



AMERICAN LEGION POST 18 AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 18

PO Box 307, Portsmouth, RI 02871

Phone: 401.683.6148

www.americanlegionpost18ri.homestead.com



"Land of the Free Because of the Brave"

1 MAY 2016

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

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

Enclosed please find our battery of Annual Reports for 2015-2016 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 & HOMELAND 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, Seabees, Sea Cadets, Scouts and others. **Being engaged in our community affords us many networking opportunities throughout the year.** We realize that many events fall into more than one category. 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/Acting Treasurer/Webmistress—Post 18
President—Unit 18



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ANNUAL REPORT—AMERICANISM (PG 1 of 4)—2015-2016



Incoming Post 18 CDR Dave Duggan delivered hand-held flags from Unit 18 for the entire student body at Hathaway Elementary School for their upcoming **FLAG DAY** program. Flags were also delivered to Melville Elementary School. Patriotic citizens are invited to attend the ceremony at Melville on Friday, 12 JUN @ approximately 8:45 AM. Unit 18 purchased and donated 720 hand-held flags with safety ball tips for the annual event from Flag & Emblem Sales. It's a great way to support the Legion, too!
(JUN 2015)



Post & Unit 18 members played important roles in Newport's 2nd **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA** event hosted by the Surface Navy Association at the grave of Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry. In addition to promoting the event, we secured the two buglers for Taps (echo version), secured a wreath-layer, sponsored wreaths and produced the Program.



Post 18 member Art Perry and Dual member Christine Hayward participated in traditional Colonial attire. Post 18 and Legion Rider Chapter 2 member Francis "Cisco" Gutierrez manned the flag line and instructed the young students on proper flag etiquette. Other members of Post and Unit 18 attended and stood in the flag line and/or handed out Programs to attendees.



(12 DEC 2015)



POST 18
TIME: 410 HOURS
COST: \$709.57

PREPARED BY: CHRISTINE HAYWARD
POST & UNIT 18 HISTORIAN

UNIT 18
TIME: 215 HOURS
COST: \$199.00

ANNUAL REPORT—AMERICANISM (PG 2 of 4)—2015-2016

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.
(16 MAY 2015)



Post 18 members man a **TATTERED FLAG COLLECTION and MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT STATION** at Clements' Market on **7 JUN 2015**.

Shoppers were also invited to enter a drawing for a new home flag set. The winning name was drawn at our annual Flag Retirement Ceremony in June.

BEIRUT MEMORIAL CEREMONY



On **23 OCT 2015**, eight members of Post & Unit 18 attended the annual Beirut Memorial Ceremony at the Portsmouth Historical Society. Member David Crow (right) placed a wreath in honor of his high school friend who was killed in the attack. Navy Band Newport provided solemn music and Taps for the ceremony.



FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY

On **16 JUN 2015**, eight members of Post & Unit 18 joined our friends from Post 104 & Unit 11 at the annual Flag Retirement Ceremony in Warren. Thousands of flags were inspected and sorted followed by a 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 favorite patriotic events, and we're grateful that Post 104 & Unit 11 allow us to co-host!



Four members marched in Newport's **COLUMBUS DAY PARADE** and chatted with members of the US Navy while waiting to step off. We thanked them for their service.
(12 OCT 2015)



Our **11 NOV 2015** Veterans Day Ceremony theme was **"BLUE STAR FAMILIES."** See attached Program with details.



4 members of Post 18, 2 members of Unit 18 and one Dual member participated in the annual **VJ DAY CEREMONY** at Newport City Hall. Members of Post 7 hosted the event.
(10 AUG 2015)





Post & Unit 18 members participated in **MEMORIAL DAY** ceremonies on Aquidneck Island including the “strewing of flowers into the ocean” at Storer Park (at right) and the larger ceremony at Newport City Hall (**25 MAY 2015**). Nine 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. Many of us also went to FT Adams to visit sailors from the **USS CONSTITUTION** who were touring New England while the ship is in dry dock. Stephen Doherty lowers the Ensign at Middletown Public Library ceremony. JROTC members helped fold the Legion flag.



FLAGGING GRAVES ON AQUIDNECK ISLAND

Members of Post & Unit 18 along with Scouts and fellow citizens/ students from the community flagged graves at 3 Portsmouth Cemeteries, 2 Newport cemeteries, historic Fort Adams and outlying memorials (**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 helped promote the reflagging schedule to residents.

Post 18's Commander Dave Duggan presents new flags to Robert E. Littlefield, M.Ed., Principal of Portsmouth High School on and collects 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 (usually 2 flags each per year). The school is grateful for our on-going support.

(8 APR 2015)





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ANNUAL REPORT—BASEBALL—2015-2016

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.

Excerpt: APR/MAY/JUN 2015 issue/"Flying InFormation"

For the schedule and info on the league and our teams, e-mail umpy18@hotmail.com or visit and bookmark the web site below:

WWW.RILEGIONBASEBALL.ORG





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ANNUAL REPORT—BOYS & GIRLS STATE—2015-2016

Unit 18 sponsored 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.



Post 18 donated \$_____ to Little Rhody Boys State in MAY 2016.

Unit 18 donated \$_____ to Little Rhody Girls State in MAY 2016.

In JAN 2016, our webmaster distributed information to Aquidneck Island public and private High Schools to help spread word about the Boys State and Girls State and Boys Nation and Girls Nation programs.

Excerpt from JAN/FEB/MAR 2016 issue of “Flying InFormation”

LITTLE RHODY BOYS STATE & GIRLS STATE

Boys State and Girls State are highly respected educational programs of government instruction. In Rhode Island, the program will be held from 19—24 JUN 2016 at St. Andrew’s School in Barrington. Open to students who will have completed their Junior year this May/June, there is no cost to the participant; all expenses are supported by Posts and Units. Participants are exposed to the rights, privileges, duties and responsibilities of citizenship. The Guidance Departments at Portsmouth H.S., Middletown H. S. and Rogers H. S. have application instructions. We hope to sponsor some local students! Learn more about this important program at www.boysandgirlsstate.org.

POST 18

**TIME: 3 HOURS
COST: \$250.00**

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

UNIT 18

**TIME: 2 HOURS
COST: \$125.00**



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ANNUAL REPORT—CHAPLAIN (PG 1 of 2)—2015-2016

Members who joined **POST EVERLASTING** this period:

- **GAETANO POLSELLI** (11 DEC 2014), learned of his passing in NOV 2015
- **LAWRENCE BENTO** (21 AUG 2015), traditional Legion service held at wake; donation of \$50 made in his memory to the RI Veterans Home Activities Dept.
- **RMC GEORGE A. WARDWELL, USNR (Ret.)** (06 JAN 2016); donation of \$250 made in his memory to U.S. Naval Sea Cadets
- **MITCHELL E. ANDREWS** (5 FEB 2016); donation of \$50 made in his memory to RHS JROTC program
- **STEVEN A. SCHREINER** (18 APR 2016); donation of \$50 made in his memory to Purple Star.
- **FRANK RAPOSA** (21 APR 2016)



Several members stood in the flag line for THOMAS POOLE @ RI Veterans Cemetery. (31 JUL 2015)

"Our Post is diversified and offers an unlimited number of things that we can do in service to our community. Speak up if you see a need. We may live on an island, but we must cross the bridge that would bring us to a happier, healthier and a joyful home. The bridge of faith, acceptance and selflessness guides us to our Creator and the rewards that come from knowing Him. To each reader, may you find peace and happiness, patience with new and different challenges, and success with every good and worthy endeavor."

FRANCIS GUTIERREZ, POST 18 CHAPLAIN



PREPARED BY: CHRISTINE HAYWARD, POST & UNIT 18 HISTORIAN

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(12 DEC 2015)



Cards (get well, sympathy and "thinking of you") are hand made by Post & Unit 18 members. The cards are sent to Post, Department and National members and their families by Post Chaplain and Unit Secretary throughout the year. Stamps from Post; craft supplies for cards donated by Dual Post & Unit 18 member.

POST 18
TIME: 190 HOURS
COST: \$469.69

ANNUAL REPORT—CHAPLAIN (PG 2 of 2) —2015-2016

BEIRUT MEMORIAL CEREMONY

On **23 OCT 2015**, eight members of Post & Unit 18 attended the annual Beirut Memorial Ceremony at the Portsmouth Historical Society. Member David Crow (right) placed a wreath in honor of his high school friend who was killed in the attack. Navy Band Newport provided solemn music and Taps for the ceremony.



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; 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 like-minded citizens! Below, Post & Unit 18 members muster for an honor mission.



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Post and Unit 18 members participated in **MEMORIAL DAY** ceremonies on



Aquidneck Island including the "strewing of flowers into the ocean in memory of those lost at



sea" at Storer Park and the larger ceremony at Newport City Hall **(25 MAY 2015)**.

Stephen Doherty lowers the Ensign at Middletown Public Library. Rogers High School JROTC members helped fold the Legion flag.



The Post 18 Chaplain will once again represent the veteran community at the annual **NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER** on Thursday, **5 MAY 2016**. He will distribute prayer guides. The service will be held at Portsmouth Town Hall. Locations around the country will pause at noon to reflect and pray for our country, our leaders and our fellow citizens.





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ANNUAL REPORT—CHAPLAIN (PG 1 of 2)—2015-2016

Two Unit 18 members passed to the **GREAT BEYOND** during this reporting period:

ELLEN FARYNIARZ 7/8/15

RITA B. MOORE 3/3/16

After standing in a cold, windy flag line with fellow PGR members last month, our Unit 18 President decided to knit caps in the PGR colors (blue, white & yellow) for members. 20+ hats were delivered to those standing the flag line at a mission on **6 FEB 2016** in Quonset (retirement of Brig. General/Deputy Adjutant General Marcus Jannitto). Since then, 26 more hats were made for PGR members. We wanted to let our friends in the PGR know we appreciate their sacrifice as they stand flag lines for Honor and HOTH missions in all kinds of weather.



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(12 DEC 2015)



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ANNUAL REPORT—CHILDREN & YOUTH (PG 1 of 2)—2015-2016



SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

On **1 JUN 2015**, Jr. Vice CDR Dan Dougherty presented a \$1,000 scholarship from Post 18 to Portsmouth High School Senior **Lauren Borg**. She plans to study nursing at UMASS-Dartmouth. Feeling her essay was also worthy of recognition, Unit 18 awarded a \$250 scholarship to **Jillian LaBonte** who will attend Roger Williams University in the fall. Congratulations to all of the graduates!



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



Incoming Post 18 CDR Dave Duggan delivered hand-held flags from Unit 18 for the entire student body at Hathaway Elementary School for their upcoming **FLAG DAY** program. Flags were also delivered to Melville Elementary School. Patriotic citizens are invited to attend the ceremony at Melville on Friday, 12 JUN @ approximately 8:45 AM. Unit 18 purchased and donated 720 hand-held flags with safety ball tips for the annual event from Flag & Emblem Sales. It's a great way to support the Legion, too! **(JUN 2015)**

POST 18
TIME: 170 HOURS
COST: \$2,841.85

PREPARED BY: CHRISTINE HAYWARD
POST & UNIT 18 HISTORIAN

UNIT 18
TIME: 72 HOURS
COST: \$328.00

MONETARY DONATIONS WERE MADE TO:
NAVAL SEA CADETS
CUB SCOUT PACK 50
ROGERS HIGH SCHOOL JROTC PROGRAM

Our theme for 2015 was
BLUE STAR FAMILIES.



*In honor of
Blue Star Families*

**POST & UNIT 18
PORTSMOUTH, RI**

As one of the Four Pillars of the American Legion—Children & Youth—our Post 18 Commander was privileged this summer to serve on the staff of Camp Yawgoog BSA in Rockville, RI. It was refreshing to see the emphasis on youth leadership, Americanism and outdoor skills. Several of the young men and women staffers are planning to serve our country by enlisting in the Armed Forces. With current American Legion membership declining, this youth development to support our future National Security is sorely needed.



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.



**JUNIOR SHOOTING
SPORTS**

We provide monetary support and match witnesses at the range.



Ponaganset Middle School is decorated with patriotic artwork as students welcomed the Wreaths Across America escort trucks for a stop-over on 20 NOV 2015. Educators statewide, please note: This program is incorporated into their curriculum.

We notified our extensive readership of this important, patriotic program.





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ANNUAL REPORT—COMMUNITY SERVICE (PG 1 of 2)—2015-2016

Post 18 Treasurer and Past Commander George Wardwell organized volunteers to welcome **L'HERMOINE** to Newport 8-9 JUL 2015. The tall ship is a replica of the frigate that brought Lafayette to the United States in 1780. The visit was a unique opportunity to celebrate Rhode Island's rich Revolutionary War history.



WANTED: LEBANON/GRENADA VETERANS IN PORTSMOUTH, RI

Using our newsletter and web site, we helped locate Lebanon/Grenada era veterans for a 9 NOV 2015 ceremony. Project Blue Star Coordinator Carolyn Evans-Carbery worked with the Portsmouth Town Council to honor living Portsmouth residents who served during Lebanon/Grenada (24 AUG 1982 to 31 JUL 1984).



Buckets of Beanie Babies™ were delivered to Police & Fire Departments in Portsmouth, Middletown and Newport in mid-October 2015 to help comfort children in crisis situations (car accidents, domestic violence, etc.). An excerpt from the letter accompanying the gift: "The American Legion's Children & Youth Programs provide support in a variety of ways to the youngsters in



our community, state and nation. Please accept this donation on behalf of our members with heart-felt gratitude for the work you do protecting life and property in our neighborhoods here on Aquidneck Island." We encourage other Posts and Units to emulate this program.



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: 330 HOURS

COST: \$519.62

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

UNIT 18

TIME: 153 HOURS

COST: \$146.00



We helped promote and support Post 2's Chicken BBQ fundraiser on **22 AUG 2015**. Several members attended. The meal was delicious, the music was entertaining and the camaraderie was refreshing.

Two raffle baskets were donated by Unit 18 President.



We set up collection boxes at Town Hall for gently used coats and new hats and gloves for veterans. Above, Brian Sullivan from OPERATION STAND DOWN picks up the donations. **(NOV 2015)**

After standing in a cold, windy flag line with fellow PGR members, our Unit 18 President (a Dual Post & Unit 18 member) decided to knit caps in the PGR colors (blue, white & yellow) for members. With the help of Unit 18 Secretary Veronica Perry, 20+ hats were made and delivered to those standing the flag line at a mission on **6 FEB 2016** in Quonset (retirement of Brig. General/Deputy Adjutant General Marcus Jannitto). Since then, 26 more hats were made for PGR members. **We wanted to let our friends in the PGR know we appreciate their sacrifice as they stand flag lines for Honor and HOTH missions in all kinds of weather.**



On **5 APR 2016**, five members of the RI Patriot Guard Riders made a surprise visit to the Joint Post & Unit 18 meeting to thank us in person for our efforts. The yarn was purchased by Dual Post & Unit 18 member Christine Hayward; the knitting was done by Veronica Perry and Christine Hayward. Each hat took just under 3 hours to make. Many of the hats were hand-delivered, but some were also mailed. A few CT and MA Patriot Guard Rider members also received knit hats.

EARTH DAY/ARBOR DAY



In 2016, the 46th 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 29th, 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

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). 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 (PG 1 of 2)—2015-2016



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(JUN 2015)



Our Chaplain gives a flag etiquette lesson to students manning a flag line.

(12 DEC 2015)

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED



On **1 JUN 2015**, Jr. Vice CDR Dan Dougherty presented a \$1,000 scholarship from Post 18 to Portsmouth High School Senior **Lauren Borg**. She plans to study nursing at UMASS-Dartmouth. Feeling her essay was also worthy of recognition, Unit 18 awarded a \$250 scholarship to **Jillian LaBonte** who will attend Roger Williams University in the fall. Congratulations to all of the graduates! Note: 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!

By participating in our reflagging, flag retirement and Veterans Day ceremonies, student volunteers learn the sacrifices that are made by those serving in the military and their families.

Our Junior Shooting Sports and Baseball Team members learn good sportsmanship and other life lessons.

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.

Through her job at two law firms, a Dual member offers volunteer opportunities to non-violent, juvenile offenders to earn required community service credits.

POST 18

TIME: 170 HOURS

COST: \$1291.85

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

UNIT 18

TIME: 108 HOURS

COST: \$343.00

ANNUAL REPORT—EDUCATION (PG 2 of 2)—2015-2016

Excerpt from APR/MAY/JUN 2015 issue of Post & Unit 18 newsletter, "Flying InFormation"

EDUCATION	<u>WORD LIST</u>	STUDENT
LEARN	HISTORY	TEACHER
SCHOOL	COLLEGE	MENTOR
INTERNSHIP	TEAM	LIBRARY
LESSON	PLEDGE	DANCE
TEST	FLAG	SKILL
TECHNOLOGY	READ	MATH
SCIENCE	MUSIC	VIRTUAL
RESEARCH	SPORTS	CLASSROOM
IDEA	TRADE	LAB
ART	EXAM	LANGUAGE
CHORUS	PROJECT	BAND
TUTOR	BUS	MAJOR
GEOGRAPHY	COMPUTER	MINOR
GYM	TERM	POP
ECONOMICS		QUIZ

EDUCATION THEMED WORD FIND PUZZLE

Puzzles and games help keep your mind active. Revive the classic "game night" - it's a great way to bridge the generation gap with family, friends and neighbors.



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Post 18 replaces the High School's flag as needed for both the main flag pole and the SISSON MONUMENT (usually 2 flags each per year). The school is grateful for our on-going support.

(8 APR 2015)





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2016 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 AND ATTACH ESSAY WHICH MUST BE RECEIVED **NO LATER THAN 28 APRIL 2016**. SCAN AND E-MAIL TO **RIPOST18LEGION@AOL.COM** OR MAIL TO COMMANDER, AMERICAN LEGION POST 18, PO BOX 307, PORTSMOUTH, RI 02871. WINNER WILL BE NOTIFIED IN MAY; 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 2016. I PLAN TO MAJOR IN _____ (IF KNOWN).

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES: _____

CLUBS/MEMBERSHIPS: _____

MILITARY CONNECTION (IF ANY): _____

**PLEASE ATTACH ONE PAGE ESSAY ON THE FOLLOWING TOPIC:
RESEARCH AND REPORT ON HOW ALTERNATIVE FORMS OF THERAPY (VERSUS OR IN CONCERT WITH TRADITIONAL COUNSELING AND MEDICATION) CAN IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF VETERANS SUFFERING WITH PTSD, DEPRESSION AND OTHER PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS.**

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT/STUDENT

NAME OF GUIDANCE COUNSELOR OR TEACHER

SIGNATURE OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN

SIGNATURE OF GUIDANCE COUNSELOR/TEACHER





AMERICAN LEGION POST 18 AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 18



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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—2015-2016

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.

Book reviews encourage members to read about military history. Word find puzzles and articles on events/people/places of historical significance can be found in each issue.

Each year, a joint Post & Unit 18 meeting is held in May at a location of historic significance followed by a tour. Our May 2016 meeting was held at U.S. Naval War College Museum in Newport, RI.

Our focus in 2015 was recognizing Blue Star Families. Please see attached program from our Veterans Day Ceremony and photo collages from events throughout the year.

Excerpt: APR/MAY/JUN 2015 issue/"Flying InFormation"

Professor Frances Coulter is an English Instructor at the **Naval Academy Preparatory School (NAPS)**. In the upcoming academic year, Midshipmen Candidates will be tasked with profiling a veteran by conducting a one-on-one interview. Last year, she noticed that students who interviewed the veterans had a better understanding of those whose service contributed to the legacy that they hope to embrace as Midshipmen at the Academy. Interviews will take place in September. Professor Coulter is reaching out to the Veterans History Project (www.loc.gov/vets/vets-home.html) with the hope that the oral histories of participants may be preserved. Veterans who are willing and able to be interviewed are encouraged to contact Professor Coulter at 401.841.1392 or e-mail coulter@NAPS.edu.

POST 18

TIME: 232 HOURS

COST: \$369.85

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

UNIT 18

TIME: 115 HOURS

COST: \$44.00



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ANNUAL REPORT—JR SHOOTING SPORTS—2015-2016

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/.



Follow-up on our Junior Shooter Joshua Kaleb Watson:

On 1 OCT 2015, he shot the highest score ever recorded at the Naval Rifle Range!



Our Junior Shooting Sports team of Carolyn Cote, Rebecca Green, Danielle Makucevich and Alex Muzzioli represented us well at the 3P Air National Championships in Anniston, Alabama. Josh Watson graduated from NAPS and has reported to Annapolis where his experiences at Newport Rifle Club have made him the current top incoming freshman on the team. Also competing in this year's NAAs will be Danielle Makucevich and Rebecca Green (above) who will both be competing for the University of Akron in Ohio. Note: Akron and Navy compete in the same conference!

Danielle, Alex and coach Michele Makucevich all competed in the NRA National Smallbore Championships. Proving that old age and treachery can overcome youth and skill, "Coach Mak" had a particularly strong showing making the U.S. Randle Team, winning the 50 meter iron sights match and having a second daily aggregate score of 1199/1200 with 96 center shots. This placed her fourth in the Nationals and High Woman.

The team graduated five athletes this past season, so they are seeking new members for the season beginning 15 SEP. Visit www.newportrifleclub.org or contact the coach at makucevichm@aol.com.



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ANNUAL REPORT—LEGISLATIVE (PG 1 of 2)—2015-2016

Several members of Portsmouth based Post 18 and VFW Post 5390 attended the presentation at the RI State House of House Bill No. 7112 entitled AN ACT RELATING TO TAXATION—PERSONAL INCOME TAX, which was introduced by Representatives Lancia, Malik, Azzinaro, Reilly and Costa. This Act will exempt the amount of military pension which



is included in the Federal adjusted gross income from state income tax.



RI has designated 2016 as the "Year of the Veteran."

Local and state representatives are on the distribution list for our award-winning veterans newsletter, "Flying InFormation." Member Virginia Hanson is active with the **UNITED VETERANS COUNCIL**. She shares news and information that impacts the veteran community. 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 continue to encourage members and our readership to support legislation to limit or eliminate taxation of military retirements in Rhode Island. Below: US Senator Sheldon Whitehouse at the Beirut Memorial Ceremony (23 OCT 2015); US Representative David Cicilline at the First RI Regiment ceremony (30 AUG 2015).

Post 18 members Virginia "Ginny" Hanson and Walter Coehlo organized and hosted the **BOOT CAMP BREAKFAST** on **5 MARCH 2016**.



Several members of Post & Unit 18 attended. Attendees learned about veterans benefits, VA, DAV, the RI Veterans Memorial Cemetery and the RI Veterans Home. Several state and local politicians attended updating us on legislation affecting veterans.



POST 18
TIME: 68 HOURS
COST: \$90.00

PREPARED BY: CHRISTINE HAYWARD
POST & UNIT 18 HISTORIAN

UNIT 18
TIME: 34 HOURS
COST: \$48.00

Dual member Christine Hayward successfully petitioned the Rhode Island Governor's Office to proclaim 11 through 17 NOV 2015 **BLUE STAR FAMILIES APPRECIATION WEEK** in Rhode Island! Copy of Proclamation is below.



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

Blue Star Families Appreciation Week

WHEREAS, the men and women in our military shoulder the burden of safeguarding our freedom; and

WHEREAS, the United States military instills a sense of honor, duty, commitment and respect—evident in the millions of veterans throughout history who have returned home to their communities as productive citizens strengthened by their military experience; and

WHEREAS, it is our duty to honor the men and women who serve in the Armed Forces and keep alight the fires of freedom while their families, friends and neighbors enjoy life here in the Ocean State; and

WHEREAS, the name "Blue Star Families" was derived from the custom of military families displaying a service flag in the front window of their home featuring a blue star for each family member currently serving; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting to recognize the sacrifices of the families of those currently serving as they endure separation, hardship and loneliness while their loved ones serve with honor around the globe; and

WHEREAS, we renew our commitment to Blue Star Families who carry on with pride and courage; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Gina M. Raimondo, Governor of the State of Rhode Island, do hereby proclaim November 11—November 17, 2015 as ***Blue Star Families Appreciation Week*** in the state and encourage all residents to honor veterans, those currently serving on the home front and abroad and their families for their outstanding service to Rhode Island, America and the World.

Given under my hand and the great seal of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, this 9th day of November, 2015.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gina M. Raimondo".

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Christine Hayward".



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ANNUAL REPORT—MEMBERSHIP (PG 1 of 3)—2015-2016

Membership continues to be a challenge. Our WWII and Korean War veterans are joining Post Everlasting at an alarming rate. Even with some success in recruiting, our membership numbers are flat. With the recent \$5 increase in dues, we need to be able to offer some "value" to their membership, besides the camaraderie aspect. Our **joint annual meeting** is held off-site and includes a tour. This has proved to be very popular and a great way to show appreciation for those who spend many hours volunteering in the community in which we live, work, learn and play. Our 2016 annual meeting was held at the Naval War College Museum.

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**, 41 letters (sample attached) were sent to member prospects in our area in 2015-2016. Both the Post & Unit Membership Chairs do an excellent job updating the rosters and submitting dues to DEPT/DEPT AUX.

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 participation. Meeting Agenda and Minutes are produced in large font and distributed in advance to make meetings more productive.

Unit 18 is struggling with only 3 active members who are tired. An updated survey resulted in fewer than 10 responses. Sadly, the Unit will be entertaining a Motion to Surrender the Charter at the 7 MAY 2016 meeting. Members have been notified.



It was truly an honor to accompany **ALA EDNVP Helen Skelton** from Delaware on her tour in Newport preceded by lunch at a local farm during her visitation to RI. She toured a Newport mansion which was decorated for Christmas. **(12 DEC 2015)**



Post 18 members manned a **TATTERED FLAG COLLECTION and MEMBERSHIP RECRUITING STATION** at Clements' Market on two weekends in **MAY/JUN 2015**. Shoppers were invited to enter a drawing for a new home flag set. The winning name was drawn at our Flag Retirement Ceremony. Newsletters and membership applications were distributed.

POST 18
TIME: 150 HOURS
COST: \$132.85

PREPARED BY: CHRISTINE HAYWARD
POST & UNIT 18 HISTORIAN

UNIT 18
TIME: 40 HOURS
COST: \$24.50

SAMPLE OF LETTER SENT TO MEMBER PROSPECTS



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12 September 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 Tuesday of the month (most months) at the VFW Hall, 822 Anthony Rd., Portsmouth. Our next meeting is on **Tuesday, 6 October 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, our Auxiliary members provide vital support to our mission. A membership brochure for Unit 18 is also enclosed for 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. There are other activities and projects you can do from home that would be a great help to us! 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

VISITATION OF NATIONAL COMMANDER TO RHODE ISLAND

It was an honor to coordinate a private tour of the ARTILLERY COMPANY OF NEWPORT HQ, ARMORY & MUSEUM for **National Commander Dale Barnett** during his visitation to The Ocean State on 11 APR 2016.



EXCERPT FROM JUL/AUG/SEP 2015 NEWSLETTER REGARDING DUES INCREASE:

If you haven't already done so, please renew your membership for 2016 online or send a check to the Post. Post 18 dues are currently \$30 per year. National voted on a substantial dues increase which will have to be passed along to Departments, Posts and Members.

The same reasons National cites to justify the increase are the same reasons that some members will not be able to afford the increase. To keep it in perspective, members are asked to think of the increase as a few cups of coffee (or one "specialty" coffee) per year.

CTO1 Dan Dougherty, USN (Ret.)
Jr. Vice CDR/Membership Chairman
dansdahlias633@cox.net



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ANNUAL REPORT—NATIONAL & HOMELAND SECURITY (PG 1 of 2)—2015-2016



On **2 APR 2016**, Post 18 Commander Dave Duggan received a tour of the **U.S. Coast Guard Cutter WILLOW** at NAVSTA Newport by active duty service member BM1 Brett Arruda.



Chaplain Francis Gutierrez and his wife Linda visited **U.S. Coast Guard Barque EAGLE** at historic FT Adams when she made a port call on her way back to New London, CT in early August 2015.



Post 18 Commander Dave Duggan volunteers 8 hours per month manning the **MILITARY LOUNGE AT T.F. GREEN AIRPORT**. Post 18 donates puzzle books. Unit 18 replenishes crayons and coloring books for military dependents using the lounge.

While volunteering at the Military Lounge, he consoled a woman waiting for a flight to honor her son's young comrade who was KIA in Afghanistan. She was visibly shaken knowing her own son was spared by not being on watch at that time. This is an example of what our Blue Star Families deal with on a regular basis.



Four members of Post & Unit 18 marched in Newport's **COLUMBUS DAY PARADE** and chatted with members of the US Navy while waiting to step off. We thanked them for their service.
(12 OCT 2015)



We donated toothbrushes and cards towards a DEPT AUX project to send **CARE PACAKGES** to deployed troops.
(FEB 2016)



POST 18
TIME: 144 HOURS
COST: \$347.59

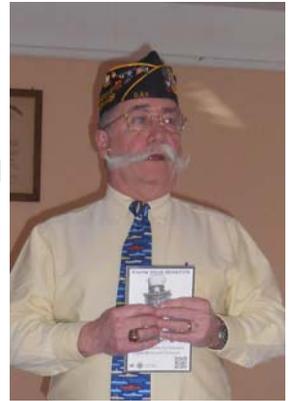
PREPARED BY: CHRISTINE HAYWARD
POST & UNIT 18 HISTORIAN

UNIT 18
TIME: 46 HOURS
COST: \$109.00



BOOT CAMP BREAKFAST

Post 18 members Virginia "Ginny" Hanson and Walter Coehlo organized and hosted the **BOOT CAMP BREAKFAST** on **5 MARCH 2016**. Several members of Post & Unit 18 attended. Attendees—especially those transitioning from active duty to civilian status—learned about veterans benefits including education, medical, employment and housing benefits, the VA, the DAV and the RI Veterans Memorial Cemetery and the RI Veterans Home.



We sponsored a track sign honoring Blue Star Families at the annual **SGT BRIAN R. STGERMAIN** fundraiser. (OCT 2015)

Our **11 NOV 2015** Veterans Day Ceremony theme was "**BLUE STAR FAMILIES.**" Please see attached Program with details.



Post & Unit 18 members played important roles in Newport's 2nd **Wreaths Across America** event hosted by the Surface Navy Association on **12 DEC 2015**. In addition to promoting the event, we secured the two buglers for Taps (echo version), secured a wreath-layer, sponsored wreaths and produced the Program. The **SURFACE NAVY ASSOCIATION** has developed a rapport with Post & Unit 18 to continue this event/tradition as active duty members transfer to new duty stations.





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ANNUAL REPORT—PUBLIC RELATIONS—2015-2016

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 830+ 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. **Copies of our newsletter issues released during this reporting period are attached.**

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. **Snapshot of web site attached.**

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**. Starting in the Winter of 2015, the **Portsmouth Times** has included news about our Post and Unit meetings and events in their Veterans Corner.

Our two baseball teams receive extensive coverage during the season.

Some press coverage received during this reporting period is attached.

(At left, Post 18's Antonio "Tony" Cercena landed on the front page of the **Newport Daily News** on 12 NOV 2015.)



We distributed environmental themed WORD FIND puzzles (copy attached) to area Scouts, Schools, Nursing Homes and hotels in honor of Earth Day and Arbor Day.

Puzzles promote Post & Unit 18 drive traffic to our web site. **(APR 2016)**

POST 18
TIME: 360 HOURS
COST: \$545.76

PREPARED BY: CHRISTINE HAYWARD
POST & UNIT 18 HISTORIAN

UNIT 18
TIME: 180 HOURS
COST: \$0 (Post pays)



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ANNUAL REPORT—V A & R (PG 1 of 2)—2015-2016

We were proud to host our annual **"HALLOWEEN THEMED BINGO"** on **24 OCT 2015** and our **"SPRING THEMED BINGO"** at the RI Veterans Home on **19 MAR 2016**. We distributed 75 ditty bags to residents at each event along with prizes and prize money. There were 7 volunteers at the Halloween Bingo and 8 volunteers at the Spring Bingo. Our fellow veterans appreciated the ditty bags filled with a new toothbrush, Beanie Baby™, card, patriotic pin and a puzzle. We socialized for 1/2 hour before the games.



Post 18 Commander Dave Duggan volunteers at the **MILITARY LOUNGE AT T.F. GREEN AIRPORT** for 8 hours a month. He greets military travelers and their families and offer a place to rest while waiting for a departure or arrival. Post 18 donates puzzle books. Unit 18 replenishes crayons and coloring books for military dependents using the lounge.



UNIT 18 DONATED \$250 TO THE DEPT AUX FOR THE CHRISTMAS SHOPPE WHEN THEY RAN LOW ON ITEMS FOR THE VA HOSPITAL (DEC 2015).

Post 18 members attended the dedication ceremony of the **THOMAS A. POOLE VETERANS SERVICE CENTER** in Johnston for Operation Stand Down on **9 NOV 2015**. Post 18 friend Tom Poole was tragically killed in a motorcycle accident in New York in JUL 2015.



POST 18
TIME: 420 HOURS
COST: \$ 348.72

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

UNIT 18
TIME: 162 HOURS
COST: \$527.00

Excerpt: APR/MAY/JUN 2015 issue/“Flying InFormation”

VISITING VETERAN CORPS is a community-based program that provides visitors who are former military to elderly and disabled veterans in RI. They offer support and friendship through visits and phone calls keeping veterans connected and relieving isolation. References, background checks and training are provided through the Diocese of Providence. Activity ideas: reminisce, read, play games/ cards, work on crafts or projects, watch movies or TV, write letters and listen to music. For more info on how to volunteer OR to request a visit, call AmeriCorps Vista at 401.421.7833 x 209.

- Promoted **DARE TO DREAM RANCH** (an alternative therapy destination for veterans and their family members) in the **JUL/AUG/SEP 2015** issue of “Flying InFormation”
- Had a guest speaker educate members/meeting attendees about **MEDICAL MARIJUANA** which was featured in the JULY 2015 issue [The American Legion Magazine](#)
- Distributed the VA’s **HealthVet** handouts to members
- Made postcards featuring the design of the new RI Veterans Home for the residents of the RIVH (**OCT 2015**)



Post 18 members George Wardwell, Tony Cerecena, Kim Ripoli and Virginia Hanson attended the ground-breaking ceremony for the new RI Veterans Home in Bristol (22 MAY 2015)

Our newsletter readers were encouraged to “like” and “follow” the RI Division of Veterans Affairs on Twitter and Facebook. Get updates on the new Veterans Home project and other initiatives, as well as the good work taking place on behalf of veterans from partner agencies and community stakeholders.

 www.twitter.com
Twitter handle: @RIVeterans

 [https://www.facebook.com/ RIDivisionofVeteransAffairs](https://www.facebook.com/RIDivisionofVeteransAffairs)



Post 18 members Virginia “Ginny” Hanson and Walter Coehlo organized and hosted the **BOOT CAMP BREAKFAST** on **5 MARCH 2016**. Several members of Post & Unit 18 attended. Attendees learned about veterans benefits, the VA, the DAV, the RI Veterans Memorial Cemetery and the RI Veterans Home. Several state and local politicians attended to update us on legislation affecting veterans.

