing, we must have guidelines to follow. In order to publish any photo(s) received, effective immediately, the submitter must include the following: who are the individuals in the photo (left to right), what the photo is about, and when and where the event took place. If the above mentioned is not provided, the photo will be returned to the submitter for clarification and submission of the required information.

Anyone interested in submitting an article and/or photo, please send via email to [rachael@mainelegion.org](mailto:rachael@mainelegion.org) or [legionme@mainelegion.org](mailto:legionme@mainelegion.org) or mail to The American Legion, Department of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0727.



**California Legion Riders with Bridgton Chapter 67:**  
Top: Chapter 31 American Legion Riders are, left



to right, Rick DeArana, Rick Phinney, Hy Libby, and Alfredo Gomez. Bridgton Post 67 proudly hosted ALR Chapter 31 of Monterey, Calif., with a luncheon and a VIP tour of the Maine Military Museum in South Portland and a Maine traditional meal the following day. ALR Chapter 67 presented Chapter 31 Monterey a Maine Flag showing their support for the Veteran's cemetery. The ALR supports this Veteran's cemetery ride from coast to coast. ALR of Monterey on their Epic Ride cross-country to raise awareness and money to open the Veterans Cemetery in the former Fort Ord, Calif. This has been a 28-year, yes, 28-year project.

Above: Despite the threat of torrential downpours, the weather held off. The Bridgton Post 67 rally was a huge success in bringing together riders from all over the state. The Riders of Maine made a substantial donation to the Betsy Ann Ross Home for Women Veterans with Children.

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

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

Cut it out



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## Attention: Next Deadline is Jan. 24

The deadline for material, stories and/or pictures to be submitted for consideration for use in the February 2020 issue of The Maine Legionnaire will be Jan. 24, 2020.

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

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

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

We are once again asking for input from all posts, auxiliary units, S.A.L.

squadrons, individuals, etc. To make this paper informative to you, it is imperative that we receive submissions from the membership.

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

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](mailto:legionme@mainelegion.org) or  
[rachael@mainelegion.org](mailto:rachael@mainelegion.org)

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<b>To update your address: Complete all sections of the above form and mail to The American Legion, Department of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901 or call Department HQ at 207-873-3229   Email: <a href="mailto:legionme@mainelegion.org">legionme@mainelegion.org</a></b>			

## Legion Family to gather in Brewer for Winter Conference

The annual Mid-Winter Conference will be held Jan. 18-19, 2020 at Jeff's Catering & Event Center, 15 Littlefield Way, Brewer ME 04412. The conference will be hosted by Commander Matthew Jabaut and 2nd Vice Commander Kirk Thurston. Hotel Reservations can be made at the following: Holiday Inn: 404 Odlin Rd. Bangor, Maine 04401. Phone: 207-947-0101 Website: [www.holidayinn.com](http://www.holidayinn.com), Room Rate: \$93.00 (includes breakfast). Quality Inn: 250 Odlin Rd., Bangor, Maine 04401. Phone: 207-942-8272, Room Rate: \$89.00. Fairfield Inn: 300 Odlin Rd. Bangor, Maine 04401. Phone: 207-990-0001, Room Rate: \$89.00. Please state "Legion" when calling for reservations. Please watch future editions of the Leadership Ledger and on [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org) for further information regarding, meals, lodging and speakers.



**Maine Chapters Donate To Legacy Fund:** State Commander Matthew Jabaut, left, and State Adjutant Paul L'Heureux, right, present a check in the amount of \$3,200 to the National Liaison Coordinator of the Legion Riders Kenneth George during Fall Conference at National Headquarters. The funds were raised by the following Chapters in Maine for the Legacy Fund program: Sanford Chapter 19 (\$1,500), Madison Chapter 39 (\$500), Winthrop Chapter 40 (\$500), Dixfield Chapter 100 (\$500), and Westbrook Chapter 62 (\$200).



**Claws for Celebration:** Lobster (aka Dept. Judge Advocate Jason Hall) leads the Maine Delegation in the parade at National Convention on Aug. 25.

### DISCLAIMER

Neither The Maine Legionnaire editorial director, nor managing 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.

**Merry Christmas &  
Happy New Year!**

**From All of Us at  
The American Legion State HQ**

