

# THE MAINE Legionnaire



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OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER

AMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF MAINE

28 Pages



## What Veterans Need to Know About Getting Vaccine From VA

As an influx of veterans seek the COVID-19 vaccine as it becomes available at Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) hospitals, many want clarity on when and where they will be able to get their vaccines. Under a plan developed by VA in coordination with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and federal guidelines, VA is disseminating the vaccine through a phased plan.

According to VA, the phased plan will enable it “to do the most good for the most people” during this time.

Under the current plan, VA health-care personnel, veterans living in VA long-term care facilities and veterans who are at higher risk for se-

rious complications or death due to COVID-19 are able to get their vaccines now. These high-risk veterans include those with chronic kidney disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and asthma, in-patient spinal cord injuries and disorders, and those with comorbidities. Additionally, family caregivers who are enrolled in the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers are eligible for vaccination when the veteran they care for becomes eligible, according to VA.

For more information and to determine if you’re eligible to receive your COVID-19 vaccine from VA,

[More on “VACCINE”, Page 3](#)

## Get Your Centennial Coin Today While Supplies Last!

Coins can be purchased online by visiting [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org), or by check/money order in the amount of \$10/coin, plus \$5 S/H. Make check payable

to The American Legion, Department of Maine and mail to 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, ME 04901-0727. Please include an additional \$5 for every 5 coins purchased. Coins are also available for free pick up at \$10 each. All proceeds go towards helping Veterans in the State of Maine, their families and various programs in The American Legion. For questions, please call State HQ at 207-873-3229.



## Be a Part of the Legion’s Online Improvements

You have already read the front page story of Dispatch highlighting the new single sign-on ([See pg. 13 of this edition](#)) that The American Legion rolled out as of Jan. 1. This is the first step of many exciting improvements to our web platforms that will build a foundation for the future for The American Legion. I’m very excited to be a part of this, and I hope you are too.

So take this initial step and re-register to continue accessing all the benefits that American Legion websites offer.

Part of the changes that are coming to improve user access and experience is with [MyLegion.org](http://MyLegion.org).

I hope you know that this site is a member-only benefit that I strongly encourage you to sign up and join if you are not already a user of it. If you are currently a member of [MyLegion.org](http://MyLegion.org), I ask that you encourage your post members to join. As well as new members recruited into The American Legion.

MyLegion.org is a secure website that provides access to member-only information for American Legion and Sons of The American Legion members.

A few benefits of joining MyL-

egion include the ability to:

- Access to discount codes.



NATIONAL COMMANDER  
JAMES W. “BILL” OXFORD

- Print your membership card.

- Manage your profile information such as address change.

- Manage subscriptions

to Dispatch and The American Legion Magazine.

- Manage automatic membership renewal.

A few of the many benefits of [MyLegion.org](http://MyLegion.org) as a post adjutant include the ability to:

- View and edit member information.

- Manage post roster.

- Process membership.

- Create membership reports and labels.

- Identify members renewing online.

- Update electronically the Consolidated Post Report throughout the year.

In the coming months, I look forward to sharing with you all the new features that [MyLegion.org](http://MyLegion.org) will offer.

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



## A 'First' Look

My Fellow Legionnaires, This past year has been a year that I will never forget. I am honored to continue to serve as your 1st Vice Commander.

The last event that I remember before COVID-19 hit us was the

American Legion Washington Conference in Washington, DC. Those were great meetings. We sat in Senator Collin's and King's offices and Congressman Golden's and Pingree's offices and discussed the issues that were important to Maine and all Veterans. At that point, this disease was just a passing thing that was in China and would not have a big impact on the US. Within a day or two of our return, it seemed like the world changed forever. Everything started to be cancelled. No more meetings in DC. No Boy's State. No State Convention. No Fall Conference. No American Legion National Convention – our American Legion National Commander would serve for 2 years.

Our methods of communication have changed or greatly expanded. Email and Facebook are used extensively. Zoom meetings, social distancing and face masks are the norm. I find myself complimenting people on the design of the face-mask that they may be wearing. Vaccinations may be in our futures.

One thing that should not change is how we all reach out to our members. Buddy checks were in place long before COVID-19 was a disease that we talked about every day. We should all be checking up on our members. Of course, we may call to remind our members to pay their dues. We want our posts to hit 100%. Dues help to keep our posts running and to help all our veterans get the services that they need and have earned.



**DEBRA  
COUTURE**

Even more important is the fact that those calls help you to find out what is happening with your members.

This is my brief story this month. I make those calls to my Post members. Sometimes I find out that they need something. Most of the time, they are fine and that is a good thing. About 3 weeks ago, my husband Greg got sick. We didn't know what it was, but after 3 days I told him he needed to get tested for COVID. He did and was diagnosed with COVID-19. We have always done everything we should do to prevent it. That does not mean that everyone else does. Within a few days of his test, I was not feeling well. I also ended up testing positive. Greg's case was obviously much worse than mine. I tried to keep him going, but when his oxygen levels dropped, it was time to go to the hospital. Our daughter took him to the Togus ER. I contacted my minister, family members, and several friends and asked for prayers. One person who attends church with us is also a member of my legion post. She reached out even more. I started getting emails, text messages and calls from fellow Legionnaires asking if I needed any food or anything at all. They were all wonderful. Many prayers, food, over the counter meds, and chocolate. My friend Donna says anyone who is sick needs chocolate. To me, the prayers were the most important, but the messages, thoughts, and packages dropped at the back door kept me going. Our 2 daughters have been wonderful and a special thank you goes to the Legionnaires who helped us so much over the past 2 weeks – Donna, Denise, Carlton, Rusty, Roger, Normand, and others. We were the recipient of those buddy checks and they do mean so much. Greg is home now and we will be out of isolation in a few days. I cannot stress how important those buddy checks are to everyone. Please call today.

Stay safe and well.  
May God Bless you all.

## A 'Second' Look

Happy New Year! I hope this article finds everyone in good health and spirit.

Yes, I too am very tired of this thing called the Pandemic, but we will get through this as long as we follow the guidelines and use common sense. It is

definitely the hardest test for humans to social distance or not socialize at all. Now more than ever, the American Legion posts must show they are resilient and be active some way in their communities. Whether it is supporting food pantries, helping local veterans in need of a hand up or local suppers at the post.

Just because a post is not holding meetings or posts that have a lounge and are not open, is not a reason not to pay ones membership dues. I have heard the excuse "the Post is not open so I am unable to pay my dues". The last I checked the United States Postal Service is still operating. These are just some of the reasons given, and I am sure there are more reasons we have not heard. This is where 'Buddy Checks' really play a big part in maintaining and retaining our membership. More than ever during this Pandemic, our members are forgetting to renew their membership for whatever reasons. We will not know these reasons if we do not reach out to our members. Make that call! If you do not have a phone number, then send them a letter or postcard. This will also ensure their mailing address is correct.

We also must remember that our dues do not go to support lounges for those posts that have them.

The following information of the Dues Structure has been presented before at conference, but a refresher is always helpful. National: \$18.50, Department: \$12.50 to equal \$31.00 which is the amount paid to department for each membership sent in. (please note, that

this does not include the post portion). Money received at department will be allocated to the general fund and used to provide the funding to whichever program needs it most.

Now is the time to start thinking about awards to be presented at state convention. We must still remember to honor those individuals in the many award categories i.e. Law & Order, Humanitarian and so on. We still have time, but the deadline for most is May 1st and that will be here before we know it. With the COVID-19 pandemic front line workers are important more now than ever before. Recognize these people anyway you can. This can be accomplished at the post level, with a Letter of Appreciation, or even just a thank you card goes a long way.

By the time you receive this paper, the Post Commander/Adjutant will have received the 'Annual Post Data Report' form from department. This report in particular is due back to department in April. This is one of four reports that have to be completed and sent to department each year. The following is a breakdown of each report. Annual Post Data Report – This form depicts all post information currently on file at National and Department HQ. Review and make any necessary changes or corrections and submit to Department HQ. A due date will be included in the letter. This form is not available online.

Consolidated Post Report (CPR) – You have two reporting options with this report. Online using mylegion.org or by mail using the paper form which can be found on the department website. This report is due at National July 1st, if mailed it is due to department by May 29th. Notification of Post/Squadron Commanders & Adjutants Form – As soon as new officers are elected for the current year of no later than July 1st. The Post Adjutant is to complete the form and submit to Department even if the Post does not have a Squadron. This report can be found on the Department website. Post Officers Form – Form must be filled out even if there are no changes from previous year. This form is due to

[More on "2ND LOOK" Page 5](#)





## NEC Update

HELLO my fellow Legionnaires. As we work thru this pandemic and as we start to get the needed and required vaccines to fight this awful COVID-19, may this find each of you healthy, and I would probably say as anxious, as I am to get moving around and meeting our other members of this great organization. To those who may have lost friends, family members or relatives, please accept my most sincere condolences.



**LLOYD  
WOODS**

As a member of the National Executive Committee and as your representative to that committee, the National Commander also assigned me to be the Chairman of the Liaison Subcommittee to the National Veterans Employment and Education Commission. As part of the other divisions, the VE&E Committee has identified its Congressional and Administration priorities for the next Congress and how we can support our veterans through and after COVID-19.

On December 8, 2020, Mr. John Kamin, Education & Credentialing Policy associate of the division, spoke before a hearing of the Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the United States House of Representatives.

One of the items under Education is Resolution No. 24, Support Greater GI Bill Outcomes by closing the 90-10 loophole. The American Legion encourages legislation and federal agency action to ensure better quality and student outcome for institutions approved for use of VA education benefits by adding DoD and VA funds to the Title IV revenue sources 90/10 calculation as defined by section 87(a) of the Higher Education Act, which is a result of Resolution No. 15 (2018): Support Greater GI Bill Outcomes By Closing 90-10 Loophole.

Another point was H.R. 4625:

Protect The GI Bill Act. The American Legion, along with over 40 veterans' groups, is urging the Senate to prioritize passage of this bill. This bill gives military-connected students the same rights as title IV students on overpayments, restoring education benefits for veterans who attended shuttered schools and requiring schools to honor deployments and military activations mid-semester.

The Apprenticeship program is also another legislative interest. H.R. 7003 would authorize a pilot program to enhance efforts to provide job placement assistance and employment services directly to members of the National Guard and Reserves. H.R. 8426: Protecting Apprenticeship Training for Veterans Act provides modifications to the 120-hour monthly training requirements necessary to receive full educational assistance as codified by 38 U.S.C., s/s3687 concerning apprenticeships or other on-job training. It would allow veterans who completed excess hours over the 120-hour requirement in any one month to roll over these hours for that month in which the veteran failed to complete 120 hours. H.R. 8294: The National Apprenticeship Act of 2020 would reauthorize the National Apprenticeship Act of 1937 by codifying many of the regulations into statute and modernizing them to meet the needs of today's workforce through targeted grants and partnerships.

Under Economic Opportunity, the VA-SBA Act provides that the SBA absorb the responsibilities of VA's Center for Verification and share responsibilities for the verification of service-disabled veteran-owned businesses, and this responsibility should be divided accordingly to each agency's expertise and record of past performance. Another aspect is MADE IN U.S.A. The Buy American Act only requires that goods purchased by the federal government are 50% manufactured in America. It incentivizes the return of manufacturing from overseas and the creation of more domestic manufacturers.

[More on "NEC UPDATE" Page 5](#)

## On the Agenda

### 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.

### APRIL MEETINGS

District 2 – Cumberland: Apr. 13, Gray Post 86, 5 p.m. PC and PP dinner, nomination of Officers.  
District 12 – Hancock: Apr. 11, Ellsworth Post 63, dinner 6:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m. mtg. (2nd Monday Mtg. held at VFW Post 109)  
District 14 – Piscataquis: Apr. 17, Dover-Foxcroft Post 29, lunch noon, 1 p.m. mtg.  
District 17 – N. Aroostook: Apr. 11, Frenchville Post 145, refreshments 1 p.m., 2 p.m. mtg. Nominations.

### MAY MEETINGS

District 2 – Cumberland: May 9, Scarborough Post 76, 2 p.m. Election of officers and memorial ceremony  
District 12 – Hancock: May 11, Stonington Post 102, dinner 6:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m., mtg., elections at ODD Fellows Hall  
District 14 – Piscataquis: May 15, Greenville Post 94, lunch noon, 1 p.m. mtg.  
District 17 – N. Aroostook: May 2, Madawaska Post 147, dinner 1 p.m., 2 p.m. mtg. Elections.

### “VACCINE” (Continued from Page 1)

visit <https://www.va.gov/health-care/covid-19-vaccine/>. Additionally, veterans can find their local VA health facility and its current plan by visiting <https://www.va.gov/find-locations>.

Due to a larger percentage of high-risk patients within the VA health-care system compared to the general public, it may take longer for veterans not at an increased risk to receive their vaccine. In some instances, it may be faster for a veteran to receive a vaccine through their state rather than through VA. You can find information on your state's COVID-19 vaccine distribution plan here by visiting <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/>

“The American Legion has the utmost confidence in VA to balance the vaccine rollout, while prioritizing the most vulnerable veterans and health-care providers,” said Mario Marquez, director of The American Legion's Veteran Affairs & Rehabilitation Division. “VA has assured us they will provide this balance with site-specific resources, needs, availability and local status of the pandemic.”

In order to be eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine through VA, a veteran must be enrolled in the VA health-care system. However, veterans attempting to enroll in VA health care for the first time who fall into category 8g, will not be eligible for the vaccine as they are also not currently eligible for VA health care. This is due to a VA change in policy

from 2003 which removed 8g eligibility as these veterans do not have a service-connected disability and their income exceeds the allotted amount to qualify for VA coverage.

The American Legion supports 8g reintegration into VA health care. At the 2016 National Convention, the National Executive Committee approved Resolution No. 2 that called for the reinstatement by VA.

“The American Legion stands behind providing access to VA health care to veterans regardless of their economic status,” Jeff Steele, an associate in the National Legislative Division, told the House Committee on Veterans Affairs on Dec. 2, 2020.

The American Legion is also on record in recent testimony, supporting legislation that calls for standing up a bipartisan commission on veterans health-care eligibility and benefits design.

As more vaccines become available, VA plans to offer free COVID-19 vaccines to all veterans receiving VA health care who want one. If you are a veteran who is not currently enrolled or receiving health care through VA visit, <https://www.va.gov/health-care/how-to-apply/> to apply.

For additional information, contact an American Legion service officer who is specially trained to provide expert assistance, free of charge, to veterans and their families. To find a service officer near you visit <https://www.legion.org/serviceofficers>



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## Americanism Report

Greetings comrades. As the days are getting longer and our thoughts are turning towards the spring and summer activities, as of now, Boy's State has still not been confirmed. Legion baseball teams will soon, or have already started up for spring games. The posts that have and the posts that will soon start a Junior Shooting Program, please ensure that all safety precautions are followed and all state laws and restrictions are enforced to protect the Legion, posts, instructors and shooters.

Let us hope we will soon have a handle on this Covid-19 Virus and we will be back to Horseshoes and Corn Hole Tournaments. Also, let us not forget Flag Day and maybe some



**ALFRED MCKAY**

to assist with placing Flags on Veterans' graves.

Hoping all have a great spring, and looking forward to seeing you at the Department Convention in Brewer.

sort of a Memorial Day Program this year. Get the local Scout Troops, Packs, boys and girls, invite civic organization and town officers and Departments

## The Adjutant Speaks

Well, it will soon be a year, and here is an update on what has been going on in the State of Maine. So many of our Legion posts have



**PAUL L'HEUREUX**

stepped up and made such an impact on their community and the veterans they serve. The success stories keep coming in and many are hard to believe. Some of our smallest posts have done some spectacular things to support the small towns that they are a big part of but never realized it until Covid-19. The biggest comments have been those who have contacted me to share what has been happening. The stories of the "curbside pickup" for meals continue to show unbelievable results for so many who never thought it would succeed. The latest has been the donations from people in the communities during these events. Checks are being donated during these meals to support the hard working Legionnaires who know it's about providing some normalcy during these times. Most of these donations have been \$300 to \$500 dollars, but now we have other posts reporting \$1000, \$1500 and the biggest of all, \$5000! These unknown people in the community want to see people getting out and talking and being safe while still feeling proud of their local post making a difference. They need a hub to make this happen and it has been the local American Legion posts. These posts will survive after all is said and done because people will not forget what these veterans

have done for their communities.

So I share this with all of you because there are posts who are currently doing nothing and complaining how they just can't survive and how people don't care. You are truly incorrect in your thinking about how the people of Maine care and value their community members. You are also not looking at your American Legion history and how the founding fathers started this great organization during a global pandemic in 1918. As our National Commander said in one of his articles, "There is strong evidence that the American Legion was not organized in spite of these hardships but because of them." There are those who look for every excuse to not open their post, yet they still meet for coffee at an unknown place. Why not open your Legion post up for coffee and a chance to gather while still following all the CDC guidelines? The protocols set out by health officials at the CDC are not difficult to follow, and Department can provide guidance as needed. Results from an American Legion Covid-19 survey indicated that over 40% of the veterans believed that communications with friends and family was the most important factor in their emotional well-being. And if you wonder, stop by the office and take some of the phone calls we are currently receiving. The ones I enjoy are coming from the leadership of posts telling me they are closing and probably will not open again. At the same time they keep me on the phone for over a half hour because they are bored and have no one to talk to! Really?! Why not open up for one day a week for coffee and connection? Try it, you might be surprised! By the way, I also receive calls from the American Legion Auxiliary Units

[More on "ADJUTANT SPEAKS" Page 11](#)



**Virtual Department Officer's Meeting: American Legion Department of Maine Officers conducting business "virtually" on Jan. 30. The meeting ran from 0900 to completion at the State HQ training facility in Winslow. Several topics were discussed including membership, Dirigo Boys State, Legion Baseball and various other Legion programs. Top, left to right, Department Officers, 1st Vice Commander Debra Couture, Chaplain Ethan McKenney, and Adjutant Paul L'Heureux. Bottom left, to right, National Executive Committeeman Lloyd Woods, and Assistant Department Service Officer Maureen Malley.**





**S**ubscribe To Our Emails and receive instant email updates including our bi-weekly newsletter "The Lead-

ership Ledger" and The Maine Legionnaire newspaper by visiting <https://form.jotform.com/RachaelJ/maine-al-email-subscription-form>

## Legion Posts Affected by COVID can Apply for \$1,000 Grant

**P**ublic health mandates in response to the coronavirus included stay-at-home orders and business closures. Those mandates financially impacted American Legion posts nationwide as member and community outreach efforts were limited, resulting in a loss of revenue.

To provide some relief during these challenging times, financial grants are now available for eligible American Legion posts.

Resolution No. 36, Mission Blue Post Assistance Program, will provide \$1,000 grants to posts that are in good standing with their respective department. These funds must be used exclusively to pay current or past due rent, mortgage, utilities and insurance.

The American Legion National Executive Committee approved Resolution No. 36 Oct. 14, during its annual Fall Meetings. Funds for the approved grants will be provided through The American Legion National Emergency Fund (NEF).

Eligibility for a Mission Blue Post Assistance Program grant requires posts to have:

1. A Consolidated Post Report on file.
2. Filed an IRS 990 within the pre-

scribed due date.

3. Filed all other required forms and reports as prescribed by the department.

4. Actively participated in one or more American Legion programs in the last 18 months.

5. A financial need.

6. A certificate of insurance naming The American Legion doing business as American Legion National Headquarters as an additional insured.

7. Documentation indicating that the post is properly incorporated.

The Mission Blue Post Assistance Program grant application is available online at [https://www.legion.org/documents/pdf/Mission\\_Blue\\_PAP\\_Application\\_1.pdf](https://www.legion.org/documents/pdf/Mission_Blue_PAP_Application_1.pdf)

American Legion posts applying for a grant will be required to first submit the completed application to their respective department for approval before it can be sent to National Headquarters. This application procedure is the same as the NEF.

American Legion posts have until Dec. 31, 2021, to apply for a Mission Blue PAP grant.

The American Legion | Oct. 29, 2020  
<https://www.legion.org/financialassistance/250756/legion-posts-affected-covid-can-apply-1000-grant>

## Scholarships Available

**A**pplications are now available for the Department of Maine Children and Youth Scholarships, the Daniel E. Lambert Memorial Scholarship, and the James V. Day Scholarship. Any Post, individual or school

who would like to receive a copy may obtain one by going online to [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org) located under Forms/Applications, or by contacting us via email at [legionme@mainelegion.org](mailto:legionme@mainelegion.org) or Tel. at 207-873-3229.

## ■ "SECOND" LOOK (Continued from Page 2)

Department by July 1st. The District Officers Form is to be filled out by the District Adjutant and submitted even if there are no changes from previous year. This form is also due to Department by July 1st. The last two report forms can be found on the Department's website at [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org) under FORMS/APPLICATIONS. Remember, all of the above mentioned reports need to be submitted each year even if there are no changes. We do not want a repeat of last year where Department Officers were calling Posts to remind them of these four reports. These reports are important. The information contained in these reports goes into updating the Department Directory and [mylegion.org](http://mylegion.org)

Another reason to have submitted these reports in 2020 is a requirement for the 'Mission Blue Post Assistance Grant Program (PAP)' from National. The PAP grant is intended to assist Posts whose revenue has been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 health crisis. This form can be found on the Department's website. Funds received from this grant are to be used exclusively to meet financial responsibilities as-

sociated with maintaining Post facilities and community presence. Posts that meet the required criteria may receive up to \$1,000. I encourage every Post to submit this application. The worst that could happen is you do not qualify. To find out if your Post has submitted the required reports go to the Leadership Ledger, scroll down until you find Report/Form Submissions, click on that and the report will appear. This is in Post number order.

With COVID-19 we find ourselves staying closer to home more. Well now is the time for each American Legion member to brush up on the history of the American Legion. How you ask? Go to National's website [legion.org/alei](http://legion.org/alei) which is the Basic Training; learn about The American Legion in this self-paced online course or you could always dust off the Officers Manual and read it. This is a great reference manual that most officers refer back to time and time again. You would be surprised at what you will learn. The [mainelegion.org](http://mainelegion.org) and [legion.org](http://legion.org) websites are a great source of information and knowledge at our fingertips. Take a look; you will appreciate what you find.

In closing, I hope we are able to gather soon, but until then please be safe and healthy.

## ■ "NEC UPDATE" (Continued from Page 3)

Finally, currently the DOL's Bureau of Labor Statistics does not keep track of unemployment data for U.S. territories in the same manner that it does for the 50 states and the District of Columbia. As Resolution 13: Tracking of Veteran Unemployment in All U.S. Territories, The American Legion supports any legislation requiring the DOL's Bureau of Labor statistics to collect and publish data on veterans' unemployment rate regarding U.S. Territories in the same manner as those within federal agencies.

In the past, The American Legion has conducted our legislative priorities and delivered them to the Hill and our Senators and Representatives thru conducting the Washington Conference along with the

National Commander's address to congress in person. Due to the pandemic and what is going on in D.C., this year the conference will be conducted virtually and the Commander's address will not have any audience present. Those members of the Department of Maine who are assigned to the Legislative Committee and assigned to the two Senators and two Representatives should be aware of the schedule that will be published covering the conference.

As in the past, I would like to thank all of you for your service to our country and our great organization for what you have done and what you will do in the future. If I can be of any assistance please do not hesitate to send me an email at [llolin@ainop.com](mailto:llolin@ainop.com) or give me a call at 207-557-4971.





## President's Message

Howdy Team Maine,

It's January while writing this, when the world was quieter, I always got excited about



**PRESIDENT VIRGINIA CHAPUT**

January. Knowing that we would all be getting together for Mid-Winter Conference soon, it was something I looked forward to and hope to again, perhaps next year. The Holidays have passed, and a new year begins, carrying on with all our Legion Family does for our Veterans, their Families and Communities. Most have managed to find new ways to help or adapted the things they have done in the past to be able to continue filling that need.

I have been thinking of you all and I have a question: what are you doing to take care of you, so you

can continue helping others? Are you paying attention to your body, your heart and mind, being sure to heed the signs that they are sending to show you too have needs? Please take care of you, maybe call a friend to check in and talk, or arrange to have coffee (safely of course). Take time to read a good (uplifting) book, work on a craft or a hobby you have.

Maybe you feel you are doing fine, but you might be close to someone who is acting differently, behaving unusually, and it's worrying you. Try some of the above tips, or suggest them to your person.

If you are anything like me, I find that when helping or reaching out to another, I get back something that I had no idea I needed.

It has been a very mentally stressful year for most, myself included. Let's be sure to take care of ourselves and each other, so we will be well to meet again when it is safe to do so.

Until next time, be well, stay safe, Team Maine.

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



## 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 thousands of 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>

## AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY TAKE NOTICE!

Maine 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.

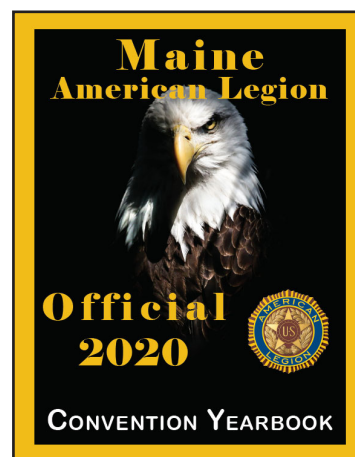
To donate or sponsor ad space in the 2021 Convention Yearbook in support of Maine Veterans, visit [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org) and click on the image of the

Maine American Legion Convention Yearbook Sponsorship Request Form or download a copy by clicking on the Convention Yearbook Sponsorship Request Form - Fillable and follow specifications & submission instructions. For questions or assistance in submitting your ad, please call Department HQ at 207-873-3229 Ext. 2.

Check out the Digital Version of the Maine American Legion 2020 Convention Yearbook by visiting [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org)

Deadline to be part of this year's Annual Convention Yearbook is May 7, 2021.

Lots of new information including hyperlinked business ads to websites, photos, Legion programs & more!



**The American Legion Membership Application**

LEGION ACT

(Name) \_\_\_\_\_ (Date of Birth) \_\_\_\_\_

(Mailing Address) \_\_\_\_\_ (Phone Number) \_\_\_\_\_

(City) \_\_\_\_\_ (State) \_\_\_\_\_ (Zip) \_\_\_\_\_ (Post #) \_\_\_\_\_

(E-mail) \_\_\_\_\_  Male  Female (Gender)

I certify that I served at least one day of active military duty since December 7, 1941 and was honorably discharged or am still serving honorably.

**Please check appropriate service era and branch of service below**

<input type="checkbox"/> Global War on Terror	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Army
<input type="checkbox"/> Gulf War	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Navy
<input type="checkbox"/> Panama	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Air Force
<input type="checkbox"/> Lebanon/Grenada	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Marines
<input type="checkbox"/> Vietnam	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Coast Guard
<input type="checkbox"/> Korea	<input type="checkbox"/> Merchant Marines (WWII only)
<input type="checkbox"/> WWII	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Conflicts	

Signature of applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Name of recruiter \_\_\_\_\_

30-009

**Receipt of Dues**  
(Please Print)

From \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ for 20 \_\_\_\_\_ Post # \_\_\_\_\_

Recruiter's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Recruiter's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Recruiter's Phone # \_\_\_\_\_





## Expanding Access to Care for Veterans with Early-Stage Dementia

Maine is home to more than 114,000 veterans and has one of the highest percentages of veterans in the nation. We are proud of our State's contributions to protecting our country, and we lead the way in caring for our veterans.

In 1866, our nation's very first National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers at Togus was opened, the precursor to Togus VA Medical Center. In 1987, our nation's very first Community-Based Outpatient Clinic opened in my hometown of Caribou, pioneering care that now enables America's more than five million rural veterans to receive medical services close to home.

For more than 40 years, Maine Veterans' Homes has been a vital part of our State's commitment to our heroes. My father, Donald Collins, a decorated World War II veteran, was cared for by the Veterans' Home in



SENATOR  
SUSAN COLLINS

In the land of the free, Maine Veterans' Homes help ensure that there will always be a home for the brave when they need care.

Our nation owes America's veterans our deepest gratitude. We must honor our commitment to veterans by continuing to support their needs, including the needs of veterans who are living with early-stage dementia.

Caribou at the end of his life, so I know first-hand the compassion and care that Maine Veterans' Homes provide.

In the land of the free, Maine Veterans' Homes help ensure that there will always be a home for the brave when they need care.

Our nation owes America's veterans our deepest gratitude. We must honor our commitment to veterans by continuing to support their needs, including the needs of veterans who are living with early-stage dementia.

As a Senator representing the oldest state by median age in the country, I have championed policies to help individuals living with dementia as well as to support America's hidden heroes, our military and veteran caregivers. I founded the Senate Alzheimer's Task Force in recognition of the devastating impact this disease has on individuals and families.

Maine Veterans Homes cared for veterans with early-stage dementia daily for almost two decades until newly enforced Department of Veterans Affairs eligibility requirements limited access for many of these veterans. While the VA grandfathered many veterans already admitted to Maine Veterans' Homes, dozens of veterans were denied eligibility last year.

I championed important legislation to fix this issue along with my Maine colleagues – Senator Angus King, Congresswoman Chellie

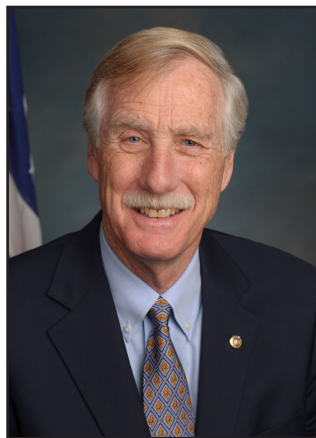
Pingree, and Congressman Jared Golden. Our bill, the State Veterans Homes Domiciliary Care Flexibility Act, passed both the Senate and the House of Representatives with unanimous votes and was signed into law.

Our legislation provides the VA with additional flexibility to allow veterans with early-stage dementia to receive domiciliary care. It will help ensure that this vulnerable group of veterans do not fall through the cracks and that VA can help address the growing needs for assistance for these patients.

Maine also has a proud record of caring for our veterans, who have sacrificed so much for our country. We must ensure they receive the best care possible. The State Veterans Homes Domiciliary Care Flexibility Act is an important step toward meeting that obligation.

## NDAA Wins Will Support Maine Veterans

2020 was a difficult year for people in Maine and across the country. As we look forward to the year ahead, there is much work Congress and the American people must do to ensure the health and safety of our friends and neighbors, and help build back our jobs and economy. For our veteran community, we must commit to ensuring comprehensive vaccination programs, sup-



SENATOR  
ANGUS KING

porting veteran-owned businesses, and expanding VA programs that have proven integral to combating the coronavirus pandemic.

That is why I was pleased to support the passage of the Fiscal Year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act at the beginning of January. Not only does the legislation secure important national security priorities and bolster Maine's industrial base, it also improves veteran care and increases support for military families.

Of note, the NDAA expanded the list of presumption of service-connected diseases to include bladder cancer, hypothyroidism and Parkinsonism for Vietnam-era veterans exposed to Agent Orange. Now Vietnam veterans suffering from these diseases can access the medical care and benefits they have

earned. The legislation also expands the VA's telehealth capabilities, building on work done during the coronavirus pandemic to improve access to care for veterans. This expansion can be particularly helpful for older veterans and for those who live in rural areas. I plan to closely track its implementation so Maine veterans can stay connected to their healthcare providers and receive timely, high-quality care.

Supporting military families also remains a priority for me, and the NDAA brought home some important wins for our service members, their spouses, and children. This year, service members will see a three percent raise in their basic pay, and a ten percent increase in Hazardous Duty Pay. The legislation also authorizes the Secretary of Defense

to furnish childcare to each child of a member of the Armed Forces or civilian employee while that member or employee works on rotating shifts at a military installation. I was also proud to lead a provision that provides National Park Passes available to Gold Star Families at no cost to the family. Gold Star Families have made unimaginable sacrifices for our country, and they deserve to see the natural wonders our nation has to offer free of charge.

In the weeks and months ahead, there remains much for us to do. As the new Congress and Administration begin work, please don't hesitate to reach out to my office to share your thoughts and your priorities on how to support our veterans, the state of Maine, and people across the country.



## More Good News for Maine Vets

For years, Maine vets who have early-stage dementia have received affordable residential care at Maine Veterans Homes (MVH) thanks to reimbursements the facility gets from the VA. But just recently, the VA began enforcing old rules that cut many of the veterans off from receiving these benefits, and would make residential care too expensive for many Maine vets.

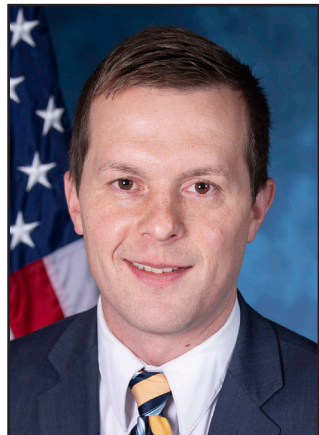
Putting care for these veterans at risk is unacceptable. Fortunately, I worked together with the Maine delegation and the staff at MVH to introduce and pass the State Veterans Homes Domiciliary Care Flexibility Act. Earlier this year, the bill was signed into

law. The new law reinstates these homes' flexibility to care for dementia patients and helps ensure veterans can afford it. Now, Maine vets with early onset dementia and their families don't have to worry about the VA suddenly making their care more expensive, and Maine Veterans Home can continue to provide high-quality residential care to our nation's bravest men and women.

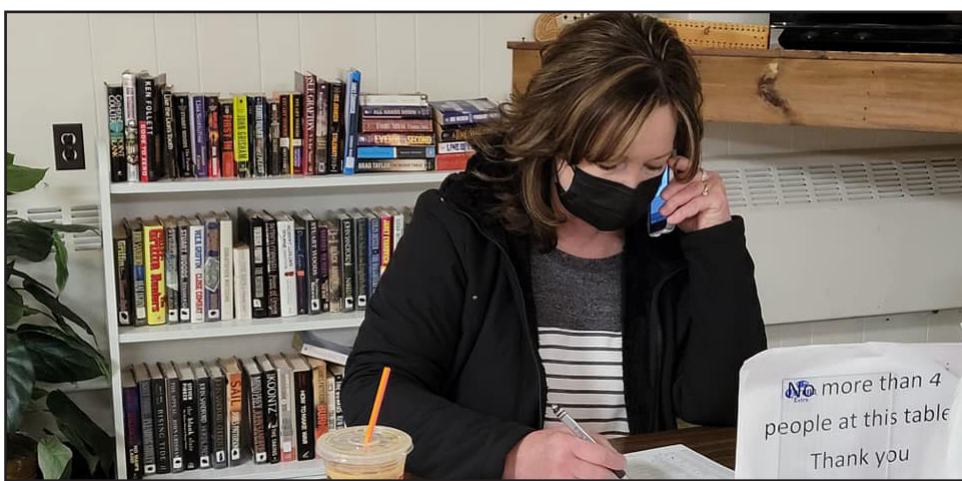
It's infuriating when bureaucratic red tape gets between a veteran who honorably served their country and the care they deserve. Fixing this problem is just one way to show appreciation for the courage and sacrifice of our veterans, and ensure that they aren't being left out in the cold because of administrative changes at the VA.

This is just one issue I'm working on for Maine vets. If you have other questions about VA benefits, need help accessing your benefits, or have suggestions for me and my team, please reach out. We want to know how we can help you and your family.

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



CONGRESSMAN  
JARED GOLDEN



**"Buddy Check" Continues At Rumford Post 24:** Rumford Post 24 Finance Officer and Department Sgt-at-Arms Patricia "Tricia" Thurston reaches out to members of Post 24 to see how they are doing during a "Buddy Check" held at the Post home Dec. 13.

## FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act

As you are all aware by now, the House passed the FY 2021 National Defense Authorization Act on December 8, 2020. Though it was vetoed by President Trump, the House and the Senate came together and overrode the veto, ensuring this important bipartisan bill became law. The annual NDAA is a true compromise bill, and it isn't perfect, but this year it includes several priorities that will benefit our state and nation. In Maine, passage of the NDAA authorizes the shipbuilding work at BIW and ensures our naval fleet is strong. The final legislation included support for survivors of military sexual trauma, and Agent Orange benefits for veterans.

The final NDAA provides long-overdue benefits for veterans exposed to Agent Orange. It requires the VA to make a presumption of service connection for exposure to Agent Orange for veterans who were later diagnosed with bladder cancer, Parkinsonism or hypothyroidism. I heard from many of you in support of this change, and I'm pleased Congress responded to the Legion's advocacy to ensure this provision was included in the final law.

I also celebrated the enactment of another Legion priority, the Deborah Sampson Act, which creates an Office of Women's Health within the Veterans Health Administration to oversee women's health programs and mandates that every VA health-care facility has a women's health primary care provider, among other provisions to help women veterans.

This important bill was included within a comprehensive veterans' bill, called the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvements Act,



CONGRESSWOMAN  
CHELLIE PINGREE

which also included portions of my bill, the Servicemembers and Veterans Empowerment and Support Act. The VA is now required to establish specialized teams to process claims for compensation for a covered mental health condition based on military sexual trauma, and must also make an annual report to Congress on military sexual trauma claims. I still believe we need better leadership on the issue of military sexual trauma at the VA, and I join you in condemning Secretary Wilkie's retaliation against a veteran who claims she was sexually assaulted at a VA facility.

The FY2021 NDAA also authorizes a 3.0 percent increase in basic pay for service members, ensures parental leave for federal employees, strengthens equal employment opportunity protections for federal employees, provides child care for military families and DOD employees, and gives Gold Star Families National Parks passes. These are important provisions that will make a huge impact for military families in Maine and across the country. I'm proud that Congress was able to ensure we enacted this piece of essential legislation, and I'm glad to have heard often from my constituents and members of the Legion along the way. Thanks, and keep in touch.

## Buddy Checks to Help with Well-Being



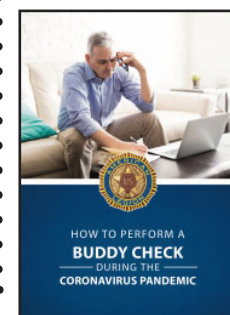
This version of The American Legion Buddy Check toolkit emphasizes the importance of recognizing mental health and well-being

concerns among veterans. Organizational guidance, agency support resources and draft scripts are provided for Buddy Check teams.

Download for free by visiting <https://www.legion.org/publications/250885/buddy-check-well-being-toolkit>

---www.legion.org/publications

## How to Perform a Buddy Check During the Coronavirus Pandemic



Provides guidance and scripts for American Legion Buddy Check teams to use when calling on veterans who may

need help specific to the pandemic, such as food, medicine or just a friendly voice on the line to help them get through the isolation.

Download for free by visiting <https://www.legion.org/publications/248650/buddy-check-coronavirus-pandemic-assistance>

---www.legion.org/publications



## Historian's Bunker

Department of Maine Writing Contest Changes are coming.

In the last issue of The Maine Legionnaire, I wrote that I had set three goals for myself

in 2021. With the support and guidance of Department of Maine Adjutant, Paul L'Heureux, the first of these is to update the current Department writing contest guidelines. These guidelines will be more comprehensive while providing the Post Historians/authors the tools to create a better contest submission.

You possibly read in the last issue of The Maine Legionnaire of the progress that has been made in judging the three writing contests. After the first submission of our updated guidelines to Adjutant L'Heureux, we took a break. In the early fall we began to work on the guidelines again. Through teleconference calls, and lots of emailing back and forth, I believe we have put together a good set of guidelines.

Why do I say "set of guidelines?" Through hard work, a new committee to oversee the writing contests has been established. On behalf of David Tanguay and Jeffrey Sukeforth, I am proud to announce the formation of the Media and Communications Committee (MCC). Just before the holidays, Adjutant L'Heureux let us know that he thought we had established the groundwork for a working committee. The next step is to have it approved at the next Department



**GEORGE  
ROBINSON JR**

Executive Committee meeting.

We have written guidelines for the Operating Procedures for the MCC. Within these procedures several appendixes have been included, three of which guidelines for the Post Narrative History, Post Yearbook History, and Newsletter contests. National and Department of Maine writing guidelines are the foundation of the guidelines, which will now be more descriptive. This will allow the Historian/author to have a better grasp of what the judges will be looking for, as they score the contests beginning in 2021.

The new guidelines will be effective upon the approval of the MCC by the Department Executive Committee. However, they will not be implemented until the 2022 contest year. For the 2021 contest year, just as it states in the current guidelines, it will be suggested to follow the new guidelines, as authors did for the 2020 contest year. The 2020 winners in all three categories have not been announced yet, due to the Covid-19 situation, but they should be announced soon.

At this point you might be wondering how winners will be determined. Hopefully, it will be simple, but if not, we will strive to make it as simple as possible. Each contest will be judged in a three-step process. To an extent, this process was utilized when we judged the 2020 submissions. All posts will be in a category matching their membership size. The following post categories have been established.

Category 1	1-50 members
Category 2	51 – 100 members
Category 3	101 – 200 members
Category 4	200 + members
Category 5	District submissions (Newsletter only)

The following steps will be used to determine the Department of Maine winner. The winner will be submitted

to the appropriate National contest.

Step 1: All submissions will be placed into the appropriate category and then judged by the MCC to determine a winner for each category. Judges' bonus points, up to ten, will be used in this step. Not all ten are required to be awarded.

Step 2: For the Post Narrative History and Post Yearbook History all four category winners will be judged again to determine the winner. Judges will be more critical and bonus points will not be given.

Step 3: The winners for the two history contests will be submitted to the American Legion National Headquarters for consideration in the National contest.

The judging for the Department of Maine Newsletter Contest will also be a three-step process for five category areas. The first four categories will remain the same, but a fifth category is added for Districts that submit a newsletter. The following steps will be used.

Step 1: All submissions will be placed into the appropriate category and then judged by the MCC to determine a winner for each category. Judges' bonus points, up to ten, will be used in this step. Not all ten are required to be awarded.

Step 2: All five category winners will be judged again to determine the winner. Judges will be more critical and bonus points will not be given.

Step 3: The winner for the Newsletter contest will be selected from the winner of each category. At this time there is not a National Contest for Newsletters.

Right about now, you may be thinking, "That is a lot of work for just three winners to be recognized." Well, that will not be the case. Since I have been the Historian for the Wil-

liams-Brazier Post 37, in Thomaston, I have spoken to several people about the awards for the writing contests. Almost all stated that there was not enough recognition for the historian/authors. When talk of the formation of the MCC began, this was one of the areas that came up almost immediately. Steps were taken immediately to increase the number of awardees for each contest. In addition to certificates, plaques or other awards may be presented. The following is what will be recognized for each contest.

Step 1: Awards will be presented for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places. In addition, at the discretion of the judges, Honorable Mention certificates may be awarded.

Step 2: Awards will be presented for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places. In addition, at the discretion of the judges, Honorable Mention certificates can be awarded.

Step 3: The two winners for the Post History contests will receive the appropriate Department of Maine recognition.

Areas of consideration for additional contests may begin to be discussed by the MCC almost immediately. We are considering expansion at the Department of Maine level, the writing contests to tri-fold brochures, poster/fliers, and submissions to The Maine Legionnaire or local newspapers/magazines. In addition, we are looking at creating guidelines for Facebook and Website creations by a post.

So, if your post has not done so yet, I urge all historians/authors to think about submitting some from your post. Who knows, you could be the next submission to the American Legion National History Contests. "History is being made every day. Don't let it pass you by."

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



To Donate, visit <http://www.mainelegion.org/pages/foundation.php> and select the DONATE TODAY! button, or simply click the image to the left if using the digital version of The Maine Legionnaire. 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!**

*The 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-deductible under the United States Tax Code and Internal Revenue Service.*





# THE BASEBALL BEAT COLUMN



## Interview by Dan Warren with John Dowd

By DAN WARREN

Special to The Maine Legionnaire

(Dan Warren was General Manager of the Libby-Mitchell American Legion Post 76 baseball team in Scarborough from 1999 to 2016. John Dowd, well known to U.S. baseball fans for his role in the Pete Rose gambling investigation, did two fundraisers for Scarborough Legion and youth baseball in 1999 and 2000.)

Q1. About 30 years ago, you led the Major League Baseball investigation that resulted in Pete Rose being banned from baseball. Ten years after that, you were nice enough to come to Scarborough and host a fundraiser that allowed us to establish an SHS freshman baseball team. How did you get involved in the Pete Rose matter?

A. I was hired by MLB Commissioner Bart Giamatti in 1989 to conduct an investigation to determine if Rose bet on baseball games, including the games of the Cincinnati Reds that he participated in;

Q2. Bart Giamatti's brother, Dino, ran a lovely oceanfront hotel in Scarborough for years, The Atlantic House. He was on our American Legion baseball board of advisers, and he asked you if you would come to Scarborough to host the SHS freshman baseball event. With your busy nationwide schedule, why did you agree to come up and contribute your time and financial resources?

A. Because I love the game, and Dino's brother, Bart;

Q3. A year after that, 2000, somebody suggested we ask you to come up again, this time to raise money so we could change of the Libby-Mitchell Post 76 baseball team, from the name of its then-current commercial sponsor, to the name of the Post. Ken Dolloff, a D-Day veteran, asked, "Why would Mr. Dowd take his time to help out a bunch of old men, and some ballplayers, in Scarborough, Maine?" What is the answer?

A. Baseball is a great cause. The American Legion provides a special bond for our veterans.



DAN WARREN

strated beyond any doubt that Rose bet on the games of the Reds while he was a player and a manager. This was in violation of MLB Rule 21;

Q5. How did you know Commissioner Giamatti?

A. I was introduced by Fay Vincent (who succeeded Giamatti as Commissioner a few months after the Rose suspension when Bart died unexpectedly). Vincent was an old friend of Bart's;

Q6. Pete Rose has millions of fans. He has records celebrated in Cooperstown. Did you take some heat for your role in his ban from the game?

A. The heat was generated by the sports media. I received no hate mail or calls. Baseball fans were remarkably supportive because they love the game;

Q7. In addition to baseball, you have also had substantial careers in law and politics. Let's start with law. Your latest high-profile client was President Trump.

A. For 50 years, I have tried administrative, courts-martial, civil and criminal cases in federal and state courts throughout the country. I conducted many public investiga-

Q4. Back to Pete Rose. Your investigation caused the Commissioner to ban Rose for life. Why?

A. The evidence demonstrated beyond any doubt that Rose bet on the games of the Reds while he was a player and a manager. This was in violation of MLB Rule 21;

Q8. Who are your most memorable individual clients?

A. In addition to the President of the United States, I also represented the Governor of Arizona, and did pro bono work for many wounded Marines, Sailors, Soldiers, and their families to secure benefits and proper treatment;

Q9. And I understand there was a pretty significant ballplayer in your clientele.

A. I represented Ted Williams. My earliest baseball memory was going to Fenway Park with my older sister and sitting in the left field bleachers, watching Ted play;

Q10. You have been financially generous to various baseball causes, and to law clients who could not afford legal representation. Have you taken your political interests to the same level as your baseball and legal activities?

A. I have been a contributor;

Q11. Back to Pete Rose and baseball. Dino says his late brother always called you simply- "Dowd." What did Commissioner Giamatti mean to you?

A. He was a hero, and dear friend. We had a remarkable friendship and rapport. None better!

Q12. Dino Giamatti always says: "If Bart had lived, he was going to try to" bring Pete Rose to Jesus," get

him to rehab himself, and apply for reinstatement. Your thoughts?

A. It is a lost cause. WE tried. The last time Commissioner Manfred gave Pete a hearing, Pete lied twice to the Commissioner about his continued betting on baseball;

Q13. His fans say he later "clarified" his remarks?

A. In our interview, Rose initially denied betting on baseball currently, and only later in the interview did he 'clarify' his response and admit such betting. Gambling will ruin the game at certain levels;

Q14. Should Pete Rose be reinstated to MLB?

A. Never!

Q15. Should Pete Rose be in Cooperstown?

A. No, although his on-field accomplishments as a player are recognized as part of The Big Red Machine;

Q16. There is much talk about baseball dying. Your thoughts?

A. Baseball exists in the marrow of the American people. I was honored to witness that relationship thrive;

Q17. Theo Epstein is heading a movement to make the game more popular with kids. Your thoughts?

A. Good on him. But it won't happen until humility and class are restored in the players;

Q18. Let's end with your personal bio.

A. I have been married for 55 years, five children, 12 grandchildren;

Q19. You live on Cape Cod. You are known for your opposition to sharks killing humans there.

A. The out-of-control seal population has attracted the great white sharks for feeding;

Q20. Any New Year's Resolutions?

A. None. Just try to be a good husband and father every day.



John Dowd





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

from these posts asking me if I can help get these posts open because they want to do something for the veterans. Imagine that—they want to do something for the veterans in their community and they are willing to help make sure all the guidelines are followed. Even the Sons of The American Legion have stepped in to help many posts with “curbside” deliveries. Many of them have also stepped up to do some post home maintenance that was long overdue. Talk about team work!

The latest event that finished me off was a recent newspaper article dedicated to a certain area of the state talking about the dwindling numbers of members. I want everyone to imagine that they are a younger veteran reading this article. With that negative description of the membership of our organization, would you join? And which post? The next thing, what does your post have to offer? I didn’t see much written about any of that. The first post who was interviewed never mentioned that they have one of their younger members that sits on The American Legion National Legislative Committee in Washington DC and is called in to testify every year on the latest issues affecting veterans—not only in Maine but in the United States. And by the way he is still serving in our military. He also is one of the primary instructors in The Maine American Legion Boys State program held every year. He helps steer our youth and is there to assist veterans coming out of their small American Legion post. That same

post had the honor of the leadership of an individual who headed one of the greatest youth programs in our country: American Legion Baseball. You might have my attention if I had known about this. One individual in the interview had the best idea when he said “there’s got to be a cause for people to join The American Legion” there has to be a purpose. If you want someone to be a member, you need a reason for them to get involved. Well sir, you are absolutely correct and we have many posts currently being run by younger veterans because the door was open for change and new ideas. This comment about a purpose to join came from a member whose post even holds meetings but no “curbside” dinners offered. Another post in the area that has an idea about rebuilding in one breath, but has decided to remain closed. It has a facility that many can only dream about. In the meantime, no public takeout for the large area it represents. Now, one of the posts in the area not mentioned has strong leadership, is open and has curbside takeout, has most of their budget in control for months ahead and still sponsors local veterans assistance as well as other community support. The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary and The Sons of The American Legion are all on board. It worked so well that the local Fire Dept. came down to the Post and cooked for the Legion one night. Now that’s community involvement. Another post mentioned does well by advertising assistance to help navigate the VA system. That’s a service that would be an eye catcher for a younger member. Now they are considering using “Zoom” to hold a meeting.

They also mentioned the “Buddy Check” “which is another eye opener for younger members because it shows that no one is left behind. There was another post that usually sends at least 15 young adults to Boys State or Girls State every year. Nothing mentioned about that great youth program. It would catch the eye of a younger member not to mention what a great job that comes out of that post in a small community.

So I think you get the idea. There were a few other posts as well with some great leadership and community ideas but no positive remarks that would catch the eye of new members. So, if you were a potential member, whether younger or not, what would be your thoughts?

I would say to those posts mentioned in the article, you all had the opportunity to sell your product (membership and engagement in the American Legion) and for the most part you did not. You had the attention of the local newspapers and 4 reporters and did not even explain your product. Here is a quick list of a few things that come to mind:

- 1) GI bill (written by The American Legion) who hasn’t used that
- 2) No tax on income of military retirement (passed by The American Legion)
- 3) Two full time American Legion Service Officers at Togus (for all veterans)
- 4) New veteran’s financial assistance program.
- 5) Legislative Committee at the State & National Level
6. Youth programs, Legion Baseball, Oratorical, Boys State & Girls State
7. Community base activities.

8. Constant training of new leadership.

9. The youngest State Commander in the US in The American Legion is from Maine.

10. We also have more female veterans at the State level than most other states do.

Well, I think you get the idea that The American Legion has and will always have the vision to take care of Veterans, their families, National Security and a thing called Americanism. It is up to all of us to do as our prior leadership has done and that is to promote and actually be part of doing something. And if you feel that you should not, then please do not hold back those who really want to do something. Because in the end, you will not gain those that you want to join and not retain those that you will not let do something even as little as coffee day at the post.

In closing, to those who are currently reading this paper and have not paid your dues, remember that you also can make a difference by supporting your local post and State programs and help assisting veterans by just paying your dues knowing that we all make the team move forward together keeping focused on what we are really about. To those that are making something happen, thank you and please keep those stories coming as support to those that might need a little push to move forward. To all those who call the office, we are here to assist in anyway and will do our best using all the current information we have to make sure you succeed. We are stronger working together than to stand aside and wait for something to happen. Stay Focused and keep moving Forward.

## 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 sup-

port Legion programs in Maine!”

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

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



The logo for AmazonSmile, featuring the word “amazon” in black and “smile” in orange, with a curved orange arrow underneath the “a” in “amazon” pointing towards the “s” in “smile”.



## Service Office Update

Hello from the Service Office. All I can say is WOW 2020 flew by and I cannot believe that we are almost through January. I have some very good news that has gone under the radar. There have been three conditions that have been added to the presumptive condition list for Agent Orange exposure. They are Bladder Cancer, Hypothyroidism, and Parkinson's - like symptoms. The VA is still trying to figure out how they will process these new conditions. My advice to you is that if you have been denied for any of the three conditions, call the office and we will resubmit you for them.

Another topic I would like to address is the situation with Compensation and Pension exams. The VA is having issues with the contract examiner companies. I have several claims that have been pending for months due to lack of providers. I have some veterans that have decided to travel to New York City just to have an exam. I would not recommend you do this. Please contact our office if you have been waiting for months with no word from the VA. We can check on the process and give a nudge downstairs to try to speed up the process.

I have come across a few veterans within the last two weeks that believe that just because they served, they are entitled to compensation for any injury. The system does not work that way. The fact that you served means that you have the right to apply for service-connected compensation. You as a veteran still must meet the requirements under the law to be compensated. You must also attend a compensation and pension exam. If you meet the requirements you will be granted compensation. If you have questions or would like to submit a claim please



**SERVICE OFFICER  
CARL CURTIS**

call our office so we can assist you.

**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 You do not have to be a post service officer to attend training. You just have to care and want to make a difference.

**PSO Contact Information.**

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

**D S O**

**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

**Attention  
Post Service Officers**



**We Want You...**  
at our next Post Service Officer's Training Seminar

**For More Information  
or to Sign up  
Contact the Department Service Office  
at  
[carl.curtis2@va.gov](mailto:carl.curtis2@va.gov)  
or call: 207-623-5726  
To make a seminar reservation!**

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!**

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

**NEW WAYS TO APPLY FOR VA HEALTHCARE**

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

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

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

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

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

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



**“DSO UPDATE”**

(Continued from Page 12)

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 oth-

er 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.

**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 setup 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.

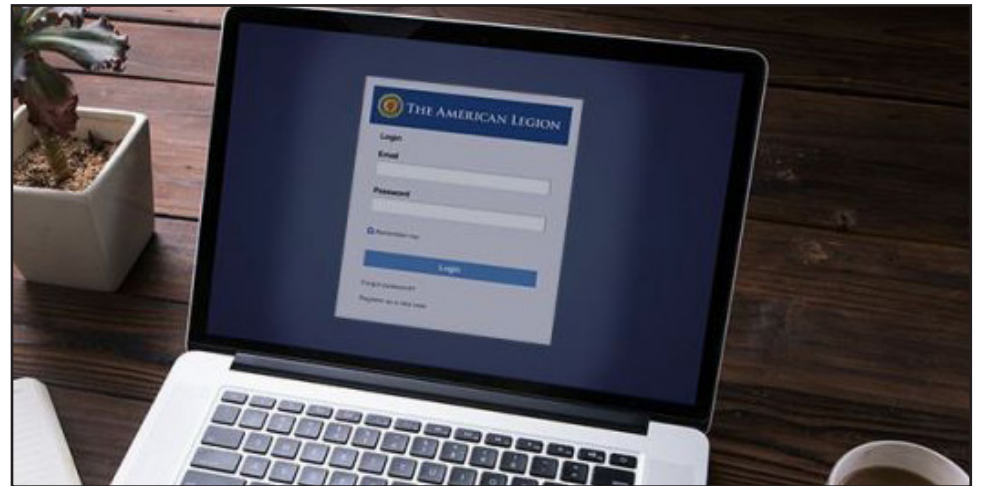
This change will not affect those who are enrolled in TRICARE For Life, TRICARE Prime, TRICARE Reserve Select, TRICARE Retired Reserve or TRICARE Young Adult. These beneficiaries do not need to take any action to keep their current coverage.

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/>



**Single Web Sign-on is Here**

Are you a registered user of national American Legion web resources, such as MyLegion.org, Baseball.legion.org, Legiontown.org or Legion.org? And are you tired of having to log in with your username and password each time you access the individual sites? Good news – a single sign-on is here!

To access the new single sign-on, you must re-register and set up a new password. And more importantly, confirm the response email.

You may have noticed that a new login screen became available Dec. 31 that requires you to re-register. Members and non-members will need to do this for a single sign-on and to continue accessing the valuable information and tools provided through the following American Legion web assets:

- MyLegion.org
- Legion.org
- Legiontown.org
- Centennial.legion.org
- Burnpit.us
- Baseball.legion.org

(Note: this requirement does not currently apply to registered users of the Emblem Sales website.)

This new single sign-on is Stage 1 of a multi-stage rollout that will allow The American Legion to provide a streamlined and better user experience within its web environment – and it begins with this initial step of re-registering. Thank you for taking this first step in a series of exciting American Legion web features that are to come on MyLegion.org and Legion.org.

How to begin the re-registration process:

1. Click the “Sign In” tab on any American Legion web property. You will be taken to the single sign-on site.
2. Click “Register as a new user.” Fill in the entire form using your best contact email address and member ID (if applicable). All information you provide is kept safe and secure.
3. Enter and confirm your new pass-

word of choice.  
4. Click “Finish” to receive your confirmation email.

5. Click the link to confirm your new account in the confirmation email sent (check your junk email inbox). The provided email will be from [sso@legion.org](mailto:sso@legion.org).

Your questions answered:  
Q: Why am I told my account no longer exists?

A: The new platform that The American Legion is moving to requires each user to have a unique email address as the username. This, in conjunction with a move from a vendor proprietary system, which required us to renew accounts for all American Legion web properties. Please note that all member information is still within MyLegion, securely and safely housed.

Q: Should I fill out the entire profile?

A: Yes you should. By filling out the entire profile, especially your member ID, continued access to member-only benefits is ensured.

Q: What if I haven’t received the confirmation email after registering?

A: Please attempt to log in. You will be taken to the Please Confirm page or click here to generate a new message for the email address used during registration. You may need to enter your email address manually if you go directly to the page.

Q: What should I do if I confirmed my account but am still having trouble logging in?

A: Please verify that your new password is correct.

Look for more updates as The American Legion National Headquarters improves the web-user’s experience in the months to come.

**IMPORTANT**  
To complete the registration process you must confirm the response email sent from [sso@legion.org](mailto:sso@legion.org).

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS CARD**

Membership Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Post No. \_\_\_\_\_

Member’s Name \_\_\_\_\_

Old Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street, Route or P.O. Box

Town/City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

New Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street, Route or P.O. Box

Town/City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Remarks \_\_\_\_\_

To update your address, complete all sections of the above form and mail to: The American Legion, Department of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0727.



# THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF MAINE OFFICIAL CALL FOR THE ONE HUNDRED AND SECOND ANNUAL COVENTION

In accordance with Article IV of the Constitution and By-laws of the Department of Maine, The American Legion, the one hundred and second Annual Convention is hereby called to convene at Brewer, Maine, June 11-13, 2021.

The first business session will be called to order at 12:00 p.m. Daylight Savings Time, on the afternoon of Friday, June 11, 2021, with the final business session scheduled for Saturday morning, June 12, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. All general business sessions of the convention will be held at Jeff's Catering & Event Center, Brewer, Maine.

### PURPOSE

The convention is called for the purpose of electing Department Officers for the ensuing year; to elect delegates and alternates to the 2021 National Convention to be held in Phoenix, Arizona; to receive reports of all Department Officers and standing committees; to consider the resolutions and actions of subordinate bodies and to transact any other business properly brought before the convention.

### REPRESENTATION

Each post is entitled to one delegate and one alternate, and one additional delegate and alternate for each one hundred members or fractional part thereof paid up to May 12, 2021. A post with less than 15 members is not entitled to any delegates. All department officers, district commanders, area commanders and Past Department Commanders, in good standing, shall be entitled to vote and have all the rights of delegates in the convention. These officers and Past Department Commanders are delegates-at-large and must not be named as post delegates.

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

### RULES OF ORDER

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

### MEETINGS

The Resolutions Committee shall hold a public hearing on all resolutions submitted in accordance with the Consti-

tution and By-laws at Jeff's Catering & Event Center on Friday, June 11, 2021, at 9 a.m. All delegates and alternates and members of The American Legion are invited to attend the session. Following this public hearing, the Committee on Resolutions will go into executive session to vote on resolutions to be brought before the body.

The Department Executive Committee will hold the first meeting at Jeff's Catering & Event Center on Sunday, June 13, 2021. All department officers, district commanders, area commanders and Past Department Commanders are requested to attend.

### CREDENTIALS

Each post will fill out the credential blank submitted by the Department Adjutant and return same to the Department Headquarters listing the delegates and alternates elected to represent the Post. All

delegates' registration must be prepaid.

All credentials must be verified by the Credentials Committee, which will be in session at Jeff's Catering & Event Center, Brewer, Maine, from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 12, 2021.

The Department Adjutant shall issue to each post, 30 days prior to convention, a statement of the number of 2021 membership cards, accompanied by state and national dues, received at Department Headquarters on May 12, 2021. Listed with the membership report will appear the number of delegates allowed each post.

Credential reports should be filed with the Department Adjutant as soon as possible to allow for inspection and checking, thus correcting any errors.

If there should be any changes in personnel on the list of delegates or alternates, corrections should be made with the Credentials Committee. Delegates must be registered with the convention in order to vote (1975 Convention Mandate). Registration fee of \$10 for each delegate and alternate may be

paid by sending a check made payable to The American Legion, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0727.

### NOMINATION AND ELECTIONS

At the first session of Department Convention on Friday, June 11, 2021, nominations shall be made for the offices of Department Commander; Department First Vice Commander; Department Second Vice Commander; Department Historian; Department Americanism Officer; Department Sergeant-at-Arms, National Executive Committeeman and National Executive Committeeman Alternate.

Nomination of officers shall be made by registered delegates elected to represent the posts of the Department or by delegates-at-large attending the convention. Nominating speeches are limited to three minutes. There will be no seconds to nominations authorized (DEC Mandate Jan. 20, 1991)

All candidates for elective department office must file with the Department Adjutant, prior to May 12, 2021, a letter of intent to seek office and furnish a copy of discharge papers, which makes them eligible for membership in The American Legion. The ballots for the Department Convention will be pre-printed indicating those candidates who have filed for office. Any candidate declaring after May 12, 2021 or nominated from the floor of the convention, will be a write-in candidate. Blank spaces will be left for write-in candidates. (DEC Mandate Jan. 27, 1985).

### VOTING

Delegates may get ballots from the Credentials Committee at Jeff's Catering & Event Center on Saturday, June 12, 2021. The Credentials Committee will be in session for two hours on Saturday morning, June 12, 2021, from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Each delegate will go to the convention hall during the hours specified and secure ballots. No ballots will be issued after 10 a.m. Delegates will cast ballots immediately. Delegate's card,

badge, convention registration and your 2021 membership card must be displayed during voting.

Ballot Boxes will close promptly at 10:15 a.m.

### UNIFORM OF THE DAY

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

### MEMORIAL SERVICE

The Department Chaplain of The American Legion will conduct a Memorial Service to be held just prior to conclusion to the Saturday session, June 12, 2021. Posts wishing to have deceased members included in the Post Everlasting Ceremony are requested to submit a list of the honored dead to Department Headquarters. Lists must include name of deceased comrades and conflict served. If your post files a Post Everlasting list for The Maine Legionnaire and said list is up to date, a second list is not necessary.

### LAW AND ORDER

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

### PRESS

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

### INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

A formal installation ceremony will be held Saturday, June 12, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. All department officers and district commanders will be sworn into office at that time and will automatically become members of the Department Executive Committee.

### RAFFLES OR SALES ITEMS

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

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

Official:

Paul L'Heureux, Department Adjutant  
Matthew Jabaut, Department Commander

**THE AMERICAN LEGION**

**102ND ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION**

**June 11-13, 2021**

**Jeff's Catering & Event Center, Brewer**

**PLAN NOW TO ATTEND!**



## Resolutions to be Presented by May 1

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

## Candidate Deadline: May 12

Anyone wishing to run for a Department Office must submit a letter of intent and a copy of his or her discharge papers making them eligible for The American Legion to the Department Adjutant's office on or before May 12, 2021 to be included on the official ballot at convention in June. If you wish to be included in The Maine Legionnaire, the above information, plus a photo of you must be at Department Headquarters by April 23, 2021. Also be advised that the Department Constitution and By-Laws state: All current and future Department Officers elected at the Annual State Convention will within forty-five (45) days following the conclusion of the annual Department Convention, take the "Basic Training Course" previously named the "American Legion Extension Institute Course" and successfully complete said course. Please visit <https://www.legion.org/alei> to complete the course. Previous graduates of the course upon providing confirmation would be exempted.

## Basic Training

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

## Humanitarian Sought

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

An American Legion Post must endorse applicants for the annual Humanitarian Award. Accomplishments of the individual must be over and above his or her usual vocation; in most cases his/her deeds would not be in their chosen field of endeavor; but consideration would be given to someone whose activities in their field of work was far in excess of what one would expect in that field. Applicants may be male or female, veteran or non-veteran, legionnaire or non-legionnaire. A majority vote of the Humanitarian Award Committee will be final. If an individual was previously submitted and not selected, please submit it again. We will consider anyone who has not received the award previously. Nominations should be received by May 1, 2021. Nomination forms can be obtained by contacting The American Legion, Department of Maine, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0727; Tel: (207) 873-3229; e-mail: [legionme@mainelegion.org](mailto:legionme@mainelegion.org) or on the web at [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org).

## Legionnaire of the Year Sought

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

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

Maybe your Post has previously sent a candidate for this award who was not chosen. Why not submit the name again? There are no rules stating how many times you can apply. Your candidate could be this year's winner. Remember, everything in life is a gamble. The deadline for applications is May 1, 2021. Applications can be obtained through Department Headquarters or on-line at [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org). Send completed applications to The American Legion, State Headquarters, Attention: Past Department Commanders Award Chairman, 5 Verti Drive, Winslow, Maine 04901-0727.

## Time To Do It! Pay Your Legion Dues Today!!!

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

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

If you do not have a membership card that reads "2021" then you are now a delinquent member. Your Post tries so hard to get your dues collected prior to Jan. 1, so that you do not lose any benefits of your membership, including insurance coverage.

If you don't have a "2021" card, please go online at <http://www.legion.org/renew> or contact your local post today and pay them so your membership in The American Legion remains continuous.

## Legion Seeks Eagle Scouts

The American Legion, Department of Maine is seeking nominations for the 2021 Eagle Scout of the Year. The state winner will receive a \$500 scholarship and is automatically entered in the national competition.

Scouts applying must be an Eagle Scout, who will be at least 15 years of age and enrolled in high school. Applicants must also be a registered, active member of a Boy Scout Troop, Varsity Scout Team, or Venturing Crew, chartered to an American Legion Post, Auxiliary Unit or SAL Squadron; or be the son or grandson of a Legion-



naire or Auxiliary member.

Applications are available by visiting [www.mainelegion.org](http://www.mainelegion.org) under Forms/Applications, or by calling The American Legion, Department of Maine at (207) 873-3229. Applications must be received at Department Headquarters by March 1, 2021. For further information, contact Headquarters. The national winner receives a \$10,000 scholarship. Three-second place scholarship awards of \$2,500 are also awarded at the national level. For more information please visit <https://www.legion.org/scholarships/eaglescout>.



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

### Berwick Civil War Medal of Honor Recipient Recognized

Over 125 years after receiving the Medal of Honor for bravery during the Civil War, Alphonso M. Lunt's heroism was publicly celebrated during the dedication of a memorial erected in his honor at Berwick's Veteran's Memorial Park.

Alphonso, who was born in Berwick, Maine September 6, 1837 was a Sergeant in the Union Army and a member of Company F, 38th Massachusetts Infantry during the American Civil War. He was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for his bravery during the first battle of Lexington at Opequan Creek, Virginia September 19, 1864 where at the age of 27, he "carried his flag to the most advanced position where left almost alone close to the enemy lines, he refused their demand to surrender, withdrew at great personal peril and saved his flag". It would be another 30 years before his medal was awarded on May 10, 1894.

Through the initiative, dedication and leadership of Eagle Scout Jarrett Richard of Berwick Troop 313, Sergeant Lunt's heroism is now "etched in stone" for all posterity! Jarrett, a member of NOBLE High School's Class of 2021, has been rising through the scout ranks for 11 years and tackled this initiative as his Eagle Scout project. Preceded by fundraising by Jarrett, his family and friends, the effort involved installing

lighting, a cement footer, and a granite stone to hold the plaque that bears the image of Alphonso M. Lunt, his medal, and details of his exploits on the battlefield. From start to finish, it took 53 hours and six workdays to complete this project, aided by fellow scouts and supported by the town of Berwick. The granite stone was donated by members of Charles S. Hatch Post 79 and the plaque, also a post donation, was made by Seacoast Printing of South Berwick, Maine.

Jarrett's one of a kind Eagle Scout project culminates many years of volunteerism and service to his school, town, and country. The men and women of Post 79 laud and salute Jarrett, one of several eagle scouts supported by this post over the years. Jarrett's civic contribution also serves as a reminder that it is never too late to ensure that the wartime honors and accomplishments of our nation's veterans are recognized, and that they receive the medals they have earned in time of war, thus ensuring life and liberty in America, land of the free because of their bravery!

Note: The unveiling ceremony was documented by the talented Berwick Community television team and is available via You Tube and/or the town of Berwick website.

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



**Eagle Scout Jarrett Richard and the new Alphonso M. Lunt Memorial.**

*Photo by Post 79 Historian Bob Place*

### Berwick Post Zooms into the New Year

Although 2020 presented innumerable challenges for all of us, as the year ended, the men and women of Charles S. Hatch Post 79 were able to deliver much needed assistance to veterans near and far. American Legion Riders Chapter 79 members delivered much needed food donations to the Thresher Memorial Food Pantry. Post members rallied to the cause and pitched in to help repair and winterize the home of a local veteran. Additionally, the Post donated \$630.00 to this veteran's family to assist with ongoing medical bills.

Post Chaplain Paul Lapierre spearheaded the Post's annual Christmas Card Project, sending 15 Christmas letters co-signed by our post commander to active-duty service members serving worldwide. As is the post tradition, checks (with thanks and a nod to Finance officer

Paul Haberzettl) were also included for nine of the Christmas card recipients (E6 or below) to bring them a bit of holiday cheer (\$450.00 in all).

Not to be outdone, the Post Honor Guard performed at 24 funerals and supported a total of 28 events in 2020. Under the leadership of Honor Guard Captain Forrest Davis, the honor guard members logged 336 hours of service and teamed with South Berwick's VFW Post 5744 to ensure that all veterans received their due honors.

As we start a new year, Commander Ouellette hosted the post's first ever virtual meeting via Zoom, which was a great success and for the foreseeable future, will likely be our preferred method of providing continued comradeship until it is safe to meet again in person.

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

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

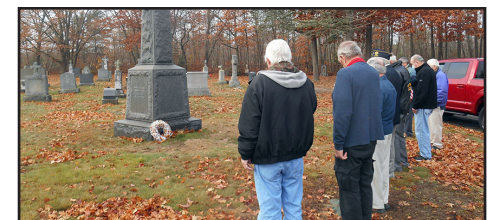
### Veterans Not Forgotten in Spite of Coronavirus

On Veterans' Day 2020 the coronavirus made it too dangerous to have a large crowd standing on Congress Street watching a parade in Portland. But the members of Harold T. Andrews, Post

17 would not let veterans be forgotten. At 8:00 a.m. ten members and two buglers set out to five places where they placed flags and a wreath, held a short ceremony, and the buglers played taps.



The members were Curtis Ballantine, Eugene Connolly, Bill Chittick, Mert Rutherford, Ernie Shorey, Jack Kuntz, Commander Paul Avery, Owen Woods, Bob Laliberte, and Thomas O'Connor. The buglers were members of Buglers Across America: Jennifer Curran, and her daughter, bugler in training Meghan Curran. Their first stop was at a Portland cemetery where Mert Rutherford placed a flag on Harold T. Andrews' grave and Jennifer Curran played taps after a brief ceremony.



[More on "VETERANS" Page 17](#)



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 2 continued

### "VETERANS" (Continued from Page 16)

Then the group drove to a cemetery in South Portland to place a wreath and a flag at Father Kerry's large Irish cross, and Meghan Curran played Taps on the bugle. Father Kerry was Post 17's Chaplain and a World War II veteran. Next it was off to the Veterans' Memorial Bridge between Portland and South Portland.



After arriving at the Portland side of the Veterans' Memorial Bridge, a wreath and 2 flags were placed and a brief ceremony was conducted. Then Post 17



Commander and Viet Nam veteran Paul Avery led the group in a salute as Jennifer Curran played Taps on the trumpet.

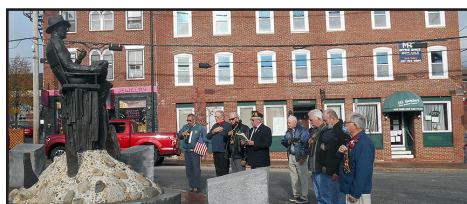
Next it was on to Butler School in Portland where Harold T. Andrews' fa-



ther was the Principal at the time of Harold T. Andrews' death in World War I.

At Butler School, Mert Rutherford placed a wreath in front of the flag pole and a brief ceremony was conducted.

Then it was off to Gorham's Corner in Portland for a ceremony and wreath placing in front of John Feeney's statue. Admiral Feeney had been a member of Post 17, a World War II veteran, and a movie producer under



the name of John Ford. Here, Jennifer Curran played taps on the trumpet. There was just one thing left for the day: the three-man parade down Congress Street.



While the City of Portland did not want a super spreader event like a full parade, nevertheless, US Army First Sergeant (retired) Rick Cobb was allowed to march the full parade route from Longfellow Square to Portland City Hall while Grand Marshall, 100-year-old US Army veteran Ernest Brien, rode the same route in a



convertible driven by Bill Chittick. At City Hall there was a brief ceremony and 2 flags were placed on the front stairs of City Hall. Next, Mert Rutherford placed a wreath at the top of the stairs at Portland City Hall. That concluded the Veterans' Day events.

Ernest Brien was quite an amazing man. Just before the parade and again afterwards he was asked by the bartender at Post 17 what he would like to drink and he answered "Whiskey. On the rocks." He then went on to answer questions from members of Post 17 about his time in France in World War II. Now, that's an example of why



they call it the "Greatest Generation." We can thank God for people like Ernest Brien – tough, resilient, and there serving us all when it was needed most.

*All photos and article by Portland Post 17 member Thomas O'Connor*

## Stewart P. Morrill American Legion Post 35 Blood Drives Sets Record

Ever since I have been the Adjutant at the Stewart P. Morrill American Legion Post in South Portland, I have tried to think of ways to involve the Community of South Portland to help our Community.

I was approached by Eddie Scott, Accounts Manager for the American Red Cross, and asked if we, at Stewart P. Morrill, would be willing to sponsor Blood Drives from our Post. The American Legion is all about helping Veterans and their families since the start of the Legion on November 11th 1919.

We have been having Blood Drives, it seems like forever, but this year because of COVID – 19 there has been an extra need for blood and places to hold drives. Many of the usual places were unable to sponsor drives because of the CDC restrictions. We have nev-

er turned the Red Cross down and never will. The Red Cross is probably the safest place to donate blood.

Because of our Post being open we have helped collect 142 units of blood for the Red Cross since 30 May 2020. That is a record for our Post, and it isn't stopping. We have another scheduled drive on the 6th of January 2021, and will be shooting to beat our 2020 record.

There is nothing more valuable than blood. I have been giving blood since 1967 and, to date, or should I say Saturday 12/26/2020, my donations will reach 23 gallons. Hay! Folks, it's only blood and our bodies make more of it each day. Many lives have been saved and many more will need the "Gift of Life." Schedule a donation for a loved one or a stranger.

*By Michael R. Pock, Adjutant, Post 35*

## Members of So. Portland Post 35 Prepare Christmas Baskets for Needy Veterans

A hardy group of volunteers led by Post Finance Officer, Ken Marston, packed 20 Christmas Baskets on Dec. 21, 2020. Each Thanksgiving and Christmas, the members of the Stewart P. Morrill American Legion Post 35 in South Portland pack up 40 baskets, actually Banana Boxes, to give to needy Vets. The Post budgets \$500 each year to defray the cost of this project. Since this is a budget item, the funds are

designated to that cause. As you well know, because of COVID-19, the Post has seen a drastic reduction in its rental income. However, through the generosity of fellow Vets and the people of the Greater Portland area, we were able to collect \$1,100 in donations. That will allow us to divert that budgeted amount to help other Vets at a time other

[More on "XMAS BASKETS" Page 18](#)



**Masked Packers:** So. Portland Post 35 members mask up during the coronavirus pandemic in December to pack Christmas Baskets for needy Vets. Front Row, left to right, Ken Marston, Mary Ann Neal and Betty Splettstoesser; Back Row, left to right, Doug Kohnke, Tony Batchelor, Ed Seymourian and Wes Splettstoesser.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 2 continued

### "XMAS BASKETS" (Continued from Page 17)

than Thanksgiving and Christmas. This annual event started well over 20 years ago, and each year it has expanded. This year we gave out 41 baskets. The local Coast Guard Sector gets the majority of the baskets with the balance going to the Portland Vet Service Center

in Portland. At Thanksgiving, we provided a basket for an 87 year old Veteran and his family, and just today, Dec. 21, we gave a basket to an 89 year-old Veteran. It is so nice to be able to help out even this little bit to support the Vets that helped make this country what it is today.

*By So. Portland Post 35 Adjutant  
Michael R. Pock*

## Westbrook Post 62 Gets New LED Lights HVAC System

The Stephen W. Manchester American Legion Post 62 in Westbrook, despite all the changes due to the Covid - 19 Virus, has slowly and steadily been upgrading the Post's internal and external infrastructure.

In the two pictures, Senior Class Students from the Regional Vocational Center's Electricity Technology Class at Westbrook High School installed new LED (Light Emitting Diode) Outdoor Security Lights on the wall facing the Post's parking lot on Dec. 16, 2020. This has greatly improved building security and provided much better lighting at night for people using the Post for meetings or events while following proper social distancing and facial mask wearing. The students are from High Schools around Greater Portland. Their instructor is Peter Wilson, the tall man in the center with the black and gray fleece jacket and baseball cap.

Students and Mr. Wilson used new tools and multimeters provided by the RVC. The interior photo

was during a busy day during the month of January 2021, installing and wiring power for 2 new HVAC units on the upstairs floor of the Post 62 building. HVAC is Heat-Ventilation-Air Conditioning. HVAC services in Westbrook installed the two systems late last year.

The Senior Class Electricity Students are installing the power wiring for both Units with the guidance and instruction of Peter Wilson. During the Christmas-New Year break, Westbrook Code and Fire Inspectors met with Mr. Wilson to go over all the proper requirements. Peter expressed "Our thanks to Manchester Post 62 for working with us to provide our students this great opportunity." The new systems will reduce the workload on the Post's furnace in the winter months and provide air conditioning in the summer, while reducing utility costs.

*Photos courtesy of Dennis Marrotte, Post 62,  
who is a WHS 1969 Alumni of the Electricity  
Technology Course!*



**Westbrook HS Students Help With Post 62 Internal & External Upgrade: Senior class students from Regional Vocational Center's Electricity Technology Class at Westbrook HS install new LED lights (left photo) and HVAC System (right photo) at the Stephen W. Manchester American Legion Post 62 in Westbrook.**



**Veterans Day Thanks: Westbrook Police Chief Janine Roberts thanks Westbrook's Veterans and American Legion Posts 62 and 197 in a Farewell Speech on Veterans Day. Left to right, seated, Westbrook Mayor Michael Foley (in blue suit); Post 62 Commander Roger Barr; Immediate Past Mayor Michael Sanphy, Immediate Past Post 62 Commander Gary York, and Post 197 Commander Steve Girard.**

*Photo Courtesy Dennis Marrotte*

## Westbrook Post 62 Wreaths Across America

Westbrook Post 62 held a Wreaths Across America Ceremony Dec. 19, 2020 at Veterans Rest in Woodlawn Cemetery in Westbrook. It was a beautiful day, clear, with a blanket of fresh powder snow and a good turnout. The Dec.14, 2020 Wreaths across America Ceremony was a torrential monsoon-like rainfall, but still with a good turnout of people.

The left photo below depicts a special ceremony that was a verbally narrated American Flag Folding Ceremony by Rolling Thunder Chapter 2 Maine members. On the far left are Stephen W. Manchester American Legion Post 62 Commander Roger Barr with the red plaid scarf and red jacket, and to his left is Immediate Past Post 62 Commander and current Post Adjutant Gary York. Starting to fold the flag, left, is USAF Vietnam Veteran and President of Roll-

ing Thunder Chapter 2 Maine, Ryan Kelly, and right, Board of Directors Chair for Rolling Thunder Chapter 2 Maine Bill Clark. To the right of Bill, left to right, are USMC Veteran and Director of the Westbrook Veterans Services Office Arty Ledoux, and Westbrook Mayor Michael Foley.

Right photo: US Navy Vietnam Veteran and Board of Directors Chair for Rolling Thunder Chapter 2 Maine, Bill Clark gives a salute after placing the wreath for the Navy on Dec. 19 during Westbrook Post 62 Wreaths Across America. A total of 7 wreaths were placed on Shepherd's Hooks for the US Army - Navy - Air Force - Marines - Coast Guard - Merchant Marines and POW - MIAs. An additional 40 wreaths were placed on Veterans' Graves by family members and children.

*Photos courtesy of Dennis Marrotte  
Westbrook Post 62*





WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 2 continued



**Westbrook Post 62 Wreaths Across America:** Dennis Marrotte (in absence of Post 62 Commander Roger Barr) accepts one of the 18 wreaths presented at the ceremony at Portland's Ocean Gateway Pier on the Water Front Dec. 15. Standing in back is Ceremony Emcee Ray Richardson, of Radio Station WLOB, Westbrook. He is trying to warm his numb freezing fingers back up with gloves. He humorously warned the people standing in a knife like icy breeze that he might lose his grip on the program's papers which would fly into the water behind him!

*Photo Courtesy: Phil Spiller, Jr., WCSH TV 6*

## Grant Helps Scarborough Post 76 Obtain Wheelchair Ramp for Disabled Vet

The American Legion Post 76 applied for a grant from the State to obtain a wheelchair ramp for a disabled veteran in Scarborough. They rallied a crew to work on installing the ramp, and we were more than happy to help.

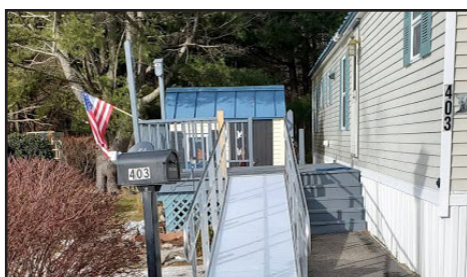
Representatives from the Legion included Commander Phil Ceaser, 1st Vice Commander Dave Dolloff, Executive Board Member Dana Voisine, and Executive Board Member Mike Ott. Scarborough PD employees included Chief Robbie Moulton, Deputy Chief Dave

Grover, Lt. Tim Barker, Sgt. Steve Thibodeau, Officer Eric Greenleaf, Officer Frank Plourd, Officer Rob Pellerin, Crime Analyst Jaime Higgins, Cathy Chandler and Marlea.

We were also joined by two members of the Scarborough, Maine Fire Department's Squad 7, Rick Dunbar and Jacob Rideout.

Thank you to everyone who helped out! We enjoyed spreading some holiday spirit today.

To view the video, visit <https://www.facebook.com/ScarboroughPD/videos/3555877911166466/?sfnsn=mo>



## Yarmouth Post 91 Community Activities

Anderson-Mayberry American Legion Post 91 conducted a Turkey Drive in November resulting in \$1,292 to share with the Towns of Yarmouth and Cumberland Food Banks. The Post also volunteered for two shifts on two Saturdays in December, totaling four shifts for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Drive at the Falmouth Walmart, raising \$1,457.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 3

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



**Organizational Issues Discussed At Post 153:** While visiting the William J. Rogers's Post 153 in Auburn, the State Legion Commander Matthew Jabaut, right, had the opportunity to meet the State Commander of the VFW Keith Davis, left, who is also a member of Post 153. Both shared current issues affecting our organization and wished each other well during these challenging times.

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

## Our Pledge Will Help Us, if We Follow It

“I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE”

I will support and follow as a team member.

“TO THE FLAG”

Old Glory, our National standard, the red, white and blue.

“OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA”

All our States, each unique and different, but united as one nation. E. Pluribus Unum.

“AND TO THE REPUBLIC”

Not a democracy, where 51% rule 49%, but a republic, where our voted Representatives make just laws we all follow to keep us safe and free.

“FOR WHICH IT STANDS”

Our Flag represents this, and millions have followed Old Glory around the world to preserve this Republic. We are safe and free in our homes because brave men and women stand guard 24-7-365; worldwide.

“ONE NATION”

All persons; all colors, races, religions, sexes, ages, social statuses, etc. included. Differing opinions welcome with respect and civil discourse.

“UNDER GOD”

Our Founders were Christians, but

your God can be Jesus, Mohamad, Buddha, etc.

“INDIVISIBLE”

“A house divided against itself cannot stand” said President Lincoln. We must remain a team and pull together against all challenges.

“WITH LIBERTY”

Freedom to pursue your own happiness and be left alone. Go where and do what you want, when you're ready, for your own reasons. Within the Law.

“AND JUSTICE”

The law ensures every person is treated fairly and has equal opportunity, but not always equal outcomes. If we see injustice, we will fix it, within our Republic. Justice requires Respectful Disagreement.

“FOR ALL”

The 51% cannot trample the 49%. See “ONE NATION” above.

If we all can adhere to the Pledge of Allegiance, our country will be a strong team, and we all will be free, while safe. “Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty”, said Wendall Phillips.

Your Neighbor and Team Mate,  
P. Forrest (Pete) Tracy – Farmington  
Major, Retired, Maine Army National Guard,  
American Legion Post 28



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

## Legionnaire Recognition For Hosting Blood Drives:

Members of American Legion Post 24, the River Valley Rotary Club and American Red Cross attend a ceremony Wednesday to recognize the legionnaires for hosting blood drives for



25 years at their hall in Rumford. From left are Rotarian Richard Lovejoy, Post 24 Vice Commander Jack Blanchard, Post 24 Adjutant Bill Hobson, Rotarian Peter Cox and Executive Director Nicole Evans of the Central and Mid Coast Maine Chapter for the American Red Cross.

Bruce Farrin/Rumford Falls Times



**Flag Fold Explanation:** Adjutant Bill Hobson, left, and Vice Commander Jack Blanchard of American Legion Post 24 in Rumford conduct a Flag Folding ceremony at the hall in Rumford on Veterans Day. The meaning of each of the 13 folds was explained during a recording for the public on the American Legion Post 24 Facebook page.

Bruce Farrin/Rumford Falls Times



**Rumford Post 24 Flag Folding Ceremony:** More than a dozen people attended a closed Veterans Day ceremony at American Legion Post 24 in Rumford on Wednesday. Adjutant Bill Hobson, left, and Vice Commander Jack Blanchard held a Flag Folding ceremony which was recorded for the public on the American Legion Post 24 Facebook page.

Bruce Farrin/Rumford Falls Times



**Veterans Day March:** Veterans Day 2020 American Legion Post 24 Family marched to the Memorial Green to place the wreath upon the memorials as well as paying proper respects to the beautiful flag of our country. Pictured front to back are Rumford Post 24 2nd Vice Commander Jack Blanchard, Post 24 Legionnaire Mitzi Sequoia, Post 24 Adjutant Bill Hobson, Post 24 Commander Tricia Thurston, and Auxiliary Vice President Carol Roach.

Photo by Louie Marin New Spirit Photography



**Rumford Post 24 Buddy Check:** Post 24 recently held a "Buddy Check" for their members on Dec. 13th. The members were very thankful for the phone call and for checking in. Top left, Rumford Post 24 Chaplain Robin Blanchard, and top right, Rumford Post 24 2nd Vice Commander Jack Blanchard place calls to check in on its members. Rumford Post 24 Finance Officer Tricia Thurston was also present to do Buddy Checks. (See photo on page 8).

## Post 58 Veterans Day Commemoration

Wednesday the 11th of November, 2020, belied its being Autumn, as the sun shone bright with a temperature of 68 degrees. On that morning, at the 11th hour, the bell in the tower of the Old Church on the Hill (AKA Union Church), built between 1832 and 1834 in Buckfield, rang forth. It was sounded by Nick Hart, son of John D. Long Post 58 member (and District 5 Sgt.-at-Arms) Ralph Hart, who employed a short wooden pole called a "hammer" to elicit from the bell its clarion sound heard throughout town. Moments before, there assembled below the church a dedicated group of patriots comprised of Post Chaplain Bill Rice, 61 year member Merton Jones, Post Commander James Lowell (also District 5 Commander), Post Adjutant Gloria Hall (also District 5 Americanism Officer), and Church lady Sandra Perkins. Following the ringing, Post members adjourned to the Town's Veterans Monument, where

Chaplain Rice offered, in the parlance of their Revolutionary War ancestors, "a Lesson."

Buckfield was first settled in 1776 by a group of fur trappers from New Gloucester, Maine, led by Abijah and Nathaniel Buck, in whose company was also Thomas Allen, John Brown, and perhaps others. Of that company, Thomas Allen, a deserter from his Britannic Majesty's 29th Regiment of Foote, transformed into a patriot on March 5, 1770, at the "Boston Massacre," gave good service to his adopted country in the conflict for Independence that raged from 1775 to 1783. Some of those who settled initially in Buckfield, incorporated in 1793 by the Great and General Court of Massachusetts, moved on to settle other villages and towns further west in Oxford County.

John D. Long Post 58 was named for a past Lt. Governor (1879-80) and

[More on "POST 58 VETERANS DAY" Page 21](#)



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

**District 5 continued**

■ **"POST 58 VETERANS DAY"**  
(Continued from Page 20)

Governor (1880-83), of Massachusetts, who was later elected a Congressman from the Maine's 2nd District, serving until 1889. A friend of President William McKinley, Long was chosen to be his Secretary of the Navy, the 34th to serve the United States in that capacity,

from March 6, 1897 to April 10, 1902 (during the Spanish-American War). It was Long who ordered the USS Maine to Havana Harbor in January 1898 as a matter of customary relations, and out of concern for the safety of American citizens residing in Cuba, which was then experiencing a War of Independence. And the rest, as the saying goes, "is History".



**Old Church on the Hill in Buckfield, Maine (aka Union Church).**

**Ringing Out The 11th Hour:** Nick Hart, son of John D. Long Post 58 member and District 5 Sgt.-at-Arms Ralph Hart ringing out the 11th hour.



**Patriots Assemble:** A dedicated group of patriots assemble below the Old Church in Buckfield. Left to right, Buckfield Post 58 Chaplain Bill Rice, Post member Merton Jones, Post Commander James Lowell, Post Adjutant Gloria Hall, and Church Lady Sandra Perkins.

**Buckfield Veterans Monument:** Left to right, Buckfield Post 58 Chaplain Bill Rice, offering a Benediction, with Post member Merton Jones and Post Commander James Lowell.



**Veterans Day 2020 at Jackson-Silver Post 68**

Jackson-Silver Post 68 in Locke Mills was not about to let Veterans Day 2020 go by without holding ceremonies. In its spacious front parking area off the Gore Road, at 10:30 hours, utilizing the published National Manual of Ceremonies script as a guide, the commemoration began with the Posting of the Colors in Place, followed by the National Anthem and Pledge of Allegiance.

Post 68 had invited Mundt-Allen Post 81 to join it in holding the services, and that was a very good thing, as of all the roles traditionally performed, present Post 68 members filled all except that of Chaplain, which duty Post 81 1st Vice Norman Clanton performed in an exemplary manner. Post 68 Adjutant Kelly Bickford provided the music over her car system, with the exception of dueling Taps, performed by Julie Chandler and Ellen Whitney of the Mahoosuc Band. Ellen's forbear was a Charter member of Post 68. The firing detail was

commanded by Post 68 Finance Officer Ray Hakala, and those giving the rifle salute were Post 68 Chaplain Dan Grover, Squad member Leroy Patten, and Sgt.-at-Arms Al Lake. Post Commander Harry G. Orcutt rang out the 11th hour with the portable Post 68 Bell Tower. Unit 68 Secretary Susan M. Vacca offered the Auxiliary address, which begins: "The waging of war involves more than just the combatants who fight to the death on the field of battle....." Attendance, while wearing masks and maintaining social distancing, included representatives of both the Daughters and Sons of Union Veterans, Past Post 68 Commander Raymond Tripp, and more than a few residents of Greenwood, Woodstock, and Milton Township. The event concluded on a rousing note with the singing of "God Bless America".

*Submitted by Harry Orcutt  
Post 68 Commander*



**Prayer:** Bethel Post 81 1st Vice Norman Clanton Ceremonial Chaplain.



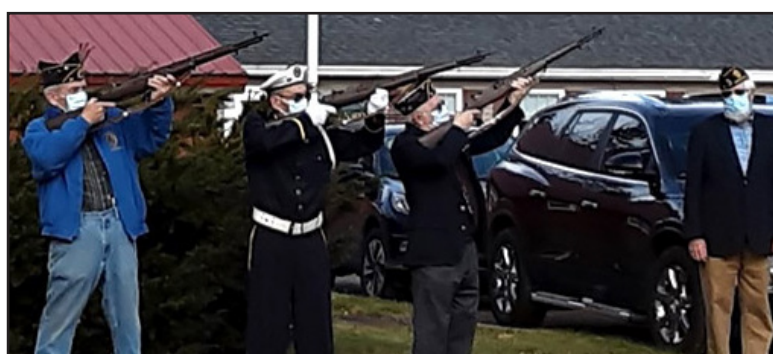
**Unit 68 Secretary Vacca's Auxiliary Address.**



**Locke Mills Post 68 Commander Orcutt tolls the 11th hour.**



**Dueling Taps,** left to right, Jane Chandler, Ellen Whitney of Mahoosuc Band.



**Fire Salute:** Left to right, Dan Grover, Leroy Patten, Al Lake, Ray Hakala Fire Salute.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 5 continued



### Fidget Quilt Project

**Continues:** Unit 68 Secretary Susan M. Vacca, who had already delivered 12 Fidget Quilts in two sets of six each, to the Maine Veterans Home in South Paris, continues to produce additional quilts. She has been informed by Pat Paar, Activities Director at the home, that these are much needed and far superior to those commercially available. Four more of the quilts (set 3), have recently been delivered, and Susan has begun working on yet another more spectacular set.

## 104 Year Old Post 68 Member Celebrates 75 Years

Sunday, November 1st began with slight snow showers, but when members of Post 68 and local citizens and Maine House Representatives gathered in the spacious Post parking area at 10:00 hours, the morning had appreciably brightened. Consolidating their numbers in a few vehicles, the group drove to Bird Hill Road, which ends about 1½ miles from the access Gore Road in a dead end. Fortunately, the residence of 104-year-old Post 68 member Leroy Day, celebrating his 75th year as a member of Jackson-Silver Post 68, the

reason for the gathering, resides much nearer the Gore Road end of his road. With due restrictions of access because of the Wuhan Coronavirus 19, Leroy sat ensconced in his doorway, while his daughter Amy interacted directly with those there to make celebratory pronouncements and presentations, with family and friends looking on from the roadside. As pictures are worth thousands of words, here is a record of the occasion.

*Submitted by Harry Orcutt  
Post 68 Commander*



**Congratulations Conveyed At A Distance:** Jackson-Silver Post 68 Commander Harry G. Orcutt presents congratulations at a distance from Locke-Mills Post 68 and Buckfield Post 58 to 104 year-old Leroy Day for his 75th year as a member of Post 68.



**Proclamation of Congratulations:** Maine House Representatives Frances Head and Josanne Dolloff present Maine House/Senate Proclamation of Congratulations to Leroy Day.



**Family & Friends:** A portion of Leroy's family and friends who witnessed the presentations from Bird Hill Road.

**75 Year Cap Star Presented:** Post 68 Adjutant Kelly Bickford presents 75 year cap star on Veterans Day. She later returned with an American Legion 75 Year Service Certificate.



## News from Anderson Staples Post #112

Despite the difficulties of the Covid Pandemic, we have continued to reach out to the local communities. From our bottle return money we donated \$473 to the Oxford Hills High School football team and \$151 to the Rock House Teen Center. Last summer we had a successful toll road and

added \$300 to our Vets' Relief Fund from the proceeds. Soon we will make a donation to Operation Reboot Outdoors in Turner. Although we are doing well financially we are trying to get a few more members to join.

*Howie Munday, Adjutant*

## Ring-McKeen Post 151 Veterans Day Ceremonies

West Paris Ring-McKeen Post 151 members gathered at the Town Veterans Monument to hold their Veteran Day ceremonies. Though West Paris was not incorporated out of Paris, Maine, until 1957, it was granted as a bonus from the Great and General Court of Massachusetts in 1771, to Captain Joshua Fuller and his Company of 64 soldiers, in gratitude for their service in the French and Indian War, and was settled in 1779. Thus it is a fitting place to honor the service of those who served the Nation in the Armed Forces of the United States.

The Post was chartered following WWII on November 5, 1945, being

mostly formed out of Jackson-Silver Post 68, with which they have since enjoyed a cordial, mutually supporting, relationship. West Paris had contributed many a Post 68 Commander, as well as other officers and serving members from 1919 to their date of separation. It is recorded in Post 68 records that when Jackson-Silver held its meetings in the former Albany schoolhouse that had been moved to Locke Mills, at 20:00 (8:00 pm) hours, West Paris members at Post 68 meetings would keep a sharp eye on the nearby train station, as they had to board the last commuter to West Paris in order to get home.

[More on "RING-MCKEEN" Page 23](#)



**Benediction:** West Paris Post 151 Chaplain Randall Jack conducts the Benediction in the company of members Lloyd Woods, David Borst, and Wayne Theofrastau during the Veterans Day Ceremony held at West Paris Post 151.

*Photo by Unit Chaplain Linda Jack*



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 5 continued

### “RING-MCKEEN” (Continued from Page 22)

Another interesting fact about McK-  
een, whose sacrifice is honored in the  
Post 151 name, is that he was no son of  
the “old sod.” According to the town’s  
Finnish American Heritage Society,

McKeen was actually a descendant of a  
Mikonnen, the first Suomi immigrant to  
West Paris, whose name was Anglicized  
(Hibernicized?) at some juncture after  
his arrival. The following photos record  
the Veterans Day ceremonies at Post 151.

*Submitted by Harry Orcutt  
Post 68 Commander*



**Unit 151 President Dorene  
Wilbur and Post 151 Commander  
Harold Wilbur during the Bene-  
diction on Veterans Day.**

*Photo by Unit Chaplain Linda Jack*

**West Paris Post 151  
Members, left to right Harold  
Wilbur, Randall Jack, Lloyd  
Woods, David Borst, and Wayne  
Theofrastau.**

*Photo by Unit 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



**St. George Post 34  
Wreaths Across  
America Ceremony:**  
Every year, St. George Post  
34 has a ceremony that  
coincides with the Wreaths  
Across America Ceremon-  
y at Arlington where they  
place a wreath for each  
branch of service including

the Merchant Marines, the POW/MIA’s, and local veterans that have passed  
away. The ceremony takes place each year at Wiley’s Corner Cemetery in  
St. George at noon. Beverly Emerson was this year’s moderator. She is seen  
here on right along with Post 34 Officers, left to right, Commander Randy  
Deutsch, 1st Vice Thornton Batty Jr., Adjutant Steve Pomakis, Historian/  
Acting Sgt.-At-Arms Ray Emerson, and Dave Percival.

### Girl Scouts Present for WAA Ceremony: The Girl Scout Troop

#1831 Honor Guard was also present  
for St. George Post 34 2020 Wreaths  
Across America Ceremony. Those  
present included, Leader Dawn  
Gauthier, Leader Patty St. Clair,  
Leader Beverly Emerson, Addie  
McPhail, Alyssa Tynan, Anya Felton,  
Kayleigh Young, Lydia Myers, Natalie  
Vanorse, Winter Adams, and Troop  
Leader of 191 Jesse Ellis.



## Williams-Brazier Post 37 Holds Veterans Day Ceremony

The Williams-Brazier Post 37 once  
again held its annual Veterans Day  
Celebration, at the Legion Hall in Tho-  
maston, on Nov. 11th. Post Commander,  
William Demmons, opened the day’s ac-  
tivities at 11:00 am on a gray but warm  
day. Due to the current Covid-19 state-  
wide requirement for social gathering,  
the celebration was held outside. Social  
distancing was observed and all but  
two of those gathered wore their mask.

The Opening Remarks was fol-  
lowed by the posting of the National and  
Legion flags by Thomaston Boy Scout  
Troop 215. Since June’s Flag Retire-  
ment Ceremony, Troop 215 has become  
Post 37’s Color Guard. Their dedication  
and hard work add a new dimension  
to the patriotic events held at the post.

Kent Woodward laid a memorial  
wreath, followed by an opening prayer  
by Jeremy Miller. Miller went on to pro-  
vide an emotional dedication of a new  
POW/MIA chair to remember Arthur  
Kiskila, who had passed away in March.

Adam Grunder read the poem “In  
Flanders Fields” while Michelle White,  
speaking for the Post Auxiliary Unit 37,  
told the story of the “Poppy Lady,” Moi-  
na Michael. She went on to read Miss  
Michael’s poem, “We Shall Keep the Faith.”

Jeremy Miller took the podium  
again and led the presentation of a silver  
Medal of Merit to Post 37 Commander  
William Demmons. Demmons has been  
the post commander for more than 10  
years, seeing a steady decline of member  
participation during that time. By the end  
of 2018, the post was being kept alive by  
the hard work of Demmons, as well as  
that of Jon Grout and Kent Woodward.

In January 2019, four new members

transferred from the post in Waldoboro  
and, with Demmons’ support and guid-  
ance, helped to usher in a rebirth that  
has seen Post 37 quadruple in member  
participation. This guidance and support  
have continued through the dark times of  
the Covid-19 pandemic that is currently  
sweeping across Maine and the country.

Through it all, Post 37 and Unit  
37 has been providing, since March,  
several to-go suppers for the Legion-  
naires, Auxiliary and local commu-  
nity. This ended in November, when  
it was decided to take a break and re-  
group for 2021. The suppers will be-  
gin again in March with the annual  
St. Patrick’s Day supper by Unit 37.

Post 37 Service Officer, Jeffrey  
Wright, took the podium next, as he  
led the dedication of an Unserviceable  
Flag Drop Box. Scott Murry, of Rock-  
land, donated an old, decommissioned,  
USPS mailbox to Post 37 in September  
for use as a flag drop box. The mail-  
box was turned over to John Conway  
who, with Joseph and Robert Dinapo-  
li, cleaned, sanded and painted the box  
into what Post 37 Finance Officer Dawn  
Wright called a “beautiful artwork.”  
During the dedication, certificates were  
presented to Conway and the Dinapoli  
brothers. The drop box will be placed  
outside the Hall in the spring of 2021.

In a continuation of honoring  
Commander Demmons, a placard was  
placed on the front of the drop box for  
future Post Legionnaires and Auxiliary  
to see. The activities for Veterans Day  
were closed by Commander Williams  
with a prayer and closing remarks.

*By George L. Robinson, Jr.  
Department Historian*



**Opening Remarks:** Wil-  
liams-Brazier Commander, Wil-  
liam Demmons, gives opening re-  
marks to those in attendance for  
the Veterans Day Ceremony held  
at Thomaston Post 37 Legion Hall,  
Nov. 11, 2020.

*Photo by George Robinson, Jr.*



**Pledge of Allegiance:** Gathered  
Legionnaires, Auxiliary and guest re-  
cite “The Pledge of Allegiance”

*Photo by George Robinson, Jr.*

[More on "POST 37 VETERANS DAY" Page 24](#)



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

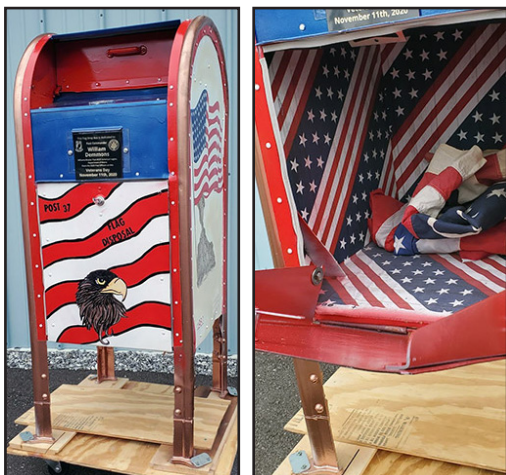
## District 6 continued

### "POST 37 VETERANS DAY" (Continued from Page 23)



**Silver Medal Of Merit:** Left Photo: Presentation of American Legion Silver Medal of Merit held at Thomaston Post 37 Legion Hall, Nov. 11, 2020. Left to right, Jeffery Wright, Jeremey Miller and William Demmons. Right Photo: Jeremey Miller, left, presents William Demmons with the Silver Medal of Merit.

*Left photo by Christine Simmonds | Right photo by Mariah Demmons*



### Mail Box Transformed Into "Beautiful Artwork":

Thomaston Post 37 presents new Flag Drop Box transformed from a USPS mail box donated by Scott Murry of Rockland, and transformed into a Flag Drop Box, aka, "Beautiful Artwork" by John Conway, Joseph Dinapoli, and Robert Dinapoli. The drop box will be placed outside the Legion Hall in the spring of 2021.

*Photos by Mariah Demmons*

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 8

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



**Togus 2020 Christmas:** While unable to host a Christmas party for long-term care patients this year due to Covid 19, Post 171 donated a Smart TV for the dining room on 72/Veterans Village and a Blu-ray disc player to go with it. Left to right, Bill O'Connell, 8th District Cdr. Joe Donahue, Post 171 Cdr. Mike Doyle, Togus Welcoming Committee Recreational Therapist Liz Marrone, Veterans Village Nurse Manager Angela Bissonnette, Asst. Nurse Manager Amanda Mackellar.

*Photo by Kim O'Connell*

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 9

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



**Ice Cream Project:** At the meeting in October, it was voted to donate \$200 for ice cream from Hood to the Maine Veterans Home for the veterans there. Member Howard Morang chaired the project and had the ice cream delivered. It was a great incentive project and we all know what ice cream can do! A huge thanks to Howard for a great idea and the inspiration for all of us! Pictured, Finance Officer Howard Betts, right, presents check to Howard Morang, left.

### Augusta Post 2 Thanksgiving Basket Project

Augusta Post 2 members got together on November 22 with donated food items to pack and hand out Thanksgiving baskets for military families in the area. A total of 5 baskets were put together and handed out. Three families actually came to the Post and picked up their baskets. Two were delivered to Veterans Services who got them out to the other two families. It was a great project. Special thanks to Bill Logan, ad-hoc project chairperson, Post 2 Commander Fred Umphrey, Pat Harrington (absent when picture taken), Howard Morang, Howard Betts (absent when picture taken), new member Tom Pagnbom and wife Sue, 2nd Vice Phyllis Cudmore, Unit 2 Auxiliary member Jan Negri, and Squadron 2 SAL member Tim Leet. And a very HUGE thanks to Heinz Rosenbecker for his help with putting baskets together and taking the pictures.



**Thanksgiving Baskets Appreciated:** Families who picked up Thanksgiving baskets at Augusta Post 2 which made for some very happy and appreciative people. Presentations were made by 2nd Vice Phyllis.

*Photos by Heinz Rosenbecker*



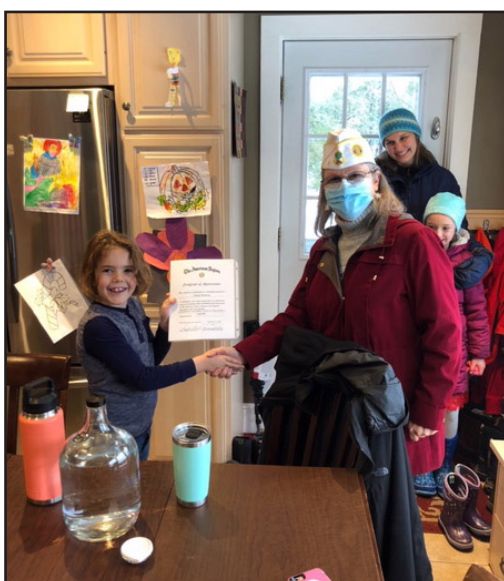
**The Happy Crew and five baskets complete with turkeys. Thanks to all!**

*Photo by Heinz Rosenbecker*



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 9 continued



**Hallowell Post 6 Junior Community Member Appreciation:** Goodrich-Caldwell Post 6, Hallowell Commander Maureen Malley, right, presents a Certificate of Appreciation to a junior community member for his dedication and support to the Veterans and community of Hallowell during the Veterans Day ceremony on Nov. 11, 2020. During the past two years, he has led the community in the Pledge of Allegiance in its tribute to the Veterans of our nation. We thank you for your service to Veterans.



**Eagle Scout Award:** Zac Ellis of Farmingdale receives a Certificate of Appreciation from Commander Maureen Malley at Goodrich-Caldwell Post 6, Hallowell on Tuesday, Jan. 19. His project involved the restoration and renovating of the kitchen at Post 6. Legion members honoring Zac were, left to right, David Ranslow, Commander Maureen Malley, Past Commander and current Historian Mike Madden, Eagle Scout, Troop 647 Zackery Ellis, and Past Commander and current Adjutant Gerald Stuart. Other gifts presented were a wall plaque of Zac with his parents to be placed on the entrance to the kitchen, and a special EAGLE Scout Buck Knife.



**Litchfield Post 181 Wreaths Across America Participation:** Members of Post 181 participated in the Wreaths Across America wreath laying on Dec. 19, 2020 in West Gardiner, Maine. Wreaths were placed at the Town of West Gardiner Veteran's Memorial and over 190 wreaths were placed on veterans' graves at the Town's 7 cemeteries. All veterans' graves in the Town received a wreath this year. Post 181 members who participated in the wreath-laying included Ron Dixon, Glenn Bowman, Greg Couture, Anthony Morgan, Nancy Derocher, Debra Couture, Anthony Thompson, Don Goggin, Terry Marks, and Mike Collins. Nancy Derocher, Post 181, is seen here saluting after she placed a wreath on the West Gardiner Veteran's Memorial.

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

### Turkey Pie Sale Benefit Local Food Cupboards

Members of The American Legion Auxiliary Tardiff-Belanger Unit 39, Madison traditionally holds a turkey supper every November at which they serve anywhere from 150 to 175 people with the proceeds to benefit local food cupboards. Because of Covid-19 restrictions, they decided to have a Turkey Pie Sale which Hannaford of Madison donated some turkeys, Renys of Madison donated some pie plates, Apple Tree Bakery gave them a discount price for pie boxes and members also donated some of the items needed and their time making pies. One hundred eighteen pies (25 turkeys) were made and were all sold a week before the scheduled date of pick up on Nov. 7th! \$1050 was raised and donated among five local food cupboards--Madison, Anson, Starks, Norridgewock and Solon. This is another way the American Legion Auxiliary supports the community.



### Unit 39 Supports Community With Turkey Pie Sales:

Top photo: Left to right, Ann Cody, Nancy Misiaszek and Irma Fluet. Bottom photo: back right, Nancy Misiaszek; middle row, left to right, Wanda Kranz, and Lisa Turner; front row, left to right, Pat Santoni, and Sharon Mellows.



**Community Program Support:** The Madison American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 39 supports community programs such as Children and Youth. Each year the members of the Auxiliary donate school backpacks filled with school supplies. This year, because of the unknowns at the beginning of the school year, the Unit reached out to the community. With the generosity of cash donations and school supplies from Auxiliary members and community members, the American Legion Auxiliary of Madison was able to donate over \$700 worth of school supplies and backpacks to 7 schools in the Madison and Anson area!! These were delivered in October.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 10 continued



**Madison Post 39 Donates To RSU 74 & MSAD 59 Students:** The American Legion Tardiff-Belanger Post 39, Madison recently donated boots and coats for 38 students in need in school districts RSU 74 and MSAD 59 from the generous donations of local businesses and members.

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



**Old Town Post 75 Reopening:** Raising the first flag after the reopening of Old Town Post 75 on Dec. 17, 2020, left to right, Post Adjutant Kevin McGarry and Post 75 Commander Shane Westcott.

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

**Stuff The Bus:** Calais Post 3 Commander Michael McLean, center, with members of Law Enforcement at the "Stuff The Bus" fundraiser, a Christmas gift collection program, at the Calais Walmart Dec. 5, 2020. Watch the Operation Homefront Toy Drive - "Stuff The Bus" video by visiting: <https://www.facebook.com/lupe.soto.712/videos/10158947520649214/?sfn=mo>



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT...

## District 16

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



**Post 15 Receives Grant From Caribou Masonic Lodge #170:** The Henry B. Pratt Jr. Post 15 in Caribou was the recent recipient of a grant from the Caribou Masonic Lodge #170. This was given to help offset the costs of a flagpole that was destroyed in an accident. The master of the Lodge Elwin Thomas as well as the Chaplain David Spooner were on hand at Post 15 on Caribou to present the check to the officers and members at their meeting on Oct. 19. We are so grateful to have the help of the Masons as well as others in our community. Thank you to the Lodge for coming to the meeting and presenting this check!! Your awesome! Left to right, Jack Dixon-SGT at Arms, Tom Tomlinson-2nd Vice Commander, David Spooner Masonic Lodge Chaplain, Elwin Thomas Master of the Lodge, Cuppy Johndro -Commander of Post 15, and Wayne Little- 1st Vice Commander.



**Caribou Post 15 Raffle:** The Caribou Legion Post 15 recently held a wine raffle basket, donated by Nonie Crouse for fundraising. The fundraiser was to help offset costs for the flagpole that was destroyed by an accident. Lou Skidgel won the basket after she bought tickets for it at a yard sale. The raffle was pulled on Oct. 10 at the Legion in Caribou. Presenting Lou with the basket is 1st Vice Commander Wayne Little. Thanks to everyone that supported this fundraiser.

*Photo by Cuppy Johndro, Commander.*

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

**Food Boxes For Seniors:** On the 4th of Feb., a few officers of American Legion Post #49 volunteered to assist Catholic Charities in passing out food boxes to the Senior Citizens of Van Buren and surrounding areas. This is done every month in this location. Volunteering are Post 49 Sgt.-at-Arms Harvey Beaulieu, Post 49 Americanism Officer Bob Lapierre and Post 49 Adjutant Roy Doucette.





## 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	Charles Carr	Vietnam	Post 53 – Dexter	Anton Larson	WWII
Post 2 – Augusta	Robert Cochran	Korea	Post 57 – Old Orchard Beach	Roger McPherson	WWII
Post 3 – Calais	Daniel Stewart	Gulf War	Post 58 – Buckfield	Raymond Miclon	Korea
Post 5 – Waterville	Albert L. Brochu	Korea	Post 67 – Bridgton	Robert Downing	Korea
Post 5 – Waterville	Robert Landry	Vietnam	Post 73 – Corinna	James Lagasse	Korea
Post 5 – Waterville	William B. Lunt	Korea	Post 73 – Corinna	Robert Morton	
Post 9 – Machias	Richard Ellsmore		Post 84 – Orono	Philip Flagg Jr	Vietnam
Post 9 – Machias	Edward Knibbs		Post 92 – Brownville Jet	Water Stone	Vietnam
Post 9 – Machias	Mortimer Lockett	Vietnam	Post 93 – Bucksport	Ronald Slahucka	Vietnam
Post 10 – Livermore Falls	Norman Dube	WWII	Post 107 – Etna-Carmel	George Edwards	Vietnam
Post 10 – Livermore Falls	Gerard Richards	WWII	Post 111 – Oxford	Webster Pierce Jr	Korea
Post 12 – Bangor	Gary Copehart	Vietnam	Post 111 – Oxford	George White	Korea
Post 13 – E. Millinocket	Frederick King	Korea	Post 136 – Stockholm	Wayne Dixon	Vietnam
Post 14 – Fairfield	Michael Coyne	Panama	Post 136 – Stockholm	William Hazelwood	Vietnam
Post 15 – Caribou	Robert Bouchard	Vietnam	Post 138 – Winterport	John Solak	Vietnam
Post 15 – Caribou	Rainald Gervais Jr	Persian Gulf	Post 145 – Frenchville	Ronald Landry	Vietnam
Post 15 – Caribou	David Michaud	WWII	Post 145 – Frenchville	Evelyn Tardif	Lebanon/Grenada
Post 15 – Caribou	Nathan Randolph	Vietnam	Post 149 – Waldoboro	Robert Foster	Korea
Post 16 – Skowhegan	Malcolm Whitney	WWII	Post 149 – Waldoboro	Malcolm Peck	Korea
Post 17 – Portland	James Lowery	Korea	Post 150 – Mechanic Falls	Donald Burns	
Post 20 – Brunswick	Paul Austin	Korea	Post 150 – Mechanic Falls	Lawrence Newth Jr	Vietnam
Post 22 – Lewiston	Normans Bureau	Korea	Post 150 – Mechanic Falls	Jerome Pomerleau	Vietnam
Post 22 – Lewiston	William Meader III	Vietnam	Post 155 – Naples	Donald Chadwell	
Post 23 – Baileyville	Henry Krystofolsfi	Vietnam	Post 171 – Harpswell	Donald Cheetham	WWII
Post 34 – St. George	Raymond Rossignol	WWII	Post 178 – Winslow	Norman Chaput	Korea
Post 30 – Camden	Floyd Pease	Korea	Post 178 – Winslow	Donald G. Mixer	Vietnam
Post 37 – Thomaston	John Fochtman	Vietnam	Post 178 – Winslow	Roger Mooers	Korea
Post 42 – Damariscotta	Robert Lane	Korea	Post 178 – Winslow	Donald Pinkham	Vietnam
Post 42 – Damariscotta	Douglas Lewis	Korea	Post 178 – Winslow	George Swanson	WWII
Post 40 – Winthrop	Walter Bekden	Vietnam	Post 197 – Westbrook	Benjamin Chase	Vietnam
Post 41 – Milo	Charles Stevens	Korea	Post 197 – Westbrook	Richard Deering	Korea
Post 43 – Belfast	James Pennell	Korea	Post 197 – Westbrook	Howard Waig	Vietnam
Post 43 – Belfast	Albert Warren	WWII	Post 204 – Monmouth	Merle Douglas Sr	Korea
Post 47 – Houlton	William Folsom	Vietnam	Post 204 – Monmouth	Randy Tibbetts	Vietnam
Post 49 – Van Buren	Leonard Adam	Vietnam	Post 214 – Lebanon	Stephen White	Vietnam
Post 53 – Dexter	Alexander Bogdanski	Vietnam			

**May 31, 2021**

**MEMORIAL DAY**



HONORING ALL WHO SERVED





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## Attention: Next Deadline is Apr. 16

The deadline for material, stories and/or pictures to be submitted for consideration for use in the May 2021 issue of The Maine Legionnaire will be April 16, 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)

# SWEEPSTAKES



**Winter Sweepstakes Drawing Results: Dept. Sgt.-At-Arms Patricia Thurston, center, pulls out the lucky winners for the Annual Winter Sweepstakes drawing held at Department Headquarters in Winslow on Jan. 19. Assisting in the drawing is Dept. 2nd Vice Commander Kirk Thurston, left, and Dept. Americanism Officer Alfred McKay, right. The Grand Prize Winner of \$1500 went to Margaret Menegas, Madison Unit 39; \$500 to Allen Edwards, Calais Post 3; \$300 to Malcolm Perkins, Winslow Headquarters Post 178; and \$200 to Theron Clough, Bethel Post 81. Congratulations goes out to all the lucky winners!**

### 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.



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