



# AMERICAN LEGION POST 18 AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 18

PO Box 307, Portsmouth, RI 02871

Phone: 401.683.6148

[www.americanlegionpost18ri.homestead.com](http://www.americanlegionpost18ri.homestead.com)



*"Land of the Free Because of the Brave"*

10 May 2015

Attn: Mr. Gene Pytka, Adjutant  
American Legion DEPT of RI

Attn: Ms. Beverly Burns, Secretary  
American Legion Auxiliary DEPT of RI

Dear Mr. Pytka and Ms. Burns:

Enclosed please find our battery of Annual Reports for 2014-2015 to be distributed to the various Program/Committee Chairs. I would appreciate it if you would give the DEPT/DEPT AUX Chaplains our reports so those members will be included in the memorial services.

## POST 18

AMERICANISM  
BASEBALL  
BOYS STATE  
CHAPLAIN  
CHILDREN & YOUTH  
COMMUNITY SERVICE  
EDUCATION  
HISTORIAN  
JR SHOOTING SPORTS  
LEGISLATIVE  
MEMBERSHIP  
NATIONAL & HOMELAND SECURITY  
PUBLIC RELATIONS  
VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHAB

## UNIT 18

AMERICANISM  
CHAPLAIN  
CHILDREN & YOUTH  
COMMUNITY SERVICE  
EDUCATION  
GIRLS STATE  
HISTORIAN  
LEGISLATIVE  
MEMBERSHIP  
NATIONAL SECURITY  
PUBLIC RELATIONS  
VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHAB

Our members belong to a myriad of other patriotic organizations such as Patriot Guard Riders, Artillery Company of Newport, Navy League, VFW, DAV, MWAN (formerly WAVES), Naval Order, Marine Corps League, Vietnam Veterans of America, Seabees, Sea Cadets, Scouts and others. **This affords us many networking opportunities throughout the year.** Working in concert with our Unit, it has been an honor to represent the veteran community here on Aquidneck Island both in leadership and support roles.

Respectfully,

Christine L. Hayward  
Adjutant/Past Commander—Post 18



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## ANNUAL REPORT—AMERICANISM (PG 1 of 4)—2014-2015



Post & Unit 18 helped promote event and secure a Color Guard and Buglers for Newport’s 1st **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA** event hosted by the Surface Navy Association at Naval Station Newport. Post 18 member Art Perry (in Colonial uniform) participated. Newport plans to host a WAA event annually. Members will most likely participate in the Newport ceremony instead of Exeter in the future. **(13 DEC 2014)**



7 members of Post 18 and 3 members of Unit 18 participated in the annual **VJ DAY CEREMONY** at Newport City Hall. **(11 AUG 2014)**



A Post 18 member and a Dual Post & Unit 18 member attended the annual **VOLKSTRAUERTAG** ceremony led by the German officer and conducted by international officers attending the Naval War College’s Naval Command College. Post & Unit 18 placed white roses—a



symbol of forgiveness and friendship—on the headstones of the German submarine sailors buried in Newport. Most of the bodies from the submarines sunk in Newport Harbor were not recovered.

**(16 NOV 2014)**



**POST 18**  
**TIME: 605 HOURS**  
**COST: \$1,923.88**

**PREPARED BY: CHRISTINE HAYWARD**  
**POST & UNIT 18 HISTORIAN**

**UNIT 18**  
**TIME: 415 HOURS**  
**COST: \$654.39**



### FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY

On **12 JUN 2014**, ten members of Post & Unit 18 joined our friends from Post 104 & Unit 11 at their annual Flag Retirement Ceremony in Warren. Thousands of flags were inspected and sorted prior to the ceremony led by **Post 104 CDR Dave McCarthy**. Students and Scouts brought forth the flags to veterans who manned the fire pit under the watchful eyes of firefighters from Warren's Engine #5. This is one of our patriotic events, and we're grateful that Post 104 & Unit 11 allow us to co-host!



### BEIRUT MEMORIAL CEREMONY

The annual ceremony marking the 31st Anniversary of the Beirut Bombing was held at the Portsmouth Historical Society on **23 OCT 2014**.

Unit 18 member Lis Mullen's brother and brother-in-law both died in the attack on the Marine Barracks in 1983. Several members of Post & Unit 18 attended the solemn ceremony. Unit 18 provided refreshments.



Several members of Post & Unit 18 manned the flag line for **ECHO TAPS WORLDWIDE** at the RI Veterans Cemetery in Exeter. Event is



promoted and brass players are recruited in our newsletter and on our web site. **(17 MAY 2014)**



Post and Unit 18 members participated in **MEMORIAL DAY** ceremonies on Aquidneck Island including the “strewing of flowers into the ocean” at Storer Park and the larger ceremony at Newport City Hall **(26 MAY 2014)**. Ten Post & Unit 18 members attended including SGT-AT-ARMS Walter Alves who held Old Glory, and Michael Pine and Art Perry and Unit 18 member Leslie Pine in period dress.



Unit 18 provided 720 hand-held flags with safety ball tips to the student bodies of both Hathaway and Melville Elementary Schools for their annual **FLAG DAY** programs. Purchased from Flag & Emblem Sales, it's a great way to support the Legion, too! **(JUN 2014)**

## FLAGGING GRAVES ON AQUIDNECK ISLAND

Members of Post & Unit 18 along with Scouts and fellow citizens/students from the community flag graves at 3 Portsmouth cemeteries; 2 Newport cemeteries and historic Fort Adams and outlying memorials **(17-19 MAY 2014)**. We will be flagging again **16-18 MAY 2015**. Students earned community service hours for badges/school and Scouting. We also provide flags to the caretakers to replace tattered/damaged flags throughout the year or to ensure a flag is placed at a new veteran's gravesite. Local media including Naval Station Newport help promote the reflagging schedule to residents.



2 members of Post 18 and 1 member of Unit 18 marched in the annual **COLUMBUS DAY PARADE** in Newport, RI befriending Navy Band NORTHEAST members along the way. **(13 OCT 2014)**





VETERANS DAY  
PORTSMOUTH HIGH  
SCHOOL—11 NOV 2014

Our ceremony had a “Welcome Home” theme and focused on Vietnam-era veterans. There is not enough room here to describe all aspects of the planning, execution, attendance, healing, etc. **Please see attached Program for details.** Ten months in the making, it was a rewarding experience for our volunteers, sponsors and most of all, our honorees.



Dual member Chris Hayward fires the 16th round of a 19-gun salute bidding **USS SARATOGA** fair winds as she exits Newport Harbor. Post 18's Mike Pine mans the gun.  
**(20 AUG 2014)**



Post & Unit 18 members were honored to be guest speakers for the **VETERANS DAY CEREMONY** @ the John Clarke Retirement Center on **7 NOV 2014** in Middletown, RI. Members participated in the **VETERANS DAY CEREMONY** at Newport City Hall, too!

Post 18's Americanism Chair Dave Duggan presented a new flag to Robert E. Littlefield, M.Ed., Principal of Portsmouth High School on **10 APR 2015** and accepts the tattered flag for proper disposal. Post 18 replaces the High School's flag as needed for both the main flag pole and the **SISSON MONUMENT**. The school is grateful for our support.





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### **ANNUAL REPORT—BASEBALL—2014-2015**

**Post 18 sponsors two Legion baseball teams—a junior team and a senior team.**

**Please see attached publicity received during the reporting period. Legion Baseball is also included in our newsletter seasonally and enjoys its own page on our web site.**

**[WWW.RILEGIONBASEBALL.ORG](http://WWW.RILEGIONBASEBALL.ORG)**



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## ANNUAL REPORT—BOYS & GIRLS STATE—2014-2015

A dual Post & Unit 18 member donated supplies for Little Rhody Girls State (badge holders, lanyards, certificate holders, etc.). **Value of donations in kind: \$100+.**

Unit 18 is sponsoring a young lady from Hope High School's JROTC Program to attend the 2015 Little Rhody Girls State. Blanca Colato is the Cadet Battalion Command Sergeant Major, and she excels in both academics and athletics.

Members have attended, supported and/or helped promote several fundraisers in our newsletter and on our web site.

Post 18 donated \$250 to Little Rhody Boys State in MAY 2015. Unit 18 donated \$125 to Little Rhody Girls State in MAY 2015.

Our Education Chair hopes to visit both Portsmouth and Middletown High Schools early next year to help spread word about the Boys State and Girls State and Boys Nation and Girls Nation programs.



### POST 18

**TIME: 5 HOURS**

**COST: \$250.00**

PREPARED BY: CHRISTINE HAYWARD  
POST & UNIT 18 HISTORIAN

### UNIT 18

**TIME: 5 HOURS**

**COST: \$225.00**



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## ANNUAL REPORT—CHAPLAIN (PG 1 of 2) —2014-2015

"Get Well" and "Sympathy" cards are sent to members and their families by Chaplain Ken Williams. Members who joined **POST EVERLASTING** during this period:

- **ROBERT W. CAPLIN, SR** (spring 2014)
- **DAVID B. HAYWARD** (11 JUL 2014)
- **HARLEY K. SIMMONS** (1 AUG 2014) (former member)
- **MANUAL M. SILVIA, JR** (12 SEP 2014)
- **JAMES C. OWEN** (8 OCT 2014)



Post 18's incoming Chaplain Francis Gutierrez gave the benediction at the **NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER** event @ Portsmouth Town Hall on **7 MAY 2015**



One Post 18 member, one Unit 18 member and one Dual member attended the **READING OF GEORGE WASHINGTON'S LETTER TO THE HEBREW CONGREGATIONS** @ Touro Synagogue (**17 AUG 2014**)

Two Post 18 members and one Unit 18 member participated in the **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA** event in Newport and helped organizers secure a Color Guard and Buglers (**13 DEC 2014**)



A Post 18 member and a Dual Post & Unit 18 member attended the annual **VOLKSTRAUERTAG** ceremony led by the German officer and conducted by international officers attending the Naval War College's Naval Command College. Post & Unit 18 placed white roses—a symbol of forgiveness and friendship—on the headstones of the German

submarine sailors buried in Newport. Only a few bodies from the subs sunk in Newport Harbor were recovered. (**16 NOV 2014**)



A Dual Post & Unit 18 member helped clean headstones at the cemetery @ historic Fort Adams (**18-19 APR 2015**)

### BEIRUT MEMORIAL CEREMONY

The annual ceremony marking the 31st Anniversary of the Beirut Bombing was held at the Portsmouth Historical Society on **23 OCT 2014**. Unit 18 member Lis Mullen's brother and brother-in-law both died in the attack on the Marine Barracks in 1983. Several members of Post & Unit 18 attended the solemn ceremony. Unit 18 provided refreshments.



Several members of Post & Unit 18 also belong to the RI Patriot Guard Riders. Donning our Legion caps or poppy scarves, members stand in flag lines at wakes, funerals, memorial ceremonies (such as **ECHO TAPS; RI GARDEN OF HEROES; WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA**), welcome home and deployment ceremonies, etc. We provide refreshments and flag pins for other volunteers. This is a great opportunity to network with likeminded citizens! **(YEAR ROUND/ONGOING)**

Post and Unit 18 members participated in **MEMORIAL DAY** ceremonies on Aquidneck Island including the "strewing of flowers into the ocean" at Storer Park and the larger ceremony at Newport City Hall. Ten Post & Unit 18 members attended including Post 18's SGT-AT-ARMS Walter Alves who held Old Glory, and Michael Pine and Art Perry and Unit 18 member Leslie Pine in period dress. **(26 MAY 2014)**

Several members of Post & Unit 18 manned the flag line for **ECHO TAPS WORLDWIDE** at the RI Veterans Cemetery in Exeter. Event is



promoted and brass players are recruited in our newsletter and on our web site. **(17 MAY 2014)**





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## ANNUAL REPORT—CHAPLAIN (PG 1 of 2)—2014-2015

**Assistant Chaplain Elizabeth "Betty" Williams** sends hand-made sympathy, get well, thank you, congratulations and "thinking of you" cards to members, their families, DEPT/DEPT AUX and National leadership. None of our members passed to the **GREAT BEYOND** during this reporting period.



One Post 18 member, one Unit 18 member and one Dual member attended the **READING OF GEORGE WASHINGTON'S LETTER TO THE HEBREW CONGREGATIONS @ Touro Synagogue (17 AUG 2014)**

A Dual Post & Unit 18 member helped clean headstones at the cemetery at historic Fort Adams. **(18-19 APR 2015)**



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**(16 NOV 2014)**



PREPARED BY: CHRISTINE HAYWARD, UNIT 18 HISTORIAN

**UNIT 18  
TIME: 58 HOURS  
COST: \$56**

# ANNUAL REPORT—CHAPLAIN (PG 2 of 2)—2014-2015

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## ANNUAL REPORT—CHILDREN & YOUTH (PG 1 of 2)—2014-2015

Unit 18 provided 720 hand-held flags with safety ball tips to the student bodies of both Hathaway and Melville Elementary Schools for their annual **FLAG DAY** programs. Purchased from Flag & Emblem Sales, it's a great way to support the Legion, too!  
**(JUN 2014)**



Young people—Scouts, students—participate right along side our members throughout the year. They present certificates, flag graves, clean headstones, provide color guards, raise the flag, lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance and provide inspiration and energy for all we do!



**POST 18**  
**TIME: 162 HOURS**  
**COST: \$3,700**

**PREPARED BY: CHRISTINE HAYWARD**  
**POST & UNIT 18 HISTORIAN**

**UNIT 18**  
**TIME: 88 HOURS**  
**COST: \$543.45**

# ANNUAL REPORT—CHILDREN & YOUTH (PG 2 of 2)—2014-2015

Unit 18 regularly replenishes crayons and coloring book supplies for the military families utilizing the Military Lounge at T. F. Green Airport. **(YEAR 'ROUND)**



**NAVAL SEA CADETS and CUB AND BOY SCOUTS** regularly provide Color Guards for our events for which they receive a small donation. **(YEAR 'ROUND)**



## SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED JUNE 2014

**JONATHAN CORBETT—\$1,000**  
**MEGAN ELWELL—\$500**  
**KYLE WENTZEL—\$500**  
**KERA TEKACS—\$250**

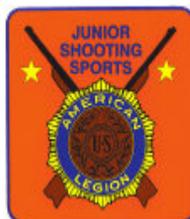


We partnered with our friends in the Girl Scouts to make St. Patrick's Day cards for the RI Veterans Home residents. **(MAR 2015)**

We partnered with URI's 4-H and Operation Military Kids (now known as RI Military Kids) to make large size paracord bracelets using the Vietnam service medal colors for our Vietnam-era honorees for our Veterans Day Program. Dozens of bracelets were also sent to the 1/52 Infantry 198th LIB Americal Division's reunion in TX (photo below). **(Made SUMMER 2014; distributed NOV 2014 & MAR 2015)**



## JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS



We provide monetary support and shooting match witnesses at the range. Member of Unit 18 is the team's coach.



## LEGION BASEBALL

Post 18 provides monetary support for two teams (a Junior Team and a Senior Team). Members attend the games and cheer on the team.





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## ANNUAL REPORT—COMMUNITY SERVICE (PG 1 of 2)—2014-2015



We host patriotic ceremonies; provide speakers for patriotic ceremonies and a Santa to local Nursing Homes; support and attend fundraisers; march in parades; conduct reflagging and flag retirement Island-wide; promote family-friendly events in our community; provide replacement flags to the local High School and cemetery at Ft. Adams; support youth sports (baseball and junior shooters). We are highly respected on Aquidneck Island and very involved in every aspect of the community in which we live, learn, work and play!



**POST 18**  
**TIME: 480 HOURS**  
**COST: \$1697.82**

**PREPARED BY: CHRISTINE HAYWARD**  
**POST & UNIT 18 HISTORIAN**

**UNIT 18**  
**TIME: 90 HOURS**  
**COST: \$315.00**

# ANNUAL REPORT—COMMUNITY SERVICE (PG 2 of 2)—2014-2015



# EARTH DAY/ARBOR DAY



In 2015, the 45th anniversary of Earth Day will be celebrated on April 22nd. Arbor Day, a national observance founded by J. Sterling Morton in 1872, will be celebrated on April 24th, the last Friday in April. Planting trees enhances the environment by reducing pollution and erosion, providing habitat and food for wildlife, and beautifying our communities. This info and puzzle page provided courtesy of the members of American Legion Post 18 and American Legion Auxiliary Unit 18—Portsmouth, RI. Visit us on the web at:

[www.americanlegionpost18ri.homestead.com](http://www.americanlegionpost18ri.homestead.com)

## ENVIRONMENT THEMED WORD FIND PUZZLE

WORD LIST  
**ENVIRONMENT**  
**CONSERVATION**  
**RENEWABLE**  
**ENERGY**  
**GREEN**  
**TECHNOLOGY**  
**GLOBAL**  
**WIND**  
**SOLAR**  
**NUCLEAR**  
**POWER**  
**HYDRO**  
**LAND FILL**  
**GAS**  
**ELECTRIC**  
**COAL**  
**RECYCLE**  
**EMISSIONS**  
**CARBON**  
**TREES**  
**FUEL**  
**PANEL**  
**CLIMATE**  
**CONSUMER**  
**AUTO**  
**DIESEL**  
**TRASH**  
**WASTE**  
**WATER**  
**AIR**  
**POLLUTION**

The US Environmental Protection Agency has resources for students, educators, citizens, scientists, governments and businesses on their web site ([www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)). You can search for power and watershed info for your area/by zip code; take a quiz; learn about career options, recycling, conservation, pollution prevention, air quality, etc. The "My Environment" section is full of useful tips for everything from your home and garden to your school and workplace.

(Puzzle by Kevin T. Beck, URI Graduate)

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



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## ANNUAL REPORT—EDUCATION—2014-2015



Students learn the sacrifices that are made by those serving in the military and their families.

Educational word find puzzles and articles on events/people/places of national, regional and local historical significance can be found in each issue of our newsletter.



We replace the flags at the main and Sisson Memorial flagpoles at Portsmouth High School as needed.



Unit 18 member is a coach for our Junior Shooting Sports. The students learn good sportsmanship and other life lessons.



### SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED JUNE 2014

- JONATHAN CORBETT—\$1,000**
- MEGAN ELWELL—\$500**
- KYLE WENTZEL—\$500**
- KERA TEKACS—\$250**

Unit 18 provided 720 hand-held flags with safety ball tips to the student bodies of both Hathaway and Melville Elementary Schools for their annual **FLAG DAY**



programs. Purchased from Flag & Emblem Sales, it's a great way to support the Legion, too! **(JUN 2014)**



### NEVER TOO OLD TO LEARN!

42 members, guests and representatives from the DEPT of RI and DEPT of RI AUX learned about the mission of the USCG during our Annual meeting and tour on **2 MAY 2015**.

Post 18 is required to give a \$1,000 scholarship to a PHS senior each year, but we often give more AND the Unit helps fund the scholarships, too!

**POST 18**  
**TIME: 210 HOURS**  
**COST: \$2,139.75**

PREPARED BY: CHRISTINE HAYWARD  
POST & UNIT 18 HISTORIAN

**UNIT 18**  
**TIME: 130 HOURS**  
**COST: \$403.70**



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## 2015 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

ONE (1) SCHOLARSHIP IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,000 AWARDED ANNUALLY TO A PORTSMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR WHO WILL BE ATTENDING COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OR TRADE SCHOOL IN THE FALL. APPLICANT MUST COMPLETE THE BELOW WHICH MUST BE RECEIVED **NO LATER THAN 28 APRIL 2015**.

SCAN AND E-MAIL TO RIPOST18LEGION@AOL.COM OR MAIL TO C. HAYWARD, PO BOX 307, PORTSMOUTH, RI 02871. WINNER WILL BE NOTIFIED BY 31 MAY 2015; SCHOLARSHIP WILL BE AWARDED IN JUNE AT THE PHS SENIOR AWARDS NIGHT.

FULL NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/19\_\_\_\_

FULL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

I HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED AND WILL ATTEND \_\_\_\_\_ LOCATED IN \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ IN THE FALL OF 2015. I PLAN TO MAJOR IN \_\_\_\_\_ (IF KNOWN).

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES: \_\_\_\_\_

CLUBS/MEMBERSHIPS: \_\_\_\_\_

MILITARY CONNECTION (IF ANY): \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE ATTACH ONE PAGE ESSAY ON THE FOLLOWING TOPIC:  
INTERVIEW A CURRENT, ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE MEMBER. RESEARCH AND DESCRIBE THE POSITIVE ASPECTS OF SERVING IN TODAY'S MILITARY.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT

\_\_\_\_\_  
NAME OF GUIDANCE COUNSELOR OR TEACHER

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE OF GUIDANCE COUNSELOR/TEACHER





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To Whom It May Concern:

Let it be known that \_\_\_\_\_ participated in the annual "Reflagging of Graves" conducted 16 through 18 May 2015 for \_\_\_\_\_ hours. Working side-by-side with veterans, volunteers reviewed headstones at cemeteries in Newport County to determine eligibility for a Flag, and removed and replaced tattered Flags. Volunteers—young and old—showed remarkable decorum while participating in this sad, but necessary task.

We thank you for encouraging students and Scouts to volunteer in the communities in which we live, learn, work and play!

Respectfully,

Christine L. Hayward

**SAMPLE OF VOLUNTEER  
CREDIT CERTIFICATE FOR  
STUDENTS, SCOUTS, AND  
NON-VIOLENT JUVENILE  
OFFENDERS.**





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## ANNUAL REPORT—HISTORIAN—2014-2015



Each year, a joint Post & Unit 18 meeting is held in May at a location of historic significance followed by a tour. Our May 2015 meeting was held at U. S. Coast Guard Station Castle Hill.



In OCT 2014, Post Commander—Professor COL John Mangold, PhD, USMC (Ret.)—was interviewed about the importance

American Legion Post 18 and American Legion Auxiliary Unit 18 publish an award-winning newsletter—“Flying InFormation.” Each issue involves about **50 hours** of research, writing, editing, event attendance for reporting and photography, etc. The newsletter keeps our members and community informed and involved, and is a useful recruiting tool for potential members and donors.

Although it may not seem like the traditional “scrapbook” submitted by Historians in the past, I assure you it serves the same purpose: documenting our good deeds in the Community, State and Nation! Therefore, please accept the attached copies of all of our annual reports for the various chairs AND issues of our newsletter as the official record of events for American Legion Post 18 and American Legion Auxiliary Unit 18 documenting our work during this reporting period.

Local and state politicians, business leaders, the media and schools are on the distribution list for our award-winning newsletter. Book reviews encourage members to read about military history. Educational word find puzzles and articles on events/people/places of national, regional and local historical significance can be found in each issue. We allot space in our newsletter and on our web site to help promote DEPT OF RI and other veteran-friendly events and fundraisers.

of Veterans Day for a local TV show which was also posted on YouTube.

We believe in preserving the “memories and incidents” for all generations!

Our focus in 2014 was recognizing Vietnam-era Veterans. Please see Attached program from our **“WELCOME HOME”** Veterans Day Ceremony and photo collages from events throughout the year.

**POST 18**  
**TIME: 230 HOURS**  
**COST: \$695.02**

**PREPARED BY: CHRISTINE HAYWARD**  
**POST & UNIT 18 HISTORIAN**

**UNIT 18**  
**TIME: 115 HOURS**  
**COST: \$50.00**



# AMERICAN LEGION POST 18

PO Box 307, Portsmouth, RI 02871

Phone: 401.683.6148

[www.americanlegionpost18ri.homestead.com](http://www.americanlegionpost18ri.homestead.com)

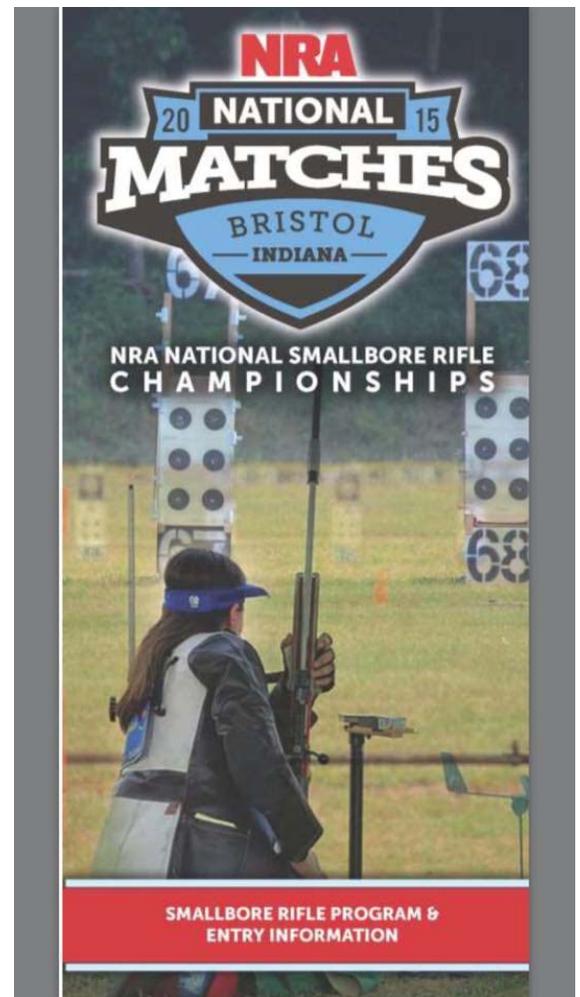
*"Land of the Free Because of the Brave"*



## ANNUAL REPORT—JR SHOOTING SPORTS—2014-2015

### JUNIOR SHOOTERS MAKE US PROUD

We are proud to sponsor and serve as match witnesses for the the Newport Junior Rifle Team whose members practice and compete at the Newport Rifle Club. The professional manner in which these young adults conduct themselves is outstanding! To learn more, visit [www.legion.org/shooting/](http://www.legion.org/shooting/).



**POST 18**  
**TIME: 42 HOURS**  
**COST: \$500.00**

PREPARED BY: CHRISTINE HAYWARD, POST 18 HISTORIAN



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## ANNUAL REPORT—LEGISLATIVE—2014-2015



Post 18 members with MGEN McBride. **(6 DEC 2014)**



The Distinguished Sea Service Award was bestowed upon General James Mattis, USMC (Ret.), former commander of U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM). Many members of Post & Unit 18 were in attendance!  
**(1 NOV 2014)**



Post 18 member Tony Cercena with RI GOV Gina Raimondo above and RI Senator Theresa Paiva-Weed below.  
**(6 MAY 2015)**



Post 18 member Ginny Hanson with RI Representatives Azzinaro and Malik.



RI VA Director Kim Ripoli gave a presentation on the status of the new RI Veterans Home at our Post & Unit 18 annual meeting.  
**(2 MAY 2015)**

Local dignitaries attended our Veterans Day Ceremony at Portsmouth High School on **11 NOV 2014**. Local and state representatives are on the distribution list for our award-winning veterans newsletter, “Flying InFormation.” Member Virginia “Ginny” Hansen is also active with the **UNITED VETERANS COUNCIL**, and as such, she shares news and information that impacts the veteran community here in the Ocean State. Members network regularly with local, state and national politicians and policy makers at meetings and events throughout the year voicing concerns and making suggestions on proposed legislation. We helped disseminate a survey regarding the taxation of military pensions/retirements to Aquidneck Island.



**POST 18**  
**TIME: 60 HOURS**  
**COST: \$120**

PREPARED BY: CHRISTINE HAYWARD  
POST & UNIT 18 HISTORIAN

**UNIT 18**  
**TIME: 26 HOURS**  
**COST: \$20**



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## ANNUAL REPORT—MEMBERSHIP (PG 1 of 5)—2014-2015



Membership continues to be the number one challenge facing most organizations. Post 18 has been successful recruiting new members. Having said that, the demographics of our rosters have a high percentage of WWII/Korean War era members who are joining Post Everlasting at an alarming rate.

With the continued economic recession, people are having

to make difficult choices with less disposable income. Membership dues, magazine subscriptions, etc. seem to be the first to hit the chopping block. We need to be able to offer some “value” to their membership, besides the camaraderie aspect. Our **joint annual meeting** is traditionally held at a site of historic significance and includes a tour. This has proved to be very popular and a great way to show appreciation for the members who spend many hours volunteering in the community in which we live, work, learn and play. This year our meeting was held at U.S. Coast Guard Station Castle Hill.



We’ve enjoyed some success recruiting a few new members and transfers from the DEPARTMENT holding Post #102. Using the resources at **www.MyLegion.Org**, letters (sample attached) are sent to member prospects in our area (over 35 letters went out in 2014-2015). Membership Chairman Dan Dougherty does an excellent job submitting dues to DEPT.

Distribution of our award-winning newsletter, “Flying InFormation” reaches a large audience of potential members. Our web site is updated regularly and includes calendar items for other area veteran-friendly organizations in hopes of cross-recruiting. We’ve placed ads in several publications to help increase our visibility. We participate in community events and wear our Post 18 covers and ball caps and poppy scarves and often display our banner while volunteering. We communicate regularly with our members via the newsletter and e-mail reminders to encourage their participation at our meetings and events as well as other veteran-friendly events around the state. We distribute a typed Agenda and Minutes in

larger, bold font to help make meetings more productive.



Unit 18 is struggling with only 3 active members who are tired. See attached survey that netted only 11 responses. We pay dues for our Gold Star Mother. Together, Post & Unit 18 do important work in our community.

**POST 18**  
**TIME: 160 HOURS**  
**COST: \$110.50**

**PREPARED BY: CHRISTINE HAYWARD**  
**POST & UNIT 18 HISTORIAN**

**UNIT 18**  
**TIME: 68 HOURS**  
**COST: \$72.00**

2015 SURVEY RESULTS – UNIT 18

A few months ago, we sent a survey (below) to all Unit 18 members. Only 11 responded. Most said they joined to support our mission. About 1/2 of the respondents had served as an officer. The long-time members missed hosting "bake sales" and many no longer drive at night. They were proud of the work that we do in the community, and appreciated receiving the newsletter.

I have been a member of Unit 18 for \_\_\_\_ years (approx.; if known).

I joined because \_\_\_\_\_

I (check all that apply):

- \_\_\_\_ regularly attend meetings
- \_\_\_\_ have served as an officer for Unit 18
- \_\_\_\_ am a Dual member of Post & Unit 18
- \_\_\_\_ regularly volunteer at events such as BINGO at the RI Veterans Home
- \_\_\_\_ am involved in other youth and/or patriotic activities in the community
- \_\_\_\_ other (please elaborate): \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to see Unit 18 more actively participate in: \_\_\_\_\_

I miss the "bake sales" and other fundraising days/ways. \_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_ no

I don't attend meetings because (check all that apply):

- \_\_\_\_ no longer drive/don't drive at night
- \_\_\_\_ feel like my voice isn't heard/vote doesn't count
- \_\_\_\_ too busy w/family, work, church, other activities
- \_\_\_\_ other (please elaborate): \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_ meetings are boring
- \_\_\_\_ feel intimidated
- \_\_\_\_ work/schedule conflict

I have had an unpleasant experience with a member of the Unit or a member of the Post (elaborate on back if you'd like). \_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_ no

I enjoy the newsletter and learning about not only what Post and Unit 18 do, but other patriotic events and volunteer opportunities in our community. \_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_ no

I visit our web site. \_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_ no If yes: \_\_\_\_monthly \_\_\_\_ at least weekly

I use e-mail. \_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_ no E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I plan to continue my affiliation with Unit 18 to support our Community, State and Nation. \_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_ no (Remember, just being a member of The American Legion Auxiliary helps bolster our numbers nationally. When our organization speaks on behalf of veterans those currently serving, our representatives listen!) Please use the back for other comments including your name (or remain anonymous). Return in the self-addressed envelope provided. Thank you!

## SAMPLE OF LETTER SENT TO MEMBER PROSPECTS



### **AMERICAN LEGION POST 18 AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 18**

PO Box 307 (Mailing Address)

Portsmouth, RI 02871

Phone: 401.683.6148

[www.americanlegionpost18ri.homestead.com](http://www.americanlegionpost18ri.homestead.com)



25 March 2015

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

We learned that you may be interested in joining or transferring to a local Post. American Legion Post 18 currently meets on the first Wednesday of the month (most months) at the VFW Hall, 822 Anthony Rd., Portsmouth. Our next meeting is on **Wednesday, 1 April 2015** at the VFW Hall on Common Fence Point in Portsmouth. You are welcome to join us and “try us on for size!” In addition, we have a very active Auxiliary. A membership brochure for Unit 18 is also enclosed for your eligible female family members.

A copy of a recent newsletter and the calendar page from our web site are enclosed. Archived issues of our award-winning newsletter can be downloaded from our web site (URL above). “Flying InFormation” will give you a good idea about our members’ participation in the Community, State and Nation.

We understand that due to family and other commitments, not all of our members are able to attend meetings. Even if you would like to retain your membership in your current Post for sentimental or other reasons, we invite you to attend our meetings and functions and volunteer with us!

Respectfully,

Christine L. Hayward  
Adjutant/Past Commander

# JOIN UNIT 18

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_  
 E: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

### Eligibility Information

#### Name of Veteran Eligible Through:

who is: \_\_\_\_ living \_\_\_\_ deceased  
 Member #: \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
 American Legion Post #: \_\_\_\_\_ located  
 in: \_\_\_\_\_ (if known).  
 Veteran served in:  
 \_\_\_\_ WWI (4/6/17—11/11/18)  
 \_\_\_\_ WWII (12/7/41—12/31/46)  
 \_\_\_\_ Merchant Marines (12/7/41-8/15/45 only)  
 \_\_\_\_ Korea (6/25/50—1/31/55)  
 \_\_\_\_ Vietnam (2/28/61—5/7/75)  
 \_\_\_\_ Grenada/Lebanon (8/24/82—7/31/84)  
 \_\_\_\_ Panama (12/20/89—1/31/90)  
 \_\_\_\_ Persian Gulf War (8/2/90 until cessation of  
 hostilities as determined by the US Government

#### Applicant's Relationship to the

**Veteran** (mother, wife, daughter, sister, self, grand  
 or great granddaughter, grandmother): \_\_\_\_\_

Please remit with annual dues payable to  
 American Legion Auxiliary Unit 18 in the  
 amount of \$21 (\$8.50 if Junior Member/  
 under age 18). Mail to address on back.

**X** \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

(BELOW SECTION APPLICABLE TO FEMALE  
 VETERANS ONLY)

Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
 Post Officer Membership Verification  
 or Unit Secretary's Verification

Note: As members of both Post & Unit 18,  
 dual members are in a unique position to help  
 keep our organization focused on the needs of  
 veterans AND military families/dependents.



We are women of action. When we see a  
 need, we step in to meet it. When we  
 determine that greater effort is required, we  
 collaborate with others. When a person's  
 service is noteworthy, we honor it. To  
 prepare the next generation for service, we  
 include them. Americanism, Children &  
 Youth, National Security and Veterans Affairs  
 & Rehabilitation are just a few of the ways  
 we serve our Community, State & Nation.

#### American Legion Auxiliary Unit 18

PO Box 307

Portsmouth, RI 02871

Phone: 401.683.6148



www.americanlegionpost18ri.homestead.com



# AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 18 PORTSMOUTH, RI



**STILL SERVING OUR  
 COMMUNITY,  
 STATE & NATION!**



## Won't you join us as we ...

- Conduct annual Poppy Awareness
- Sponsor Annual Flag Day Ceremony & Flag Education Program @ Melville Elementary School and provide flags to students
- Make ditty bags for and co-sponsor 3 themed BINGOs each year at the RI Veterans Home
- Provide gifts, volunteers and a "Santa" at Christmas Shoppe at the RI Veterans Home
- Support numerous troop care package initiatives including the RI Lt. Governor's Operation Holiday Cheer & Toys for Tots
- Provide ditty bags, guest speakers, volunteers and overnight chaperones to annual Little Rhody Girls State
- Participate in annual reflagging efforts at several cemeteries on Aquidneck Island and annual Flag Retirement Ceremony
- Cheer on our Junior Shooters (year 'round) and Baseball Team (seasonal)
- Provide art supplies and inspiration to several area after-school programs so students can make cards for RI Veterans Home residents and deployed service members
- Bring cheer to residents of area nursing homes
- Donate food, clothing, etc. to Operation Stand Down and Holly Charette House
- Support numerous charities using our time, talents and resources
- Support the work of American Legion Post 18





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## ANNUAL REPORT—NATIONAL & HOMELAND SECURITY (PG 1 of 2)—2014-2015

### US COAST GUARD STATION CASTLE HILL



#### MILITARY LOUNGE AT T.F. GREEN AIRPORT

Post 18 member **Dave Duggan** (at left) is a regular volunteer at the Military Lounge. **(YEAR ROUND)**

Post 18 donated dozens of puzzle books for adults and Unit 18 donated dozens of boxes of crayons and coloring books for young dependents utilizing the lounge. **(MAY 2015)**



42 members, guests and representatives from the DEPT of RI and DEPT of RI AUX learned about the mission of the USCG during our annual meeting and tour on **2 MAY 2015**.

While touring the U.S. Coast Guard Station Castle Hill, we learned that the station's mascot—IDA—had a fund for her veterinary care, food and grooming products. Post 18



donated \$100 and Unit 18 members donated \$30. Many attendees also donated individually to the fund! IDA is named for light keeper Ida Lewis. **(2 MAY 2015)**



**POST 18**  
**TIME: 130 HOURS**  
**COST: \$328.00**

PREPARED BY: CHRISTINE HAYWARD  
POST & UNIT 18 HISTORIAN

**UNIT 18**  
**TIME: 54 HOURS**  
**COST: \$84.15**



## Both Post & Unit 18 have contributed to the NATIONAL EMERGENCY FUND (NEF).

### BOOT CAMP BREAKFAST

Post 18 member **Virginia "Ginny" Hansen** hosted the annual Boot Camp Breakfast where active duty personnel and veterans learn about resources available to make the transition to civilian life easier. Several members of Post & Unit 18 attended. **(7 MAR 2015)**



Post & Unit 18 members have a good rapport with MGEN McBride. **(6 DEC 2014)**



We developed a friendship with the **SURFACE NAVY ASSOCIATION** at Naval Station Newport and helped promote their first ever **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA** event. We also helped them secure a Color Guard and Buglers. **(13 DEC 2014)**



Many Post & Unit 18 members were present when the Distinguished Sea Service Award was bestowed upon General James Mattis, USMC (Ret.), former commander of U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM). **(1 NOV 2014)**



We have a long-standing friendship with the Naval War College's Naval Command College. Director CAPT Perry Yaw above. **(9 MAY 2015)**

Several Post & Unit 18 members sponsor **NAVAL ACADEMY PREP SCHOOL** students and foreign officers attending the Naval War College and other schools on the Navy Base.





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## ANNUAL REPORT—PUBLIC RELATIONS—2014-2015

Post & Unit 18 publish an award-winning veterans newsletter, **“Flying InFormation”** which was published 4 times during this reporting period. It has an initial distribution of 850+ copies (mostly via e-mail), countless pass-along readership and a web presence. Recipients include members, educators, representatives from other VSOs, local and state politicians and business leaders, dozens of media contacts, etc. We host one of the few VSO web sites (URL above) in the state. Updated two to three times weekly, the web site helps keep members informed, encourages participation and helps recruit and retain new members. **Copies of our newsletter issues released during this reporting period are attached.**



Fronted by our **BANNER**, we had a contingent march in the **NATIONAL POLICE PARADE (4 MAY 2014)** and our banner is displayed at events such as our reflagging efforts.

We’ve increased our presence on social networking sites such as **FACEBOOK®**. We place ads in local event programs and we’re featured regularly in the Naval Community Briefs section of **Newport This Week**. We are occasionally featured in the **NEWPORT NAVALOG**. We recieved extensive coverage of our Veterans Day ceremony in the **Newport Daily News, Providence Journal, Portsmouth Times** and **Patch**. In OCT 2014, our Post Commander—Professor COL John Mangold, PhD, USMC (Ret.)—was interviewed about the importance of Veterans Day for a local TV show.

**Some press coverage received during this reporting period is attached.**

We distributed environmental themed WORD FIND puzzles (copy attached) to area Scouts, Schools, Visiting Nurse Services and hotels in honor of Earth Day and Arbor Day. Puzzles promote Post & Unit 18 drive traffic to our web site.



**POST 18**  
**TIME: 380 HOURS**  
**COST: \$802.93**

**PREPARED BY: CHRISTINE HAYWARD**  
**POST & UNIT 18 HISTORIAN**

**UNIT 18**  
**TIME: 190 HOURS**  
**COST: \$0 (Post pays)**



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## ANNUAL REPORT—V A & R (PG 1 of 2)—2014-2015



We were proud to host our annual **"VALENTINE'S THEMED BINGO"** at the RI Veterans Home on **7 FEB 2015**. At right:

Christine Hayward, Marty Lynch, Vin Roche, Joan Robinson, Billie Dietz, Roni Perry, John Mangold, David Crow, Damaris Mangold, Janet Gill and Dan Dougherty. Marty Lynch and Billie Dietz shot a game of pool with a few of the residents. We distributed 75 ditty bags to residents.



Unit 18 partnered with our friends in the Girl Scouts to make St. Patrick's Day cards for the RI Veterans Home residents. We provided the supplies and inspiration; the girls provided the talent!  
**(MAR 2015)**

Dual member Christine Hayward donated more than two dozen mostly hard-cover and large print books from her personal collection to the RIVH Library. Residents appreciate the books! Hint: When you shop at yard sales and flea markets, consider asking the vendor to donate their books to the RIVH Library. If they agree, offer to deliver the books, too, then stay and visit our heroes for a while!

**(7 FEB 2015)**



Members and guests heard a detailed update on the status of the new RI Veterans Home from Kim Ripoli from the Governor's Office. **(2 MAY 2015)**

**POST 18**  
**TIME: 410 HOURS**  
**COST: \$ 893.75**

**PREPARED BY: CHRISTINE HAYWARD**  
**POST & UNIT 18 HISTORIAN**  
**NOTE: EXCLUDES TIME & COST OF VETERANS DAY CEREMONY CAPTURED ELSEWHERE.**

**UNIT 18**  
**TIME: 178 HOURS**  
**COST: \$227.20**

# ANNUAL REPORT—V A & R (PG 2 of 2)—2014-2015



Several Post & Unit 18 members attended the official opening of the Newport's Operation Stand Down (**29 APR 2015**). Members donate food to the pantry, toiletries and clothing.

Members volunteer at events for the DAV, VA Hospital & RI Veterans Home during the year. At right, Ginny Hanson hosted a tea for the lady veterans at the RIVH (**SPRING 2015**).



Post 18 member Dave Duggan volunteers at the **MILITARY LOUNGE AT T.F. GREEN AIRPORT**. We promoted a Volunteer Orientation in the NOV/DEC 2014 issue of "Flying InFormation." Post 18 donates puzzle books. Unit 18 replenishes crayons and coloring books for military dependents using the lounge.

## VETERANS DAY @ PORTSMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL—11 NOV 2014

Normally, we would not include our Veterans Day ceremony in with our VA&R reports. However, the "Welcome Home" theme focused on Vietnam-era veterans. Many honorees (730 total of which over 200 Vietnam-era veterans from our community showed up to receive their



certificate, ball cap and bracelet in person!) reported that the ceremony healed decades of bad feelings about how they were treated after serving. There is not enough room here to describe all aspects of the planning, execution, attendance, healing, etc.



**Please see attached Program for details.**

Ten months in the making, it was a rewarding experience for volunteers, sponsors and most of all, our honorees.

