



**AMERICAN LEGION POST 18**  
**PO BOX 307**  
**PORTSMOUTH, RI 02871**  
**[www.ALPost18RI.homestead.com](http://www.ALPost18RI.homestead.com)**

## **FLYING INFORMATION—NEWS FROM THE POST—FALL 2025**

### **COMMANDER'S BRIEFING**

After WWI—The Great War—our founders chartered this Post on 22 AUG 1919. We are still here 106 years later serving veterans in our community. It is our desire and duty to continue what our founders started. There are challenges to keeping a Post active. Building codes and compliances are costly, membership is waning, and our military history is being forgotten and in some cases, re-written. Please consider stepping up to support the activities and responsibilities of the Post. Recruit eligible veterans—regardless of service dates—to join. Crew and team building are essential to accomplish



our mission. At left: CDR Rutter from VFW Post 5390 and I enjoyed a visit with CDR Carlton Johnson recently.

**Dave Duggan**  
**Acting CDR/Finance Officer/Past CDR**



On 7 DEC 2025, volunteers assembled 20 "Celebration Kits" containing everything needed to bake and decorate a cake for a special occasion

(birthday, anniversary, retirement, welcome home, etc.). Ten kits each were dropped off at the MLK Food Pantry in Newport and the Portsmouth Food Pantry. The kits were well received!



### **VETERANS DAY CELEBRATED BY PORTSMOUTH COMMUNITY**



On 11 NOV 2025, Post 18's Dave Duggan served as Master of Ceremonies introducing guest speaker RI Senator Linda Ujifusa and others to those assembled. The Newport Navy Choristers performed the National Anthem and the "Armed Forces Medley" (including the Space Force song!) inviting veterans to stand upon hearing their branch song. Senator Ujifusa reminded veterans that our service did not end when we took off the uniform as many of us continue to serve our "community, state and nation." Her speech was uplifting!

You can download the full article by Jim McGaw of the *Portsmouth Times* from the CALENDAR page of our web site (URL above).



# WINTER-THEMED WORD FIND PUZZLE

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

## WORD LIST

HOLIDAY  
 CANDLES  
 DECORATIONS  
 MUSIC BELLS  
 SLEIGH  
 BALSAM  
 COOKIE  
 FIREPLACE  
 MITTENS  
 PIES TOYS  
 SNOWFLAKES  
 SHOVEL  
 CAROLING  
 CELEBRATION  
 FAMILY  
 HOLLY STAR  
 EGGNOG  
 SHARING  
 THANKFUL  
 SKIING  
 SCARF HAT  
 BOOTS KNIT  
 HOT COCOA  
 CHIMNEY  
 SKATES  
 TRAVEL  
 GLOVES  
 GIVING  
 FROZEN  
 FRIENDS  
 VISIT SPICES  
 GIFTS FROST  
 RIBBONS  
 CIDER BOWS  
 PEACE JOY  
 SLEDDING  
 WINTER  
 SOLSTICE



We had great fun hosting a **PIRATE-themed BINGO** at the RI Veterans Home in Bristol on 23 AUG 2025. Please join us for our **VALENTINE'S DAY BINGO** at the RI Veterans Home on **Saturday, 14 FEB 2026 @ 2 PM**. Still plenty of time to spend with your special Valentine (we'll be done by 3:30 PM). Volunteers needed to help veterans play their cards, award prizes and socialize. Cupid made an appearance last year! Wear red/pink clothes or accessories. See PG 4 for address.







## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

We are often contacted by families to place or replace flags at their loved ones gravesite. In Portsmouth, volunteers flag nearly 900 graves every May in preparation for Memorial Day. We also participate in the Veterans Grave data collection project—a great resource for those researching genealogy/ancestry. If your family or civic group would like to volunteer in May, please reach out.



**adjpost18ri@gmail.com**

**Peter Roberts**  
**Sergeant-at-Arms/Chaplain**

## VETERAN-CENTERED COMEDY SHOWS

# COMBAT ZONE 360°

**Jay Lawrence** (stand-up comedian, veteran and storyteller) brings a unique blend of resilience, authenticity and humor to every stage he graces. His comedy brings veterans together through shared humor, camaraderie and a sense of community.

Consider hiring him for your next event/fundraiser and share the healing power of laughter.

**combatzone360@gmail.com**  
**917.789.0263**

## WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA (WAA)

The RI Patriot Guard Riders (PGR) provided a flag line to greet the public as they gathered at the WAA ceremony at the RI Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Exeter on 13 DECEMBER 2025. The USN Sea Cadets presented the Colors, MGEN Andrew Chevalier was the guest speaker. Rolling Thunder, Inc. RI Chapter 1 conducted the very moving "Soldier's Cross" ceremony. Portsmouth resident Carolyn Evans Carbery—wife of



Post 18 member Neil Carbery—is the current State Captain of the PGR. Membership is free and missions are rewarding. To learn more, visit:

**PATRIOTGUARD.ORG**



## SERVICE OFFICER

Post 18 member **Donald Pfeiffer** is a trained Service Officer who can help you navigate and apply for VA benefits. Contact info:

phone: 401.223.3667; e-mail:  
**donald.pfeiffer@va.gov**

## MEMBERSHIP CORNER

We are pleased to welcome aboard new and transferring members to Post 18.

**MATTHEW WALKER**  
**(USA, GWOT)**

**LTC AUDREY MACLEOD**  
**PFEIFFER**  
**(USAR, 1981-2002)**

**SCOTT FOBERG**  
**(details forthcoming)**

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING MEETINGS / EVENTS

**NOTE: WE WILL BE DARK (NO MEETING) IN JANUARY 2026.**

**MONDAY, 2 FEBRUARY 2026 @ 6:30 PM**—Regular meeting of American Legion Post 18 @ VFW Hall (822 Anthony Rd., Common Fence Point, Portsmouth, RI). Please note meeting date change to 1st Monday instead of 1st Tuesday due to scheduling conflicts at the Hall.

**SATURDAY, 14 FEBRUARY 2026 @ 2 PM—VALENTINE'S THEMED BINGO** @ RI Veterans Home (480 Metacom Ave., Bristol, RI). Volunteers needed to help veterans play their cards, award prizes and socialize. See PG 2 for more details.

**Please visit and bookmark [www.ALPost18RI.homestead.com](http://www.ALPost18RI.homestead.com) for updated calendar listing of meetings and events of interest to members.**

### MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

In the 4 DECEMBER 2025 issue, *Newport This Week* writer Lynne Tungett featured Post 18 member **Joseph DeRobbio**—Army veteran and former law enforcement officer. "Santa doesn't have to be a person; it's a feeling," said DeRobbio.

He reminisced about the most requested gifts over the years. Often military families just ask Santa for their loved ones to come home safely. And what a wonderful gift that would be for all of our warriors!



Photo credit: JC PHOTOGRAPHY

### AMERICAN LEGION POST 18 2025-2026

#### SLATE OF OFFICERS/CHAIRS

#### CDR (Acting) & FINANCE OFFICER:

Dave Duggan, Past CDR

#### SR VICE CDR: MSCS Antonio "Tony"

Cercena, USN (Ret.)

#### JR VICE CDR: (vacant)

#### ADJUTANT (Acting)/ WEBMISTRESS & EDITOR:

Christine Hayward, Past CDR

#### SERGEANT-AT-ARMS & CHAPLAIN:

Peter Roberts

#### MEMBERSHIP CO-CHAIRS:

Francisco "Cisco" Gutierrez, Past CDR  
and Christine Hayward, Past CDR

**We appreciate those who contributed  
photos and articles to this edition of  
Flying InFormation.**

**CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS:  
Tony Cercena, Jim McGaw; JC  
Photography, Linda Gutierrez,  
Carolyn Evans Carbery**

**[ADJPost18RI@gmail.com](mailto:ADJPost18RI@gmail.com)**