

PROUD WINNER OF POST EXCELLENCE AWARD



AMERICAN LEGION POST 18

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NEWS FROM THE POST ~ Flying InFormation ~ JAN—MAR 2019



Above left: Post 18 CDR Dave Duggan and Kristen Kidd, owner of The Thriving Tree Coffee House, ring a bell 21 times on Veterans Day 2018 as part of the "Bells of Peace" initiative marking 100 years since the end of World War I.

(Photo by: The Providence Journal)

Above right, Post 18 Sr. Vice CDR Francis "Cisco" Gutierrez stands in a Patriot Guard Rider (PGR) flag line at the funeral of George Mendonsa—The Kissing Sailor—on 22 FEB 2019. (Photo by: Karen Ross/Rolling Thunder RI Chapter 1)

COMMANDER'S BRIEFING

Hope everyone is doing well during these winter months. It's not too early to start thinking about another year to support our Portsmouth veterans and their families with phone calls, visits, Honor Flights and ceremonies. But while we're doing that, let's have some fun. We are thinking about how we can get together as a community and enjoy each other's company. Come on, this is volunteering! We need to have some fun while we support patriotic endeavors on Aquidneck Island.

Our theme this year is "The American Legion—100 Years." We need to realize who we are and what we're doing. Does what we do matter to anyone? If it doesn't, why do we do it? The American Legion was established on March 15, 1919 in Paris, France by members of the American Expeditionary Force. As we continue this year, we will be supporting and learning more about the Four Pillars: Americanism, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security and Children & Youth.

Dave Duggan, Commander
duggan55@gmail.com

RIServes – GETTING VETERANS THE RESOURCES THEY'VE EARNED

Navigating resources and care is the number one challenge facing our veterans and their families. If you know someone who may need some assistance, there's a new resource available. This past December, the Rhode Island Office of Veteran Affairs (RIOVA) launched RIServes, a coordinated network of more than 35 agencies and providers that makes it easier for veterans and their family members to find services they need in Rhode Island. The network has partners that can assist in the areas health care, housing, education, job training, legal assistance, and financial counseling, among others. As the state's coordination center, RIOVA receives referrals for assistance either directly from a veteran (or family member) or through one of its 40 partners in the community. The team at RIOVA then finds the best service provider to help the veteran.

Active duty, National Guard, and Reserve service members, as well as veterans and their families who reside in Rhode Island, are eligible for support from the network. All individuals who have served in the military regardless of age, era, or branch or discharge status are eligible for support from the coordination center. Although some services have limiting eligibility criteria, network care coordinators strive to find an appropriate local resource. RIServes expects to eventually have participation from 50-60 providers. Veterans, military members and families in need of assistance or more information should go to www.riserves.org or call **(401) 921-2175**. For general information, contact the RI Office of Veterans Affairs directly www.vets.ri.gov or **(401) 921-2119**.



CHAPLAIN'S REPORT



Beautiful wreath designed by Carolyn Evans-Carbery, Project Blue Star Coordinator

A Prayer for Inner Strength: Please give us the strength to face the day and to see the many blessings that it contains. Give us the courage to walk forward no matter how hard or how long the path. Guide our thoughts and deeds so that we walk in love and peace with gratitude stamped on our hearts. May we encourage and sympathize with our veterans and their families who struggle to maintain peace in their lives.

YNCS GinaMarie Doherty, USN (Ret.), Chaplain
yncsgrd@aol.com



On 2 FEB 2019, Post 18 Sr. Vice CDR/Asst. Chaplain Francis "Cisco" Gutierrez attended the **FOUR CHAPLAINS MEMORIAL SERVICE** at the Cornerstone Methodist Church in Coventry. Learn more at www.fourchaplains.org.

2018—2019 POST 18 OFFICERS

Dave Duggan, Commander
Francis "Cisco" Gutierrez, Sr. Vice CDR
Stephen Doherty, Jr. Vice CDR
Christine Hayward, Adjutant/Webmistress
Stephen Doherty, Treasurer
David Crow, Sergeant-at-Arms
GinaMarie Doherty, Chaplain
CTO1 Daniel Dougherty, USN (Ret.), Membership 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 766 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. Member, National American Legion Press Association (NALPA) (www.nalpa.org).

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MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Welcome aboard to these new/transferring members:

JOHN BAGWILL
(USN/Korea)

JEFF GRAY
(USN, Lebanon/Grenada)

KEVIN MCCARTHY
(USN, Vietnam)



MANUEL RIBERIO, JR.
(USA/WWII)

CURTIS RYMER
(USN/Vietnam)

TIMOTHY TOOMEY
(USA, Lebanon/Grenada)

KELLY VAN HEES
(USAF/Vietnam)

I was pleased to present Manuel Riberio with his membership card and Post 18 ballcap in person. Post 18 has 142 members, most of whom have renewed. Please check your records to see if you have overlooked your renewal. You can renew on-line at www.legion.org. Because there is a delay between the time your payment is received and when your membership status is updated at National, you may receive a dues reminder/notice AFTER your dues have been paid. To avoid duplicate payments, please review your check register or call me at 401.253.8828. We're thrilled with our stats and hope to see newbies at upcoming events.

CTO1 Dan Dougherty, USN (Ret.)
Membership Chairman
dansdahlia633@cox.net

AMERICAN LEGION THEMED WORD FIND



We're kicking off our 2019 theme of celebrating 100 years since the founding of **The American Legion**. Test your knowledge of the largest veterans organization in the world with this puzzle made up of key words. This year, we will focus on the Four Pillars: Children & Youth, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, National Security and Americanism to help our members learn more about the organization. Please attend meetings and events if you are able or ask for a project you can do at home!

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

WORD LIST

AMERICAN	FOUR
LEGION	PILLARS
AUXILIARY	PROGRAMS
SONS	CHILDREN
RIDERS	YOUTH
POST	NATIONAL
UNIT	DEFENSE
SQUADRON	AMERICANISM
DEPARTMENT	VETERANS
COMMUNITY	SHOOTING
STATE	BASEBALL
NATION	EMBLEM
VOLUNTEER	SERVE
FLAG	PATRIOTISM
GIRLS	REHABILITATION
BOYS	MEMBER
PREAMBLE	DUES
HONOR	JOIN
CAP	ORATORICAL
PLEDGE	LEGACY
POPPY	SCHOLARSHIP

ECHO TAPS

SATURDAY, 18 MAY 2019
@ RI VETERANS
MEMORIAL CEMETERY

BRASS PLAYERS & FLAG
HOLDERS REPORT
NO LATER THAN 11 AM;
CEREMONY STARTS
PROMPTLY AT NOON.

REFLAGGING OF GRAVES/VETERAN
GRAVE DATA COLLECTION
SUNDAY, 19 MAY 2019 @ 11:30 AM

Meet @ St. Mary's Church @ 11:30 AM.
When done, caravan across the street to Trinity Cemetery. When done, caravan to Portsmouth Burial Ground. Union Cemetery and other smaller/outlying cemeteries will be done the same week. Volunteers needed! Scouts, students and other patriotic citizens needed to help flag graves and assist with data collection/photo documentation. Water and snacks will be provided. Gloves & sunscreen recommended.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS—MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND JOIN US!

TUESDAY, 5 MARCH 2019—REGULAR MEETING OF POST 18 @ 6:30 PM @ Atria Aquidneck Place, 125 Quaker Ln., Portsmouth, RI (**weather permitting**). **Topic: Four Pillars—Children & Youth.**

TUESDAY, 9 APRIL 2019—REGULAR MEETING OF POST 18 @ 6:00 PM (meeting will start at 6:30 PM) @ Portsmouth Free Public Library, 2658 E. Main Rd., Portsmouth, RI. First round of nominations for officers for 2019-2020. **Topic: Four Pillars—Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation.**

SATURDAY, 13 APRIL 2019—SPRING THEMED BINGO @ 1:30 PM @ RI Veterans Home, 480 Metacom Ave., Bristol, RI. Volunteers needed to socialize, help veterans play their cards and award prizes.

SATURDAY, 4 MAY 2019 (TENTATIVE—SAVE THE DATE)—ANNUAL MEETING OF POST 18; elections, guest speaker, lunch. **Topic: Four Pillars—National Security.**

SATURDAY, 18 MAY 2019—ARMED FORCES DAY; ECHO TAPS @ RI Veterans Memorial Cemetery (details on PG 3)

SUNDAY, 19 MAY 2019 @ 11:30 AM—REFLAGGING OF GRAVES & DATA COLLECTION (details on PG 3)

**For more info and updates, please visit
www.americanlegionpost18ri.homestead.com**

Note: Web site will be updated soon; technical difficulty due to new version of software.



At left: The RI Patriot Guard Riders provided a flag line on Veterans' Day. At right: The new American Flag Drop-off Box has been installed at the Portsmouth Free Public Library. This receptacle was part of an Eagle Scout project by Nick Johnson of Troop 1-Portsmouth. Both the local VFW and American Legion have access to the drop box to collect tattered flags for proper retirement.



POST 18 CDR presents Vietnam Veteran ball cap to Portsmouth resident **BOB MEDEIROS** at the Seaconnet Sportsman's Club on 7 FEB 2019.

Bob was unable to attend our ceremony at Portsmouth High School a few years ago to receive his hat in person at our Vietnam Veterans' "Welcome Home" ceremony. We thank him for his service, and hope he'll wear the ball cap proudly.



American Legion Auxiliary Unit #11 will host a Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner on Sunday, **17 MAR 2019 @ 6:30 PM** at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 500 Metacom Ave., Warren, RI. Tickets: \$15/adults; \$7/kids 6 to 12; free/5 & under. Call Judy @ **401.245.5431**.

MAIL CALL REQUEST

All female Honor Flight "Victory" will take off in April. One of the events is "Mail Call." Cards and letters thanking the ladies for their service are **due by 5 MAR 2019**. Address letters/cards to: Connie, Dottie, Dora, Sharron and Sylvia. E-mail our Chaplain (see PG 2) for local pick up. GinaMarie will deliver letters to the RI Fire Chiefs for distribution to those participating in this flight.

