

PROUD WINNER OF POST EXCELLENCE AWARD



AMERICAN LEGION POST 18

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www.ALPost18RI.homestead.com



NEWS FROM THE POST ~ Flying InFormation ~ OCT—DEC 2019

COMMANDER'S BRIEFING

Post 18 was recognized by the World War I Commission for our support of their commemorative events. The Letter of Appreciation was recently posted on-line by Adjutant GinaMarie Doherty. Thank you to all members who provided financial support or volunteered in this worthy endeavor.



As we say goodbye to summer, our attention turns to school and the short period before the cold sets in. Take time to treasure the gift of the seasons. The foliage can be breathtaking. I urge all of our readers to "downshift" occasionally to let the natural beauty envelope our spirit and nourish our mind.

This summer has provided me with many opportunities to participate in the Four Pillars. As a member of the Legion Riders, I had the privilege to support efforts aligned with American Legion activities. I visited Fairmount Post 85 for a meeting and a fundraiser. As members in good standing, we can visit posts across the country. Stop in at another post to demonstrate your support of the Legion, learn what others are doing and share news and events from Post 18.

The Moving Wall provided many of our members with the opportunity to volunteer in our community (see photos on PG 4). I was honored to ride in the motorcycle escort as the scaled-down replica traveled to Newport. Opening night ceremonies were deeply moving. I recall those days when we were discharged into less-than-friendly receptions. May all who visited and participated find a measure of healing.

Member Peter Roberts has stepped up to fill the Sergeant-at-Arms position. Peter has demonstrated his commitment to ensuring that our meetings are set up and order and decorum are maintained. Please welcome Peter as he assumes his new duties.

VETERANS' DAY CEREMONY

All patriotic citizens are invited to attend Portsmouth Town Hall on **Monday, 11 NOV 2019 @ 9 AM**. There will be an indoor portion with a guest speaker from the Naval War College and a brief outdoor portion with a wreath laying and TAPS.

I believe family is the backbone of our country. Our National Defense is undertaken by our sons and daughters. We should always be aware of our warfighters when they reenter society. Frequent visits, calls and cards are some of the best ways to let people know you care. On-line interaction alone is insufficient to fulfill our basic need of companionship. A kind word or gesture can do wonders! My message is simple: "We get by with a little help from our friends," as Joe Cocker once sang. Be a good friend today!

We must remember our heroes at the RI Veterans Home. See calendar (PG 4) and join us as we host a Halloween-themed BINGO. Post 18 wants all members to increase involvement in our Community, State and Nation. Contact an officer if you need transportation to meetings or veteran-friendly events.

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

CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

I would like to make our members and readership who are eligible aware of the **KOREAN AMBASSADOR FOR PEACE MEDAL**. The application needs to be filled out by the veteran (or next-of-kin if posthumous) and be accompanied by a DD-214 showing "Korean Service Medal" or "Korean Service Ribbon." The form is included with this newsletter. You can mail the completed application with DD-214 to the address on the form or mail it to me (84 Linda Ave., Portsmouth, RI 02871) and I will send a batch to the Korean Consulate.

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



POST EVERLASTING

Post 18 member **MANUEL RIBEIRO, JR.** passed away on 13 SEP 2019. Manny participated in one of our sponsored BINGO events at the RI Veterans Home and joined on the spot. A WWII veteran, he proudly served in the U.S. Army. We offer our sincere condolences to his family and his friends at the RI Veterans Home.



**9-11
REMEMBRANCE
CEREMONY @ RI
Veterans
Memorial
Cemetery
11 SEP 2019**



2019—2020 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. Member, National American Legion Press Association (NALPA) (www.nalpa.org). Note: Some photos in the issue courtesy of **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.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA NEWPORT—14 DEC 2019

The local Surface Navy Association will once again sponsor the annual Wreaths Across America event in Newport. Fundraising is underway to ensure that a live, balsam fir wreath can be laid at the headstone of every veteran. Organizers hope to expand the effort to all of Newport County, but currently limited to Newport cemeteries. A ceremony will be conducted at noon at Island Cemetery (30 Warner St., Newport) followed by laying wreaths throughout the cemeteries.

To donate or sign up to volunteer, visit:
wreathscrossamerica.org/ri0006
or the Facebook® page Wreaths Across America—Newport.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Life Member patches were bestowed upon Christine Hayward and Dave Duggan for their untiring support of Post 18. Pins recognizing 5-10-15-20, etc. years of continuous membership in The American Legion will be available at our next meeting. Thank you to those who have already renewed!

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

100th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



On 29 AUG 2019, Post 18 celebrated the 100th anniversary of our Charter. The festive get-together was donated and hosted by the patriotic proprietors of **THRIVING TREE COFFEE HOUSE**. I encourage all of our readers to visit this veteran-friendly café in Island Park. The food is great; the people are awesome!

Our guest of honor was LT John "Cliff" Halliwell, author of "**Flying Nightmare**," who proudly autographed copies of his



book (available on Amazon). His persona is larger than life and the book is worth reading. Billie Dietz recapped his experience with RI Fire Chiefs' Honor Flight WHISKEY. Carl Petersen was recognized for his D-Day service. Entertainment was provided by DJ Mike Murphy. Special guests from other Posts and the Department attended. Chaplain Phil Salois graciously provided blessings. Post 18 plans to serve our Community, State and Nation another 100 years! Thank you to all who joined us and Linda Zagaglia-Gutierrez for the decorations.

1st ANNUAL APPRECIATION CONCERT

On Wednesday, 6 NOV 2019, the **88th Army Band** of the RI National Guard will headline a concert to honor First Responders, Fire, Police and Military. The show will be held at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet (60 Rhodes Pl., Cranston, RI) from 6 PM to 9 PM and will also feature Dukes of Dixie and the moving Rolling Thunder ceremony.

Admission is free; food available for purchase; cash bar. No RSVP required. Show your support!

RI GOLD STAR FAMILIES MEMORIAL

On 20 OCT 2019, several members of Post 18 attended the groundbreaking for the monument honoring our brave warriors killed in action. We will plan a group visit to view this impressive monument at the RI Veterans Memorial Cemetery when it is completed.

May it bring a measure of comfort to our Gold Star families.



Post 18 was proud to help promote and support a BBQ chicken fundraiser for the **Warren Association of Vietnam Veterans** on 29 SEP 2019



RI FIRE CHIEFS' HONOR FLIGHT XRAY
01 SEP 2019 @ T.F. Green Airport

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, 23 OCTOBER 2019 @ 10 AM—BEIRUT MEMORIAL CEREMONY @ Portsmouth Historical Society (870 E. Main Rd., Portsmouth, RI).

SATURDAY, 26 OCTOBER 2019 @ 1 PM—HALLOWEEN THEMED BINGO @ the RI Veterans Home (480 Metacom Ave., Bristol, RI). Volunteers needed to socialize and help veterans play their cards and award prizes. Muster at 1 PM to socialize and help set up; games start at 1:30 PM. Wear a costume or Halloween-themed hat, mask or colors.

MONDAY, 11 NOVEMBER 2019 @ Portsmouth Town Hall (2200 E. Main Rd., Portsmouth, RI)
@ 8 AM—**REGULAR MEETING OF AMERICAN LEGION POST 18**
@ 9 AM—**VETERANS' DAY CEREMONY**; guest speaker, wreath-laying.

TUESDAY, 3 DECEMBER 2019 @ 6 PM—REGULAR MEETING OF AMERICAN LEGION POST 18 @ John Clarke Retirement Center (600 Valley Rd., Middletown, RI). Review updated Bylaws.

FRIDAY, 13 DECEMBER 2019 @ 1 PM—75th COMMEMORATION OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE @ the State Room in the RI State House, Providence, RI

SATURDAY, 14 DECEMBER 2019 @ 12 PM —WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA-NEWPORT (see PG 2)

**For more info and updates, please visit
www.ALPost18RI.homestead.com**



Margaret Frost of **Margaret's Quilts** generously donated a beautiful, patriotic, hand-made quilt for the door prize for our upcoming Halloween-themed BINGO at the RI Veterans Home. See more of her talented work on Facebook® (Margaret's Quilts). Thank you so much, Margaret!

VA NEW ENGLAND WINTER SPORTS CLINIC

Veterans enrolled in VA Healthcare are eligible to apply to participate **13—17 JANUARY 2020**. The event promotes rehabilitation by instructing veterans with disabilities in adaptive alpine skiing and snowboarding along with an introduction to other adaptive activities and sports. This sports clinic takes place in Sunapee, New Hampshire.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: 1 NOVEMBER 2019. For an application or more info, contact: Jenny Vulpis at 774.826.1955 or jenny.vulpis@va.gov.

FLYING INFORMATION—OCT—DEC 2019—PG 4

The Moving Wall—recognizing and honoring all Vietnam veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice—was well received in Newport. Post 18 provided flag holders for the arrival and opening ceremony. There were many meaningful events during the 19-23 SEP 2019 visit including a candlelight vigil. Visitors also heard local veterans share testimonies of their service. The wall is truly an emotional "moving" experience for all as it represents the extent of lives lost in a visually graphic way. Post 18 provided travel tissues to dry the many tears shed by visitors. Speakers reminded us of the cost of freedom and the many families affected, and those still suffering from physical and psychological wounds of war. A special thank you volunteers and to our friends at **Memorial Funeral Home** for sponsoring the Wall.

