



The American Legion Department of Maine

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Weekly Update



July 18, 2008

**An optimist is one who sees an opportunity in every difficulty.
A pessimist is one who sees a difficulty in every opportunity.**

☺ **SMILE** ☺

**Rick Monday Coaches
At White House**

Former Chicago Cubs and Los Angeles Dodgers outfielder Rick Monday joined President Bush at the White House on July 16 for "Salute to Baseball: America's Pastime." Their wives, Barbaralee and Laura, also attended the event. Monday, a two-time major league All-Star, then coached third base for an all-star youth tee-ball game on the White House lawn.

Monday, a Dodgers' broadcaster is a Marine Corps veteran and member of American Legion Post 211 in Woodward, Iowa. Although he had a solid Major League career and helped the Dodgers win a 1981 World Series, Monday will be forever linked with an incident that occurred on April 25, 1976, while he was playing for the Chicago Cubs.

When two protesters attempted to burn the U.S. Flag on the field at Dodger Stadium during a game, Monday swiped the flag before they succeeded - an act that motivated the crowd of more than 30,000 to break into a spontaneous rendition of "God Bless America." The scoreboard lit up with the message, "Rick Monday, you made a great play." The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum selected the incident as one of the 100 greatest moments in baseball history.

"The final honor our country bestows upon the family of a fallen soldier is to present them with the flag that draped the coffin, accompanied with the words, 'On behalf of a grateful nation,'" Monday told The American Legion at its 89th National Convention in Reno, Nev. "We, as Americans, must never allow that symbol - of both our country and their loved one - to be desecrated. In my mind, what the protesters were trying to do was wrong. It was wrong 31 years ago and it is still wrong today. There is no place for it." Monday said that he and his wife remain committed to the cause. "Barbaralee and I have visited the wounded troops at Walter Reed and Brooke Army Medical Center. Our nation's flag represents all the rights and freedoms protected by the sacrifices of our heroes. People have died fighting under that flag, and it should never be desecrated."

Rick and Barbaralee have a son-in-law currently serving with the U.S. Army in Iraq. They still possess the flag that Rick saved from protesters 32 years ago.

**American Legion Riders
State-Wide Meeting**

Saturday July 26th will be a big day for the American Legion Riders (ALR) of Maine. Everything is on track for a good day of meeting Riders from all over the state and sharing ideas.

The Northern group intends to arrive in Millinocket around 1 p.m. from the east and the Southern group to arrive around 1:30 p.m. from the west. If you have not planned a route to get to Millinocket yet, please check the Maine Legion Riders web site at: <http://legionriders.mainelegion.org> for the routes and timelines. You might want to join in with one of the two groups. Some groups have planned other timelines and plan on arriving on Friday. Saturday's timeline will give everybody a good hour plus to relax before our meeting which starts at 3 p.m.

During the meeting we will discuss the proposed Constitution and By-laws for the State of Maine Legion Riders. Other information will be presented and each Chapter will be given a chance to present their donations for the Legacy Scholarship Fund, or at a minimum telling everybody present what their total is to date. The goal is to have all donations to the Department of Maine no later than August 12, 2008. Please make checks payable to The American Legion, Department of Maine no later than August 12th and put Legacy Fund in the memo area. The meeting is scheduled to last for an hour and a half, which should allow plenty of time. After the meeting, Post 80 will be hosting a Pig Roast followed by entertainment during the evening hours. Millinocket Post 80 is a great host and for those of you who have never been there you are in for a treat. This event will be a rain or shine event, so plan on alternate transportation if needed.

If you have any questions please contact Bill Kilde at turbine54@verizon.net or 841-5307.

**VA Announces On-Line
Claims Applications**

WASHINGTON (July 16, 2008) - The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today that on-line applications are now accepted from veterans, survivors and other claimants filing initial applications for disability compensation, pension, education, and vocational rehabilitation and employment benefits without the additional requirement to submit a signed paper copy of the application.

Effective immediately, VA will now process applications received through its on-line application website (VONAPP) without the claimant's signature. The electronic application will be sufficient authentication of the claimant's application for benefits. Normal development procedures and rules of evidence will still apply to all VONAPP applications.

VONAPP (www.va.gov/onlineapps.htm) is a Web-based system that benefits veterans, survivors and other claimants seeking compensation, pension, education, or vocational rehabilitation benefits. Individuals can apply electronically without the constraints of location, postage cost, and time delays in mail delivery. For more information about VA benefits, go to VA's website at www.va.gov or call our toll-free at 1-800-827-1000.

National Convention

The American Legion’s National convention will be held in Phoenix, Arizona August 22 – 28, 2008. Even though it will be quite hot for sure (indoor parade this year) the air conditioning works just great and a good time will be had by all. The Maine delegation will be staying at the Hyatt Regency Phoenix, which is across the street from the Convention Center. Room rates are \$107 plus tax and we still have a few rooms left in our block. If anyone is interested in attending, please contact this office for more information.

Donations

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

Dixfield Post 100	\$100.00 – National Legacy Fund
Vernon Sprague, Headquarters Post 178	\$50.00 – VAWS

Kudos

To Oakland Post 51 for their donation of \$300 to the Troops Support Program being conducted by Bath Post 21.

District Meetings

District 12 - Hancock Outing: August 3, annual lobster feed at Gouldsboro Point at 12 noon. There will be lobster, mussels and corn. The cost will be \$8.00 per lobster, which will include the mussels and corn. Lobsters have to be pre-ordered by July 26 and the money sent to Richard Bowden, 239 Central St., Bucksport 04416. Take route 1 east from Ellsworth, look for Gouldsboro Point street sign, turn right and follow the party signs. All are invited and we would like to have a reunion of the old Fifth District and have a good turn out in memory of Maurice Norwood. Please bring with you if you want to be sure to have it for your dinner: chairs, picnic table, eating utensils, plates, butter, and the like.

5th District - Oxford: Aug. 19, Maine Veterans Home, So. Paris, BBQ hosted by Post 151, 5 p.m.

What’s Happening?

Legion Riders Fun Ride: July 19, 9 a.m. American Legion Riders Fun Ride starting at Roger’s Sport Center in Fort Kent, then to Caribou, Van Buren and back to Fort Kent. \$10 riding fee will go to the flood victims of the St. John Valley. Door prizes, hot dogs and soft drinks upon return to Rogers Sport Ctr. Everyone welcome.

**Sons of The American Legion
Detachment News**

Our summer is heating up in more ways than one. We only have one week left to make 105% membership goal, then Commander Don goes to Phoenix for our National Convention. Remember the final target date for 2008 is July 24th. Think renewals, ask in person.

This week, Vice Commander Danforth and I visited Malcolm Glidden Post 163 in Palermo, Maine. They don't have a Squadron yet but that could change. We addressed the membership on the advantages of having a Squadron in their Post and the extra helping hands that entails. Palermo is now seeking motivated sons who want to help veterans and their community. If successful, Palermo may sponsor the 49th Squadron in the Detachment of Maine.

Next week is the Legion visitation day at Maine Blind Camp on Wednesday, July 23 at Camp Lauraweld in Weld. You are welcome to join the group from the Legion family most anytime during the day, but festivities are planned for late afternoon and evening for our group. You are encouraged to join the group for dinner at the camp and the evening talent show. Those are the top stories this week from the Detachment of Maine. .

Bruce Pierce
Detachment Commander

Auxiliary Corner

Great news everyone! Our Auxiliary Headquarters will officially be moved in on July 17th. Please send all mailings from now on to our new ALA address at: American Legion Auxiliary Headquarters, 1047 South Street, Dover-Foxcroft 04426. Our new ALA telephone **office** number is: **207-564-3366** - **FAX** number is: **207-564-3367**. Our e-mail address will remain the same: aladeptsecme@verizon.net.

On Sunday July 27, 2008 from 9:00am to 3:00pm we will be having our yearly ALA Officers Leadership Work Shop. This would also a great opportunity for any Chairman or any ALA members that would like to join us. We would love to have you join us at Veterans Memorial Unit 205, 400 Eastern Ave. (route 17), in Augusta. Tel: 688-9061. All Legion family members are welcome to join us. Please bring a bag lunch.

Please note my new address of 5 Court Way, Buxton 04093-3350 and telephone 727-4441. The P. O. Box will be closed at the end of the month.

Donna L. "Bunny" Greenlaw
ALA Department President

Best Wishes,

Ron Sailor
Department Adjutant

**THE MAINE LEGIONNAIRE
TAPS COLUMN**

To: The Maine Legionnaire
P.O. Box 900
Waterville, Maine 04903-0900

Note: members submitted for the Taps Column are not automatically removed from a Post Roster. You must still submit a Member Data Form reporting the member as deceased.

The following member(s) have joined the Post Everlasting. Please publish their names in the next issue of The Maine Legionnaire Taps Column.

<u>Date:</u>	<u>I.D. #</u>	<u>Name:</u>	<u>Conflict:</u>

Signed: _____
 Post Adjutant

Post No. _____ Location: _____

This form should be sent to The Maine Legionnaire on a monthly basis. Do not send in names of members who have been deceased over two months.

THIS FORM MAY BE REPRODUCED