

# THE MAINE Legionnaire



NOVEMBER 2020

Vol. 35, Issue 4

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

AMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF MAINE

32 Pages

## Legionnaire's Virtual Marathon Unites Legion Family

### MARATHON

#### Why I Run:

I run to feel the Music  
I run to feel the fresh Air  
I run to forget the Rage  
I run to forget the Anxiety  
I run to embrace the Time  
I run to embrace the Honor  
I run to remember the Oath  
I run to remember the Need  
I run this MARATHON for  
the future of the Maine  
American Legion.

By Caroline Yarmala



**Caroline Yarmala** runs her virtual 2020 Boston Marathon as her father, **Joseph Yarmala**, carries the U.S. Navy flag.

**C**aroline Yarmala ran her first marathon Sept. 12.

At 7 a.m., she started at Veterans Park in Lewiston, Maine, for the 26.2-mile route ahead of her. The finish line wouldn't be on Boylston Street as initially planned, but the crisp air and peacefulness of the morning allowed the Legionnaire

to reflect on her reason to run – to honor a close friend and survivor of the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing, and to support the American Legion Department of Maine Foundation.

By noon, Yarmala finished her virtual 2020 Boston Marathon

outside of her post home, American Legion Post 202 in Topsham, Maine. And she wasn't alone.

Legionnaires, including her father and boyfriend, carried the U.S. flag and the five military ones behind Yarmala as she broke through the fin-

ish line of blue streamers with cheers from American Legion Family members waiting her arrival. "We were able to cross the finish line together," she said. "After completing the marathon, I learned that plans may never work out the way you want them to. Life gets in the way, obstacles can get hurled in your path, the unfathomable can become the new normal. But with the right foundation, support team and self-perseverance, your goals are still obtainable."

Yarmala ran the Boston Marathon virtually after the nationwide pandemic canceled the race in April that's held annually on Patriots Day. She had the opportunity to use a guest race bib of Michelle L'Heureux, daughter of longtime Department of Maine Adjutant Paul L'Heureux, who has gone through several surgeries due to wounds suffered from the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing.

It was Michelle who inspired Yar-

[More on "MARATHON", Page 5](#)



**Lopeman-Potts Post 67 Revitalization Ceremony:** American Legion Leadership gather at Bridgton Post 67 for the Revitalization Ceremony during the National Commander's Official visit to the Department of Maine Oct. 24. Front row, left to right, Past Nat'l Cmdr.

Anthony G. Jordan, Dept. 1st Vice-Cmdr. Debra Couture, Dept. Asst. Service Officer Maureen Malley. Middle row, left to right, Dept. Finance Officer Gregory Couture, Nat'l Cmdr. James W. "Bill" Oxford, Nat'l Exec. Committeeman Lloyd Woods, Dept. Americanism Officer Alfred McKay. Back row, left to right, Dept. Cmdr. Matthew Jabaut, Post 67 Cmdr. Donald Mulcahy, and Maine 2nd District Cmdr. David Tanguay.

## The Maine Legionnaire Award-Winning Publication

**T**he American Legion, Department of Maine's official newspaper "The Maine Legionnaire" tied for 1st place nationwide this year with the Department of California in The American Legion Media Alliance Publication - Department category which received nearly 100 entries.

Congratulations goes out to Department Adjutant Paul L'Heureux who is

the Editorial Director and Office Manager Rachael Currie who is the Managing/Layout Editor for the award-winning publication. The full list of winners can be found [here](https://www.legion.org/documents/pdf/TALMA_2020_Winners.pdf) or by visiting [https://www.legion.org/documents/pdf/TALMA\\_2020\\_Winners.pdf](https://www.legion.org/documents/pdf/TALMA_2020_Winners.pdf)

THE AMERICAN LEGION  
**MEDIA ALLIANCE**



## A 'First' Look

Happy November to all of you. For many of you, it is hunting season. Be safe. I hope you all bring home what you set out to hunt.

November is also the beginning of the holiday season, when we normally would

be preparing to spend the holidays with family and friends. However, this is not a normal year and many of us will not be able to have the big holiday dinners and gatherings that we have had in past years and many Posts will not be having the large Veteran's Day celebrations that they normally have each year. (For the American Legion's Veteran's Day guide speech, please go to <https://www.legion.org/publications/247280/veterans-day-speech>)

As we look at what we will be doing during these times, please keep in mind all of our veterans, whether they are members of your Post or neighbors or relatives. We need to keep in contact with them. Please call or email them on a regular basis. Separation and loneliness can cause depression. Suicide rates for the military are over 20% higher than they were last year. The American Legion is focusing on mental health and well-being for the Buddy Checks this winter. Just reaching out to a fellow veteran can make all the difference and help him/her feel better about themselves and their surroundings. As winter and the cold weather sets in, we also need to make sure that those we contact have what they need to survive the winter – food, fuel, warm clothing. Please ask them what you can do to help. I have included 3 links below to help you with the (1) Buddy Check program – resources and toolkits; (2) Buddy Checks that focus on mental health and the well-being of those you are calling and working with; and (3) Maine's website for assistance. The general telephone num-



**DEBRA  
COUTURE**

ber for assistance in Maine is 211.

My favorite way of doing the Buddy Check is a team approach with groups of Legionnaires getting together and everyone having a list of names to call. Of course, we still have to social distance, but you can still have a good time and have some interaction with your members. If you run into a situation where someone needs some help, having several members present makes it easier to come up with a solution to the problem and get assistance for the veteran.

<https://www.legion.org/buddy-check> For urgent help, contact the Veterans Crisis Line at 1-800-273-8255.

<https://www.legion.org/membership/250912/buddy-checks-focus-mental-health-well-being>

Maine's website for support: [www.211maine.org](http://www.211maine.org) or dial 211.

Membership: I wanted to also include the target dates for membership renewals for this year. They are:

**Target III: Nov. 12, 2020 65 %**  
**Target IV: Dec. 11, 2020 75 %**  
**Target V: Jan. 21, 2021 80 %**  
**Target VI: Feb. 10, 2021 85 %**  
**Target VII: Mar. 10, 2021 90 %**  
**Target VIII: Apr. 14, 2021 95 %**  
**Target IX: May 12, 2021 100%**

Additional information on the target dates and points can be found at: <https://www.legion.org/membership/targetdates>

Please focus on renewals through the end of this calendar year. We are having a difficult time getting to 65% and the deadline is fast approaching. If we can get current membership renewals completed by 31 December 2020, then we can begin calling those on the expired lists and members of Headquarters Post 0178 after the first of the year to increase total membership in our posts.

Thank you all for everything that you do for veterans, your community, state, and nation.

Stay safe and well. I wish you all a wonderful Veteran's Day, a Happy Thanksgiving, and a Blessed Christmas and New Year.



## A 'Second' Look

Hard to believe it is time to prepare for ole man winter. Yes it will be here before we know it. For you Snowbirds, do not forget to fill out the Snowbird form to receive your copy of the award winning Maine Legionnaire newspaper or any other mail from The American Legion, Department of Maine while you are away, please take advantage of this service. This form is different from the one you would fill out at your local Post Office, so you should use both forms to ensure you get all of your mail.

It is good to see more and more Posts having meetings and trying to return to some sort of normalcy. Beginning in October, American Legion National Headquarters staff has introduced 'Training Tuesdays,' 60-90 minute sessions on topics aimed at Post Commanders and Adjutants. These topics will vary, and start at 7:00 PM EST. The sessions will be presented via Microsoft Teams. The first session was held October 27, and covered the topics 'mylegion 2021' and 'Buddy Check'. The sessions focused on the "who, what, where, when and why" of the program and discussed the relevance, importance and strategic objectives of taking care of our fellow veterans. This would be a good time for Districts to hold training during their monthly meetings. These tools will only enhance our ability to improve our membership, and as we all know, 'Membership is our life's blood' for any organization.

For those Posts that have a Squadron, ensure they are on top of their membership. If need be, offer to help them with retention and recruitment. Remember that 'Membership' is every member's responsibility, not just the membership chairman. On October 3, the National American Legion Americanism

Commission held their Fall Virtual Meeting. The meeting was well attended by 34 representatives from throughout the nation. Greetings and remarks were made by Chairman Richard W. Anderson (CT).

We received in advance via e-mail written reports from the following committees: American Legion Baseball, Youth Cadet Law Enforcement, and Children and Youth, from their fall virtual meetings and the Youth Education Committee spring and fall virtual meeting.

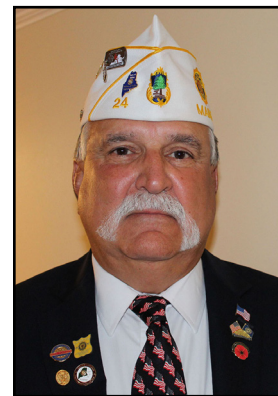
Old Business was the final tally of e-mail vote of the Americanism Commission regarding motions for Cancellation of all 2020 American Legion Baseball National Tournaments (21-0) and the Suspension of awarding the Samsung American Legion Scholarship in 2020 (27-1).

New Business: American Legion Legacy Scholarship Enhancement, more to follow; and the 2020 Americanism Awards as follows: Ralph T. O'Neil Education Trophy (CT), Frank N. Belgrano Jr, Trophy (UT) and the Daniel J. O'Connor Americanism Trophy (VA).

The ALB Committee met Tuesday September 15 and applauded those departments that were able to have a Legion baseball season because COVID conditions within their states so allowed. The baseball chairmen from Arkansas, Montana and Nebraska will be presenting "lessons learned" from their 2020 season. Four caucus webinar events were conducted and attended by all 50 Departments' baseball chairmen and baseball committee members. Four topics were discussed: MLB three-batter minimum rule; waiver to allow the 2001 birth year player, who lost their final year of eligibility in the program due to cancellation of the 2020 season to participate in the 2021 season; what impact COVID-19 may have on the 2021 season and the current impact state High School athletic schedules are having with next season; and what areas of expansion or suggestions may lead to growth potential at Department and National levels.

Based on the consensus of the

**More on "2ND LOOK" Page 6**



**KIRK  
THURSTON**



## NEC Update

Hello Maine Legionnaires. I hope this finds you in good health, safe and sound. This 2020 year is one that we have been living together apart and will be one we will remember as historical. 2019 was our 100th year of existence and that was a milestone in and of itself. This 2020 year as it winds down is also one that we will all remember and we have witnessed many things both in our great organization and outside of it.

Many of the officers elected in 2019 and due to be replaced in 2020 remain in the positions they held. This because of the government mandates to shut down and giving us the list of precautions in order to get thru the pandemic. Many posts have remained no meetings and will continue for a little while longer out of a preponderance of caution.

The national organization also has seen many changes, some temporary in nature and some not so temporary. One of those temporary changes is holding virtual meetings with the many committees and commissions of The American Legion as well as the meetings of the National Executive Committee, be it spring or fall and with cancelling of the National Convention for this year 2020. These moves are and never have been cancelled previously in our 100 year existence and hopefully we will not see the cancellations again for a long time.

October 15 was the second of two virtual meetings to handle the required business of The American Legion with October 14 being the first one. The NEC (National Executive Committee) heard reports from the various commissions and committees and heard and reviewed thirty eight (38) resolutions brought forward for consideration. Prior to the NEC hearing and re-



**LLOYD WOODS**

viewing these resolutions, the NEC Subcommittee of Resolutions reviewed them and made its recommendation(s) covering each one. As a member of this subcommittee, I along with the other members completed them a week prior to the actual meeting. Normally, the subcommittee would meet two days prior to the NEC meeting in Indianapolis then attend the NEC meeting.

The thirty eight (38) resolutions pertained to various aspects of the business of The American Legion. Here is a listing of the approved resolutions with one being held for further study:

#1 Revision of the Rules of the National Executive Committee of The American Legion

#34 Direct Membership Solicitation (DMS) Program Update

#35 Insurance Requirements

#36 Mission Post Assistance Program

#37 2023 National Convention Contract

#38 Vision and Mission of The American Legion

#28 American Legion Baseball Regional Tournament Sites and Dates for 2021-2023

#29 Amendment to Resolution No. #28 – "Updated Rules and Conditions for the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program"

#30 American Legion Boys Nation Eligibility

#31 American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year Eligibility

#32 Risk Management Mandates for National Youth Programs

#15 Authorize Issuance of Temporary Charters to Foreign Posts (Puerto Rico, France & Hawaii (located in Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic, Pattaya, Thailand and Majuro, RMI (Marshall Islands)

#16 National Global War on Terrorism Memorial

#17 Support for Review of Minority Awards of Medal of Honor WWI and Subsequent Wars/Conflicts

#18 The American Legion Canadian Friendship Award

#19 Updated Program Guidelines for the American Legion Rid-

**More on "NEC UPDATE" Page 5**

## On the Agenda

### DECEMBER MEETINGS

District 12 – Hancock: Dec. 8, Northeast Harbor Post 103, (at Seal Harbor Fire Station) dinner 6:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m. mtg.

### FEBRUARY MEETINGS

District 2 – Cumberland: Feb. 14, Westbrook Post 197, 2 p.m.

District 5 – Oxford: Feb. 16, Dixfield Post 100, 7 p.m. Nominations. Light supper 6 p.m.

District 12 – Hancock: Feb. 9, Trenton Post 207, TBA

District 14 – Piscataquis: Feb. 20, Dexter Post 53, lunch noon, 1 p.m. mtg.

District 17 – N. Aroostook: Feb. 6, Caribou Post 15, dinner 1 p.m., 2 p.m. mtg. Four Chaplains Service

### MARCH MEETINGS

District 12 – Hancock: Mar. 9, Blue Hill Post 85, dinner 6:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m. mtg.

District 14 – Piscataquis: Mar. 20, Brownville Jct. Post 92, lunch noon, 1 p.m. mtg.



**National Commander's Banquet:** National Executive Committeeman Lloyd Woods, left, Department of Maine Commander Matthew Jabaut, center, and American Legion National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford sitting at the head table for the National Commander's Banquet held at Westbrook Post 197 on Oct. 24.



**National Commander Introduction:** National Executive Committeeman Lloyd Woods introduces The American Legion National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford to members and guests at the National Commanders Banquet held at Westbrook Post 197 on Oct. 24.



**THE MAINE Legionnaire**

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF MAINE

Official Newspaper of The American Legion, Dept. of Maine  
Published at Sun Press, 104 Park Street, Lewiston, Maine,  
by The American Legion — Department of Maine.  
Business Office, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901-0727  
Website: [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org)  
Tel.: 207-873-3229 Fax: 207-872-0501  
Email: [rachael@mainelegion.org](mailto:rachael@mainelegion.org)  
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/maineamericanlegion>  
Paul L'Heureux, Editorial Director  
Rachael Currie, Managing/Layout Editor  
Third Class Postage paid at Waterville, Maine  
Subscription for Maine Legionnaires \$2 as a part of their dues.  
Other subscription Rate \$10 a year.  
Average Circulation: 20,000.

## Americanism Report

Greetings comrades, hoping this article finds everyone safe and well.

I do not know what to advise you on the subjects of the Oratorical Contest or Boys/Girls State. For the Oratorical Scholarship, when the schools open for visitors and speakers, let's get 17 contestants in the scholarship competition this year. Advertise in local papers, electronic media, posters, and whatever you can do to get to all students. This includes private, Christian, and home-school students.

The same goes for Boys/Girls State. Try to get as many as possible to attend. Both are still scheduled to be held at Thomas College.

For the posts that are planning on having or starting a Jr. Shooting Program, baseball, Scouting, or any other program, ensure that all COVID



**ALFRED MCKAY**

rules are understood and followed. If you have any doubt or questions, contact the Department Headquarters for the current and correct policies and

rules. STOP relying on "jail house lawyers" to advise you. They are most likely completely wrong.

If I can be of assistance on the Americanism Programs, do not hesitate to contact me.

Have a safe fall and winter, and see you at the Winter Conference and/or the Oratorical competition.



**Awaiting The National Commander's Arrival: Department Americanism Officer Alfred McKay awaits for the arrival of National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford to Lopeman-Potts Post 67, Bridgton on Oct. 24.**

## The Adjutant Speaks

Many of us are reflecting on the past history of this country and of the American Legion as we try to adjust to some type of normalcy during these



**PAUL L'HEUREUX**

times. As your Department Adjutant, I can truly say that since March there have been challenges the American Legion had to overcome. and there were days that I wondered if we could.

After fielding 20 to 30 calls a day and listening to your concerns, I began to see things happening in different parts of the state of Maine. As I said in my last article, the "curb-side delivery" of meals has been un-

believable and the reports coming to Headquarters continue to show those efforts have been mostly successful! This is not only positive financially, but also in the attitudes of the Legionnaires involved. Instead of complaining about the challenges facing us all, they are staying focused and making things happen in their communities. This has also created a new group of leaders in post homes across the state.

I have heard of Legionnaires signing up new members even at the "curb" as meals are delivered. The Auxiliary Units at these posts are preparing home cooked meals, sometimes on a daily basis, and the veterans are now coming to their post each day to purchase meals and donate to the effort in some way. One Auxiliary unit prepared and sold

[More on "ADJUTANT SPEAKS" Page 10](#)

## Money Matters



**GREGORY COUTURE**

I wanted to send all of you some important financial information in this issue.

990 report requirements: Most charitable nonprofits (Posts) that are recognized as tax-exempt have an obligation to file an annual information return with the IRS. This document is commonly known as a Form 990. The IRS Form 990 is a public document, so make sure that your nonprofit board reviews it before it's filed. Make sure that it is completed thoroughly as well as accurately. Look to the IRS website for guidance on annual reporting of the Form 990. If a nonprofit is incorporated in a state but has never been recognized by the IRS as "tax-exempt," then it does not have an obligation to file an annual information return with the IRS. Note: Conversely, even if your Post fits one of the few exceptions to mandatory annual filing with the IRS, it may still have to file forms an-

nually in the State of Maine, where it is incorporated; or where it engages in fundraising activities. Form 990s are due within 4½ months after the end of the Post's fiscal year. These forms are usually completed online, but may be mailed to: Internal Revenue Service Ogden, UT 84201-0027. Online forms are found at [www.irs.gov/charities](http://www.irs.gov/charities) (e.g.: 990N).

Prevent Employee Theft and Fraud: Employee theft is a serious problem and may face many organizations today. An employee is 15 times more likely than a non-employee to steal from an organization. Employees account for an estimated 44 percent of theft losses. The U.S. Department of Commerce reports that nearly a third of business failures are related to employee theft or fraud. All should be rightly concerned – or should be. Theft includes, but is not limited to:

- Larceny (outright theft)
- Skimming (diverting business funds)
- Fraudulent disbursements (billing schemes, inflated expense reports, check tampering)
- Embezzlement of raw materials or inventory

Stay safe.



## ■ “MARATHON”

(Continued from Page 1)

mala to run her longest distance yet.

Yarmala and boyfriend Matthew Jabaut, the Department of Maine commander, have “made a lot of great friends in The American Legion,” including Paul, his wife Audrey and Michelle. While together at Post 202 last September, Yarmala listened to Michelle share experiences of marathon training and racing. It was then that Michelle mentioned wanting to give her 2020 Boston Marathon guest bib to an American Legion member who would raise money for the Department of Maine Foundation.

Yarmala, a veteran, Legionnaire, runner and athlete, accepted.

“Being able to use the Boston Marathon guest bib to raise money for the foundation and all the wonderful programs of The American Legion in Maine, it seemed to all fit and everybody was there for whatever we were going to need,” she said.

Training to Adapt and Overcome. After accepting the guest bib, Joseph Yarmala became more than Caroline’s dad, fellow Post 202 member and “hero” ... he became her marathon training coach.

Yarmala followed in

Joseph’s footsteps, a retired U.S. Navy corpsman, when she joined the Navy in 2005 following high school graduation, becoming an equipment operator in the Seabees with deployments to Okinawa, Japan, Iraq and Guam before leaving active duty in 2010.

“I needed someone to remind me not to overdo it and hurt myself, and I knew he would be the right person to do that,” Yarmala said about her father, who coached her and her siblings in their respective sports growing up. “He gave me that motivation to keep going during those times. He has always been a pretty active person and enjoys coaching, and seeing other people succeed in those endeavors.”

Yarmala and her father began training together late last November by first going to the gym and then running a 4-mile race in Janu-

ary “as our introduction into racing. And for a good experience of how it was going to be for the rest of training (outside) in the Maine winter.”

Just over a month out from race day, the Boston Marathon was postponed – then eventually moved to virtual only – because of safety surrounding COVID-19. It didn’t put an end to Yarmala’s training, fundraising or lofty accomplishment ahead of her.

“You have to adapt and overcome when something crazy like COVID happens,” she said. “We used this opportunity to involve more of our American Legion Family.”

Legion Family Supports Its Own. Since joining Post 202 four years ago, “The American Legion has given me a reconnection to others in the military ... you have a lot of friends, but you don’t always have the friends that understand the military side,” Yarmala said. “The Legion helped bring that camaraderie together. It’s more than just the Legion; it’s a family. The people we have met we absolutely love and we know we can call upon them for anything that we need.”

Those calls for support were answered.

The 26.2-mile virtual route had five stops to honor each branch of the military. At each stop, which included American Legion Post 135 in Sabattus and Post 158 in Lisbon, a changeover of the military branch flags occurred – a veteran would be

waiting for Yarmala to run alongside her for a distance while carrying the flag of their respective service. Post 202 member U.S. Rep. Jared Golden, an Iraq and Afghanistan veteran, carried the Marine Corps flag; Jabaut carried the Army flag; and Joseph ran with his daughter while carrying the Navy flag; other veterans met Yarmala to carry the Coast Guard and Air Force flags.

A support vehicle with Jabaut, Joseph, Paul and a few other Legion Family members inside followed Yarmala for the entire route to provide assistance when needed.

“I’m just so thankful for Michelle, and her perseverance and strength is awe-inspiring and helped motivate me quite a bit through the run,” Yarmala said. “Running reminded me that we are living in a time of chaos and uncertainty, but we really need to stop fighting one another and start working together for a common goal. Help pull our brothers and sisters out of the dirt and pull each other up by the bootstraps and cross that finish line together as a united front.

“The American Legion Preamble says ‘to promote peace and goodwill on earth’ ... running that marathon it gets quiet in your head sometimes, and that’s the thing that kept going for me.”

*The American Legion  
September 17, 2020*

[www.legion.org/membership/250316/legionnaire's-virtual-marathon-unites-legion-family](http://www.legion.org/membership/250316/legionnaire's-virtual-marathon-unites-legion-family)



## ■ “NEC UPDATE”

(Continued from Page 3)

ers (ALR) National Program

#20 Commendation for Harvey P. Pratt, Designer of the National Native American Veterans Memorial

#21 The American Legion Patriot Award

#3 Accuracy in Reporting Survivor Benefits and COVID-19

#4 Appropriate Procedures for Compensation & Pension Examinations

#5 Engraving Military Insignia on Government-Furnished Headstones

#6 Minority Veterans

#7 Disability Benefits Questionnaires (DBQ) to Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Website

#8 Department of Veterans Affairs Revise the Definition of “Viet-

nam Era”

#9 Support Walkway in Arlington National Cemetery on Chaplains Hill

#10 Stellate Ganglion Block (SGB) Research For Treatment of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

#11 Mare Island Naval Cemetery #12 Support Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Research of Personalized Repetitive Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (PrTMS) (Held for further study)

#33 TBI/PTSD Suicide Prevention Committee

#13 Support “Buy American” Policy within the Federal Government to Create

Opportunities for Veterans

#14 Post 9/11 Transfer of Educational Benefits

#2 Legislative Program for the 117th Congress (listing of resolu-

tions reiterated and remain as part of the legislative program of The American Legion through the 117th Congress

#22 Addressing the ‘Forever War’

#23 Pharmaceutical Independence Long-Term Readiness Reform

#24 Support for Peaceful Conflict Resolution in the Country of Georgia

#25 Funding for Protection of the National Power Grid Against Electromagnetic Pulse Attack

#26 Support For The United States Space Force

#27 Sustaining Counterterrorism Efforts

The full resolutions will be available shortly on the legion website under the digital archives section. With all being important, there are some that should bear close attention and reading in full. Resolutions #34,

35, 36, 38 along with #18 and #19.

Posts should pay special attention to #34 DMS Program Update, #35 Insurance Requirements, #36 Mission Post Assistance Program, #38 Vision and Mission of The American Legion and #19 pertaining to The American Legion Riders Program.

The National Judge Advocate will be publishing guidance on the Insurance Requirements in the very near future as it pertains to Liability Insurance at the Post, District and Department levels. If you need any assistance in the future, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am there for you and will do my best to do what I can to fulfill your requests. Please be safe, wear face coverings and know that you are doing your part to beat this pandemic.

As I have said before, thank you for your service and all that you do for The American Legion.



## President's Message

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”



**PRESIDENT  
VIRGINIA CHAPUT**

Margaret Mead

Greetings to my Legion Family, Together, we do change the world, we might not be a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens; in fact, we are large, loud, and proud. Through these turbulent times we have adapted, bended, and changed how we usually do things so we can continue to work our missions, serve of programs, fundraise, and come together to brainstorm further as to how we will make this work, because not doing so is not an option.

As Legion Family members, we are wired to do for others, to care and look out for each other. As we roll into late fall and early winter, the seasons that resonate strongly,

who we are, what we do, and why we matter, the months are filled with many opportunities that will fill our own hearts and feed our souls with the joy of doing what we do best in adapted and re-imagined ways.

During our National Commander Oxford's visit this month, his agenda was less publicized and opportunities to meet and mingle with him were fewer, but we complied with the need to stay safe and well. While listening to him speak at one of his stops, he stated that we were the first Department visit since pre-covid time, and that his travels were commencing. To me that aligns with what we are doing here in the Department of Maine. Posts are opening across the State, following CDC guidelines. Posts, Units, Squadrons and Chapters are starting up meetings again while staying safe, wearing masks and social distancing.

I believe we are a resilient organization, and we will continue moving forward into our second decade of service, with slight changes, adaptations, and re-visions of what we joined this organization to do. We are “Team Maine”, and I am honored and blessed to be a part of the Team.



**Auxiliary President Attends Rededication and National Commander's Visitation:** American Legion Auxiliary President Virginia “Ginny” Chaput shows her support by attending the Lopeman-Potts Post 67 Rededication Ceremony in Bridgton Oct. 24, and the visitation of National Commander James W. “Bill” Oxford.

## “SECOND” LOOK (Continued from Page 2)

Department Chairmen in attendance, the Baseball Committee recommends to the Americanism Commission that the ALB not adopt the new MLB three-batter minimum rule that requires relief pitchers to face at least three hitters or pitch to the end of the half-inning before a pitching change can be made. The committee also recommended not to waive the 2001 birth year players’ final year of eligibility for the 2021 season, stating that it could create potential risk and safety issues for younger players playing against a possible 20 year-old. The Baseball Committee recommends the resolution titled “Risk Management Mandates for National Youth Programs” be approved. They also recommend the approval of the resolution titled “American Legion Baseball Regional Tournament Sites and Dates for 2021-2023.”

The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation (CWF) Vice President Peggy Moon provided the Children and Youth Committee with an update. Now in its 66th year, CWF has awarded \$740,889 to 19 non-profit organizations for the 2021 calendar year.

Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) program updates: for the current calendar year through August 18th of the year, over \$41,879 in TFA grants have been provided to qualified veterans with minor children in the home to help with basic needs of their child(ren). All children and youth brochures have been/are being reviewed and updated over the course of this year. All brochures are available for down-

load from the Legion.org website.

The Committee on Youth Education only considered and recommends approval of the resolution titled ‘Amendment to Resolution No. 28 – “Updated Rules and Conditions for the Samsung American Legion Scholarship Program.”’ Chairman Michael Westergren (AR) also indicated they normally would have discussed the 98 or so finalists for the Samsung Scholarship, but as most Boys State and Girl State programs were canceled, this scholarship was suspended for 2020. He then commended the Department of Texas for holding their program online, which attracted over 500 attendees. The one thing that came from this meeting was that seniors cannot be delegates to Boys Nation in 2021.

### Resolutions

•Title: Remove Assigned Topics From Oratorical Contest

Origin: Register No. 2779 (AR), DEC 2020

Recommended be Held for Further Study

•Title: 2021 Eligibility For Boys State And Boys Nation

Origin: Register No. 2787 (CO), DEC 2020

Recommended be Rejected

•Title: Compliance With Flag Code For Flying The Flag At Half-Staff

Origin: Resolution No. 8 (CO) National Convention 2019

Recommended to be Handled Administratively

•Title: Changes To The American Legion Eagle Scout Of The Year

Origin: Resolution No. 49 (OR) National Convention 2019

Recommended to be Held for Further Study.

Be safe and hope to see you soon.



**The Legion Family Officers** after placing a wreath at the POW/MIA wall to polish up the POW/MIA Ceremony at State Headquarters in Winslow on Sept. 19. Left to right, American Legion State Commander Matthew Jabbaut, Legion Riders Director Mike Lellemand, Son's of the American Legion Detachment Commander Ronald Marr, and Auxiliary President Virginia “Ginny” Chaput.

*Photos by Dept. Historian George Robinson Jr.*



# Supporting Veteran Caregivers, America's Hidden Heroes

Supporting our veterans and those who serve today is among our greatest obligations. That obligation includes supporting America's "hidden heroes" – the 5.5 million family caregivers who provide essential daily care to loved ones who bear the wounds of their service protecting our nation and our freedom.

The effects of military service often do not end with a tour of duty. For many veterans and their families, the journey sometimes extends for a lifetime. For some veterans with both visible and invisible scars, the transition home is not easy. Recovery, too, can take decades. Along the way, mothers, fathers, wives, husbands, and other family members and friends step in to serve.

Military family caregivers provide roughly \$14 billion a year in voluntary, uncompensated care. They often sacrifice their own physical and emotional well being to do so. They may have to miss work, turn down promotions, or even leave the workforce, creating enormous financial strain for families.

Addressing the challenges facing these devoted family caregivers has been one of my highest priorities.



**SENATOR  
SUSAN COLLINS**

the VA MISSION Act was enacted in 2018, it included provisions I championed requiring a phased expansion of the VA Caregiver Support Program to include veterans of all generations, rather than only post 9/11 veterans.

Veterans, regardless of when they served, should be eligible for caregiver assistance. For years, the VA Caregiver Support Program has made resources such as a stipend, counseling, and training available to loved ones who have taken on a caregiver role for a veteran with service-connected injuries or illnesses. This important resource can improve quality of life and can result in faster and improved rehabil-

itation and recovery for a veteran. However, only post-9/11 veteran caregivers have historically been eligible to receive these benefits.

Now, due to the legislation I coauthored, the VA has officially launched the first phase of expansion of the Caregiver Support Program to include pre-9/11 veterans and their caregivers. This first phase of the VA Caregiver Support Program expansion allows the VA to provide a stipend and resources to thousands of caregivers of veterans from World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War.

The expansion rolls out in two phases. Effective this Oct. 1, the first phase included eligible veterans who incurred or aggravated a serious injury in the line of duty on or before May 7, 1975.

Effective Oct. 1, 2022, the second phase will include eligible veterans who incurred or aggravated a serious injury in the line of duty between May 7, 1975, and Sept. 11, 2001. The VA has also expanded and expedited the hiring of key staff to ensure veterans and caregivers receive timely, accurate assessments and eligibility determinations, as well as

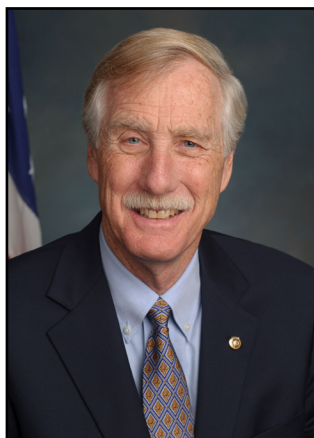
an improved customer experience.

The progress we have made in supporting military caregivers would not be possible without the untiring efforts of former Senator Elizabeth Dole, whose husband, former Senator Robert Dole, was severely wounded during World War II. Since its founding in 2012, the Elizabeth Dole Foundation has done much to raise awareness of the need to support these selfless caregivers, and in 2014 commissioned the largest-ever study on the vital role military caregivers play and the sacrifices they make.

I was honored to receive the first Congressional Caregiver Champion Award from the Elizabeth Dole Foundation. It was particularly moving to be presented with that award by Maine's Dole Foundation Caregiver Fellow, Marjorie Pennington, whose husband, Matthew, was grievously wounded in Iraq. Her words describe the dedication of our family caregivers: "He fought for our freedom, and I will always fight for him." The patriots caring for a wounded warrior are among America's hidden heroes and they need our support.

## "The Star-Spangled Banner" by Francis Scott Key Question He Poses Still Rings True After 200 Years

After observing American troops defend Baltimore Harbor from the British Navy during the War of 1812, Francis



**SENATOR  
ANGUS KING**

Scott Key put pen to paper and created our national anthem. It is telling that he chose to write the last lines of the first stanza in the form of a question:

"O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave  
O'er the land of the free

and the home of the brave?"

He did so, I believe, to illustrate that the United States can only be the land of the free if it is also the home of the brave. Without brave men and women committed to protecting our country, we cannot enjoy the many freedoms we hold dear. On this Veterans Day, may we commit ourselves to celebrating these men and women and honoring their service to our country.

Veterans Day this year also comes in the midst of a pandemic. So as we reflect, with gratitude and remembrance, on the sacrifices of American servicemembers and their families, we must also endeavor to provide the care and services they are afforded. Here in Maine, as the days get shorter and colder, we must work harder than ever to care for our neighbors

and friends across the state. If you or a loved one is struggling with mental health issues, unemployment, or lack of access to health care please know that there is an entire community of Maine people here to support you. Do not hesitate to reach out—whether it be to my office, the VA, a fellow veteran, or a family member.

For my part, I will continue to push for expanded telehealth services at the VA and to ensure that the VA Maine Healthcare System has the testing kits and PPE necessary to manage the coronavirus and safely expand its in-person capabilities. During this unprecedented time, I am also deeply thankful for the dedicated service of veterans' advocates, Veterans Service Organizations, and VA Maine employees who have not faltered in their

work on behalf to Maine veterans.

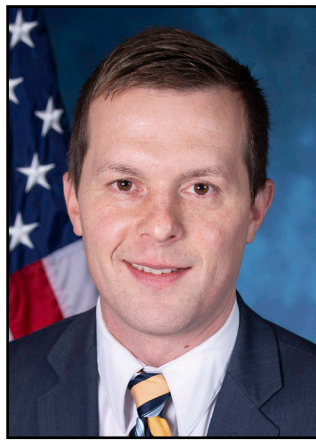
More than two hundred years after Francis Scott Key wrote "The Star-Spangled Banner," the question he poses still rings true. Let us join together on this Veterans Day to give thanks to the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen who have bravely served so we may be free.





## Big News for Maine Veterans

Since my last update in July, I've been working to get results for Maine veterans, and I have a lot to report.



**CONGRESSMAN  
JARED GOLDEN**

The biggest news is something you may have already heard about: the Department of Veterans Affairs has approved a new 24-bed in-patient facility for veterans struggling with mental health and substance use disorder at Togus. I've been working to bring this kind of facility to Maine for years, and I'm proud to have led Maine's delegation and worked with the committed Togus VA staff to make it happen. An in-patient facility is critical for the many veterans who have had to take long trips out of state and away from family to get the treatment they need and deserve. We'll break ground on the new facility in 2021.

As important as the new Togus facility is, it's not the only good news.

I've also been working together with my colleagues across the aisle to introduce some new legislation to support veterans. One bill will help ensure that veterans' service organizations have access to

the same coronavirus aid as other nonprofits and small businesses, and the other — the Veterans Access to Online Treatment Act — will help to jumpstart a new program that would work with veterans with mental health and substance use disorder challenges and help them access treatment resources online.

The Veterans Access to Online Treatment Act is a common sense solution, especially in a time when vets face new risks in medical settings because of COVID-19. And the work it would do is important, coronavirus or not. For vets who are unable to take time away from their day-to-day lives and responsibilities, or who just don't have the means to get to Togus for treatment, this online option could be life-changing.

This bill is bipartisan, and would help the VA improved online treatment for veterans all across the country. Both of these new bills are bipartisan, because that's the best way to get this done.

As always, my office is here to help you. We want to help you get the federal benefits you deserve, answer your questions about programs like Medicare and Social Security, and ensure you have your voice heard.

If you have anything you'd like to share, or need help with, please reach out:

- Bangor Office: Phone: (207) 249-7400
- Caribou Office: Phone: (207) 492-6009
- Lewiston Office: Phone: (207) 241-6767

Thank you for your service.

## The Important Role Congress Plays in Supporting Veterans

101 years ago, Congress passed a charter to establish the American Legion, an action that recognized the support World War I veterans needed when they arrived home. Since then, the Legion has worked tirelessly to support America's veterans and service members, with membership growing to nearly 2 million worldwide.

Congress, like the Legion, has an important role to play in supporting veterans who come home. In the House of Representatives, I supported a bill to update the Legion's charter. H.R.1641, the Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service Act, will expand the Legion's membership to veterans of any era. The bill was signed into law last summer.

Veteran mental health has been a top priority of mine in Congress—and a top priority of the Legion, too. I recently signed onto legislation to establish a "Buddy Check" week, modeled after the Legion's Buddy Check National Week of Calling. H.R. 2898 would direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to support the American Legion's Buddy Week project to make sure isolated veterans feel connected to their community. As a member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs,



**CONGRESSWOMAN  
CHELLIE PINGREE**

I've been afforded the opportunity to work on ending veteran suicide. On this committee, I advocate for funding for programs that help make sure Maine's veterans are supported. In the Fiscal Year 2021 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Funding Bill, we approved \$10.3 billion in funding for veterans' mental health programs, a 9% increase from FY 2020. \$1.9 billion of that funding was secured for suicide prevention and treatment programs. I also was a cosponsor of legislation to designate 988 as the National Suicide Prevention Hotline, which was recently signed into law.

I'm proud to represent Maine's veteran community. As we approach Veterans Day, I want to thank you for your service to our great nation. In Congress, I will continue my work to support the Legion and those who served.

## SAL COMMANDER'S MESSAGE



Comrades, We had an Executive Meeting on 10/24 at Headquarters in Winslow. Main topics were Membership and Leadership.

We at Detachment strongly need help with good officers. I can't say this loud enough. We need all Squadrons to start sending in your Membership dues and keep them coming on a regular basis. Your support for our Veterans and their programs is at a critical level. We are still look-

ing for 2019 dues as well as 2020. Please if you have a problem just call me and I will do what I can to help.

I would like to Thank Westbrook Post #197 for inviting me to their post to meet National Commander James "Bill" Oxford and Squadron SAL Commander Alan Brule. I am here to help you Squadrons so just reach out if you have questions. I know things are not easy now due to Covid-19 and its restrictions but I will do what I can.

Always willing to serve,  
Detachment Commander

Ron Marr  
ronaldmarr.rm@gmail.com  
Tel# 207-701-9675

1779 Hotel Rd, Auburn, ME 04210



**SAL Meeting/Surprise Visit: American Legion National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford makes a surprise appearance to the SAL Department of Maine meeting Oct 24 at State Headquarters in Winslow. Left to right, Son's of the American Legion Finance Officer David Raymond, ALA Secretary Michelle McRae and National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford.**

*Photo by Dept. Historian George Robinson Jr.*



## Historian's Bunker

**H**e l l o  
A m e r -  
ican Legion  
members in,  
and from, the  
great state of  
Maine. Some  
of you may  
have seen my  
bio in the Dis-  
trict 6 pages  
of the most  
recent issue  
of The Maine  
Legionnaire. I



**GEORGE  
ROBINSON JR**

was appointed the Department of Maine Historian on August 9, at the Department Headquarters in Winslow. I would like to introduce myself and lay out some goals that I have set for myself to accomplish in the next few months.

I am originally from Rockland, born in November 1951. I attended Rockland District High School and graduated in 1970. I then attended the University of New Haven, in Connecticut. Majoring in a card game called "Set Back," I probated out of New Haven in 1972. I returned to Rockland and worked various jobs including the Economy's Clothing Store for Keith Goldsmith.

Wanting to go back to college, in 1974 I enlisted into the US Army for the GI Bill to go back to college. I attended Basic Training at Ft. Jackson, South Carolina. I had enlisted to become a telephone exchange repairman and after basic attended the Common Basic Electronics Training (COBET) course, still at Ft. Jackson. After COBET I went to Ft. Monmouth, New Jersey for Advanced Individual Training (AIT), as a Dial Central Office (DCO) Repairman. I was part of the last DCO class out of Ft. Monmouth, as the Signal School was then being transferred to Ft. Gordon, Georgia.

While at Ft. Monmouth, I lived off-post with two married couples. One of the wives was German and in June 1975 her best friend from Germany, Inge, came to visit for a month. One thing led to another and three weeks later I asked Inge to marry me. We were married on December 27, at Ft. Ritchie, Maryland. We are still married today and have two sons and five grandchildren.

Over the next 19 years I was assigned to other posts and attended additional military schools. I became Installer and Circuit Conditioning qualified as well as receiving a secondary Military Occupational Specialty (CMOS) as a 36C - Telephone Installer. I attended NCO advancement academies and retired in 1994 as a Sergeant First Class. I also received a degree from the University of Maryland - Europe in January 1987, fulfilling my wish to earn a college degree. After I retired I remained in Germany and worked at Army Microwave Centers in Landstuhl and Darmstadt, Germany. My wife is from Darmstadt and we lived in the home she was born in, with her mother. In 1999 the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) was rewritten, and I lost my job at the microwave site in Darmstadt.

Fortunately, I had begun to volunteer as a youth coach for the American Youth Activities (AYA) in 1983, while stationed in Garmisch, Germany. I used this to obtain a paying job with them, remaining with Youth Services until 2011, working my way up to Program Manager. Due to the draw down and base closures in Europe I worked my way out of a job when there were no more vacancies in Europe for my managerial position. I retired from the Civil Service in June 2011. Our sons were living in the States, so we sold my wife's family home and moved to Maine. Our oldest son was already in Maine and

our youngest was in Ohio with his wife.

I have been a military historian for most of my life. I had been with an approved US Army Private Organization in Germany from 1993 to 2011, eventually obtaining building space for use as a military history museum. Aided by United States Army Garrison-Darmstadt Public Affairs chief Teri Viedt our organization established the Veterans Memorial Museum (VMM) at Babenhausen Kaserne and operated from 2001 to 2006. The VMM logo came from the letters of the belt buckles worn by the first few Maine militia regiments during the Civil War, including the 4th Maine Infantry Regiment from Rockland. In 2006 Babenhausen was closed. The USAG-Darmstadt Commander Colonel David Astin and, then authorized the museum to move to the Griesheim Army Airfield, knowing Darmstadt was closing in 2008. The hope was that the museum could find a permanent home in the Darmstadt area. This quest was not successful.

I have been an American Legion member since 2013 and a member of the Williams-Brazier Post 37 since January 2019. I, with a small group of other Legionnaires, went to Post 37 at the same time. Up to then Post 37 had been kept alive by three dedicated men in Thomaston. Since that January Post 37 membership has increased dramatically and is once again able to hold post and community events that are well attended.

In early 2020 the Department of Maine Historian resigned his position, leaving the Department without a historian. I had been selected by Adjutant Paul L'Heureux to be part of a committee for the Department to establish guidelines for the various Department writing competitions. Talk kept turning back to the need of a historian for the Department. It seemed to me that Adjutant, L'Heureux, kept looking at me when he was talking about the historian position. I do not know if he was or not, but I took it as some sort of sign. After the meeting was over I approached Adjutant L'Heureux and offered my services to be an acting Department Historian until new elections could be held.

I submitted a resume and was offered the position by Department Commander, Matthew Jabaut, on July 30th. During a meeting of the Department Executive Committee, on the morning of August 9, I was sworn in as the Department Historian.

In addition to my day to day duties as Department Historian I have three goals that I wish to pursue. The first of these concern the Department of Maine writing competitions. In early June, I received an email from Adjutant L'Heu-

reux, via David Tanguay, concerning the writing competitions. Adjutant L'Heureux wanted to form a committee to create guidelines for Maine posts to follow when submitting Post Newsletters, District Newsletters, Post Histories, Post Year Books, and Scrapbooks that would lead to a Department of Maine submission for the National competitions. At this time David, Jeffrey Sukeforth and I were asked to serve on a working committee to establish protocols and guidelines for each competition category.

The three of us met with Adjutant L'Heureux on the morning of July 10, at the Winslow headquarters. There we were joined by Robert Place. Adjutant L'Heureux laid out his ideas on what he wanted us to do, including judging several entries for the 2020 competitions submissions and deciding winners for each category. Adjutant L'Heureux gave us "carte blanche" to create a working guideline and scoring document for use in determining winners.

One of Adjutant L'Heureux's concerns was trying to increase post submissions for the competitions. This was tackled first and the four of us quickly determined that posts should be divided into three categories: Small Post - up to 101 members, Medium Post - 101-200 members and Large Post - over 200 members. We then utilized the scoring guidelines in the Officer's Handbook, as well as scoring points that the committee developed, to judge all submitted entries in each category.

In order to increase the number of submission recognition, it was decided to give awards for first, second and third places. Using the five categories noted above this gave a potential of awarding up to fifteen different posts an award for its Post Historian or other writer. The number of individual post winners would drop in the event of a post winning in multiple categories. For committee and Department purposes, winners were selected, and they will be honored at a future date.

After this date, the committee then began the work of using existing guidelines and combining them with ideas that came up during our day together. I took the lead in writing a document for three categories and presented it to the committee after three days. Then the going back and forth with one another to tweak and re-write a guideline that turned into the basis for the other category guidelines. On July 20 guidelines for a Newsletter, Post History and Post Yearbook sent out as a first draft to the committee. After a couple of minor corrections, the guidelines were forwarded to Adjutant L'Heureux for his inspection.

**More on "HISTORIAN" Page 13**



**Newly Installed  
Dept. Historian: State  
Commander Matthew Ja-  
baut, left, shakes hands with  
newly installed American  
Legion Department of Maine  
Historian George Robinson  
Jr. during the Department  
Executive Committee held  
Aug. 9 at the State HQ  
training facility in Winslow.  
Department Adjutant Paul  
L'Heureux, seated, applauds  
Mr. Robinson as the Depart-  
ment welcomes him to the  
team.**

*Photo by Dept. Historian  
George Robinson Jr.*





# THE BASEBALL BEAT COLUMN

## 20 Questions with Art Dillon



By **DAN WARREN**

Special to The Maine Legionnaire

**Q**1. You are from a big extended “baseball family” that has been active in Scarborough the past 40 years. Why baseball and softball?  
**A.** They are the best games in the world! It's what I grew up with, and I'm passing on the game in softball for my daughters.  
**Q2.** Your mother, Kay, was known as “The First Lady of Scarborough Baseball.” Where did her love for the game begin?  
**A.** Ebbetts Field, Brooklyn Dodgers. Roy Campanella, Duke Snyder, Gil Hodges, Pee Wee Reese.  
**Q3.** Your father, Art Sr. was once seen watching a baseball game at SHS in the mid-1980s, pouring rain, behind the backstop, no umbrella. He was asked why. He said: “It's baseball.”  
**A.** He played as a kid in vacant lots, then softball as a young man, and in the Air Force.  
**Q4.** You named your first daughter Casey Shea after Casey Stengel, and Shea Stadium.  
**A.** I'm a die-hard NY Mets fan. Cut my teeth at Shea with the Franchise. - Tom Seaver was my childhood idol. Irish guys, fond memories.  
**Q5.** Your brother Jim played baseball at the University of Maine, and



**DAN WARREN**

in the minor-league system of the Oakland Athletics.  
**A.** We spent a bit of time on the road — through New York, New England, and a “spring training” trip to Hawaii.  
**Q6.** Highlight?  
**A.** At the Ball Park in OOB, 1987, Jim pitched 6 1/3 innings of no hit ball against the Maine Guides, AA team, Cleveland Indians.  
**Q7.** Did your brother Mike get the baseball bug too?  
**A.** Of course! When we weren't playing baseball or pass, we were out front playing stick ball in the street.  
**Q8.** For 50 years, people predict baseball's death. Thoughts?  
**A.** Yes. More competition from other sports that are faster paced, and MLB needs to continue to work on game speed, but overall—poppycock!  
**Q9.** Earliest memories of baseball?  
**A.** Opening Day, Mets v. Cubs, Shea Stadium... playing Scarborough LL for Herman Shoe...Foley's Ice Cream after a big game!

**Q10.** First memory of playing?  
**A.** Playing a double header for the Little League championship in sweltering heat. They gave us salt tablets!  
**Q11.** Where did you grow up?  
**A.** 1972, we moved back to Scarborough. Old Millbrook, great neighborhood to grow up in.  
**Q12.** You lived in New York?  
**A.** My parents and wife's parents were born and raised in New York; I was born in New Rochelle, about an hour from the City. We still visit.  
**Q13.** When did you meet softball?  
**A.** Just out of college. Similar to baseball. Still playing over-50 league, church league.  
**Q14.** Nowadays, you umpire softball all over Maine?  
**A.** I am the Greater Portland's Umpire in Chief, and District Commissioner. I love the game, and a little pocket money in my pocket...  
**Q14.** Your wife and daughters like it?  
**A.** My wife likes the money. My daughters have their own fish to fry!  
**Q15.** Favorite family baseball memory?  
**A.** Meeting and getting Tom Seaver's autograph the day after he beat Bob Gibson in St. Louis.  
**Q16.** Favorite family softball?  
**A.** Kids I had the opportunity to watch and coach through the years...parents, coaches, booster groups in Scarborough. They are my Softball family.

**Q17.** Umpiring must be a difficult job?  
**A.** There can be challenging moments, but game management, being professional, hustling to be in the best position can mitigate a lot.  
**Q18.** How do you deal with difficult people?  
**A.** Tune some of the comments out, there may be a chance to educate someone who thinks they know the rules...maybe offer them a chance to be an umpire.  
**Q19.** What year at SHS did you graduate?  
**A.** Class of 1981. A proud Redskin.  
**Q20.** What's it been like raising your family in the town where you grew up?  
**A.** I was so fortunate to grow up here. I wanted my wife and kids to have the opportunity. SO much here to enjoy.



**Art Dillon**

### ■ “ADJUTANT SPEAKS” (Continued from Page 4)

over 80 turkey pot pies in one day!

A number of posts are reporting donation checks from community members totaling a \$1000 and more to thank them for the spirit they have brought to their neighborhood. As I write this article, I received a call from a resident in Eagle Lake that not only did their local American Legion post cook chili and they were pleased about that—but they also had something positive to talk about for a change!

Another post had a little extra money and decided to “pay it forward” by supporting local business-

es who have supported the post in the past, and purchased gift cards to raffle off for everyone's benefit!

The stories keep coming in and the bottom line has been the same: leadership, teamwork, and determination during challenging times can make a positive impact on a post, its members, and the community. If you don't think you make a difference, and your post has not made an attempt to try some new ideas in order to rise to the challenge, you will probably be one of the posts that will be failing in the near future.

Remember, our organization has been rising to challenges for over 100 years. We continue to make history in the Department of Maine no matter what challenges confront us.

Keep those stories coming in to Department Headquarters—it helps us all stay focused and moving forward!

We need the support of all 15,000+ members to help their post home and community by paying your dues as soon as possible. Many posts use a portion of the dues collected for community donations and to support veterans in need. There are many needs during these times. Pay your dues, and if you can, maybe a little extra.

Don't hesitate to call for assistance if you need it.

Please do not become history, but try to make history happen in your city, town, or village!

I hope you have a Happy Holiday season, and a very Happy New Year!

**American Legion  
Baseball  
Registration Opens  
Jan. 1, 2021**



[Learn More](#)

United  
Healthcare  
Medicare Advantage



## Judge Advocate

Step Up,  
LE -  
gionnaires

I didn't start out today wanting to be the voice of doom and gloom. Yet, there are some things I would like to get off my mind.



**JASON  
HALL**

A fellow veteran shared an item on Facebook that hit me hard; I am sure many of you will have a reaction to it. I took the liberty of tweaking it a bit:

How to Ruin an American Legion Post

- Don't ever attend a Post meeting.
- If you do go to a meeting, show up late and don't pay attention.
- Don't support the work being done by officers and active members.
- Don't accept an office and don't congratulate the members on their good work.
- Don't attend committee or event meetings.
- Don't show up at an event you committed to volunteer at, expect every other volunteer to carry the workload.
- Don't give opinions on matters, then voice your disagreement after the meeting.
- Don't join in and roll up your sleeves at an event.
- Don't recruit new members or help with membership outreach, let the Commander or other officers do it.
- Don't pay your dues early so people can chase you down.
- Don't give anything back to the Post but enjoy full membership benefits because you think profit made off a beer supports a veteran.
- Don't cooperate with members and officers but expect them to cooperate with you.
- Don't volunteer, just blame everyone else for failed events or activities you don't like.
- Don't invite younger members

into our ranks.

- Don't call or visit members who have not paid their dues.
- Don't welcome new faces into the Legion Family.
- Don't make any changes to your Post to make it family friendly.
- Don't ask new or younger members to take leadership roles.
- Continue telling people how long you have been a member but fail to tell them you have never stepped up as an officer, helped at events, or have any accomplishments to support your Post.

There is not one person reading this that hasn't seen one or more of these issues at their Post.

Our organization, ANY organization, is only as good as its members.

A good Post may have 7% of the members actually volunteering to be the community center, to be the respected organization in town, to operate successfully. How many active volunteers does your Post have?

How do we get members involved?

• First- STOP referring to the Post as a "club." We are THE AMERICAN LEGION.

• We are not a bar, not a canteen, a watering hole, etc... few Posts in Maine have a bar set up. The Posts without a bar are more successful. They have less bills, less messing with accounting, less drama, and less headache from members who just want to drink. They tend to be the Posts with committed members.

• Offer something!!! Offer a clean building that is inviting, offer programs that your community wants and needs, offer help to veterans and their families, be a community center that is an asset. When you have the right programs and great reputation...more people join, more people volunteer to be a part of a positive influence.

• ASK!!! That's right, know your members' strengths and weaknesses, utilize their talents. The main reason people don't help... no one asked them. Now I realize if they were at the meetings they would have known assistance was needed, I also realize if they opened that

More on "JUDGE ADVOCATE" Page 13

## Invite Newly Eligible Veterans to Serve With Us

On July 30, 2019, the LEGION Act was signed into law, which extended the ongoing declared period of war back to Dec. 7, 1941. The act paved the way to honor or thousands of



**NATIONAL COMMANDER  
JAMES W. "BILL" OXFORD**

veterans who were killed or wounded on duty during periods not previously considered wartime.

Notably for The American Legion the LEGION Act — Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service Act — filled in the gaps of membership eligibility. What that means for us is that any veteran with an honorable discharge who served since the day Pearl Harbor was attacked is now eligible to join The American Legion.

For these newly eligible members — roughly 4.2 million — it means they can now join the nation's largest

and most influential veterans service organization, and enjoy the rewards of membership.

But many of these now-eligible members don't yet realize they can join. They have tried to sign up in the past, only to learn they were not eligible due to the previous definitions of war periods.

So, it is up to us to spread the word and let these deserving veterans know that we are now allowed to welcome them into our family. As you reach out to these non-members, visit [legion.org](http://legion.org) to search for and read the article "11 things you need to know about the LEGION Act."

But communicating with these eligible members is not limited to just today or this week. Invite eligible members to your Thanksgiving or Christmas event at the post or elsewhere in your community.

What a wonderful opportunity to welcome them and demonstrate how we continue to serve our great nation, states and communities. And now, these newly eligible members are not only able to observe the great community service we provide, they can serve with us.

By James W. "Bill" Oxford, National Commander  
Nov 06, 2020  
<https://www.legion.org/dispatch/251004/invite-newly-eligible-veterans-serve-us>



**Camp Chamberlain - Maine Army National Guard HQ: Leadership** after presentation was given at Camp Chamberlain, Maine Army National Guard Headquarters on Oct. 23 during the National Commander's official visit to the Department of Maine. Front Row, left to right, National Executive Committeeman Lloyd Woods, American Legion National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford, MG Douglas A. Farnham. Back Row, left to right, Director of Veterans Services at Camp Keyes, Dave Richmond, Department of Maine Commander Matthew Jabaut, Department of Maine 1st Vice Commander Debra Couture, and Department of Maine Finance Officer Gregory Couture.

Photo by Dept. Historian George Robinson Jr.



## Service Office Update

Hello from the Service Office. I hope you are safe and healthy. We received approval to have clients come



**SERVICE OFFICER  
CARL CURTIS**

into the office for appointments. We are still conducting phone appointments as well. It is up to the veteran as to which is best for him.

The VA has started conducting compensation and pension exams. Most of the exams are being contracted out to three companies, which are LHI, VES, and QTC.

The Board of Veterans appeals (BVA), working with the Regional office are scheduling hearing. They will only have 6 on a single docket, which is smaller than normal. They are assigning times

I hope to be able to see you in my office soon. As always be safe and on the lookout for veterans in need.

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

**APPEALS OF CLAIMS.** The appeals process is no longer the strict structure it was. If your decision was after 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.** TBD  
**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 appli-

cation 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 8am and 8pm, 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.



**Virtual DEC Meeting:**  
Department Service Officer Carl Curtis helps with setting up the virtual DEC meeting held Aug. 9 at the State HQ training facility in Winslow.

*Photo by Dept. Historian  
George Robinson Jr.*



## ■ "HISTORIAN" (Continued from Page 9)

David, Jeffrey, Robert and I will continue as the Writing Competition Committee for the near future. The guidelines will be tweaked further and by the end of the year they will become the format for all Department of Maine Writing Competitions. It was suggested that the Scrapbook category be ended, as it was felt that it was too close to being a Post Yearbook, just without the verbiage. I will send every Post Commander a copy of the guidelines for use by each Post Historian or author of any submission to the competition. All writing submissions are to be at the Department of Maine by May 1, 2021 for consideration in the 2021 competitions. Guidelines for Media compe-

titions are also in the works, but these are in their infancy at the present time.

My second goal is to establish a column in The Maine Legionnaire called "This is Your Post" with the plan to tell a history of every post in Maine, if possible. I will begin with my home Post 37, in Thomaston. I will then start with Rockland's Post 1, writing about each post in sequence. I will be in touch with each post, as I write about them, to make arrangements to visit. I will be asking about your post history, scan historical photos and documents and talk about your post in general. I will begin contacting posts in the New Year.

The third goal, partly a dream I have had since I, and my wife, came back to Maine in 2011. That was to find a location for a military history museum and telling the American Legion story in Maine. In a phone call with Adjutant

L'Heureux on August 21, the discussion turned to the small exhibit of military/Legion artifacts that are displayed at Department Headquarters. Something was said about some sort of museum. This peaked my interest, and I told the Adjutant about the two buildings on US bases in Germany that I was able to obtain for use as a military museum, as mentioned earlier in this article. I let him know that I would be interested in pursuing this further. Adjutant L'Heureux was not adverse to the idea and mentioned that he knows a few Legionnaires that are collectors and have a good interest in military history. He also mentioned that we could start with forming a committee. So, if any of you have an interest in being part of a committee of this type, please send me an email. If we get enough interest, I will submit your names for a committee,

and we can begin a journey together.

In closing, I would like to say that I am looking forward to meeting each Post Historian in the Department. Fair warning, I can be a bit hard to take at times, but I will put all of my time and energy into this position. I am a dedicated military historian and avid researcher. I write often about local military history for Post 37 as well as my family genealogy. From time to time, I portray Colonel Elijah Walker, last commander of the 4th Maine Regiment, at public speaking engagements. I do not know if I am able to accomplish the mission of being Department Historian, time will tell. I do know that I am not afraid to try different things and will perform this new duty to the very best of my ability.

Thank you for your time.



**Legion College Surprise Visit: Maine American Legion College class recipients receive a surprise visit from National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford on Oct. 24 at the Maine State HQ Training facility in Winslow during his official visit to the Department of Maine. Left to right, National Commander Oxford and Department Judge Advocate and training instructor Jason Hall.**

*Photo by Dept. Historian George Robinson Jr.*



**Discussion At Camp Chamberlain: Department of Maine Commander Matthew Jabaut, left, and American Legion National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford in discussion at Camp Chamberlain, Maine Army National Guard Headquarters Oct. 23.**

*Photo by Dept. Historian George Robinson Jr.*

## ■ "JUDGE ADVOCATE" (Continued from Page 11)

email they would have known about the event and the request for volunteers. You aren't going to win every battle, and you don't have to... but ask.

- Positivity spreads just like negativity. Get your team together, go out and do good, pat yourselves on the back and let people know the feeling you get when you're successful. Other people hear that positivity and it's infectious. Wouldn't you rather be surrounded by likeminded positive people?

- Communicate expectations. Give people a clear road map of what you or the committee are looking for and paint the picture of the outcome. Give them a buy-in, let them voice ideas and run with it.

- Make it fun. Why would they volunteer again if it isn't fun?

- It's tough to thank everyone personally during an event. Try to keep a list, thank them online, emails, newsletter, etc. People say they don't need a pat on the back... but they do like it when they get it. Make others feel special, they will return. Have a special volunteer night to reward their hard work.

- Call members you haven't seen or heard from. Get to know them, ask them to come in and help. Introduce them to others they may not know. Participation = buy-in. If members feel they are part of the solution, they will take care of other volunteer opportunities and take care of the Post property.

- Education. You never stop learning. Let people know who we are as Legionnaires, share our history, share the Post history, tell your members and community why your Post is so important to the town. If you don't know, educate yourself. There is an enormous amount of information at Legion.org, on YouTube (type in American Legion), and right in your American Legion Officers Guide and Manual of Ceremonies (100 years of time-tested information and it's free online).

Joining The American Legion is like what they told you day 1 of boot camp, "You only get out what you put in."

Running a Post takes involvement from all members. By serving each other through our Posts, veterans of all ages can keep The American Legion strong. Which in turn leaves a legacy for tomorrow's veterans. Stop being a member on the list, it's time to step up and serve others.

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



## Gathering for the Legion Family Sign Hanging at Maine Special Olympics Camp Tall Pines



**Legion Family Cabin Sign Hanging Gathering:** The American Legion Family gathered at Maine Special Olympics Camp Tall Pines recently to hang a new sign on the Legion Family Cabin. Left to right, The American Legion Department Commander, Matthew Jabaut; Maine Special Olympics President, Phil Geelhoed; SAL Detachment Commander Ron Marr; American Legion Auxiliary Past Department President and Auxiliary Special Olympics Chair, Deb Marr and SAL Detachment Historian Paul Turek.



**Placing New Sign On Legion Family Cabin:** Department Commander Matthew Jabaut places new American Legion Family sign on the Legion Family cabin at Camp Tall Pines in Poland.



**Location Of Sign:** American Legion Department Commander Matthew Jabaut, left, and Sons of The American Legion Detachment Commander Ron Marr, right, find the center to hang the new sign on the Legion Family cabin before final placement.

**Final Touches:** Sons of The American Legion Detachment Commander Ron Marr, left, and Sons of The American Legion Detachment Historian Paul Turek, right, make a few final adjustments to the sign.



## A Visit to Maine Military Museum in South Portland



**National Commander Visits Maine Military Museum:** One of many stops National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford visited during his official visit to the Department of Maine was the Maine Military Museum in So. Portland on Oct. 25. Front row, left to right, National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford, National Executive Committeeman Lloyd Woods, Department of Maine 1st Vice-Commander Debra Couture, Department of Maine Finance Officer Gregory Couture, Vietnam War POW Tom Hanton, Department of Maine Historian George Robinson, Jr. and Maine Military Museum Curator and owner Lee Humiston.



**Recruiting:** American Legion National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford, left, recruits Vietnam War POW Tom Hanton into The American Legion. Hanton is a former commander of The Association of Vietnam War POW's.



**Tom Hanton POW**



**Donation:** Lee Humiston, left, is presented a donation on behalf of the Department of Maine by American Legion National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford

*Photos by Dept. Historian George Robinson, Jr.*



## Finding Help in Maine is Easier than Ever 211Maine.org

211 Maine is a collaborative effort of the [United Ways of Maine](#), the State of [Maine Department of Health and Human Services](#), and [The Opportunity Alliance](#) as the Contact Center Partner August 27, 2020

**Maine**—211 Maine and the United Ways of Maine are pleased to announce the launch of a redesigned website, [211Maine.org](#). Finding help for complex needs like shelter, substance use, mental health, or food access can be challenging. Fortunately, 211 Maine is available to all Mainers, and now accessible through a new, user friendly website enabling visitors to initiate a search for help, day or night.

211 Maine is a free, confidential resource for people of all ages to access local health and human services information. People can find help in their area by dialing 211 and talking with a trained and friendly specialist, by texting their zip code to 898-211, or by searching the now improved online directory at [211Maine.org](#).

“Sometimes finding the right resources can be overwhelming,” said Liz Cotter Schlax, United Way of Greater Portland President and CEO and President of the 211 Maine Board of Directors. “The new 211 Maine website will improve access to community-based resources and programs by making it eas-

ier for people to find the services they need when they need them.”

The new design prioritizes the user. The changes improve the search experience with features such as pre-populated search buttons and filtering options. Search results can now be filtered based on key factors like insurance level or veteran status. While the look and feel of the search have changed, the same statewide information about health and human services is available.

“While 211 Specialists are available here in Maine any time of day or night to talk or text with people, not everyone is willing to start their search for help by asking someone,” shared Nikki Busmanis, 211 Maine Program Manager. “Many people want to begin looking on their own online and searching the 211 website.”

Since 2006 when 211 Maine became a statewide service, over 800,000 calls for assistance have been received. 211 fields thousands of calls every month from people looking for help for themselves or someone they know. In collaboration with the State of Maine, 211 Maine became a primary source of information for COVID-19 in March, tripling the number of incoming calls.

For more information, please contact Nikki Busmanis, 211 Maine, [nbusmanis@211maine.org](mailto:nbusmanis@211maine.org)

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

In 2019, the Department of Maine released a Centennial Coin in celebration of 100 years of service to Veterans, families and local communities. All proceeds go towards helping Veterans in the State of Maine, their families and various programs in The American Legion that require much needed assistance.

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

TO PAY BY CHECK OR 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.



## Mission Blue Post Assistance Program

At the 2020 Fall National Executive Committee Meeting, Resolution #36, Subject: Mission Blue Post Assistance Program was approved.

Posts impacted by a government's public health restrictions implemented in response to the COVID-19 pandemic may apply for a grant up to \$1,000. Posts must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- A post must have a current consolidated post report on file.
- A post must have filed an IRS 990 within the prescribed due date.
- A post must have filed all other required forms and reports as prescribed by the departments.

• A post must have actively participated in one or more The American Legion(s) within the last 18 months.

- A post must have a financial need.
- A post must provide a certificate of insurance naming The American National Headquarters as an additional insured (copy of insurance declaration will be attached to application).

• A post must provide documentation indicating that the post is properly incorporated.

The funds from this grant program shall be used exclusively for the following:

- Current and past due mortgage principal and interest or
- Current and past due real estate rents or
- Current and past due insurance premiums or
- Current and past due utilities.

The American Legion posts receiving this grant are required to submit a true and accurate report outlining how the funds were used, signed by the post finance officer, and certified by the post commander or post adjutant within six-months of receipt of the grant funds or no later than February 22, 2022. Whichever comes first.

To access instructions and application [Click Here](#) or visit [https://www.legion.org/documents/pdf/Mission\\_Blue\\_PAP\\_Application\\_1.pdf](https://www.legion.org/documents/pdf/Mission_Blue_PAP_Application_1.pdf)

## TRICARE Select Recipients Must Pay New Fee or Lose Coverage

Starting Jan. 1, 2021, TRICARE Select Group A retirees must begin paying enrollment fees to maintain health coverage, according to Defense Health Agency (DHA) officials. Hundreds of thousands of retirees will no longer be enrolled if they don't set up a payment plan by this date.

The change in coverage for Group A retired beneficiaries will affect those whose initial enlistment, or appointment or that of their uniformed services sponsor, began before Jan. 1, 2018.

The new TRICARE Select enrollment fees for Group A retired beneficiaries are \$12.50 per month or \$150 annually for an individual plan. And \$25 per month or \$300 annually for a family plan. Additionally, the catastrophic cap will increase from \$3,000 to \$3,500.

Enrollment fees will be waived for those who are an active duty

family member, a medically retired retiree or family member or a survivor of an active duty sponsor or medically retired retiree.

This change will not affect those who are enrolled in TRICARE For Life, TRICARE Prime, TRICARE Reserve Select, TRICARE Retired Reserve or TRICARE Young Adult. These beneficiaries do not need to take any action to keep their current coverage.

DHA is urging Group A retired beneficiaries to take action to set up a payment plan by contacting their [regional TRICARE contractor](#) immediately.

For more information on this change and how to set up your payment plan, visit <https://www.tricare.mil/Plans/Enroll/Select/EnrollmentFees>.

The American Legion  
NOV 19, 2020

--<https://www.legion.org/veteranshealthcare/>



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

## District 1

Sanford Post 19; Biddeford Post 26; Limerick Post 55; York Post 56; Old Orchard Post 57; Kennebunk Post 74; Berwick Post 79; North Berwick Post 87; Saco Post 96; Kezar Falls Post 123; Bar Mills Post 120; Alfred Post 134; Wells Post 143; Kennebunkport Post 159; Dayton Post 177; Eliot Post 188; Lebanon Post 214; Wilton Post 117; Rangeley Post 120



**York Post 56 Veterans Day Ceremony:** A Veterans Day Ceremony was presented to the public on Veterans Day in front of the York Post 56. Pictured are Cmdr. Paul Klebaur, Robert Marlowe, and Robert Seeley.

## Berwick Mother-Daughter Duo Ride for Dempsey Challenge

Longtime post member Joelle McIntyre and her daughter Faith successfully completed their first ever entry in the Dempsey Challenge, joining more than 6,000 people who made the ride this year. The Dempsey Center provides free cancer support services to anyone managing the impact of cancer. With COVID 19 restrictions in place, this year's event was held virtually with all participants required to either run, walk, or ride their bike in their own hometown. This mother-daughter duo rode in memory of Joelle's father Skip Thomas and his younger brother Scott Thomas who both lost their lives to cancer.

Joelle, a member of Berwick's

Charles S. Hatch Post #79, and daughter Faith initially set a goal to raise \$350.00 for the Dempsey Center and, to no one's surprise, greatly exceeded their goal by raising \$625.00. The McIntyres enjoyed this year's event, which raised \$1.2 million dollars for people impacted by cancer, so much that they plan on participating in next year's Dempsey Challenge. Next year's ride is scheduled for the weekend of 25-26 September 2021. Donations are still being accepted (100% of dollars raised go directly to cancer patients and their families). To donate, log on to [www.dempseycenter.org](http://www.dempseycenter.org) for details.

*Submitted by Rosanne Martin  
Public Relations Officer, Charles S. Hatch  
Post #79*

**Dempsey Challenge:** Joelle McIntyre, left, and daughter Faith after exceeding their Dempsey Challenge fund-raising goal.

*Photo by George McIntyre*



## 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 162; Naples Post 155; Portland Post 161; Falmouth Post 164; Portland Post 168; Westbrook Post 197



**Thanksgiving Basket Prep:** South Portland Post 35 members get ready to deliver Thanksgivings baskets. Left to right, Ken Marston, Doug Kohnke, Mary Ann Neal (ALA), Ed Seymouri-an, and Tony Batchelor.

## Post 35 Shelter in Post

It seems like a lifetime ago that our world came to screeching halt. The Corona Virus is the unofficial name for the cause for the Governor and the Department to shut everything down. This turn of events caused a real hardship for some posts; however, it was an unforeseen gift to Post 35.

After many years, Post 35 has neglected the exterior of our building not because of lack of talent but of lack of money. Three years ago, Commanders changed and with it a more positive outlook and ideas for increasing attendance and use of the Post.

Fast forward to Feb. 2020, everything stopped. We held a couple meetings in masks and were able to get a slate of officers elected. Now after sitting around and running out of "home projects" we looked at our Post. We started with some badly cracking masonry work at our basement door. That required a coat of paint and we settled on "Chili Pepper Red" that ended up being painted on our entire exposed foundation. The entire job was done by our Finance Officer sitting on a milk crate.

In our annual budget was a costly item to replace the wheelchair ramp and replace the decking on our Front Porch. Needless to say, it was out of reach fi-

nancially and physically. It is interesting what happens when several members are "cooped up" at home too long.

Our Commander put out a plea for physical help and or financial help. The budget figure was \$2,500 for material and hopefully labor from the troops.

Like the phoenix out of the ashes, a dilapidated completely unsafe wheelchair ramp and a porch with broken and splintered boards was transformed into a new ramp and porch surfaced with 1" thick cedar planking. With good purchasing and resourcefulness, the entire project was completed, and complete with new PVC handrails and a completely new paint job. Job Cost - \$3,100 | Donations - \$3,200. The building fund is ahead of the game.

Just to prove that with hard work and determination, a project can be completed. Workforce - 8 guys, ages 35 to 82. Our renters left us and our Governor shut us down, but we did it anyway. And all thru this, we had a fellow Legion member from Alaska camping out in our parking lot cheering us on financially. We let him stay for free because we are The American Legion.

*Adjutant Michael R. Pock  
8/17/2020*



**Post Deck Fastening:** Left to right, 1st Vice Wes Splettstoesser, 2nd Vice Commander Tony Batchelor, and Adjutant Mike Pock fastening decking.



**Framing The Ramp:** Left to right, Adjutant Mike Pock, 2nd Vice Commander Tony Batchelor, Finance Officer Ken Marston and 1st Vice Commander Wes Splettstoesser framing the ramp.



**Power Washing:** 1st Vice Commander Wes Splettstoesser power washing.

[More on "POST SHELTER" Page 17](#)



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

## District 2 continued

### "POST SHELTER"

(Continued from Page 16)

**Before:** Demolition of the So. Portland Post 35 new wheelchair ramp and porch.



**After:** Finished project complete with new PVC handrails, new wheelchair ramp, and porch.

## Rolling Thunder Performs POW/MIA Ceremony

A POW/MIA Ceremony performed by members of Rolling Thunder, Inc. Chapter 2, Maine, Sat., Sept. 19, at Veterans Circle, Riverbank Park, Westbrook. Stephen W. Manchester, Post 62 Commander

Roger Barr; Treasurer Richard Gali-  
peau and 1st Vice Commander Den-  
nis Marrotte were invited to the Cer-  
emony by RT Chapter 2. They have  
their monthly meetings at Post 62.



**POW/MIA Ceremony:** (Top Photo)left to right, Karen Sawyer and Kirsten Hoyt. Kirsten rang the Bell for each POW/MIA when their name, service branch and war was announced. (Bottom photo) back row, left to right, Shawn Coelho; Westbrook Resident Unknown; Karen Sawyer; Tom Tarr; Roger Borduas; Andrew Rediker, just visible behind Kirsten Hoyt Bell Ringer; Westbrook Mayor Michael Foley; Charlie Limoggio. Front row, left to right, Cindy DeCosta: Chair & Director: RT Chapter 2 Maine, reading description and symbolic meanings of items on Table Setting; Kirsten Hoyt, Bell Ringer for each POW - MIA. Note: All people in photos are members of Rolling Thunder, Inc. Chapter 2 Maine, with the exceptions of Westbrook Mayor Michael Foley and the unidentified Westbrook resident.



*Photos courtesy of Dennis Marrotte: Manchester Post 62, Westbrook*

**Missing Man Table:** The Table, set for one, is small, symbolizing the frailty of one prisoner alone against his or her suppressors. The table cloth is white, symbolic of the purity of their intentions to respond to their Country's call to arms. The single red rose in the vase signifies the blood they have shed to ensure the freedom of our beloved United States of America. The rose also reminds us of the family and friends who keep the faith while awaiting their return. The red ribbon on the vase represents those who demand a final accounting of our comrades who are not among us today.



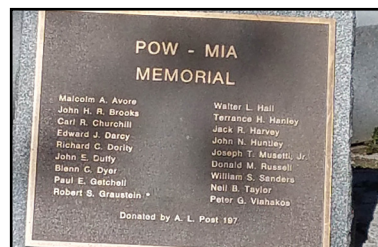
**The Slice** of lemon on the plate reminds us of their bitter fate. The salt, when sprinkled onto the plate reminds us of the countless fallen tears of families as they wait. The glass is inverted - they cannot toast with us today. The chair is empty - they are not here. The candle is reminiscent of the light of hope, which lives in our hearts to illuminates their way home ...away from their captors and into the arms of a grateful Nation.



**Ceremonial Prayer:** Rolling Thunder Maine Chapter 2 Chaplain Melinda Hethcoat-Parke reads the POW's Prayer joined by, left to right R, David Cox, Greg Stevenson, Tim DeCosta, Ryan Kelly & Chaplain Hethcoat-Parke bow their heads and listen.

### Ceremonial Group

**Photo:** Left to right, Karen Sawyer, just visible; Tom Tarr; Roger Borduas; Andrew Rediker; Westbrook Mayor Michael Foley; Charlie Limoggio.



**Bronze POW/MIA Memorial Plaque** was donated by Westbrook's American Legion Post 197.

*All photos by Post 35 Commander Guy Linscott*



**Lopeman-Potts Post 67 Revitalization Ceremony:** Post 67 Commander Donald Mulcahy, left, and Post 67 Finance Officer Ron Edson, center, present a hand-crafted walking cane to American Legion National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford at the Bridgton-Lopeman-Potts Post 67 Revitalization Ceremony Oct. 24.

*Photo by Dept. Historian George Robinson Jr.*

## American Legion Post 76 Honors 1st Responders

This year I wanted to highlight the great work that Scarborough's Libby-Mitchell Post 76 of the American Legion does for our community. Almost every month during the past year Commander Phil Ceaser, Dave Dolloff, and several of their other officers and members invited all 1st responders, Public Works employees, and bus drivers down

to their facility on Manson Libby Rd., for breakfast or a BBQ luncheon. Each month I would remind Phil that our generation is supposed to be thanking his generation for their service to our country, not the other way around. The answer was always the same, the members of the Libby-Mitchell Post appreciate

[More on "1ST RESPONDERS" Page 18](#)



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 2 continued

### ■ "1ST RESPONDERS" (Continued from Page 17)

and want to recognize the town's first responders and other public servants for their service to our community. These are some of the most selfless individuals I've had the pleasure of knowing. Throughout the year they put on dinners and other fund raising events to support Honor Flight Maine and oth-

er important causes. For decades they have organized and lead the Town's Memorial Day Parade preceded by solemn individual ceremonies at each of the town's cemeteries and the Dunstan monument. Thank you to the members and leadership of Libby-Mitchell Post 76 for your service to our country, and for your thoughtful recognition of our town's public servants. You represent the best of our community!

## News from Peaks Island

Peaks Island American Legion Post 142 member Bill Hinderer was awarded two Silver Medals by the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival.

The Festival is jointly sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary of the American Legion and the Veterans Administration. Hinderer is a U.S. Army Veteran who served in Company A, 2/39th, 9th Division in 1969 in the Vietnam War.

The first of the two awards is for dramatic prose, a piece called "Re-

membering and Remembrance". It is a meditation on going into combat and remembering his green Army towel. The second award was for Patriotic Prose and was "It was the best of times; it was the worst of times." It honors the young men who fought in the war in Vietnam. Since the Festival will be virtual this year, the awards will be presented at TOGUS later in the year.

*Submitted by Chris Hoppin  
Peaks Island, Maine*

## Serving Our Country in May Ways

Our country is facing its most serious medical challenges in more than a century. Fortunately, amazing groups of people are helping us cope with the pandemic. They range from medical personal and first responders to transportation and food supply people. Another group includes 24 Maine National Guard soldiers and airmen who were trained in April on fit testing procedures for N95 respirator masks. They come from medical job specialties and are working with Maine's Center for Disease Control and Emergency Management Agency.

These people are part of a total of 3,825 Mainers serving in uniform today. That includes about 1,900 in the Army National Guard and about 1,100 in the Air National Guard. Another 550 serve in the Army Reserve, in the Navy, another 175 in the Marines and 100 more in the Coast Guard.

Many of those 3,825 military personnel are employees of a wide range of enterprises throughout the state. I am pleased to be part of a team of volunteers who help them and their employers. We are the Maine Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, or ESGR. ESGR, a Department of Defense program, was established in 1972 to promote cooperation and understanding between Guard and Reserve members and their civilian employers and

to assist in resolving conflicts arising from employees' military commitments.

Today, more than ever, employers feel the strain of multiple military trainings and deployments throughout the year from their employees who serve in military uniforms. Our Maine ESGR Committee has 20 volunteers (and we always need more), hailing from small business and industry, government, education, and prior military service to bring our experience to assist in serving employers, service members, and their families.

I am also a member of Peaks Island's Randall-MacVane American Legion Post 142. Several other Maine ESGR committee members are Legionnaires in Posts ranging from Post 5 in Waterville, Post 12 in Bangor, Post 41 in Milo and Post 133 in Fort Kent.

The Maine National Guard has the distinction of having existed as an organization since the 1630s when Maine was often at the frontlines of American history. As a consequence, we developed a population of strong-willed, independent, and innovative men and women.

Since we live in a global society, many Guard and Reserve duty assignments take place overseas. For example, 70 members of the 286th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion from

**More on "OUR COUNTRY" Page 19**

## Peaks Island Post 142 Enjoys a Very Busy Summah!

The Randall-MacVane Post 142 on Peaks Island was able to take advantage of a much quieter summer to proceed with a number of projects to upgrade and enhance its home on Welch Street. As a result of some serious fund-raising, the generosity of Island businesses & individuals, and being spurred on by some patrons, the Post completed the following projects:

- A significant project was replacing the Post roof including needed repairs to the roof decking.
- The interior floors were refinished.
- Ten members were recruited to paint the inside of the main hall, brightening up the building, which was built in 1876.

• A nautical flagpole was donated by Thompson Johnson Woodworks, an Island business. This flagpole had previously been owned by former Post Commander Robert Love. Thus, it was only fitting that the flagpole should find its way 'home' to Post 142. Now proudly flying with the American flag (center

top) are the American Legion flag, Military Services flag representing the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard, the State of Maine flag and a POW-MIA flag.

• Adjacent to the nautical flagpole is a new Post sign that shows operating hours for our lounge, as well as space to show upcoming programs and events. Required excavation work to allow for its installation was provided by Lionel Plante Associates, a marine construction company based on the Island.

• Adjacent to our existing BBQ area, a new outdoor tent was erected that now

provides seating for our outside lounge, which opened in mid-August. The tent allows appropriate social distancing when the Lounge is open.

• The Post made arrangements with a mobile food truck called "The Greeks on Peaks" to be parked adjacent to our outside lounge area. This gives the community another venue for a dining experience in a safe environment during the Coronavirus pandemic.

• Spurred on by the donations of a few of our lounge patrons, the Post's piano has been totally restored, including new keys, thanks to the efforts of an Island volunteer piano tuner/restorer. A new piano stool was purchased, as well



as a cover to protect the piano when not in use.

In keeping with the Post's role as a major part of the Peaks Island community, the American Legion Auxiliary donated \$500 to the Peaks Island Elementary School to help with their outdoor learning projects, reflecting the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic on the learning process for our students.



**Department 1st Vice Visits Field-Allen Post 148: Department of Maine 1st Vice Commander Deb Couture dropped by with Department Finance Officer, Greg Couture on Sept. 2 for a social visit to the Windham Post with COVID protocols in place. Deb indicated this was her first visit to the Field-Allen Post and passed on how pleased she was with the Post's support for membership.**



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

## District 2 continued

## ■ "OUR COUNTRY" (Continued from Page 18)

Bangor were in Poland last year to support Operation Atlantic Resolve. Since 2001, the Maine National Guard has deployed over 3,000 soldiers and airmen to Kuwait, Iraq, Germany, Afghanistan, Bahrain, Qatar and other locations across the Middle East and Asia. And many of the assignments are within our own USA borders. Some are now helping the CDC and MEMA cope with the COVID-19 pandemic. In the past three years, other projects are on Wood Island in Kittery, working on their North and South seawalls. Then there was a cemetery expansion in Chelsea, a gravel parking lot in Stockton

Springs, a ball field expansion in Hodgdon, a concrete foundation in Windham and vertical construction work at Camp Susan Curtis in Stoneham.

Today's Mainers in uniform continue to serve in the proud tradition of their ancestors and will meet the challenges of the future with the same determination as those who went before them. But, of course, it is a different era with many challenges at home and in society, both locally and worldwide.

Please remember that we members of our Maine ESGR Committee stand ready to assist employers and our military members, so don't hesitate to contact us. Pretty simple website. [www.ESGR.mil](http://www.ESGR.mil) and go to the State of Maine website, of course, as well.

By Chris Hoppin

## Neighbors Helping Neighbors Donation

Neighbors Helping Neighbors received a donation of over \$1000 from the American Legion Field-Allen Post 148 on Saturday, Sept 26th at the Windham Veterans Center. The Field-Allen Post hosted a free curbside bean supper with any donations collected going to support the Windham Neighbor's Fuel heating program.

Legion family staffing of over a dozen volunteers from the Post and the Auxiliary Unit provided the curbside service and kitchen work. Senator Diamond mentioned that due to the current Covid situations the Neighbors Helping Neighbors have been unable to conduct their normal fundraising this year, so this donation by the Field-Allen Post

was very much appreciated. Anyone desiring to donate to "Neighbors" can still do so via the Field-Allen Post or the Neighbors Helping Neighbors website.



**Check Presentations, left to right, Post 148 Commander Eric Bickford, providing a check to Maine State Senator Bill Diamond and Former Maine State Senator Gary Plummer receiving a check from Post member Willie Goodman, Craig Pride and Linwood Bailey.**

## Post 148 Post Everlasting Ceremony

“This was a very moving ceremony”, commented Post Commander Eric Bickford after the Post Everlasting tribute held prior to the August Field-Allen Post 148 Meeting held Wed, evening. The Ceremony honoring all those Post 148 members who passed from May 2019 to July 2020 included: Roger Beaudoin, John Herald Sr., Robert

Newberry, Richard Small, Ray Charmard, John Gallagher, and Past Commander Donald Rogers. After opening prayer and comments from Commander Eric Bickford, the house lights were dimmed while, the Chaplain, Richard Drapeau, received the “records” of the deceased and conduct a commitment of the names to the flames of the brazier



**Post Everlasting Tribute: Chaplain Richard Drapeau Post 148 commits the names of the fallen to the flames of Post Everlasting at a ceremony held Wed., August 5 at the**

**WVC. Background, Commander Eric Bickford and Adjutant David Tanguay.**

on a stacked rifle and military helmet while the Commander read the citation commending their spirits to “Post Everlasting”. The final tribute was the mournful sound of taps played as all in the room stood at attention and saluted their departed comrades for the last time. As noted, “a very moving event!”

Windham Post 148 Adjutant David Tanguay



**Windham Flagpole Dedication: Cornerbrook II Estate residents in Windham raised funds to install a community flagpole in September. They invited the local Veterans Organizations, VFW Post 10643 Commander, Willie Goodman along with Legion Field-Allen Post 148 color guard. Left to right, Dick Drapeau, Linwood Bailey, Craig Pride, and David Rendall with Legion and VFW member Walter Braley, and one of the residents of Cornerbrook II to assist with the dedication of the flagpole.**

## The Guardian Ride III

For the third year in a row, American Legion Field-Allen Post 148 member and one of South Portland's finest in Blue and local Windham resident, Brian McCarthy is biking over 350 miles as a fundraiser in support of his former Military Police unit out of Waterville. Brian will provide some details in his own words the reasons and the variation for 2020. I can't say it any better: Here's Brian, "For the third year in a row, I'm taking to the main streets & back roads of Maine on my mountain bike to raise funds for the Family Readiness Group of the Maine Army National Guard's 488th Military Police Company - the unit I retired from in 2017. Every penny of funds raised will go directly to the 488th 'FRG' to be used for back-to-school supplies, a summer cookout for unit families and single soldiers alike w/ water sports and camping, a catered unit Christmas party w/ a visit from Santa, emergency relief funds for families in need, and for use in keeping unit families in touch with their soldiers abroad. In years past, this endeavor has seen me criss-cross our state in week-long treks; Houlton to South Portland in 2018, and Van Buren to South Portland in 2019. This year, due to spinal surgery in July, I lost over six weeks of training time, which will prevent me from completing the 350 miles in a single week. HOWEVER,

ER, for 2020, The Guardian Ride will be completed in installments! Seven 50+ mile rides around southern and central Maine throughout the Fall. In 2018 we raised over \$2,000. Last year we raised \$4,200!!! Wouldn't it be great in 2020 to raise enough to push us over the \$10K mark in just three short years?! Please consider donating today to help Maine military families. Again, every penny of your donation goes right to the 488th MP FRG. Thank you!"

---Sergeant First Class Brian McCarthy  
(US Army, Retired)

Today was the first of the seven. 50-mile legs that will eventually make up the 350 mile goal over the next few weeks. Although much of this ride is a solo event with much time for reflection. Sept 11th was chosen as the first phase for Guardian Ride III. Brian started in the Walmart Parking lot in North Windham and was joined by Post 148 Adjutant, Dave Tanguay for a moment of silence at 8:45 prior to his ride through Standish, Sebago, Naples, Casco, Raymond and back to Windham. For those interested in following Brian, his treks will be posted on FaceBook, The Guardian Ride. Contributions can be made as well at The Guardian Ride.

Windham Post 148 Adjutant  
David Tanguay



**Guardian Ride: (Left photo) Brian McCarthy reflects on 9/11 at Walmart at 8:45 a.m. before starting the Guardian Ride fundraiser in support of his former Military Police unit out of Waterville. (Right photo) Brian bikes Route 302 from Raymond back to Windham to complete the final leg.**



## Flags Around

**Town: All hands, flags are down for another year around the Windham area. (Right photo): Team Fisher and McCarty (Jane Fisher and Bri-**

**an McCarty) take down the last of the flags on Route 302. (Left Photo): Work Party, 6 am, North Windham Fire Station with trucks and ladders, left to right, Brian McCarthy, "Woody" Woodside, Clarence Cummings, David Horne, David Rendall, Leon Davies, Larry DeHof and Jane Fisher.. Flags were down by 8 am and will be inspected, sorted, cleaned and stored until next year. Those beyond their service life will be retired by the Americanism Officer Dave Horne.**



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

## District 2 continued

## Post 148 Golf Scramble

The American Legion Field-Allen Post 148 Color Guard was honored to participate in the opening ceremony of the Falmouth Country Club, 9th Annual TEE IT UP FOR VETERANS Golf Scramble, Monday Sept 14th, an annual event to raise funds for Camp Kieve-Veteran's Camp. Legion family support in addition to the Windham Post 148 Color Guard included Gray Legion Post Sons, Auxiliary and Post members covering the souvenir concession. The Post 148 Color Guard



was brought to attention promptly at 10 am with the singing of the National Anthem. Color Guard, left to right, Larry DeHof, Linwood Bailey, Richard Graves, David Rendall and OIC of the Honor Guard Craig Pride. The annual event has raised over \$100,000 over the years for Camp Kieve.



## Westbrook Post 197 Leadership

The Post Commander is a position held by one, but make no mistake - no one person can lead a Post to success without the commitment and assistance of its members. When I say Members, I mean all members of the Post -- which for me includes the Auxiliary and the SAL. These branches are extremely important to the success of our Post, and their leadership is equally important.

As the Commander, I must make decisions based on the entire membership, and not just individuals. The Post Commander must be a leader, not a follower. That statement does not mean that I do not fight for every member in the Post, because I do, and I will. You should expect that from your leadership.

I have been called unconventional, challenging, too political, and even insensitive at times, but as these words are being sent in my direction, most of the time it's because, for a lot of members, change is very difficult. Members often get too comfortable with a routine, and change disrupts that routine. We, as Post Leaders, must constantly evaluate and adjust our operations based on facts and data -- not on comfort levels. Our mission is clear, and our leadership must provide the path for all our members to be successful today, tomorrow, and in the future.

I have had the pleasure of meeting many Commanders within the Department of Maine, and I am relieved to see and hear that we often fight the same challenges. I see the wheels turning as we swap creative ideas and play out in our minds if that idea would work for our own Post. Creative Leadership!

As Commanders, we are often

overloaded, overwhelmed, worn out, irritated, and downright mad as we push ourselves forward while pulling membership with us. It truly is a thankless position at times. I was recently at a breaking point when I needed to stop the world and tell myself, "Take the leadership walk."

I drove to the Post early, before anyone else arrived. I walked in the front door and stopped, I looked around the post and I reminded myself, "Look what your members and staff have succeeded in accomplishing in such a short time." Commanders need to remember where they have been even as they move forward.

I then walked down a long row of pictures of Past Commanders, some I had the pleasure of meeting, most of whom I had never met - but their faces were there and every one of them was saying something to me. Even though they all had their own challenges, their own obstacles, and their own failures, each Past Commander had one thing in common: the ability to lead in their time. We should never forget the past leaders who provided us with an opportunity to lead today.

I am probably the least experienced Commander within the Department of Maine right now, but as new Commanders come on board with little or no experience, I will share my experience with them, and then we are going to take "The Leadership Walk" to Preserve and Protect the Leadership of the Past, the Present, and the Future. That is called Responsible Leadership!

By Steve C. Girard, Commander  
Westbrook Memorial Post 197



## Westbrook Post 197 Hosts National Commander's Banquet:

Westbrook Post 197 Steve Girard, left, presents a gift certificate from Westbrook Post 197 Post members and guests to welcome National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford, right, to their Post home in celebration of the National Commander's Banquet Oct. 24.

Photo by Dept. Historial George Robinson Jr.



## 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

## WMCA Affordable Home Repairs for Veterans

Western Maine Community Action (WMCA) was the pleased to do a presentation to the American Legion group last month about a new grant that WMCA has received for assisting disabled veterans in the greater Franklin County area.

The grant is intended to help veterans with disabilities (do not need to be service connected) with home repairs that will assist them in staying in their homes. These repairs may

include egress and modifications to the home such as ramps and widening doorways or bathroom modifications but are not limited to these items.

Interested members are to reach out to WMCA Housing program by calling (207) 860-8074 and ask for a home repair application for veterans. WMCA will send out an application by mail or they can pick it up here at WMCA East Wilton Offices.

## 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

## Unit 68 Fidget Quilts:

Unit 68 Auxiliary Secretary Susan Vacca thought in July that the six Fidget Quilts she had previously produced and donated to the Maine Veterans Home in South Paris were the completion of that project. However, Pat Paar, Activities Director at the Home informed Susan that because of the prevailing Wuhan Corona Virus 19, each quilt could be utilized only by one resident, inspiring



Susan to craft another six of the quilts. As mentioned in a previous Maine Legionnaire article on the subject, the quilts provide sensory and tactile stimulation for the restless hands of memory care residents. Susan plans on contacting Pat Paar to arrange for delivery of the quilts before Veterans Day. Is this the end, or is there yet to be another chapter to continue this saga?



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

## District 5 continued

## Longest Serving Auxiliary Member in Maine

Unit 68 has informed Post 68 that they have been apprised that Unit member Cathryn (Cummings) Lovejoy is the longest serving Auxiliary member in Maine, with 82 continuous years of membership. Cathryn became a member of Unit 68 Auxiliary at the age of nine, when she was enrolled by her mother Fannie Cummings in 1938-39, when Fannie was President of the Unit. Fannie went on to be Department of Maine Auxiliary President in 1942-43, and then served on the National Executive Committee in 1943-44. Her husband, Alanson Cummings, a Naval veteran of both WWI and WWII, was the third Commander of Jackson-Silver Post 68 (1923). At the beginning of WWII, Alanson served off the coast of Maine searching for Nazi U-Boats. A Bethel Citizen article at that time cited his request that someone in the Bethel, Greenwood, Woodstock area provide him with a pair of binoculars. Such was the state of our Armed Forces at that time. We do not know how or when the Maine Department



**Cathryn (Cummings) Lovejoy:**  
2016 Unit 68 Recognition  
Photo by Harry G. Orcutt

## Pendexter Receives Quilt Of Valor

NORWAY — On September 23 at the Norway Veterans Memorial, Oxford resident Arnie Pendexter, a Navy Vietnam veteran and Purple



**Quilt of Valor  
Recipient  
Arnie Pendexter**

Heart recipient received a beautiful "Quilt of Valor" for his service. The "Quilt of Valor" organization was founded in 2003 by Catherine Roberts after a dream she had when her son was deployed in Iraq. She had a vivid dream of a young soldier hunched over on a bed, head down. She felt total despair. Then, she saw him wrapped and warm in a quilt. That was the birth of Quilts of Valor, made to honor and comfort

those touched by war. A well-deserved honor for Arnie. The quilt, presented by Dianne Devonshire, was quilted by the Attic Cat Group. Arnie is an active member of the American Legion in Norway, The AMVETS and VFW of Paris, and the Monday Night Carving Club, who set this up to honor him. Present were family, friends, and members of the American Legion.

*The Advertiser Democrat.*  
10/15/2020



**The Quilt of Valor**

## Ring-McKeen Post 151 West Paris Conducts Unserviceable Flag Ceremony

Per Resolution No. 440, passed in New York, at the Annual Convention held from September 20-23, 1937, and re-emphasized by Resolution No. 337, adopted at the Chicago Convention, held from September 18-20, 1944, Ring-McKeen Post 151, in West Paris conducted an Unserviceable Flag Ceremony at the Town Fire Sta-

tion (albeit non-public because of the prevailing Wuhan Corona Virus 19), on Saturday, October 10, 2020. Those in attendance are named in the photo bar, as well as the photographer, identified in the photo credit. (Someone had to take the photo). Approximately 350 flags were honorably retired.

**Flag Ceremony:** Left to right, stirring, Wayne Theofrastau; Adding flags, Jim Todd, Post Commander Harold Wilbur, and District 5 Chaplain Randall Jack. Next to Randall, Ed Murphy, Charlie McAllister, and Auxiliary Unit 151 President Dorene Wilbur.

*Photo by Auxiliary Dept. Chaplain Linda Jack*



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

## District 6

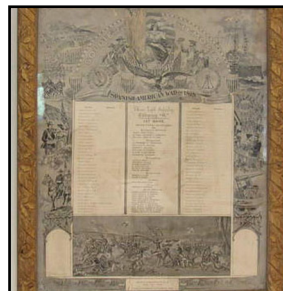
Rockland Post 1; Vinalhaven Post 18; Camden Post 30; North Haven Post 33; St. George Post 34; Thomaston Post 37; Union Post 110; Warren Post 218

## USS Maine Plaque

A USS Maine plaque forged in 1913 was discovered in June by members of War Memorial Post 30 American Legion, while deep cleaning a storage area in the basement of their Post building. The plaque is made from the hull of the USS Maine, a U.S. Navy ship sunk in Havana Harbor in February 1898. Memorial plaques, commissioned by the Bureau of Engraving, were made from the ship's metal. Each plaque is numbered and stamped on the back.

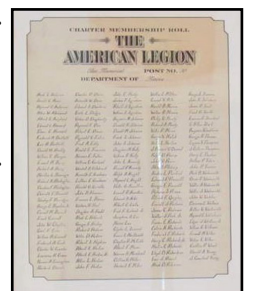


Due to COVID restrictions on meetings, the decision was made to do some cleaning of a storage area, according to Jeff Sukeforth who serves as the Post Adjutant. The plaque was found along with Post 30 American Legion's plaque framed documents of the Post's original charter and a Spanish-American War document. The plaque has the building as are the other artifacts.



**Left Photo: Soldier's Memorial of Tilson's Light Infantry Company "H" 1st Maine, Spanish-American War 1898. Right Photo: The Charter Membership Roll of American Legion War Memorial Post 30.**

*Photos by Susan Mustapich*



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

## District 7

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



**"A Foundation For The Future Pin" Presentation:** The American Legion Department of Maine Commander Matthew Jabaut congratulates and presents two hard-earned American Legion National Commander Membership Excellence "A Foundation For The Future" incentive pins to Waldoboro Charles C. Lilly Post 149 Commander Donna Wallace, left. The first incentive pin recognizes the effort of Post members for having successfully attained 103%, or more, of the Post's 2020 membership goal. Post 149 actually achieved 111% of this goal. The second incentive pin recognizes having successfully recruited at least three Legionnaires into Post 149 during 2020. These incentive programs were implemented by National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford, and serve to show appreciation for members' dedication to The American Legion and for "Still Serving America".



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

## District 8

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

## Coffee for Our Troops (Maine) - May 2020 Update

May finds us still in quarantine and waiting to see what NORMAL will look like as the country gets back to a regular daily routine. We hope your health has not been impacted by COVID-19 and you and your loved ones remain safe and healthy.

May boxes were mailed last week. Our thanks to Wicked Joe Organic Coffee, Wicked Leaf Tea, and Holiday Bargain Outlet for supplying Premium coffee,



tea, and many of the snacks we shipped to the 26 units we have deployed. This is down from the 40 we had earlier this year. Several of the teams have returned home. We are looking for more deployed service personnel to replace the returning units.

We did pick up 2 medical units that were deployed to New York City to help with Covid-19. One is a Citadel grad, the other is with a unit we supported while in the Middle East. Several families stepped up to get each unit several boxes. They said it was a nice to have the support after 16-hour days at the field hospitals. Their time in NYC is now coming to an end.

The cookie ladies did a great job making cookies and brownies for nearly all the May boxes we mailed.

Several members of The Citadel family joined us to send boxes to our units.

We are now looking for items to send in the June boxes.

We would appreciate any help you are able to give.

Monetary donations are always appreciated to cover mailing costs, but baking cookies, sending a box, or providing items to fill each box are a great way to get involved.

Sending a box is a wonderful community service project for students that are now home schooled and can be a nice family activity. WE WILL BE HAPPY TO ASSIST YOU.

OPERATION FREEZE POP: Freeze



pops are a way to help beat the 100+ degree heat in the region. During the summer months of June through August, we would like to send our troops boxes of freeze pops.

We use a large flat rate box, fill it with freeze pops and ship it to one or more of our units. It is good to put the freeze pops in zip lock bags in case they leak. The postage for the box is \$19.60 plus the cost of the freeze pops, usually about \$10 for 200. Each box will also need a completed customs form. This is a great project for churches, scouts, civic clubs, or individuals that would like to help. Several churches have made this part of their vacation Bible school. CAN YOU HELP?

S U P P O R T !

Our units are constantly changing as they are deployed and return home. We would like to add some additional units to those we currently support.

Thanks to the Pittsburgh Citadel Club and several individuals that combined their efforts to make a generous cash donation in support of COFFEE FOR OUR TROOPS.

We hope that we will regain our corporate partners as their businesses get back to a more normal schedule. HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Provide the email and APO address of a deployed person.
- Pack and ship a box to one of our units
- Collect items to put in a box for us to send.
- Make a cash donation to cover the cost of shipping and supplies. 100% will go to the troops.

Make donations to:  
BRUNSWICK CHURCH OF CHRIST  
1 JORDAN AVE.

BRUNSWICK, MAINE 04011

Please put coffee for our troops in the memo line. 100% of these donations go to troop support.

THANK YOU for your continued support. We cannot do this without you.

May God bless you and our deployed troops.

Please take time to read the many attached notes from our troops.

*All The Best, Rick and Donna Porter  
Program Coordinators for Coffee for Our  
Troops (Maine)*

*The Brunswick Church of Christ  
The Maine Citadel Club  
Wicked Joe's Coffee  
and many other generous supporters.*

## NOTES FROM OUR TROOPS- APRIL 2020

#1 - I have received a box full of coffee and goodies. Thank you for the Sour Patch Kids...they gobbled them up as soon as we opened the box. Thank you for all you do for us!

V/r  
CAPT Chris "Bert" Nerney, USN  
609th CAOC NALE

#2 - We received your care package. Times are getting busy over here, especially with the recent turn of world events and restrictions. Your freedom fuel keeps us focused and motivated. Please know your donations are very much appreciated. I've attached a photo of us showing our appreciation.

Cheers,  
Danny  
DANIEL RODRIGUE, 1st Lt, USAF  
Flight Commander, Plans & Programs  
609 EACOMS/SCX, USAFCENT

#3 - Thank you very much to you and all the others listed on your letter for your recent shipment of two boxes of great coffee, candy, and snacks. Our soldiers will thoroughly enjoy these morale-boosting items. We very much appreciate your thoughtfulness, patriotism, and generosity, especially during these uncertain times when so many are affected by and worrying about COVID-19. The two boxes we received today are now in the Task Force Juvigny Chapel, which is a popular point where soldiers stop in to grab a snack and/or a cup of coffee. Having read your note about some of your boxes being returned as undeliverable, we all know these are uncertain times. That being said, we anticipate continuing delivery of mail because it comes to us through diplomatic channels (the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv.)

With Appreciation,  
Chaplain (LTC) Clay R. Salmela  
Task Force Juvigny  
Yavoriv Combat Training Center, Ukraine

#4 - I received your March support package. Thank you for everything. Below is a photo of Big Red flying over Kuwait on Corps Day.

Very Respectfully,  
Kyle Wiegand  
CPT, LG  
Hotel Company 230 BSB  
Commanding

#5 - Civilian, Cid grad/AF Vet contractor in Kabul, Afghanistan.... Have been receiving the packages, FYI. Thank you,

Jason Perry

#6 - Received my February and March packages! I do some moving around between bases and the February package was forwarded to a different base at the fault of our down-trace routing system. No worries, though. I received both packages about 10 days ago. No need to send future packages, since I'm expecting to depart as soon as allowed under the COVID19 restrictions. I'm extremely grateful for your support, and the whole team thanks you. Coffee and cookies go quick! Thank you again for everything you do!

All the best,  
Ben  
Echo 13

#7 - I wanted to pass on a sincerest thank you from my team for the care packages from Coffee for Our Troops, they are well received and enjoyed by many. The coffee is amazing, and knowing the team at home has our back is what makes these experiences being away from home so much easier.

The security environment in Iraq has made it extremely difficult to receive mail over the past months, however we have luckily just received a shipment. Please pass on our appreciation to those donating and participating. Thank you so much for your support, and God Bless.

Very Respectfully,  
SCOTT E. GRAVES, Capt, USAF  
CJTF-OIR (Fwd) FOB UIII, Iraq

#8 - Your most recent package just arrived at Site Qargha, today.

Thanks,  
Jason Perry

#9 - We received the box of coffee and other goodies - Thank you!!!. Coffee is not great overseas, so having a hot cup of "Wicked Joe" makes life much more tolerable.

Due to security restrictions, we cannot take pictures in our regular workspaces. Hopefully, the attached will do. We pray you and all in your community in Brunswick are safe and healthy. Pass our thanks on to the Brunswick Church of Christ and any others who donated.

Respectfully,  
CAPT Scott Yates, USN  
Commander, Task Group 56.6  
OIC, ECRC FWD CENT

#10 - I received your last package. Unfortunately, I was quarantined after a trip to Prague to be on the safe side with COVID19 going around so I passed the package off to another Soldier to distribute and was not able to take pictures. I actually didn't even see what was in the package. I opened it enough to see that it was going to be for the unit and passed it off. If I would have kept it, it would have had to stay with me until I was off quarantine. The package came 2 weeks ago I believe. I do appreciate it and I know the Soldiers here appreciate them too. It has been helping with morale since we are not able to go off-post anymore with the COVID19 pandemic going on. Everyone here is safe and that is great news! I hope things are going well back in the US for you.

V/R,  
MSG Melissa Franz  
TF Senior Medic, JMTG-U  
Yavoriv Training Center, Ukraine

#11 - As one of the many people out here who look forward to and enjoy Wicked Joe Coffee every morning, I wanted to send a quick thank you. We are humbled by your generosity and very thankful for your support. I hope that your family and friends are well during this uncertain time.

When I read your message below, I was delighted to see the final notes in the signature block! I am a military brat... my father

More on "TROOP NOTES" Page 23



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

## District 8 continued

# # "TROOP NOTES" (Continued from Page 22)

was in the Navy and I've spent my whole life traveling without any one city or state to call home. But before my journey began, I was born in a little hospital in Brunswick, Maine!

I have only visited the area once, but I treasure the memories. The area was beautiful and the people were kind; I hope to return some day to with my wife and children. Thank you again from the troops on the Arabian Peninsula.

V/r,  
~Capt Wood

#12 - Good to hear from you. I am still deployed to CJTF-HOA in Djibouti Africa. I was supposed to check out of here on 5 May, but my travel has been pushed to the right. I'm not sure for how long though. Hope you guys are staying safe!

V/R,  
LCDR Travis Duncan '06

#13 - Good Morning, I apologize for the delayed response. Soldiers are really enjoying the coffee. I gave an entire box of the Bend Bows to a Soldier in one of the National Guard units out here. I also continue to deliver the Wicked Joes bags to our Gateway Outbound team as they have probably been the hardest working group of people during this time.

Social distancing has hindered our abilities to meet together as we are normally used to, and frankly, take for granted. But we are still facilitating Soldiers coming into our coffee shop/resiliency area. They get a cup of coffee and watch a movie for a few minutes, or grab a cup and sit under our camo netting.

As I've said before, your packages help us to continue to keep morale as high as possible during uncharted territory such as this COVID-19 and its impacts on all of us. I will continue to pray for you all in the States, and thank you again, very much, for the support you continue to provide us.

I will let you know when we receive the April boxes.

Thank You!

V/r,  
CH (CPT) Daniel Biegger  
1TSC/103rd ESC  
Theater Gateway Chaplain  
401st AFSB Chaplain (Acting)

#14 - April's supply of Wicked Joe has arrived. I'm sure you are aware of the mandatory health measures that the world is taking to protect ourselves from COVID-19. Those same measures are being implemented at all military installations. The attached photo is unique in the fact that we resemble a Special Forces unit on the front lines grinding day-to-day, fueled by the liquid freedom delivered by Wicked Joe.

As always, we appreciate all the support that you have given us. Thank you for keeping us in your prayers.

Masks on, mugs up, and God Bless!  
Cheers,  
Lt Rodrigue

#15 - Once again, the package has arrived. Thank you so much for thinking of us. Hope you stay healthy and things get back to normal soon.

R/  
CAPT Chris "Bert" Nerney, USN  
609th CAOC NALE /NAVCENT

#16 - My team just received your package full of coffee and snacks and we wanted to say thank you! It is especially nice during a time like this to get a package from home. I hope you all are staying safe and healthy.

ALY R. GLEASON, Capt, USAF  
Space Enhancement Officer  
AFCENT CAOC/Director of Space Forces Staff

#17 - Thank you for your continued support with everything that is going on in the world. I hope this message finds you all in good health.

CPT Barkley  
ASG-KU

#18 - I received my April care package. Thank you very much for your package.

Very Respectfully,  
Kyle Wiegand  
CPT, LG  
H Co 230 BSB  
Commanding

#19 - Thank you for the continued support!

v/r,  
Peter Mooney  
CPT, FC  
A/101st FMSD Commander  
Camp Erbil, Iraq

#20 - Good evening, Thank you so much for the care package! The coffee arrived just as we ran out and everyone was super excited!

#21 - MEDICAL TEAM DEPLOYED TO NYC

Good morning, I did receive the boxes, thank you! I am working on getting a photo of a few of us so I can send to you. We are staffing at a couple locations with day/night shift, so it's hard to wrangle people for a photo op. I am working on it!



#22 - I shared the coffee with the nurses, CNAs and residents on our floor. Thank you so much!



#23 - I wanted to pass on a sincerest thank you from my team for the care packages; they are well received and enjoyed by many. The coffee is amazing and the treats are extremely thoughtful. Knowing the team at home has our back is what makes these experiences being away from home so much easier. Please pass on our appreciation to those donating and participating. Thank you so much for your support, and God Bless.

Very Respectfully,  
SCOTT E. GRAVES, Capt, USAF  
CJTF-OIR (Fwd) FOB Union III, Iraq

#24 - I did receive the box, Thank you! Hoping to get some photos tomorrow to send you. The last boxes were emptied very quickly! I don't have an exact timeline of when we depart here, but I would anticipate us being here at least the next 2 weeks. We appreciate all that you do to support us!

Thank you again for the excellent goodies!! As always, they disappear quickly. We appreciate your thoughtfulness! After the long workdays wearing protective gear, it is nice to have treats. It's also nurse's week, so great timing!

## District 9

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

## Augusta Post 2 Community Service Recognition Ceremony

On July 23, members from Fitzgerald-Cummings Post 2 of the American Legion in Augusta, Maine, conducted a ceremony at the Augusta, Maine Police Department recognizing the department's service to the community. The ceremony was planned as a tribute to the professionals that make up the members of the department. As part of the ceremony, a Certificate of Commendation was presented to Chief of Augusta Police, Jared J. Mills. In addition to Fitzgerald-Cummings Post 2

Commander Fred Umphrey, Department of Maine American Legion Adjutant Paul L'Heureux, and Unit 2 Auxiliary President Cindy Sprague assisted with the presentation and made comments on behalf of the Legion and Auxiliary. The purpose of the presentation was to show support for the police department in the wake of current incidents of unrest taking place around the country.



Members of the Legion Family & Augusta Police Department.

**Citation Presentation:**  
Augusta Post 2 Commander Fred Umphrey presents citation to Augusta Police Chief Jared Mills with Department Adjutant L'Heureux, Unit 2 President Cindy Sprague and Past Commander Tilden Doak.



Augusta Post 2 Commander Fred Umphrey & Augusta Police Chief Jared Mills.



Unit 2 Auxiliary President Cindy Sprague with Augusta Police Chief Jared Mills.



Members of the Augusta Police Department.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 9 continued



**Goodrich-Caldwell Post 6** held a very successful yard sale on October 3, 2020 in Hallowell which netted \$3200. Shown looking over material are, left to right, Past Commanders Dana Parker; Gerald Stuart, and Hallowell policeman, Ron Grotton. Lots of planning and hard work by all who picked up and sorted material donated by local residents.

## What is a Fisher House?

No, it's nothing like a Fishing House on the frozen Lake. In fact, it's a home away from home. When a veteran is hospitalized, their family can call and make reservations for FREE to stay at the newly built Fisher House right at VA Medical Center Togus Campus, Maine. You say "How does one qualify to stay at the Fisher House?"

### Families or Caregivers

- 1 – Involved in the "episodic care" of the Veteran.
- 2 – Must be capable of self-care.
- 3 – Reside 50-miles from Togus.

### Veterans

- 1 – Receiving "episodic care" here at Togus.
- 2 – Accompanied by a family member or caregiver capable of self-care.
- 3 – Reside 50-miles from Togus.

*"Episodic Care" is confirmed through medical consults. Exceptions to the 50-mile rule, while rare, may be granted at the discretion of the Fisher House Manager.*

For more details contact Manager: Patrick Crowley  
Patrick.crowley@va.gov  
(207) 623-8411

Or visit: <https://fisherhouse.org/programs/houses/house-locations/maine-va-maine-healthcare-system/>

Article by Patrick Crowley



Fisher House Entry Hall



Fisher House Guest Room



**Litchfield Post 181 Luncheon:** Litchfield Post 181 held a "Drive-Thru" Lobster/Chicken Luncheon on September 12, 2020. The attendance at the drive-thru was better than last year and profits were doubled. It was a great day and all had fun. Left to right, part of the prep crew with 150 desserts and rolls: Post 181 Donna Radovitz, Dept. 1st Vice Deb Couture, ALA Unit 181 Katherine Alexander, Deb's mom Irene Wise; and Post 181 Denise Emery.



**Luncheon Cook:** One of Litchfield Post 181's Cooks, Richard Braunfels.



**50 Year Certificate:** Robert "Bob" Emery, Sr. - Bob Emery, Post 205, Augusta, received his 50 year American Legion membership certificate on Sept. 14, 2020 from Post 205 Commander, Weldon Bean. Bob has held many offices in Post 205 over the past 50 years. He continues to be an active member and is at Post 205 every day. Thank you for your many years of service to veterans, Bob. Left to right: Robert C. "Bob" Emery and Weldon Bean, Commander, Post 205.

## Kennebec Honor Guard Award Presentation

**Honor Guard Recognition:** George Bean was recognized by the Kennebec County Veteran's Honor Guard (KCVHG) and District 9 members on Sept. 14, 2020 at his Post 205 in Augusta. George was surprised with dinner and a special ceremony honoring his dedication and service to the KCVHG. He has done an outstanding job leading the KCVHG for over 35 years. (Top photo) Brigade General Eric Lind, right, presents Past Commander of the Kennebec Honor Guard, George Bean with an award from the US Army. (Bottom photo) Kennebec Honor Guard Commander Alvana Donnel, left, presents a document signed by all members of the Honor Guard to Past Commander George Bean for 37 years of service.



## 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



**Madison Post 39 Flag Retirement Ceremony:** Madison Post 39 performed a Legion Formal Flag Retirement Ceremony at the Post's burn pit in Madison on Veterans Day. The Post sponsored US Naval Sea Cadet Corps unit and assisted in the ceremony as well as Boy Scouts from Troops 495 & 481.



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

## District 13

Bangor Post 12; East Millinocket Post 13; Corinna Post 73; Old Town Post 75; Lincoln Post 77; Millinocket Post 80; Orono Post 84; Howland Post 97; Brewer Post 98; Newport Post 105; Etna-Carmel Post 107; East Corinth Post 115; Lee Post 160; Hermon Post 200; Dixmont Post 201; Glenburn Post 211; Hampden Post 213



**A Moment Of Silence:** Members of the TEDD-LAIT Post-75 in Old Town decided to show their respect even during these challenging times of the Covid-19 to those who have served our country. Members of The American Legion and the Sons of the American Legion are seen here taking a moment of silence after a wreath had been placed at the foot of the monument.

## Busy Raising Money and Keeping Safe

Newport Post 105 has kept very busy these last couple of months raising money without putting anyone in harm's way. In September, they did a raffle that netted the post a good sum of money, and they didn't have to solicit any prizes. All but one prize came internally from the Post.

Five people did the 100 mile walk-a-thon for the Legion, walking/running altogether over 500 miles, and raised close to \$8000, with money still coming in. Those that took part in the walk-a-thon were Newport Post 105 Adjutant Kim

Lander, spouse and soon to be Auxiliary member Jennifer Kuespert, Legion member Rhonda Russell, and Scout Leaders of Newport Troop 63 Tabitha Brewer, and Travis Brewer. The Post also did a curb side baked bean dinner that was extremely successful, and may always do their dinners like that from now on! Newport Post 105 Adjutant Kim Lander noted that they will now be able to do all of their community outreach and pay all the bills, not to mention, what a wonderful village they have!

**Flag Retirement Ceremony:** Newport Post 105 held a Flag Retirement Ceremony on Veterans Day, Nov. 11. The Nokomis High School Color Guard assisted and was attended by Scout troop 63.



**Newport Post 105 Veterans Wreath Laying Ceremony.**

## Hermon Post 200 Parade of Honor

Our American Legion Post 200 Hermon's Historian Norman Michaud was diagnosed with advanced ALS in the spring of 2020. In October, I, Tom Carle, Adjutant of Hermon Post 200 was contacted by Norman's Daughter Lisa Nale to get a parade to honor his service to our country. With the help of her family, the Hermon Town Manager, Hermon Fire Department, Police Chief,

ambulance service, and 2 Penobscot county deputies, they were the front and rear of the parade. The center of the parade was formed with the help from District 13 Commander Tom Healey, Commander Bob Sibley Post 107, Doug Damon, Commander Post 12, Bob MC-Glaufflin, Commander Legion Riders Post 12, Jason Forbes Treasurer Jar head motorcycle club, and members of

post 200. The parade had 1 fire truck, 2 country Sheriff's deputies, 2 ambulances, 12 motorcycles, 22 cars with veterans and friends, and the town Police Officer

bring up the rear. It was a great success.

*Tom Carle  
Hermon Post 200 Adjutant*



**Parade of Honor:** Norman Michaud in his Wheelchair surrounded by his family (left photo), and the first of the motorcycles (right photo).

*Photo by Hermon Post 200 Tom Carle*



## 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

## Senator Collins visits Post 3, Calais

U.S. Senator Susan Collins made a stop in Calais on Tuesday morning as part of her "All of Maine Bus Tour," which is taking her to all 16 of Maine's counties.

"I always enjoy visiting Calais and speaking with members of the community. I had a great breakfast at Karen's Diner this morning, which was the perfect way to begin a busy day in Washington County," said Senator Collins.

"The 'All of Maine' bus tour is a Maine election year tradition and my favorite part of every campaign," Senator Collins continued. "This has been a tremendously difficult year for our state and for the nation, but Mainers are resilient, and we look out for each other. I will continue to work hard every day to deliver for the people of our state."

*Reprinted with permission of the Calais Advertiser (Vol. 185, No. 42)*



**Commander Michael McLean and Sen. Susan Collins.**

*Photo by Michael McLean*



**Holiday Toy Drive Items:** These are a few items that the Calais American Legion & Calais Dollar Tree are collecting for "Operation Home Front Holiday Toy Drive"! These will be distributed within our local communities & organization's!

*Photo by Commander Michael McLean*



**Operation Home Front Holiday Toy Drive:** Calais Post 3 Commander Mike McLean, left, and Calais Dollar Tree Manager Sarah Bayliss bringing joy to families in our local communities. organization's!

*Photo by Commander Michael McLean*



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

## District 15 continued



## Observing Veterans Day At The New Acadia National

**Cemetery:** Cherryfield Post 8 and local scouts observe Veterans Day at the new Acadia National Cemetery in Jonesboro on land donated by Wreaths Across America founder, Morrill Worcester. The wreath laying ceremony was part of the national effort by the VA to lay wreaths at all 151 National Cemeteries. Small, due to COVID, Post 8 Chaplain Max Merrill said a prayer and placed the wreath on the joint services monument accompanied by Post Adjutant and Bugler Peter Duston sounding Taps. Scouts Maddie Gay and Emma Calderwood flanked as color guard. Cemetery Manager Mark Gagnon provided wreath support on behalf of the VA.

## A Personal Memoir Posted in Rally Point A Veterans & Active Duty Social Network

September 2nd, 1945 was a Sunday. We were gathered at my grandparents' house in Hampstead, NH, seated around the large table eating Sunday dinner. The phone rang in the other room and one of my aunts or uncles went to answer. They let out a "whoop" and screamed: "The War is over." There was pandemonium in the dining room. The Japanese had surrendered.

My grandmother calmed us down and got us to sit again. She led us in prayer and especially thanksgiving that my 9 aunts and uncles had survived and would be coming home. Grammie asked for prayers for the many hundreds of thousands of families who were in mourning for the loss of their loved ones.

Dinner was forgotten as my grandfather, a couple of uncles and I all drove down to the fire house, got out the 1938 pumper and started driving around town, siren and bell blaring and spraying people, cars, everything with the hose. I was 7 years old. Can you

imagine the excitement for a 7-year-old riding on the top of your grandfather's fire truck - he was the chief.

We continued to celebrate Sunday dinners at Grammie and Grampy's well into 1946 as one after the other, the aunts and uncles came home from War. The "welcome homes" of what we now call the "Greatest Generation" were joyous expressions all across America. After all, 17 million served.

The sad homecomings were for the 900,000 who were killed or died in service who would be laid to rest in the family plots and National Cemeteries with the customary rifle volleys, Taps and a folded Flag presented with these words: "From the President, the Secretary of War and a Grateful Nation, I am honored to present this Flag as a token of respect for the faithful service and sacrifice of your loved one." Amen! Lest we never forget!

*Submitted by Cherryfield Post 8 Adjutant  
Peter Dustin*

## 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

## CPL Oscar L. Sprague's Story

CPL Oscar L. Sprague, a resident of Milbridge and born Oct 5, 1927, was a regular Army soldier assigned to Company H, 2nd Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, the 2nd Infantry Division. He was reported as an MIA on Sept 3, 1950 and later as a KIA, remains not recovered.

The Korean War began when the North Korean Army invaded the South on June 25, 1950. The 2nd Infantry Division was quickly alerted at Ft. Lewis, WA and arrived in Pusan, South Korea on July 23, 1950, becoming the first unit to reach Korea directly from the United States. Like all units early to arrive in Korea, the 2nd ID was employed piecemeal to stem the tide of the invading Communists. The entire division was committed as a unit on August 24th, relieving the 24th Infantry Division at the Naktong River Line. A sixteen-day battle began on the night of August 31, 1950 that required the Warrior Division's clerks, band, and logistics personnel to join in the fight to hold the "Pusan Perimeter." The Perimeter was the United Nations effort to form a main battle line to finally stop the advancing North Koreans.

The North Koreans, expecting light resistance from what they thought were exhausted troops did not expect the fresh troops of the 2nd Division and began piecemeal incursions in the area of Agok along the Naktong River. US Patrols reported North Korean activity on the other side of the river and sent a company-size combat patrol across to capture prisoners for intelligence purposes. A section of light machine gunners from PFC Sprague's Company H accompanied the patrol, dubbed: "Operation Manchu". We don't think that PFC Sprague was on the patrol. We do know that 1LT Edward Schmitt, H Company Commander moved the remainder of the Company including PFC Sprague with weapons to the base of Hill 209 overlooking the ferry crossing and set their mortars and machine guns. A full strength company had about 175 soldiers. The North Koreans crossed the river at night and caught the mortars unprepared and mounted a fierce attack against Company D and H, PFC Sprague's Company. Many of the Americans were either killed or captured. PFC Sprague, apparently, survived this attack and was likely with the remnants of D and H Companies and the heavy mortar carrying team that had made it to the top of Hill 209. The North Koreans did not attack up the hill that night giving the surviving H Company soldiers a frightening



CPL Oscar L.  
Sprague

breather. With PFC Sprague's unit were a few survivors of Company B, men from D and the Heavy Mortar Platoon, altogether 60 to 70 men with a radio, a heavy machine gun, a BAR, about 20 M1 rifles and maybe 40 carbines and pistols. 1LT Schmitt, Co H. Commander was the surviving officer in charge. The morning of Sept 2nd dawned with the small group of survivors surrounded by North Koreans with more streaming in from the river crossing. The first attack against the outnumbered Americans came about 1400 in the afternoon and was repulsed. During the night, they were attacked three more times by a company sized communist unit, each time pressing into close quarters but repulsed by the American Infantrymen. Task Force Manchu was holding on by their fingernails. Daylight revealed scores of North Korean dead surrounding the American troops dug in on the hilltop. That afternoon, Schmitt radioed for an airdrop of supplies desperately needed but the defensive perimeter was so tight that the supplies landed in the hands of the enemy. A PFC Queltette risked himself to gather weapons and ammunition from the Korean dead.

That same afternoon of the 2nd, the North Koreans sent an American prisoner up the hill to 1LT Schmitt demanding surrender or else. Defying the order, Schmitt and the surviving soldiers came under heavy mortar and machine gun fire from an adjoining hill top controlled by the enemy keeping the defending Americans down in their foxholes. That night, the North Koreans sent more frontal attacks up

More on "SPRAGUE" Page 27



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 15 continued

### ■ "SPRAQUE" (Continued from Page 26)

the hill and again they were repulsed.

The morning of the 3rd, the situation worsened with hot weather and shortage of supplies. There were multiple infantry attacks and constant fire from the enemy machine guns and mortars on the adjacent hill. Dead and dying US Troops were in every foxhole. The radio was destroyed leaving the defenders without air or artillery support. Enemy soldiers worked close enough to the perimeter to throw many grenades. PFC Quellette leaped from his foxhole multiple times to escape grenades but was killed in the close action. 1LT Schmitt was also killed leaving 1LT McDaniel in charge. PFC Sprague was reportedly killed during this action.

The following morning, head count revealed only about half the original force was alive with two officers. They managed to survive the day and when they were down to one clip (8 rounds) per man and a few grenades, 1LT McDaniel organized a withdrawal under cover of darkness. Of the 29 men who came down off the hill, 22 made it back to friendly lines hiding by day and traveling by night. PFC Quellette and MSG Travis Watkins both were posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. Although PFC Sprague and so many others were lost, the survivors of Task Force Manchu brought valuable intelligence on the North Korean tactic along the river crossings. The Communists floated pontoon bridges across the Nakdong River by night and dismantled and hid them by day to avoid being shelled or bombed by the US Forces.

Although the American losses were great, the 2nd Division and the adjacent Marine unit held the Pusan Perimeter and by the end of the battle had decimated two North Korean Divisions. On September 16, 1950, one day after the Inchon Landing, the 2nd Infantry Division was the first unit to break out of the Pusan Perimeter. The Indianhead Division led the Eighth Army drive to the Manchurian Border. The Division was within fifty miles of the Manchurian border when Chinese forces entered the fight, first encountering American troops on November 1, 1950. Soldiers of the 2nd Infantry Division were given the mission of protecting the rear and right flank of the Eighth Army as it retired to the South. Fighting around Kunu-ri cost the 2nd

ID nearly one-third of its strength, but was ten times more costly to the enemy. Routes south were kept open.

The "Manchu" heroes of Hill 209 were recognized by their Regimental Commander as putting up an incredible resistance. The original "Secret" battle files refers to the "... heroic stand made by a small group of "Manchu" men, living up to the highest traditions of the Regiment, did, in spite of the bitterly contested hill 201 (209) and the suicidal efforts of the inhuman Communist Armies..."

As we now know, the United Nations forces stopped the Chinese advance near the 38th parallel just north of Seoul, the capital of South Korea. An armistice was declared in June of 1953 that established a DMZ between the two Koreas that exists still today.

When the prisoner exchanges were made following the cease fire, CPL Sprague was neither among the prisoners nor was his name on a list of those who died in captivity so it was presumed that he was killed on the 3rd of September, 1950, that day of fierce fighting on Hill 209. He was posthumously promoted to CPL while an MIA. His remains have never been recovered hence the initial MIA status but there are ongoing recovery efforts by Army forensic teams searching former battle sites. Perhaps, just perhaps as there has been with others, there will be a recovery and burial back home with military honors.

His awards would include: The Combat Infantryman Badge, Purple Heart, Bronze Star, Korean War Medal, POW/MIA Medal, National Defense medal, Korean Service Medal, ROK Presidential Unit Citation, UN Service Medal, ROK War Service Medal.

RIP CPL Oscar L. Sprague in the highest traditions as a "Manchu" warrior!

From the 9th Regiment war Diary following the battle of Hill 209: "These men of Hill 209 shall always be remembered for they were truly "Manchu" men living up to the very highest traditions and standards of the "Manchu" Regiment. Words will never describe the mental and physical torture endured so that freedom and America may continue to exist against Communism."

*Information gathered from formally classified Korean War records and websites by Legion Post 8 Adjutant Peter Duston*

## CPL Oscar Sprague, MIA Remembered at Graveside Ceremony

A graveside ceremony was held on Saturday, Sept. 5 at Evergreen Cemetery in Milbridge for CPL Oscar Linwood Sprague. The remains of Sprague, who went missing in action on Sept. 3, 1950, almost seventy years to the day, have never been recovered nor has there been any prior ceremony recognizing the sacrifice he made for his country in a battle in Korea. Sprague, a native of Milbridge, has three surviving sister and several nieces and nephews.

The ceremony was attended by about 35 people, approximately 20 people dressed in civilian clothes and another 15 or so in uniform. Family and family friends sat in a row of chairs facing the grave marker that identified Sprague. Cherryfield VFW Adjutant, Peter Duston, officiated at the ceremony. It began when members of the Cherryfield Civilian Air Patrol marched in and stood behind the grave stone, facing those attending.

Duston read a statement that described the battle in which Sprague participated and subsequently went missing as U.S. troops withdrew from overrun positions.



ly participated in the ceremony: Taps was played, the flag was unfolded, refolded and presented to Sprague's family, and a military chaplain addressed the audience. An officer who did not participate was present at the back of the audience. And three? VFW? members, dressed in uniform, fired salutes. At the conclusion of the ceremony, family members were given certificates that marked XXXXXXXXXXXX and small flags for the grave marker.

In giving concluding statements, Duston expressed the hope that at some time in the future the remains of Sprague would be found and returned.



He also discussed the effort taken by the local VFW to conduct the ceremony.

Members of the military active-





WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 15 continued



**Vanceboro Post 172 Installation Ceremony:** Recently installed Vanceboro Post 172 Commander Richard Monk, left, and Adjutant Barbara Mason, right. The installation ceremony was performed by District Commander Ike Hubbard, and District Adjutant Dale Shannon.

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



**Team Caroline Donation:** Fort Kent Post 133 Service Officer Leroy McKenzie, left, presents a \$1000 check to Department Commander Matthew Jabaut, right, for the "Team Caroline" Foundation Run during the Legion College Training Class held at the Department HQ training facility on July 18.



**Volunteer Work Reaps Legion Jacket:** Harvey Beaulieu was awarded this Legion jacket for Legionnaire of the Year 2020-21, and his continuous volunteer work to help the Legion and Auxiliary on Veterans Day. He is the first to step up to assist the members of this Post. Left to right, Van Buren Post 49 Alphy Durette, Bob Rossignol, Harvey Beaulieu and Commander Harold Lausier.



**Post 145 Harvest Barbecue:** Cyr-Plourde American Legion Post 145 cooked a Harvest Barbecue, featuring chicken, potatoes, corn, bread, and desert, to be picked up drive-by style, with Commander Roger Gervais and his officers delivering right into the vehicles. Everything was cooked under the supervision of Post Commander Robert (Bob) Sinclair and the Ladies' Auxiliary. In the background is the Camden Hills State Park.

*Photo by J. Bertrand Michaud, Post 145 Publicity Officer*

## The Americanism Commission Sets a Course for the 2021 National Oratorical Contest

At this time no one knows how long the effects of coronavirus (COVID-19) may be felt. Yet, The American Legion's Americanism Commission recognizes that it must still set a course for conducting its National Oratorical Contest next April so that oratorical chairmen at all levels, as well as department leadership and national staff, may plan accordingly now.

It has been determined that plans will proceed for the National Oratorical Contest to be conducted in its traditional manner – live and in-person – during April 2021 in Indianapolis, trusting that conditions will trend to allow.

Oratorical rules state that arrangements for contests leading up to department finals are the responsibility of each department. For levels of competition prior to the department finals contest, the rules and regulations set forth in the oratorical rules are not mandatory – they are offered as a guideline, and your respective department headquarters should be consulted. However, if a department wishes for its finalist to compete in the National Oratorical Finals Contest in Indianapolis next year, rules state that the department finals contest shall conform with national contest procedures, rules and regulations. The decision for having a traditional National Oratorical Contest was made for a couple of reasons.

First, the Americanism Commission takes pride in The American Legion's stellar reputation for upholding the utmost in contest integrity. A live event provides a level of oversight for which the reliability of the contest leaves very little question that The American Legion and its volunteers, staff and con-

tants have adhered to the highest competitive values and standards of honor.

Second, it's also about the experience. As with all American Legion national level youth pro-grams, whether it's the American Legion World Series, the Junior Shooting Sports shoulder-to-shoulder national championship, Boys Nation or the National Oratorical Contest, the Americanism Commission takes pride in the overall experience provided to youth beyond simply competing or attending an event. When 53 oratorical contestants come to Indianapolis, they are enthusiastically celebrated and honored by American Legion Family members who recognize their achievement for rising to the national competition. The Legion Family actively role-models patriotism and advocates the traditions, institutions and ideals of the United States. And the youth have an opportunity to peer bond and learn together.

These are indeed uncharacteristic times. Some may be considering hosting virtual oratorical contests. Others may choose to have a live contest, taking care to observe any public health mandates in place which would require some adjustments. Adjustments may perhaps involve changing from a usual contest location to a larger venue in order to accommodate social distancing. Or it may mean strictly limiting the usual number of spectators in attendance. If a face mask mandate is in place, take care to position a contestant well away from spectators so they are socially distanced safely enough to unmask during their speech. It may perhaps mean keeping a

**More on "ORATORICAL" Page 29**



## ■ “ORATORICAL” (Continued from Page 28)

large supply of face masks and handing them out to staff, volunteers, contestants and spectators, and rigorously enforcing their use. Or it may mean the mandatory taking of temperatures as everyone arrives, asking anyone who appears unwell to please leave even if it is a contestant. It may mean dispensing hand sanitizer in great quantities and constantly wiping down areas. With guid-

ance from your department, you must decide what course of action is best. “Sunshine all the time makes a desert.” – an Arab proverb. The decision to hold a traditional in-person National Oratorical Contest in 2021 was not made lightly during these unusually complex times. The Americanism Commission wishes each post, district and department a successful oratorical season.

American eBulletin – October 2020  
Americanism@legion.org  
Chairman Richard Anderson (CT)  
Americanism Commission

## SANTA’S WORKSHOP A Christmas Tale

Local Children treated to a visit by  
Santa and Mrs. Claus

Jolly old Santa Claus made a special appearance on December 6th at the Williams-Brazier post 37 in Thomaston. Accompanying Santa was Mrs. Claus, one of her few appearances away from the North Pole. Military veterans that served in Germany, with their families, may remember that on the morning of December 6th German children found that Nikolaus, known by Americans as Santa Claus, left sweets, and maybe a small gift, in their shoes, if they were nice. If not, they received a lump of coal.

When the United States began to allow families to join their husbands and wives in Germany after World War 2, Nikolaus began to visit the children of American families at the various military bases and homes. Here, he found stockings to fill instead of shoes. He has been visiting American families overseas ever since.

When the newly formed Social Activities Committee (SAC) was formed, one of their ideas was to have a Santa’s Workshop for Thomaston and local, children. It was suggested to write a letter to the North Pole and ask Santa if he could make a stop at the Williams-Brazier Post 37 in Thomaston on his way back from Germany.

The letter was written and sent. Mail to the North Pole, and back, must be very

fast because in less than a week a letter from Santa arrived back at Post 37. Or, could it be, that magic really does exist?

Santa wrote that he could indeed make a stop at Post 37. He explained that, like most VIPs today, he had an entourage of elves travelling with him now. In a pleasant surprise, Santa also said that Mrs. Claus was traveling with him this year and that she would love to see the children in the area.

Santa further wrote that he would arrange for one of his elves to arrive ahead of time to help with decorations and other preparations for his visit. The SAC members began to prepare for the visit and gather some decorations. A couple of days later, a lady showed up and said that she had been sent by



**Rose the Elf with Mrs. and Santa Claus.**

*Photo by Les Demmons*

Santa to help Post 37 prepare for his visit. Now, it was thought that an actual elf would show up, all of two to three feet tall and with pointed ears. The lady introduced herself as Rose and explained that elves had the ability to take on human form, even if it was a bit short. What, more magic? All worked hard and were ready for Santa’s and Mrs. Claus’ visit on December 6th. A corner of Post 37 had been set up for Santa and Mrs. Claus with a nice, long bench to sit on. Rose, the elf, was

with the two visitors while elves were stationed around the room, looking like cardboard cutouts. Rose later explained that elves could do this also. Magic??

The visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus was the first one ever for Post 37, and no one was sure how many children and their parents would appear. Not to worry, over eighty guests and Post 37 members visited Santa, while a total of thirty-three children received gift bags from Santa and Mrs. Claus. Each gift bag contained a small coloring book, a box of crayons, pencils and a candy cane. There were also plenty of baked sweets and a nice punch, all provided by the Post 37 Auxiliary for the

occasion. As usual, some of the children were shy, some scared, but the large majority were happy to see Santa and Mrs. Claus. Many hugs were shared by all. For some it may be that the attendance at Santa’s Workshop visit were low, but not for the Legion and Auxiliary of Post 37. All comments from the guests were positive, and plans have already been made for a return visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus for 2020. As he was leaving, Santa’s last words were, “Magic is easy to find. All you have to do is believe.”

*By Dept. Historian George Robinson  
Williams-Brazier Post 37  
Social Activities Committee*



**Santa and Mrs. Claus with Adele and Lana Demmons.**

*Photo by Les Demmons*

## Shop “AmazonSmile” & Give While You Shop!

Support the American Legion Department of Maine Foundation when you shop on AmazonSmile. It’s the same as shopping on Amazon with the extra bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the price of eligible purchases.

How to shop AmazonSmile:

1. Go to <http://smile.amazon.com> and sign in with your Amazon.com credentials. If you already have an Amazon account, there is no need to create another one.
2. In the search box, type American Legion Department of Maine Foundation and start shopping. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to the American Legion Department of Maine Foundation.

3. Add a bookmark for [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com). You must log in through the AmazonSmile portal each time you shop in order for our Foundation to receive the donation, so remember to add a bookmark to make it easier to return and start shopping on AmazonSmile.

The funds go directly to the "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 to your friends and family!

**Shop “AmazonSmile”  
and make a difference  
Today!**

**amazon**smile



**Santa and Mrs. Claus Sitting With American Families in Mannheim, Germany in 2010.**

*Photo courtesy of George Robinson, Jr.*



## AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY TAKE NOTICE!

**M**aine American Legion welcomes all of you to be part of the Official 2021 Annual Convention Yearbook!

Showcase your Post, District, Unit, Squadron, and Chapter by sponsoring ad space in the 2021 Annual Convention Yearbook. Individual donations are also welcomed and appreciated with all individual and business names listed in the "Business & Individual Donors" page of the yearbook.

To donate or sponsor ad space in the 2021 Convention Yearbook in support of Maine Veterans, please

[click here](#) to download a copy of the Convention Yearbook Sponsorship Request Form and follow specifications & submission instructions.

You may also visit [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org) and click on the image of Maine American Legion Convention Yearbook Request Form.

For questions or assistance in submitting your ad, please call Department HQ at 207-873-3229 Ext. 2.

Click on the image below or visit [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org) and check out the Digital Version of the Maine American Legion 2020 Convention Yearbook!



## My Legion Overview for Post Adjutants

**O**ne of the eight presentations during last month's National Membership Workshop was on post adjutant's access of materials through [www.mylegion.org](http://www.mylegion.org). MyLegion provides post adjutants the ability to create membership listings, view

members renewing online, search for members who have expired or are members of the department headquarters post, and chat with other officers discussing veterans issues and sharing membership ideas.

Access the presentation at: [www.legion.org/training/membership](http://www.legion.org/training/membership).

## You can Make a Difference!

Show Your Support to Veterans in the State of Maine by  
Donating Today!

**I**n these challenging times, we ask that you consider a donation to the American Legion Department of Maine Foundation.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions in Maine, an extremely important revenue stream has been greatly curtailed, revenue that supports the daily operations of our service office at Togus VA.

Please consider a donation, regardless of size to keep operations running. You can donate by clicking on the Donate Today! image on right, or by visiting <http://www.mainelegion.org/pages/foundation.php>. If you choose to mail your donation, 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!**

**T**he American Legion, Department of Maine Foundation is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) 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-de-

ductible 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.



**USAA is proud to be the Preferred Provider of Insurance and Financial Services to The American Legion. Please visit [usaa.com/legion](http://usaa.com/legion) or call 877-699-2654.**





# T a p s C o l u m n

<u>POST</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>CONFLICT</u>	<u>POST</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>CONFLICT</u>
CN09 – St.Johns	Edward W. Lupien	Korea	Post 72 – South Paris	Claudia Benge	Vietnam
CN09 – St.Johns	Claude M. Wood	Korea	Post 72 – South Paris	Donald Gray Jr.	Vietnam
Post 2 – Augusta	Gerald Brann	Vietnam	Post 73 – Corinna	Lionel Doherty	Vietnam
Post 2 – Augusta	David R. Mcinnis	Vietnam	Post 73 – Corinna	Galen Eastman	Vietnam
Post 2 – Augusta	Richard M. Seilhan	Vietnam	Post 73 – Corinna	Jerrell Jubinville	Vietnam
Post 2 – Augusta	Beniot St.Hilaire	Korea	Post 73 – Corinna	James Small	Vietnam
Post 4 – Augusta	Wallace Bubier	Korea	Post 73 – Corinna	Walter I Tuttle Sr	Vietnam
Post 6 – Hallowell	James Wood	Vietnam	Post 74 – Kennebunk	James F. Pastorelli	WWII
Post 5 – Waterville	Joseph L. Duguay	Korea	Post 75 – Old Town	Gregory Leonard	Vietnam
Post 12 – Bangor	Richard A. Babine	Vietnam	Post 77 – Lincoln	Wallace E. Lord	Vietnam
Post 12 – Bangor	Thomas E. Gallant Jr	Korea	Post 77 – Lincoln	Vaughn Tilton	WWII
Post 12 – Bangor	Donald L. Hoxie	Vietnam	Post 77 – Lincoln	Richard E. Tolman	Vietnam
Post 13 – East Millinocket	Everett A Day	Korea	Post 78 – Strong	Lynn White	Vietnam
Post 13 – East Millinocket	Richard Yost Jr.	Vietnam	Post 81 – Bethel	Florence Merrill	Vietnam
Post 17 – Portland	Simmie Butts	WWII	Post 82 – Norway	Lewis Faulkingham	Vietnam
Post 19 – Sanford	George Lineham	Korea	Post 84 – Orono	Ross Cota	Korea
Post 19 – Sanford	John Payeur	WWII	Post 84 – Orono	Wayne A. Sibley	Vietnam
Post 23 – Baileyville	Creston Macarthur	Vietnam	Post 88 – Presque Isle	John Lisnik	Vietnam
Post 24 – Rumford	Leland G. Cushman	Vietnam	Post 93 – Bucksport	Walter Aldus Jr.	Vietnam
Post 24 – Rumford	Herbert N. Hobson Jr	Korea	Post 108 – Jonesport	Lewis A. Beal	Vietnam
Post 24 – Rumford	Nickolas J. Lavorgna	Korea	Post 116 – Monson	John Dunstan	Korea
Post 24 – Rumford	Joseph G. Parise	Vietnam	Post 118 – Mars Hill	Milton Adelman	WWII
Post 27 – Ft. Fairfield	Norman Grant	Vietnam	Post 118 – Mars Hill	Paul Kneeland	Korea
Post 27 – Ft. Fairfield	Kenneth Tilsley	Vietnam	Post 119 – Guilford	Paul L. Ruksznis	Korea
Post 30 – Camden	Kenneth V. Morand	WWII	Post 119 – Guilford	Ronald Smith	Vietnam
Post 30 – Camden	Donald Simonton	Vietnam	Post 123 – Kezar Falls	Jackson Hammond	Korea
Post 30 – Camden	Alfred W. Wood	Korea	Post 127 – Limestone	Camille Franck	
Post 35 – S. Portland	Joseph Gallant	Vietnam	Post 133 – Fort Kent	Clarence LeClair	Vietnam
Post 36 – Boothbay	John D. Druce	WWII	Post 138 – Winterport	Frank Arsenault	WWII
Post 36 – Boothbay	Henry Rowe	Korea	Post 139 – Harrison	Gerald Brien	WWII
Post 37 – Thomaston	John Thornton	WWII	Post 139 – Harrison	Charles Labay	Vietnam
Post 42 – Damariscotta	James Morkeski	Korea	Post 145 – Peaks Island	George Daigle	Vietnam
Post 43 – Belfast	Marcellus Williams	WWII	Post 147 – Madawaska	Leo J Deschaine	Vietnam
Post 47 – Houlton	Clifford Conlguie	Vietnam	Post 150 – Mechanic Falls	Albert J. Mayberry	
Post 47 – Houlton	George Hanning	Vietnam	Post 163 – Palermo	George A. McKenney Jr.	WWII
Post 47 – Houlton	James Henderson	Vietnam	Post 171 - Harpswell	James A. Burney	Vietnam
Post 47 – Houlton	Douglas Merritt	Panama	Post 178 – Winslow	Glen Gisel	Vietnam
Post 48 – Washburn	James Totman	Korea	Post 178 – Winslow	Philip Keites	Vietnam
Post 49 – Van Buren	Ronald Martin	WWII	Post 178 – Winslow	Horace Moffatt	Korea
Post 50 – Unity	Ronald Cropley	Vietnam	Post 178 – Winslow	Richard S. Preston	Vietnam
Post 61 – Kingfield	Mauno Kankainen	WWII	Post 178 - Winslow	Paul K Smith SR	Korea
Post 62 – Westbrook	Arthur T. Begin	WWII	Post 187 – Easton	Frederick Osgood	Korea
Post 62 – Westbrook	Arthur Currier	WWII	Post 192 – Athens	Bonnie Badgett	Korea
Post 62 – Westbrook	John Hughes		Post 197 – Westbrook	Norman Dyer	
Post 67 – Bridgton	Elizabeth Shain	Vietnam	Post 200 – Hermon	George Fulcher	WWII
Post 68 – Locke Mills	Sterling A. Mills	Korea	Post 205 – Augusta J	oseph A. Linscott	Korea
Post 68 – Locke Mills	Brian Stowell	Vietnam	Post 214 – Lebanon	Paul Unglaub	Vietnam
Post 69 – SW Harbor	Harold Beal	WWII			



Department of Maine  
American Legion  
5 Verti Drive  
Winslow, ME 04901-0727

NON PROFIT  
ORANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PORTLAND  
MAINE  
PERMIT NO. 493

## Attention: Next Deadline is Jan. 22

The deadline for material, stories and/or pictures to be submitted for consideration for use in the February 2021 issue of The Maine Legionnaire will be January 22, 2021.

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)

## Fall Sweepstakes Drawing Results

The fall sweepstakes drawing took place at Department HQ September 19th this year due to COVID-19 and cancellation of our Fall Conference. The Grand Prize winner of \$1500 went to Dell R. Hyssong, Camden Post 30.; \$500 to Michael E. Whalen, Baileyville Post 23; \$300 to Francis P. Koslowski, Belfast Post 43; and \$200 to Erick W. Weiss, Damariscotta Post 42. Congratulations goes out to all the lucky winners!

## Sweepstakes Tickets Available Give a Gift That Supports Maine Veterans



Looking for an extra gift for that special someone in conjunction to supporting Maine Veterans? How about entering them in the American Legion Winter Sweepstakes drawing for a chance to win up to \$1500. The drawing will be held Jan. 16, 2021 (Location TBD).

Tickets are available by calling The American Legion, Department of Maine at 207-873-3229 - Credit/Debit Cards accepted. Donate \$5 for one ticket, \$10 for three, \$15 for six tickets, but ONLY \$25 for ALL 12 tickets. First prize is \$1,500, second prize is \$750, and third prize is \$250! Staff will assist in filling out the tickets, or you may stop by our Maine State Headquarters located on 5 Verti Drive in Winslow. In exchange you will receive a donation gift ticket receipt (see sample below) as well as the ticket stubs.

SAMPLE	<b>MAINE AMERICAN LEGION WINTER SWEEPSTAKES DRAWING</b>			 <b>A GIFT FOR YOU!</b> TO: _____ FROM: _____ AMT: _____	SAMPLE
	DRAWING WILL BE HELD JANUARY 16, 2021 (PLACE TBD)				
	1ST PRIZE	2ND PRIZE	3RD PRIZE		
	<b>\$1500</b>	<b>\$750</b>	<b>\$250</b>		
	<small>\$5 FOR ONE TICKET, \$10 FOR THREE, \$15 FOR SIX, &amp; \$25 FOR 12 TICKETS</small> DO NOT HAVE TO BE PRESENT TO WIN / DONATION - \$25 <b>THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!</b>				

### 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.

## Attention All! Cancellation Notice!

**Maine American Legion Oratorical Contest** at Thomas College in Waterville Feb. 13, 2021 has been canceled. Thomas College has postponed all facility rentals through May 31, 2021 due to Covid-19.

**Mid-Winter Conference** at Jeff's Catering in Brewer Jan. 16, 2021 has also been canceled. However, the sweepstakes drawing will still take place. (Location TBD). Any questions or concerns, please call State HQ at 207-873-3229.

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



Endorsed by  
Your Department of  
The American Legion

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

your behalf by Your Department of The American Legion.

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

For immediate coverage, enroll online at [www.TheLIT.com/No-Cost-LegionCare](http://www.TheLIT.com/No-Cost-LegionCare)

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

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

Have you filled out all the above information?  
Please mail to: **Legionnaire Insurance Trust • P.O. Box 26720 • Phoenix, AZ 85068-6720**  
© 2015 AGIA 100135 A3713 38796

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.