



## **AMERICAN LEGION POST 18**

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### **NEWS FROM THE POST ~ Flying InFormation ~ SPRING 2023**

#### **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA MOBILE EDUCATION EXHIBIT**

Project Blue Star and the Portsmouth Veterans Honor Roll Committee invite you to visit this unique exhibit on **TUESDAY, 24 OCTOBER 2023 from 10 AM to 4 PM** at Clements' Marketplace (2575 E. Main Rd., Portsmouth).

The goal is to bring the local communities and military together with education, stories and interactive connections. The 48' exhibit is equipped with a 24-person screening room showcasing the WAA mission through video. The traveling exhibit also includes three interactive computers to highlight locations, trucking support and answer general wreath sponsorship questions.

#### **REMEMBER—HONOR—TEACH**

For many years, both Exeter and Newport have sponsored Wreaths Across America (WAA) events to mirror the Arlington National Cemetery initiative started in 2007. The hope is to expand the program to honor **all** veteran graves with a wreath each December. Learn more at:

**www.wreathscrossamerica.org**



#### **COMMANDER'S BRIEFING**

Welcome to the Spring 2023 issue of our award-winning newsletter. I hope all of our readers are eager to greet the season and the beauty it brings. As I gaze out the window, I see the first signs of Spring emerging. New green sprouts are struggling to grow and thrive. We can witness the changes occurring around us.

We also experience changes within ourselves that may be difficult to address or otherwise cause us grief or uncertainty. Through self-improvement techniques—such as meditation, yoga and exercise—we can make changes that will impact our well-being in a positive manner. Selecting healthy foods and a balanced diet go a long way to feeling good. We must take care of ourselves before we can help others.

Post 18 meets regularly at Thriving Tree Coffee House (see CALENDAR on PG 4). I encourage all members to participate in Post business at our meeting on the first Tuesday of each month at 6 PM. Meet fellow members and learn about our community programs and activities such as reflagging graves, providing entertainment to our fellow heroes at the RI Veterans Home, marking veteran-related holidays and honoring those who served or are currently serving.

Our next meeting will include new nominations for officers; all positions are open. This year will be my last year as Commander. We need fresh faces and new ideas about the direction and future of our group. The Tuesday, 4 April 2023, meeting is very important, and your attendance is requested.



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## **2022-2023 POST 18 OFFICERS & ADMIN**

Francis "Cisco" Gutierrez, Commander  
SFC William "Bill" McCollum, USA (Ret.), Sr. Vice CDR  
MSCS Antonio "Tony" Cercena, USN (Ret.), Jr. Vice CDR  
YNCS GinaMarie Doherty, USN (Ret), Adjutant  
Dave Duggan, Finance Officer  
Vincent D'Andrea, Chaplain  
Peter Roberts, Sergeant-at-Arms  
Christine Hayward, Membership Chair/Webmistress

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 of lack of hearing conservation during their service. Any member needing a ride to Post 18 meetings or events can call 401.236.2224 (leave a message) to make arrangements. This award-winning newsletter has an initial distribution of 715 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 courtesy of D. Duggan, L. Zagaglia-Gutierrez, T. Cercena, G. Doherty and others.

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. Please send your e-mail address to: editorPOST18RI@gmail.com.



## **POST EVERLASTING**

Although **June Chick Loud** was not a member of the American Legion or Military Women Across the Nation (MWAN), we believe she deserves to be recognized as a proud female military veteran. She was born in Madison, NH and passed away in Ossipee, NH on 4 OCT 2022. She joined the Navy Waves in 1942 enrolling in the first class of women to volunteer in the Navy Waves, which was established that year by President Roosevelt to free up male personnel for sea duty. June was discharged in 1946.

Proud of her service, she wore her uniform to any military event she attended. In 2011, at the approximate age of 91, she participated in an Honor Flight to Washington DC. Her name was posted at the Women's Military Memorial. She proudly told her daughter she was the last living member from that first group that entered the Navy Waves. She was 102 when she died.



## **DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN'S REPORT**

In December, I joined American Legion Department Officers at the Costigan-O'Neill Funeral Home, for a memorial ritual to remember fellow Legionnaire, Richard Cartwright. His family expressed their gratitude for our ritual. He was the husband to Joan (Carroll) Cartwright, his childhood sweetheart. Richard served as the American Legion RI State Commander from 2014 – 2015. He also served as a member of AL Post 79 in Central Falls as Post Commander and Finance Officer. He was a U. S. Coast Guard Veteran, a world traveler, Vice President of the Central Falls Veterans Council and Treasurer of the 40 & 8. Richard knew the importance of community; he volunteered for Meals on Wheels for many years. Richard was employed as a Locomotive Engineer for the New Haven, Penn Central, Amtrak and C.S.X. Railroad for 35 years, and a former Vice President of Local 14 Brotherhood of Fireman.

The American Legion and other veterans service organizations are blessed to have dynamic, caring, community-oriented members and leaders. The above photo is from our Veterans Day ceremony and features Linda Zigaglia-Gutierrez (Unit 2); MSCS Tony Cercena (Post 18 Jr. Vice CDR) and yours truly. Please consider serving in a leadership capacity; we will help you succeed!

**YNCS GinaMarie Doherty, USN (Ret.)**  
**DEPT of RI Chaplain / Post 18 Adjutant**  
**yncsgrd@aol.com**  
**401.500.1721**

## COMMANDER'S BRIEFING CONTINUED FROM PG 1

Post 18 hosted Bingo at the RI Veterans Home in February. The residents are always glad to see us and appreciate our Bingo sponsorship. It is very rewarding to see the faces of the residents when their card is a winner. Next month will welcome the arrival of National Commander Vincent "Jim" Troiola to Rhode Island. I hope to see many of you at the April Showers Dinner on April 2, 2023 at 1:30 PM at S.P.R.M. Post 81 in Coventry. This is an excellent opportunity to meet our National Commander and show support for his Children & Youth fundraiser. Need more info? My contact info is below.

After four years, I will be stepping down as Commander of Post 18. My tenure has been filled with new people, places and experiences. Meeting fellow Legionaries has been the most rewarding benefit as Commander. My health has impacted my abilities to lead our Post, but it is not the reason I will not to seek reelection. Our Post needs someone who can secure our prosperity for the future. The next Commander will face obstacles familiar to many organizations. Declining membership is just one challenge. Bringing younger veterans into our Post is vital for our survival. The position of Commander is an adventure! Greeting fellow veterans and their families is one of the more enjoyable tasks. I have appreciated my time as Commander and will be available to our next Commander to turn over the reigns. Embrace the warmer weather as we forge towards the Summer. I am grateful for the opportunity to continue my service to our veteran community. Thank you to all who made my tenure successful. To each of our readers, I hope you are well and in good spirits.

**Francis "Cisco" Gutierrez, Commander**  
**nawlinscisco@gmail.com**  
**401.595.6525**



## BUTTS HILL FORT

On 7 MAR 2023, RI Secretary of State Gregg Amore toured the Eastern Rampart while in town for Portsmouth's Founder's Day celebrations. As a partner in this effort, Post 18 is proud to help support the preservation of this historic site.

The Portsmouth Historical Society will be presenting "Dark Voyage" by Historian Christian McBurney on Wednesday, 29 MAR 2023 @ 6:30 PM. McBurney will speak again on Tuesday, 4 APR 2023 @ 7 PM at the United Congregational Church in Little Compton. Visit web site below for details and other opportunities to volunteer and learn more.

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

## WELCOME ABOARD

Are you, a friend, neighbor or family member eligible to join? We'd love to welcome you aboard! For an application or more info, please reach out to [editorpost18ri@gmail.com](mailto:editorpost18ri@gmail.com).

New and transferring members: we invite you to pick up your complimentary Post 18 ballcap at an upcoming meeting or event. All others, ballcaps are in stock and reasonably priced. Wear it proudly while volunteering in the community in which we live, learn, work, play and pray!

VFA-137 servicemembers gather for a command photo while on a West Coast six-month deployment. VFA 137 is a U. S. Navy F/A 18-E Super Hornet Strike Fighter Squadron stationed at Naval Air Station Lemoore, CA. Aviation Maintenance Third Class Petty Officer **Zuraida Lima** is a servicemember serving with this squadron. She joined the Navy in December 2019 following in her Aunt and Uncle GinaMarie and Stephen Doherty's footsteps. Hand salute!



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**TUESDAY, 4 APRIL 2023 @ 6 PM—Regular meeting** of Post 18 @ Thriving Tree Coffee House (706 Park Ave., Island Park, Portsmouth, RI); **first round for nominations of officers.**

**TUESDAY, 2 MAY 2023 @ 6 PM—Regular meeting** of Post 18 @ Thriving Tree Coffee House (706 Park Ave., Island Park, Portsmouth, RI); **nominations/elections.**

**SATURDAY, 20 MAY 2023—VETERANS EXPO @** Pierce Memorial Field, E. Providence, RI. Vendors, contact Matt Vianna: [mattvianna8@gmail.com](mailto:mattvianna8@gmail.com).

**Please visit and bookmark web site for updated calendar of events:**  
**[www.ALPost18RI.homestead.com](http://www.ALPost18RI.homestead.com)**



Portsmouth High School teacher **Denise Roberts** (daughter of Post 18 Sgt.-at-Arms Peter Roberts) will assist with scholarship entries this year. Flanked by her father, she was presented with a challenge coin by Post 18 CDR "Cisco" Gutierrez. We look forward to receiving and judging the applications.

## BINGO @ RI VETERANS HOME

Ginamarie Doherty, MWAN National President and New England 158-unit member, along with Audrey Macleod Pfeiffer, Ocean State 118-unit member, joined American Legion Post 18 as they sponsored BINGO at the RI Veterans Home in Bristol on 18 FEB 2023.



Volunteers assisted by helping veterans mark their cards and awarding prizes. Post 18 provided monetary prizes to the winners. After the games, volunteers socialized with the veterans, many of whom shared fascinating stories about their role in our nation's history.



Miscellaneous photos from Veterans Day 2022, holiday party DEC 2022 and meeting. So nice to see everyone happy and healthy!

