

PROUD WINNER OF POST EXCELLENCE AWARD



AMERICAN LEGION POST 18

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www.ALPost18RI.homestead.com

NEWS FROM THE POST ~ Flying InFormation ~ JAN—JUN 2020

COMMANDER'S BRIEFING



Hello and best wishes to all of our members, friends and dear readers. Post 18 has had to make adjustments as we all have. Current events are unprecedented in recent history. I urge everyone to remain calm, trust in your faith, and try to pursue your own happiness.

On 2 FEB 2020, I attended the annual **Four Chaplains** ceremony at Cornerstone of Faith Church in Coventry. Later that day I attended a **Gold Star Memorial** fundraiser. Remember, as a member of Post 18 you can visit other Posts to share comradeship across our country.

As we begin recovery from this pandemic, it is still important to check up on friends who might need a kind word or gesture. Several members keep in touch through web site groups and other social media. Other members and I participate in PGR missions as permitted. Below my wife Linda and I stand the flag line at the RI Veterans Cemetery in Exeter for an Honor Mission for fellow PGR member and USMC veteran Danny Metivier. Notifications of Honor and "Help on the Homefront" missions for RI and other surrounding areas are posted electronically. There is no fee to join and you do not need to be a veteran or ride a motorcycle to participate. Visit: www.patriotguard.org.

We also celebrated milestone birthdays of two esteemed members. Despite restrictions, several members accomplished Memorial Day grave re-flagging.

We urge everyone to utilize modern communication methods to check in with friends and family. We will embrace the challenges faced by our beloved organization and continue our mission. We pray for the success of all American Legion posts, units, squadrons and Riders chapters using new and exciting communication techniques for the continued improvement of the Legion worldwide. To see stories of what's happening with the American Legion, please visit Legiontown U.S.A. at the following link:

<http://www.legiontown.org/> Once you're on the site, scroll down to view Post 18's scholarship award video.



I hope everyone reading this message is enjoying full prosperity in these difficult times. We shall overcome this too. I believe in our "Four Pillars" and our ability to fulfill our mission. Join me as we continue into the next century of American Legion support for our veterans.

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

CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

What challenging times we are going through emotionally and spiritually! An invisible enemy is devastating families around the globe. Our "service members" this time are the medical professionals and first responders working on the front lines to control and eradicate this deadly enemy. This is quite a different kind of warfare than we are used to, but I think we—as having served—understand the sacrifice and restrictive orders better than most of the general public. This is a test of our character and Patience. A group effort is required to defeat this enemy as only a few irresponsible people can negatively affect so many.

Member Ray Briganti brought the Korean Peace Medal program to our attention last fall. In turn, we forwarded his eloquently, hand-written letter to the RI Office of Veterans Services to spread the news. Thanks to Ray's notification, I was able to apply for my father-in-law to receive this award posthumously. Ray is a shining example of what one person can do help those around him.

Please inform our Post and me of any veteran who may need a short, safe-distance visit of encouragement and support.

Stay safe and stay connected with us!

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



RAY BRIGANTI, 91, is the first Post 18 member to receive the Korean Peace Medal awarded by the Korean people in gratitude to all American service members who served in-country or war zone. Ray served aboard the USS ST PAUL (CA-73). Bravo Zulu!

2020—2021 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 Chair
Christine Hayward, Webmistress/Publisher/Asst. ADJ

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 ripost18legion@aol.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 ripost18legion@aol.com.

POST EVERLASTING



Post 18 member **Walter G. Cox** passed away on 6 JUN 2020 in Virginia. He proudly served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. We hope fond memories comfort his family, friends and caregivers.



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Welcome aboard and a belated "Welcome Home" to **Manuel Duponte** of Portsmouth who served in the U.S. Army in the Vietnam era.

Post 18 currently has 135 members. Membership renewal for 2021 is underway. We encourage those who are able to renew on-line. You will need your Legion ID number. On-line renewal helps minimize notices and the delay by taking out the middle man (Post 18 and DEPT OF RI). Please visit **WWW.LEGION.ORG**.

CTO1 Dan Dougherty, USN (Ret.)
Membership Chairman
dansdahlias633@cox.net

MEMORIAL DAY REFLAGGING



Thank you to Vinny D'Andrea for picking up the flags from the RIVMC. Only a handful of dedicated patriotic citizens were able to assist with the reflagging of the various cemeteries in Portsmouth. We are grateful to our friends at VFW Post 5390 for reflagging Portsmouth Burial Ground. Data collection for the RI Historic Cemeteries Commission was not conducted this year, but we are more than 80% complete with data collection and headstone/marker photos!



COMMUNITY, STATE & NATION THEMED WORD FIND

Now—more than ever—let us remember that we all contribute to the success of our community, state and nation where we live, learn, worship, work and play. Please be a good citizen and a good neighbor.

P	P	B	C	R	D	E	P	I	C	N	I	C	F	N
R	E	E	T	N	U	L	O	V	Y	K	G	K	E	J
A	T	N	W	S	A	L	Y	A	R	D	M	I	L	H
Y	S	O	P	Y	C	Q	E	A	A	S	G	N	V	N
C	R	G	B	T	Z	H	P	X	R	H	W	D	T	R
K	D	O	E	I	K	C	O	L	B	C	G	N	E	A
S	Y	L	I	M	A	F	F	O	I	L	O	E	K	E
N	S	D	P	U	Q	A	R	V	L	I	N	S	R	L
E	R	E	S	M	R	H	I	U	T	W	E	S	A	V
Z	T	N	R	M	O	L	E	A	A	L	X	T	M	Y
I	E	S	U	O	H	Z	N	L	I	Y	I	A	E	T
T	V	W	D	C	T	V	D	M	P	P	O	T	V	R
I	B	C	A	E	G	S	S	B	S	U	D	E	I	A
C	O	R	P	R	D	N	U	O	R	G	Y	A	L	P
U	E	V	W	O	R	S	H	I	P	M	A	E	R	D

WORD LIST

COMMUNITY	GOLDEN
STATE	RULE
NATION	LIBRARY
NEIGHBORHOOD	HOUSE
CIVIL	MARKET
PARK	SCHOOL
YARD	WORSHIP
BLOCK	STORES
PARTY	HOSPITAL
PICNIC	FARM
LAWN	LIVE
KINDNESS	PRAY
HELP	LEARN
CARE	DREAM
PLAYGROUND	WORK
VOLUNTEER	PETS
CITIZENS	FAMILY
SMILE	FRIENDS



Post 18 Past CDR/current Chaplain Dave Duggan made a "Buddy Check" visit to Korean War veteran and Missouri native **Jay Williamson**, 88, of Middletown who proudly served as a sonarman in the U.S. Navy.

Post 18 Past CDR Christine Hayward and Unit 2 member Linda Zagaglia-Gutierrez stand a RI PGR flag line to honor **Danny Metivier** (10 JUN 2020)



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOTE: MOST MEETINGS & EVENTS CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS.



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

100th ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE

Passed by Congress 4 JUN 1919, and ratified on 18 AUG 1920, the 19th Amendment granted women the right to vote.

<https://www.ourdocuments.gov>

To help us think, talk and teach about the rights and responsibilities of citizens in our democracy, we invite you to explore 100 milestone documents of American history. These documents reflect our diversity and our unity, our past and our future, and



mostly our commitment as a nation to continue to strive to "form a more perfect union."

Thanks to Adjutant GinaMarie Doherty for sharing this great resource for teachers and parents who are home-schooling their children!

BIRTHDAYS CELEBRATED



COVID-19 restrictions couldn't stop us from delivering birthday wishes to fellow Post 18 members **Billie Dietz** (below) and **Marty Lynch** (right). Above, Unit 2 member **Linda Zagaglia-Gutierrez** displays signs at a safe distance. Happy 90th birthday, gentlemen (and Billie also celebrated 60 years with The American Legion)!

