

PROUD WINNER OF POST EXCELLENCE AWARD



AMERICAN LEGION POST 18

PO BOX 307, PORTSMOUTH, RI 02871

Editor: editorPost18RI@gmail.com

Adjutant: yncsgrd@aol.com

www.ALPost18RI.homestead.com

NEWS FROM THE POST ~ Flying InFormation ~ FALL 2022



I was honored to present Miss Maria S. Johnson with Post 18's annual Portsmouth High School Scholarship Award on 26 MAY 2022. Maria is now attending Wheaton College majoring in Elementary Education.

As a Girl Scout, she has been giving back to her community through her volunteer work at food kitchens, charitable events and extra-curricular after school activities.

We congratulate Maria on all of her accomplishments, and wish her well in her future endeavors.

COMMANDER'S BRIEFING

Hello and best wishes to all our readers. The seasonal change has confirmed that our eternal Commander is still present in our daily lives. The changing of the leaves and the weather occur in plain sight. The majesty of mother nature abounds. I hope to join the seasons changes with my own personal modifications. I am optimistic about improving my health by exercising more. The prospect of improved well-being is a strong motivator. May all of our readers experience strength and vigor.

Many of our subscribers report having had great summer vacations. For all who traveled, treasure the memories made while visiting friends, family and far-off places. The adventures made can last a lifetime by taking a trip down memory lane. Taking time off from personal and professional commitments to help balance our lives can be very rewarding and beneficial. As we gear up for the upcoming quarter, take those recharged spirits and try to find a way to continue helping our veteran and neighborhood communities. Can't figure out how to join in on our mission? Contact me or any of our officers for helpful advice on how you can make a difference.

Please enjoy reading this newsletter which is intended to keep our members informed about past, current and future Post activities. Despite the summer vacation and some on-going COVID restrictions, we were still able to bring our mission to life through our ongoing programs.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

VETERANS DAY—FRIDAY, 11 NOVEMBER 2022

0800—Brief meeting of Post 18 @ Portsmouth Town Hall

0900—Veterans Day Ceremony @ Portsmouth Town Hall (guest speaker, indoor ceremony, outdoor wreath-laying ceremony)

1000—Veterans Parade & Appreciation @ Thriving Tree Coffee House

1100—Veterans Day Ceremony @ Newport City Hall

Please participate when and where you are able!

DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN'S REPORT



On 26 SEP 2022 I was installed as your Department Chaplain at the monthly DEC meeting. Thank you to our DEPT CDR Joe Shottek for the appointment. I endeavor to serve with the utmost respect. If you are in need of Chaplain services, please advise. I can visit any veteran and/or family in need of comradeship. It will be my pleasure to spend time with you. Photo at left is from the 15 MAY 2022 dedication of the RI Gold Star Memorial Monument located at the RI Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Exeter.

I invite you to pray with me: "Eternal God, Supreme Commander of us all, Lord of the far-flung battle line, to whom the ranks of life report, we bow before You with reverent hearts and in sublime faith, knowing You lead us on in deaths You have in life. For again You have ordered a Legionnaire to that realm in the West, beyond the twilight and the evening star, where beauty and valor and goodness dwell forever with the unnumbered multitude. Mindful of service nobly done, You have called our departed Comrades to everlasting rest. You have sealed their lips. With the faded blossoms of springtime and the withered leaves of Autumn, You have called our comrade to eternal peace, to the land of your silent mystery. You heal the broken in heart and bind up their wounds. Comfort Your people. In their sorrow may there be no bitterness, no doubt of Your eternal goodness. Give them the knowledge to know You do not mock us with this stubborn hope of life eternal – that having created and cared for us, You will not desert us to the dust, that You hold us with a love un-failing; that our dead are in Your keeping and that You are able to do far more for them than all we ask for. Until for us also the day breaks and the shadows flee, grant us so to live our lives that we may honor the Legionnaires who have gone before us. For Your own name's sake we pray...Amen."

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

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

HERBERT SEARS

passed away on 3 FEB 2022 and was interred at the RI Veterans Memorial Cemetery in April. A veteran of the Korean War, he proudly served multiple terms as Commander of American Legion Post 18.

JOSEPH FERRI, JR passed away on 22 JUL 2022. He served in the US Army during the Korean War. An avid golfer, Joe was an active member of the Rotary Club.

We pray fond memories comfort their family and friends.

REFLAGGING MAY 2022



COMMANDER'S BRIEFING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The annual scholarship was awarded. Graves were reflagged and a Memorial Day ceremony was held. I was honored to give the invocation and benediction at Newport's VJ Day ceremony.

As you read about Post 18 accomplishments and activities, I pray that you are rewarded with an enlightened outlook of the American Legion. We have a mission: to promote aid and assistance for veterans and their affairs; to encourage Americanism and care for our Children & Youth; to protect Law & Order while preserving our Constitution. The Four Pillars serve us well. Please help promote peace and understanding. I wish the blessings of our Eternal Commander be upon you.



Incoming
**National
Commander
Vincent J. "Jim"
Troiola** attended the 23 MAY 2022 RI DEC meeting hosted by Fairmount Post 85- Woonsocket, RI.

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

On **V-J Day** (20 August 2022), City of Newport Mayor JeanMarie Napolitano delivered a message of remembrance and hope. The Artillery Company of Newport fired a volley. The program was led by American Legion Post 7-Newport Commander John Duchesneau. Post 18 Commander Francis Gutierrez offered the invocation and benediction. The small crowd assembled was reverential and attentive. Please visit and support **www.newportartillery.org**.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, 23 OCTOBER 2022 @ 10 AM—BEIRUT MEMORIAL CEREMONY @
Portsmouth Historical Society (870 E. Main Rd., Portsmouth, RI)

FRIDAY, 11 NOVEMBER 2022—VETERANS DAY (see front page)

TUESDAY, 6 DECEMBER 2022 @ 6 PM—POST 18 HOLIDAY GATHERING at
Thriving Tree Coffee House (706 Park Ave., Island Park, Portsmouth, RI)



On 15 OCT 2022, Post 18 hosted our popular **HALLOWEEN-THEMED BINGO @ the RI Veterans Home**. \$150 in cash prizes were awarded to the residents who were grateful for the recreation. Members and extended family members had fun donning costumes and socializing with our heroes.



BUTTS HILL FORT—VOLUNTEER CLEANUP

Volunteers needed to help with cleanup (removal of deadfall wood and overgrown brush from ditches and parapet walls on the north, east and south sides of the Fort and weed whacking of areas cleared earlier). No tree cutting. Bring gloves, rakes, shovels, pruners, loppers and/or weed whackers. Be alert to presence of ticks and poison ivy. Volunteers must sign waiver. Let's help restore this Revolutionary War fort to provide a safe and accessible educational and recreational site in our community! Details and registration at www.battleofrhodeisland.org or visit www.eventbrite.com/e/butts-hill-fort-volunteer-cleanup-tickets-430169437367



Military Women Across the Nation (MWAN) will celebrate its 20th anniversary of the women's monument at the **Rhode Island Veterans Memorial Cemetery** (301 S. County Trail, Exeter, RI).

Please join fellow veterans on **Wednesday, 2 NOVEMBER @ 2pm** for a wreath laying in honor of this momentous occasion.

WELCOME ABOARD

ERIK BOXELL, US Army, GWOT

THOMAS FOX, US Navy, VIETNAM

ROBERT GAULIN, US Marine Corps, VIETNAM

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!