

PROUD WINNER OF POST EXCELLENCE AWARD



AMERICAN LEGION POST 18

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www.ALPost18RI.homestead.com

NEWS FROM THE POST ~ Flying InFormation ~ FALL 2021

COMMANDER'S BRIEFING

Fellow veterans (and other supporters reading this newsletter), I am proud to tell you about what's going on with our post and in our community. As the season changes, I am eager to see the beauty of the Autumn leaves.

The past couple of months have yielded many opportunities to continue my service to the Veteran community. I incorporated riding my motorcycle while attending some activities. One of the most rewarding events was the dedication of Rhode Island's Purple Heart Trail. Learn more: www.legiontown.org/memorials/7979/purple-heart-trail-dedicated.

I encourage all our readers to attend American Legion events. This summer afforded me the opportunity to visit Post 88 in Burrillville, RI for a BBQ fundraising event. As department historian, I enjoy visiting posts all across the state. Our friends at Downey-Weaver Post 34 in Charlestown hosted a picnic for the department. There will be a lighting of the torch ceremony hosted at Post 85-Fairmount in Woonsocket. Here's the info: www.facebook.com/374198951118/posts/10159963284021119/.

All patriotic citizens are invited to attend our annual Veterans Day ceremony (details below) at Portsmouth Town Hall. We have a great guest speaker and the community participates in this program. This year our theme is Women's Contributions to the Military. Attend and help us celebrate our veterans.



The future **USS DANIEL INOUE** visited Newport on 8 OCT 2021 on way to commissioning in homeport in Pearl Harbor



20th Anniversary 9-11 Remembrance Ceremony was organized by William "Bill" Pennoyer, Post 12. The Marine Corps League, RI Fire Fighter Academy trainees, Sea Cadets, RI Patriot Guard Riders and local VSOs supported this event.

I appreciate your continued support as your Commander. We are committed to improving the lives of veterans and their families. I welcome all members to join us as we fulfill our mission objectives. Find something you enjoy that you can share with others. Being there for someone can be very rewarding. Mutual helpfulness is a core tenet of the Legion.

Check out the website routinely for upcoming events and messages. May each of you enjoy good health, happiness and prosperity.

Francis "Cisco" Gutierrez, Commander
fjgcisco@cox.net
401.595.6525

VETERANS DAY—THURSDAY, 11 NOV 2021

@ PORTSMOUTH TOWN HALL (2200 E. Main Rd., Portsmouth, RI)

@ 8 AM—brief meeting of American Legion Post 18; prepare the hall for arrival of speakers & guests
@ 9 AM—Veterans Day ceremony featuring keynote speaker RADM Shoshana Chatfield, President of the prestigious Naval War College; indoor ceremony followed by outdoor wreath laying ceremony
@ 10:30 AM—Island Park Veterans Celebration @ Thriving Tree Coffee House (706 Park Ave., Island Park, Portsmouth, RI); music and refreshments

CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

Post 18 Portsmouth continues our reach out to all veterans, whether post members or not, to be there for comfort, encouragement and fellowship. The local VSO memberships continue to dwindle as we rapidly lose our WWII and Korean Conflict Veterans to age. It appears that most of our members are now of the Korean and Vietnam Wars and not many veterans have yet joined from subsequent eras. We are hopeful that they will soon join us to fill in the gap and to continue American Legion support for **all veterans**. Although many of us are doing buddy checks with active members, it is needful for all to be alert to check the physical, mental and emotional health of both our aging veteran community, as well as those returning from our modern conflicts.

Statistics show that suicide rates may be on the decline for 2021, but we must strive to prevent any veteran or active duty service member from going through any challenge alone. I have seen where we as fellow veterans can offer what civilian friends and family in many cases cannot. We can make a difference by relating to what we collectively have experienced with our veteran brothers and sisters, whatever their need. Please step up and care for each other as a priority in your life. There continues to be fewer that can step up to this crisis challenge and we are needed more than ever.

Dave Duggan, Chaplain/Past Commander
duggan55@gmail.com



POST EVERLASTING

We are sad to report that Post 18 member **DONALD JESTINGS** recently joined Post Everlasting. Don served in the US Navy during the Korean War aboard the USS NEW JERSEY.

Member **JOSEPH SILVA** passed away recently. He also served during the Korean War.

We hope fond memories comfort their families, friends and caregivers.

2021—2022 POST 18 OFFICERS & ADMIN

Francis "Cisco" Gutierrez, Commander
DK1 Stephen Doherty, USN (Ret.), Sr. Vice CDR & Fin. Off.
MSCS Antonio "Tony" Cercena, USN (Ret.), Jr. Vice CDR
YNCS GinaMarie Doherty, USN (Ret.), Adjutant
Peter Roberts, Sergeant-at-Arms
Dave Duggan, Chaplain / Recent Past Commander
CTO1 Daniel Dougherty, USN (Ret.), Membership Co-Chair
Christine Hayward, Webmistress/Membership Co-Chair

NOTE: This newsletter is printed in a larger format for those with vision challenges. Please make an effort to speak up at meetings and events for those who are suffering hearing loss due to age or lack of hearing conservation during their service. Any member needing a ride to Post 18 meetings or events can call 401.236.2224 (leave message) to make arrangements. This award-winning newsletter has an initial distribution of 805 copies per issue with countless pass-along readership and a web presence. We welcome submission of photos, articles and calendar items from members, other Posts and Units, the Department and veteran-friendly organizations for consideration. Contact: Editor C. Hayward, PO Box 307, Portsmouth, RI 02871 or editorPOST18RI@gmail.com. Note: Some photos in the issue courtesy of **D. Duggan, C. Evans-Carbery, T. Cercena & L. Zagaglia-Gutierrez**.

Be **green** and save Post 18 the cost of production and mailing! Subscribe to receive "FI" via e-mail in full color in an easy-to-share PDF format. It's free; membership not required! Send your e-mail address to editorPOST18RI@gmail.com.

Many Post 18 members, spouses and friends volunteer with the RI Patriot Guard Riders to provide flag lines for wakes, funerals, burials, ceremonies, homecomings, deployments, etc.

You do not need to ride a motorcycle or be a veteran to be a member, and there are no dues or meetings. Join (web site below) to get area mission notices. Patriotic volunteers needed!

Above: Francis "Cisco" Gutierrez, CDR of Post 18 & member of American Legion Riders Chapter 2 & RI Ride Captain Christine Hayward at the 9-11 Remembrance Ceremony at RI Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Exeter. At right: ALA Unit 2 member Linda Zagaglia Gutierrez supports an honor mission.



www.patriotguard.org



Our friends from Post 104-Warren hosted a picnic @ Bristol Town Beach for the residents at the RI Veterans Home on 29 AUG 2021.

Due to current COVID restrictions, many of our members felt uncomfortable participating in Post 18's popular Halloween Themed BINGO for the residents at the RI Veterans Home in Bristol. We hope to schedule and host an event in late winter/early spring 2022.

Post 88-Burrillville hosted a BBQ fundraiser on 6 SEP 2021. Tactical Smokers put on quite a spread; no one left hungry! For info on veteran-friendly fundraisers, contact Mike Boss or Mike Hadley at Tactical Smokers @ 401.692.7036.



BREAST CANCER AWARENESS THEMED WORD FIND



October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The VA offers state-of-the-art breast care including breast cancer screening, treatment, genetic counseling and testing and care coordination. The Women Veterans program at the VA in Providence will be conducting a **"Wellness Day"** for women veterans on Thursday, 21 OCT 2021 from 9 AM to 2 PM (drive up). Preventative screening, COVID and Flu vaccines, education, eligibility, finance and housing resources and give-aways. Check out www.womenshealth.va.gov or call 401.273.7100 x 16191.

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WORD LIST

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| BREAST | CLINICAL |
| CANCER | TRIAL |
| AWARENESS | EARLY |
| PINK | TEST |
| RIBBON | SYMPTOMS |
| SCREEN | TREAT |
| DIAGNOSIS | DISEASE |
| SURVIVOR | RISK |
| CURE | FACTOR |
| PATIENT | LUMP |
| DETECTION | ANNUAL |
| RESEARCH | SELF |
| WALK | EXAM |
| DIET | FATIGUE |
| HEALTH | PAIN |
| MAMMOGRAM | |



Butts Hill Fort is coming into view. After two days of mechanical clearing in August, 34 volunteers, aged 10 to 87, brought yard tools, chain saws, brush hogs and enthusiasm to the historic Fort on 12 SEP 2021. In four hours of work, they made good progress, particularly around the entrance and inside the Fort. To restore the Revolutionary War Fort to the public as a historic, educational and recreational location by 2026, this initial clearing is required in order to assess the condition of the earthworks and to determine how best to restore and maintain them. The Butts Hill Fort Restoration



Committee wants to thank all those who participated. Special thanks go to our friends at the Fort at the south end of the Island. The crew from Fort Adams arrived with people and equipment that made a major impact on the results. Another volunteer cleanup will be scheduled. To volunteer, please sign up with Seth Chiaro at: seth.chiaro@gmail.com.



Post 18 members voted to support this monumental effort now and in the future as specific needs for the project become known. This historic site will be an asset to our community.

BUTTS HILL FORT RESTORATION is a committee of the Portsmouth (Rhode Island) Historical Society. The mission of the Committee is to restore and maintain the Revolutionary War Fort in order to provide a safe and accessible educational and recreational site that raises public interest in this National Historic Landmark and its role in the Battle of Rhode Island.

Former crew members from the USS MILLER (FF-1091) held their reunion in Middletown, RI in September. One of the side trips included a visit aboard the USS CONSTITUTION in Boston. The reunion was held in the newly renovated conference room at Howard Johnson Inn (351 W. Main Rd., Middletown) - convenient to so many attractions and activities on Aquidneck Island. Howard Johnson Inn has been a sponsor of our Post 18 newsletter for many years!

www.newporthojo.com



There are two opportunities coming up to support our friends at **Dare to Dream Ranch**—an equine therapy (and so much more!) program for veterans, military members and their families. Volunteer opportunities for you and your family, business, church, troop, etc.!



BARKS & BREWS—Sunday, 24 OCT 2021 from 1 to 5 PM @ Newport Craft Brewing & Distilling Co. (293 JT Connell Hwy., Newport, RI). Dogs welcome! Live music, silent auction, Halloween Pup Parade, food trucks, photos, fun and more!



VETERANS' OLDIES DINNER DANCE—Saturday, 11 DEC 2021 from 6 to 11 PM @ Coventry-West Greenwich Elks (42 Nooseneck Hill Rd., W. Greenwich, RI). **Sponsorship opportunities available.** Dinner, dance and raffle. Tickets: \$40 per person.

Contact: Karen Dalton @ 401.919.2059 or via e-mail at Dare2DreamRanchRI@gmail.com.

 **Dare to Dream Ranch**

12 Snagwood Rd., Foster, RI 02825
www.daretodreamranch.org



PURPLE HEART TRAIL DEDICATED

On 7 AUG 2021 (National Purple Heart Day), RI's Purple Heart Trail was dedicated starting with a procession from E. Greenwich to Westerly. VFW Post 916 CDR Joe "Tiger" Patrick invested years making this meaningful trail honoring veterans a reality. At left: DEPT OF RI Jr. Vice CDR Betty Leach with Erika Westbrook.



Purple Heart recipient Staff Sgt. Sarah Cavanaugh, USMC, hosted the event. Photo credit: Michael Derr



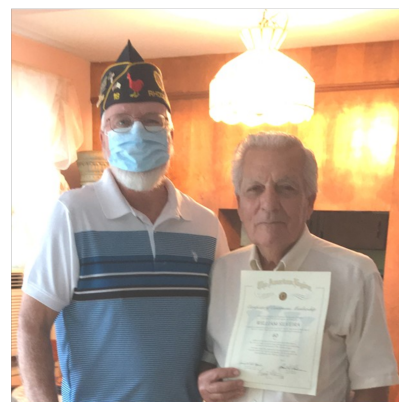
We bid fair winds and following seas to **LT Chris Hetherington** (wearing #12) who is transferring from Newport, RI to Spain. He can expect care packages from us with RI specialties.

We encourage all eligible veterans and active duty service members to join their local Veterans Service Organizations. Make a difference!

VICTORY DAY CEREMONY



Post 7-Newport along with the United Veterans Council hosted an event commemorating the end of WWII at Newport City Hall. Post 18 CDR/DEPT OF RI Historian Francis "Cisco" Gutierrez is at the podium; Post 7 CDR/Artillery Company of Newport member John Duchesneau at right and Post 18/Artillery Company of Newport member Michael Pine is in the "swabby" uniform. In the regimental uniform is MAJ Chris DeBethune of the prestigious Artillery Company of Newport (ACN). Victory Day is celebrated on the 2nd Monday in August, although the official surrender of the Japanese marking the end of WWII was on 14 AUG 1945. Learn more about the ACN at www.newportartillery.org.



A 60-year certificate was presented to member **William Silveira** by Post 18 Chaplain Dave Duggan recently. Congratulations!



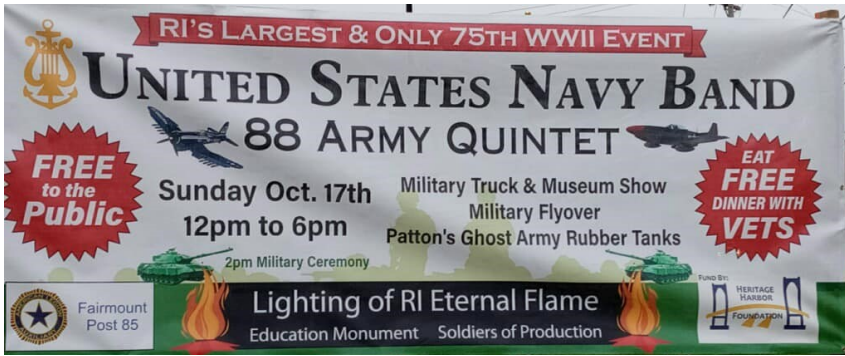
FLYING INFORMATION—FALL 2021—PG 5

Members of the RI Patriot Guard Riders went to view the visiting ship at Naval Station Newport on 8 OCT 2021. Volunteering affords opportunities to give back to our community, meet new friends and experience the camaraderie we enjoyed as military families.



The DEPT OF RI picnic was hosted by Downey-Weaver Post 34 in Richmond, RI on 8 AUG 2021. Above: DEPT CDR David Singleton and spouse.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



SUNDAY—17 OCT 2021 from 12 to 6 PM—Lighting of RI Eternal Flame at Post 85-Fairmount (870 River St., Woonsocket). Music, military truck & museum show, flyover, dinner with veterans—it's all free!

SATURDAY—23 OCT 2021—Beirut Memorial Ceremony—local ceremony @ Portsmouth Historical Society is by invitation only this year. Please keep

these Gold Star families in your thoughts and prayers. We encourage those who are able to pay their respects at the Rhode Island IX Beirut Memorial in Providence.

THURSDAY, 11 NOV 2021—VETERANS DAY (see details on PG 1)



For more info and updates, please visit www.ALPost18RI.homestead.com
Like/follow us on FACEBOOK (American Legion Post 18-Portsmouth, RI)

HONORING WOMEN VETERANS

On MONDAY, 22 NOV 2021 @ 11 AM @ RI State House (82 Smith St., Providence, RI) there will be a dedication ceremony honoring all RI Women Veterans.



Park free in the "Reps & Senators" parking area. Refreshments afterwards. For more info, contact Ginny Hanson at fghanson@aol.com.

ROSE SHERBURNE CLANCY

As America began its involvement in WWI in 1917, the US Navy put out the call for women to join. Rose was the 1st woman to enlist from RI.



She was also the 1st female commander of a RI American Legion Post (Post 44-Providence, RI). Learn more about this remarkable woman at our Veterans Day ceremony!

FLYING INFORMATION—FALL 2021—PG 6

PORTSMOUTH DESIGNATED "PURPLE HEART TOWN"



Patriotic citizen **Carolyn Evans-Carbery** spearheaded a ceremony designating Portsmouth as a "Purple Heart Town."

Six local Purple Heart recipients (five of whom were able to attend including Post 18 member **William "Bill" McCollum**) were honored for their bravery and sacrifices.

RI VFW Sr. Vice CDR Joe "Tiger" Patrick and other dignitaries addressed attendees. The RI Patriot Guard Riders provided a flag line. Great job, Carolyn!



Honorees below:
Charles Morin, Bill McCollum, Jeff Fletcher, Frank Grzyb and Ken Garthee. Marvin Clements was unable to attend.



PHOTO COURTESY JIM MCGAW, EASTBAYRI