



AMERICAN LEGION POST 18
PO BOX 307
PORTSMOUTH, RI 02871
www.ALPost18RI.homestead.com

FLYING INFORMATION—NEWS FROM THE POST—SPRING 2026

COMMANDER'S BRIEFING

This Spring we find our military involved in a foreign conflict to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon to support their public decree to destroy both America and Israel. We who have served see the same concerns which affected our time in uniform: families disrupted, economic impacts, questioning *what are we fighting for*—a popular song sung by soldiers heading to Vietnam. Although this war involves religious ideals and uses more high tech weaponry and few ground troops, the effect on our citizens and economy is the same. Let's hope we can keep our warfighters out of harm's way and peace prevails in the region.

Post 18 continues to recognize Four Pillars: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism and Children & Youth. We will always be here for our veteran families. Finding it difficult to recruit and retain members and fill leadership positions, we have joined forces with VFW Post 5390 to address the needs in the Portsmouth community. Together we will stand watch.

Dave Duggan
Acting CDR/Finance Officer/Past CDR

REFLAGGING OF GRAVES
*** ALL HANDS ON DECK ***

Our annual flag order has been submitted to the RI Veterans Memorial Cemetery. The important, solemn task of flagging graves in preparation for the Memorial Day weekend has been scheduled.

SATURDAY
16 MAY 2026 @ 8 AM

Muster at St. Mary's Cemetery (324 E. Main Rd., Portsmouth). Working in teams of two (if possible), identify veterans' graves and place/replace flag. When done, we will caravan across the street to Trinity Cemetery. When done, we will meet up at Portsmouth Burial Ground/Portsmouth Cemetery (Turnpike Ave., Portsmouth). Note: There are several smaller cemeteries with access and parking challenges that will be covered by other volunteers that week.

Volunteers needed (students, families, Scouts, military groups, etc.). Water and snack will be provided. Recommend gloves. Reflagging is conducted rain or shine, so dress appropriately. Proof of community service will be provided. No need to pre-register (just show up ready to work!), but we'd like to gage how many volunteers to expect!

ADJPOST18RI@gmail.com

VALENTINE'S-THEMED BINGO @ RIVH

A heart-felt thank you to volunteers who helped host BINGO for the residents at the RI Veterans Home in Bristol on 14 FEB 2026. Below right: CAPT Ken Rutter (VFW Post 5390) and Christine Hayward (Post 18)

enjoyed socializing with our fellow veterans.



CHILDREN & YOUTH-THEMED WORD FIND PUZZLE

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

WORD LIST

- CHILDREN
- YOUTH
- PILLAR
- ADVOCACY
- OUTREACH
- BOYS
- GIRLS
- STATE
- NATION
- JUNIOR
- SHOOTING
- SPORTS
- AMERICAN
- LEGION
- AUXILIARY
- BASEBALL
- CHILD
- WELFARE
- FOUNDATION
- FAMILY
- SUPPORT
- NETWORK
- APRIL
- SHOWERS
- SCHOOL
- COMMUNITY
- SCHOLARSHIP
- EDUCATION
- PROGRAMS
- AWARDS
- VICTIM
- SERVICES
- SUBSTANCE
- ABUSE
- PREVENTION
- HOPE
- DREAMS
- FUN
- PATRIOTIC
- VALUES
- VOLUNTEER

NEWPORT NAVY CHORISTERS PRESENT
"PROUDLY WE SING" - a Celebration of America's
250th Birthday on Friday, 15 MAY 2026 @ 7 PM

This concert benefits the Newport County RI Council Navy League of the United States. The venue: OceanPointe Christian Church, 66 Valley Rd., Middletown, RI. Tickets: adult-\$20; senior-\$15; youth-\$10; family-\$50. Contact: NLUSChoristerEVTchair@NewportNavyLeague.US or call Jean at 508.728.7203. To learn more about Navy Choristers, visit www.newportnavychoristers.org.



MEMBERSHIP CORNER

We have no new or transferring members to “Welcome Aboard” in this issue of our award-winning veterans newsletter, Flying InFormation.

Seven members have not yet renewed. This membership year will soon come to a close. If you are unsure of your membership status, need to update contact information or would like to renew on-line, please visit **WWW.MYLEGION.ORG** and register.

We welcome new and transferring eligible members. Visit the calendar section on PG 4 or on our website. Attend a meeting or event and “try us on for size!”

www.ALPost18RI.homestead.com

BACK IN THE DAY ...

Years ago, Post and Unit 18 sponsored not one, but two Legion Baseball teams and a Junior Shooting team. We provided financial and volunteer support to other Children & Youth (C & Y) programs such as Boys State/Girls State and the April Showers fundraiser. We supported the annual Flag Day celebration at our local elementary schools along with our competitive Portsmouth High School scholarship program. We sponsored the local Scouts. There are more Legion programs, such as the Oratorical Contest, that we have not participated in for many years. As the Post membership aged and the rosters dwindled, we decided to focus on doing a few things well instead of spreading our resources too thin.

Other Legion programs such as Law & Order—recognizing first responders—have not been supported by Post 18 in years. Although we did distribute baskets of plush stuffed animals to the Police and Fire Departments on Aquidneck Island for them to use to comfort children when responding to emergencies.

In recent years, most of our focus has been on providing much-needed recreation to the residents at the RI Veterans Home in Bristol. If you have an interest in reviving our support for the many wonderful Legion initiatives, please attend our monthly meeting (see calendar on PG 4), or reach out to our leadership team via **ADJPOST18RI@GMAIL.COM**.



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

A shout out to a member as she recuperates from cancer treatment. We know her family and friends are taking good care of her and helping to keep her in good spirits. Ring that bell, girl!

A Post 18 member will soon attend the graduation of his son from the Naval Academy who has chosen a career in the U.S. Marine Corps. Please join us in wishing these graduates well as they transition from an academic environment to specialty schools or their first duty station.

Please assist with grave reflagging (PG 1) and attend the Memorial Day Ceremony (PG 4).

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**

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING MEETINGS / EVENTS

MONDAY, 6 APRIL 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 has change to 1st Monday instead of 1st Tuesday due to scheduling conflicts at the Hall.

MONDAY, 4 MAY 2026 @ 6:30 PM—Regular meeting of American Legion Post 18 @ VFW Hall (822 Anthony Rd., Common Fence Point, Portsmouth, RI). Nominations of officers for 2026-2027.

SATURDAY, 16 MAY 2026 @ 8 AM—Reflagging of graves (see details on **PG 1**).

MONDAY, 25 MAY 2026 @ 11 AM—MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY @ VFW Hall (822 Anthony Rd., Common Fence Point, Portsmouth, RI) co-hosted by American Legion Post 18, VFW Post 5390 and Auxiliary. Please stay for collation after the ceremony.

Please visit and bookmark www.ALPost18RI.homestead.com for updated calendar listing of meetings and events of interest to members.

**LITTLE RHODY BOYS/GIRLS STATE
SESSION DATES: 21–26 JUNE 2026
www.littlerhodyboysstate.com**

Post 18 is prepared to sponsor up to two juniors from the Portsmouth area to attend this year's Boys/Girls State program. Venue: St. Andrews School (63 Federal Rd., Barrington, RI). Deadline to apply: 21 MAY 2026.

A respected educational program of government instruction, students ("citizens") become part of the operation of local, county and state government. Participants learn the rights, privileges and responsibilities of citizenship. The training is objective and centers on the structure of government including elections. Activities include legislative sessions, court proceedings, assemblies, law enforcement presentations and recreation. The program is open to **high school juniors** who will be going in to their senior year in the fall. The application (about you, endorsement from school, parental consent, health certification, liability waiver, rules, packing list, etc.) is available via mail or e-mail. To request an application, contact:

**BOYS STATE: Ronald Levasseur
RonRIVeterans@yahoo.com**

**GIRLS STATE: Alishia Levasseur
RIamericanlegionauxiliary@gmail.com**

**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

SGT-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:
AUDREY MACLEOD PFEIFFER,
CHRISTINE HAYWARD**

**EDITOR/PUBLISHER
ADJPost18RI@gmail.com**