

**PROUD WINNER OF POST EXCELLENCE AWARD**



## **AMERICAN LEGION POST 18**

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**NEWS FROM THE POST ~ Flying InFormation ~ JUL—SEP 2019**

### **COMMANDER'S BRIEFING**



We were honored to have the DEPT of RI team install our new slate of officers in June. This summer ushers in a new centennial for our Post 18, as well as the American Legion world-wide. Your confidence in me as we began the second century of our patriotic service is humbling. I am proud to represent our post and will strive to continue its traditions. Thank you. We recently celebrated Independence Day. We must always remember that fellow veterans earned and continue to defend our way of life. July celebrations focus on family and friends. Family traditions are a vital ingredient for strengthening familial and community bonds. My sincere thanks go out to our Adjutant, and Jr. Vice Commander for representing Post 18 at the Department convention. It was my honor to attend the Friday awards presentation. Post 18 received a letter of appreciation for our support of Boys and Girls State. Attending the Saturday sessions was a "schooling." Listening to the presentations from invited guests was enlightening. The banquet Saturday night provided ample opportunities to network with other

Legion members while having some fun. The convention included the nominating and voting on new Department officers. It was a bit surprising to see the entire slate of nominations go unopposed. Perhaps by next convention interest in service at the Department level will yield more candidates. I look forward to our centennial celebration on **Thursday, 29 August 2019 at 6 PM** at Thriving Tree Coffee House (details on PG 3). This Island Park cafe boasts waterfront, outdoor seating, great food and friendly proprietors. I urge all members to attend our next meeting on **Tuesday, 6 August 2019 at 6 PM** in the Community Room at the Portsmouth Police Station. This is a brand new facility and is a great opportunity for us to demonstrate our commitment to law and order. Please reach out to another member and invite them to join you.

### **DARE TO DREAM RANCH 3rd ANNUAL OLD FASHIONED BBQ**

**SUNDAY, 18 AUGUST 2019  
2 PM to 6 PM  
@ TRI-CITY 14 ELKS LODGE  
1915 W. SHORE RD.  
WARWICK, RI**

Tickets: Adults: \$25; Children: \$15; under five free. Enjoy pig roast, pulled pork, DJ station, jukebox, karaoke, field games, inflatables, raffles & auctions. Sponsorship opportunities available.



Call 401.919.2059 for tickets.

[www.daretodreamranch.org](http://www.daretodreamranch.org)

**Francis "Cisco" Gutierrez, Commander**  
[fjgcisco@cox.net](mailto:fjgcisco@cox.net)

## CHAPLAIN'S REPORT



It was a privilege to serve as Post 18's Commander for the past several years. In my new role as Chaplain, I hope to continue the fellowship as we help make sure our members are in good health and good spirits.

At left: I still enjoy volunteering at the Military Lounge at T. F. Green Airport. Below left: My wife Deborah and I enjoy coffee and conversation with member Carl Petersen—a Normandy invasion participant. At right: LGEN Michael Flynn presents his challenge coin to me at our Annual Meeting in May. What an honor!



I encourage you to check in on your fellow veterans and elderly neighbors who may need assistance with watering a garden, walking a dog or a listening ear / half hour of your time. Please reach out to me if you are in need. We will try to find resources to improve your quality of life.

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

## POST EVERLASTING



The family of **KYRILL KOROLENKO** (USAF/Korea) reports that he

passed in March 2019. He was a tail gunner on a heavy bomber. We pray fond memories comfort his family and friends.



## 2019—2020 POST 18 OFFICERS & ADMIN

Francis "Cisco" Gutierrez, Commander  
DK1 Stephen Doherty, USN (Ret.), Sr. Vice CDR & Treasurer  
MSCS Antonio "Tony" Cercena, USN (Ret.), Jr. Vice CDR  
YNCS GinaMarie Doherty, USN (Ret.), Adjutant  
David Crow, 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](mailto:ripost18legion@aol.com). Member, National American Legion Press Association (NALPA) ([www.nalpa.org](http://www.nalpa.org)). Note: Some photos in the issue courtesy of **T. Cercena & L. Zagaglia-Gutierrez**.

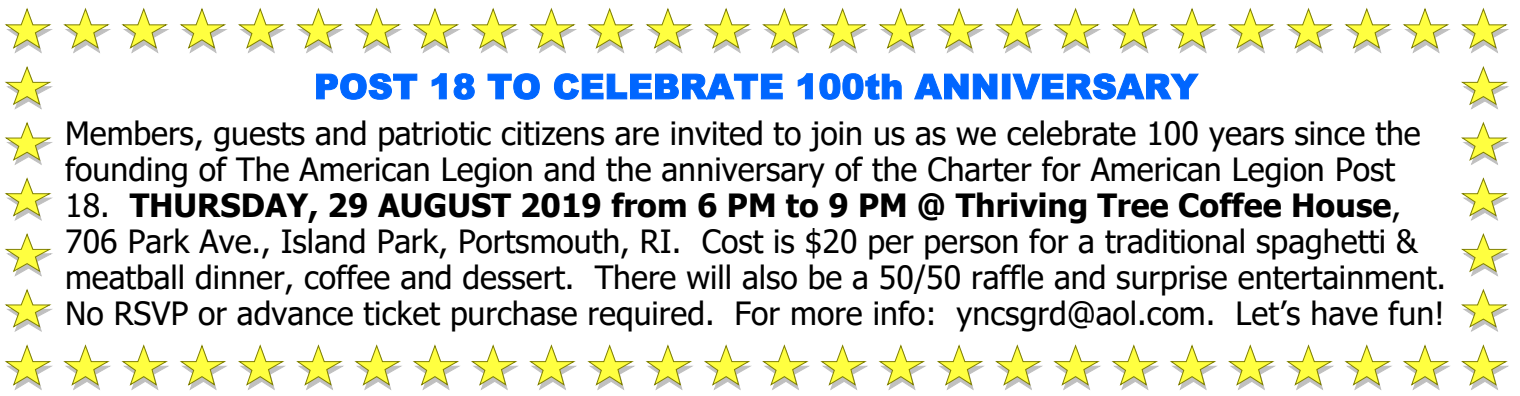
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## MEMBERSHIP REPORT



In May, we conducted our annual meeting and elections of officers. Members and guests enjoyed our special guest speaker LGEN Michael Flynn who personally presented his challenge coin to all attendees after educating us on the Four Pillars topic of National Security. Post 18 has 137 members, 20 of whom have already renewed for 2020. If you are wondering about your membership status, please call me at 401.253.8828. Renew on-line at **[www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org)**. We hope to see new faces at upcoming meetings and events.

**CTO1 Dan Dougherty, USN (Ret.)**  
**Membership Chairman**  
**[dandsdahlias633@cox.net](mailto:dansdahlias633@cox.net)**

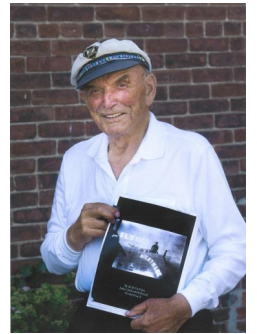


## POST 18 TO CELEBRATE 100th ANNIVERSARY

Members, guests and patriotic citizens are invited to join us as we celebrate 100 years since the founding of The American Legion and the anniversary of the Charter for American Legion Post 18. **THURSDAY, 29 AUGUST 2019 from 6 PM to 9 PM @ Thriving Tree Coffee House, 706 Park Ave., Island Park, Portsmouth, RI.** Cost is \$20 per person for a traditional spaghetti & meatball dinner, coffee and dessert. There will also be a 50/50 raffle and surprise entertainment. No RSVP or advance ticket purchase required. For more info: [yncsgd@aol.com](mailto:yncsgd@aol.com). Let's have fun!

### BOOK REVIEW: FLYING NIGHTMARE by LT John "Cliff" Halliwell

When Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, 17-year old John "Cliff" Halliwell postponed plans for college, career and a "normal life" to serve our country. As co-pilot of a newly assigned B-24 bomber, he offered up the name "Nightmare" which was embraced by his fellow crewmembers. The moniker was a premonition of things to come. The book includes descriptive diaries and photos from adjoining flight squadrons of bombing missions over Nazi Germany, Southern France and WWII occupied Balkans. "Flying Nightmare" is available at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) for \$30.

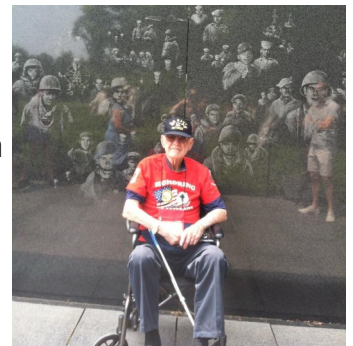


### RI FIRE CHIEFS' HONOR FLIGHT WHISKEY By Francis "Cisco" Gutierrez



Post 18 member **Billie Dietz** served during WWII. He was selected for the **1 JUN 2019 Honor Flight**; I was fortunate to be designated his guardian.

As we boarded the bus to head to the airport, the sense of excitement was highlighted by the Patriot Guard Rider (PGR) motorcycle escort. The crowd amassed to greet us at the airport was nearly overwhelming. Upon arrival, our flight was honored with a



water cannon salute as we taxied to the gate. Another huge crowd welcomed us to DC. Our first stop was the WWII Memorial where we were met by Senator Jack Reed. Then we visited the Korean, Vietnam, Lincoln, Air Force and Iwo Jima Memorials. One thing our group liked most was the "police escort" which cleared traffic enabling an otherwise impossible mission. The whirlwind tour finished in time to witness the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery followed by a banquet and mail-call. The patriotism on display in DC confirmed the appreciation our citizens have for veterans! The RI Fire Chiefs team has created a tradition worthy of our support. I am confident neither Billie nor I will ever forget this day. I am grateful I had the honor to be Billie's guardian and would recommend volunteering for or donating to the Honor



Flight program.

### FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY



Since last June, we've been storing tattered flags at **VFW Post 5390**. We're thankful to our friends at **American Legion Post 104-Warren** for allowing us to participate in their annual ceremony. Thousands of flags were inspected, sorted and ceremonially retired by volunteers.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**TUESDAY, 6 AUGUST 2019 @ 6 PM**—Regular meeting of Post 18 in the Community Room @ the Portsmouth Police Station, 2270 E. Main Rd., Portsmouth, RI. Note: Several members toured the newly opened facility including the cell block (no...we didn't lock Vinny in it!), communications center and administrative offices.

**THURSDAY, 29 AUGUST 2019 @ 6 PM**—Post 18's 100th Anniversary Celebration (details on PG 3)

**TUESDAY, 4 SEPTEMBER 2019 @ 6 PM**—Regular meeting of Post 18 @ 6 PM (location pending at press time)

**19—23 SEPTEMBER 2019—THE MOVING WALL** will be on display at Touro Park in Newport. Veterans and volunteers needed to help locate names, talk to visitors about their Vietnam experience, provide grief support, security, etc. To learn more or volunteer, visit [www.movingwallnewport.org](http://www.movingwallnewport.org).



Newport, Rhode Island

**For more info and updates, please visit [www.ALPost18RI.homestead.com](http://www.ALPost18RI.homestead.com)**

### POST 18 PORTSMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

On 3 JUNE 2019, incoming Commander Gutierrez presented a \$1,000 scholarship to **Caleb Hilyard** who plans to attend the University of Rhode Island to study Music Education. His one-page winning essay focused on the founding of The American Legion and whether the organization is still effective for today's veterans and the communities in which we serve. Congratulations, Caleb!



### REFLAGGING OF GRAVES



In May, volunteers conducted reflagging of nearly 900 graves in Portsmouth. The veteran grave data collection project also includes recording name, date of birth and death, branch of service, war era, etc. and photographing each headstone/ marker. Shout out to the Scouts for assisting. **Project Blue Star Coordinator Carolyn Evans-Carbery** even took the ferry to Prudence Island to flag graves there. Now that's dedication!



### ECHO TAPS

Several members proudly participated with the RI Patriot Guard Riders in the annual Echo Taps ceremony at the RI Veterans Memorial Cemetery on 18 MAY 2019.

