

PROUD WINNER OF POST EXCELLENCE AWARD



AMERICAN LEGION POST 18

PO Box 307, Portsmouth, RI 02871

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www.ALPost18RI.homestead.com

NEWS FROM THE POST ~ Flying InFormation ~ SUMMER 2021

COMMANDER'S BRIEFING

Congratulations to all of our members and friends reading this issue of "*Flying InFormation*." Finally, now that health mandated restrictions are lifted, a routine daily life has resumed for many of you. This victory over an invisible foe is admirable and encouraging. My utmost sympathy for anyone who lost a loved one due to the virus.

Most of our yearly activities were cancelled over the past 12 months. Our membership still responded by supporting worthwhile events in our community. To all of you who showed up for any of our meetings, programs or events, my sincere thanks. The coming year keeps looking like our national security challenges will continue. Despite this, there is a lot to be hopeful for. There are more people unified by common sense than politics.

The American Legion advocates for veterans and veteran families, and children and youth. These are two very worthy pillars our post supports. We awarded two PHS students with scholarships this year. We hope to reinstate our seasonal bingo games soon at the RI Veterans Home in Bristol. The residents are always glad to see us. As restrictions ease, look for events on our website calendar.

As I enter into another year of service as Commander to our post, I am still committed to always trying to do the right thing. I support our law enforcement and fire departments. I will continue to support and defend the Constitution of the United States of America. Your trust in me as Commander is a most precious gift I shall not squander and a trust I shall not betray.



Thanks and best regards to each and every person who reads this newsletter. Never give in, never give up and always do your best. Today is the best time to dedicate oneself to mutual helpfulness. Do a buddy check, help someone in need or pick from a multitude of worthy community service opportunities. I look forward to seeing many of you throughout the seasons ahead. May clear skies, mild seas and brisk winds fill your sails.

At left with new Post 18 member and guest speaker at our Memorial Day ceremony LT Chris Hetherington. Welcome aboard, sir!

Francis "Cisco" Gutierrez, Commander
fjgcisco@cox.net
401.595.6525

RI GOLD STAR FAMILIES MEMORIAL MONUMENT

Fundraising is underway to build a monument for RI Gold Star Families. The memorial bricks will surround the base and walkways around the monument which will be located at the RI Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Exeter, RI. The 4" x 8" bricks are a great way to honor a loved one and cost \$50 each. For info, contact Sharon Serio Valente at **401.286.8782** or rigoldstarmemorial@gmail.com.





CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

We are making in-person visits again to our WWII and Korean War veterans. It was an honor to serve as chaplain at our beloved member Billie Dietz's services at the family viewing and the RI Veterans Cemetery for interment with full military honors. We will miss his cheery presence. Stay well, safe and connected!

We provided a replacement grave marker to Emma, granddaughter of Elliott G. Whitney who passed away in 2019 (just 3 months shy of his 97th birthday)!



Dave Duggan, Chaplain/Past Commander
duggan55@gmail.com



POST EVERLASTING

Sadly, Post 18 members **C. RAY BRIGANTI**, Korea/USN (7 SEP 2020); **NORMAN PATENAUDE**, WWII/USA (18 DEC 2020) and **BILLIE DIETZ**, Korea & Vietnam/USN (4 JUL 2021) have joined Post Everlasting.

We learned of Ray's passing from his lovely wife Catherine. Ray proudly served aboard the Heavy Cruiser St PAUL which fired the last salvo from a United Nations vessel to end the Korean War.

We learned of Norm's passing from his daughter in Maine. He was very active with Post 18 and the local HAM radio club when he lived on Aquidneck Island before moving "Downeast."

Billie was proud of his service, and he honored veterans from all branches and all wars/ conflicts. He was a charter member of the US Naval Memorial in Washington, DC.

We hope fond memories comfort their families, friends and caregivers.

2021—2022 POST 18 OFFICERS & ADMIN

Francis "Cisco" Gutierrez, Commander
DK1 Stephen Doherty, USN (Ret.), Sr. Vice CDR & Fin. Off.
MSCS Antonio "Tony" Cercena, USN (Ret.), Jr. Vice CDR
YNCS GinaMarie Doherty, USN (Ret.), Adjutant
Peter Roberts, Sergeant-at-Arms
Dave Duggan, Chaplain / Recent Past Commander
CTO1 Daniel Dougherty, USN (Ret.), Membership Co-Chair
Christine Hayward, Webmistress/Membership Co-Chair

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 or lack of hearing conservation during their service. Any member needing a ride to Post 18 meetings or events can call 401.236.2224 (leave message) to make arrangements. This award-winning newsletter has an initial distribution of 805 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 in the issue courtesy of **D. Duggan, C. Evans-Carbery, T. Cercena & L. Zagaglia-Gutierrez.**

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! Send your e-mail address to editorPOST18RI@gmail.com.



Many Post 18 members volunteer with the RI Patriot Guard Riders to provide flag lines for wakes, funerals, burials, ceremonies, homecomings, deployments, etc. You do not need to ride a motorcycle or be a veteran to be a member, and there are no dues or meetings. Join on the web site below to get area mission notices. Above is RI Ride Captain Christine Hayward & Jane Deptula. Above right, ALA Unit 2 Member Linda Gutierrez stands the flag line honoring Billie Dietz. Below center: RI Assistant Ride Captain Carolyn Evans-Carbery. Patriotic volunteers needed!

www.patriotguard.org



MEMORIAL DAY REFLAGGING

We were blessed to have many volunteers including local **Scouts** and the **JROTC** from **Rogers High School** participate in our annual reflagging efforts in mid-May. Over 900 graves were reflagged in three major and four smaller Portsmouth cemeteries along with a few outlying cemeteries. Our Veterans Grave Data Collection project is over 90% complete.



Post 18 CDR Francis "Cisco" Gutierrez accept the position of Historian for DEPT OF RI . His wife Linda is an active member of ALA Unit 2.



SPACE FORCE THEMED WORD FIND



Welcome aboard to the newest branch of service which falls under the DEPT OF THE AIR FORCE. The US Space Force (USSF) was established in 2019 with a mission to organize, train, and equip space forces in order to protect US and allied interests in space and to provide space capabilities to the joint force. Responsibilities include developing Guardians, acquiring military space systems, maturing the military doctrine for space power, and organizing space forces to present to our Combatant Commands.

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WORD LIST

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| SPACE | GLOBAL |
| FORCE | SYSTEM |
| MILITARY | POWER |
| OUTER | SKY |
| COMMAND | ROCKET |
| CAREER | MOON |
| AIR FORCE | PLANET |
| OPERATIONS | STARS |
| SPACECRAFT | NASA |
| CONSTELLATION | LAB |
| POSITIONING | ALIEN |
| COMMUNICATION | LIFE |
| EXPLORATION | SOLAR |
| PROPULSION | ARRAY |
| SURVEILLANCE | NETWORK |
| NAVIGATION | WEATHER |
| TRAINING | NATIONAL |
| LOGISTICS | DEFENSE |
| SATELLITE | SECURITY |
| WARNING | AIRMAN |
| MOBILITY | CYBER |
| ORBITAL | SCIENCE |
| MISSILE | WARFARE |

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

TUESDAY, 3 AUGUST 2021 @ 6 PM—Regular meeting of Post 18 at Thriving Tree Coffee House (706 Park Ave., Island Park, Portsmouth, RI)

SATURDAY, 7 AUGUST 2021—RI PURPLE HEART TRAIL DEDICATION DAY

MOTORCYCLE RUN (entire trail!)

Showcase Cinemas (1200 Quaker Ln, Warwick)

8:30 to 10—registration and staging

9:45—blessing of the ride

9:50—official ribbon cutting

10—kick stands up

INFO: erikab673@gmail.com



DEDICATION CEREMONY

Westerly Elks Lodge 678 (1 Dixon St., Westerly)

Noon to 1 PM—Ceremony

1 to 5 PM—BBQ, band, VSO booths

INFO: Joe "Tiger" Patrick

svc@vfwri.org;

401.677.9374

TUESDAY, 7 SEPTEMBER 2021 @ 6 PM—Regular meeting of Post 18 at Thriving Tree Coffee House (706 Park Ave., Island Park, Portsmouth, RI)



For more info and updates, please visit
www.ALPost18RI.homestead.com
Like/follow us on FACEBOOK (American Legion Post 18-Portsmouth, RI)

FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY



Thank you to our friends at Post 104-Warren for hosting the annual Flag Retirement Ceremony.

Thousands of flags were inspected by volunteers before being presented to the flames for proper disposal. Flags were collected during the reflagging of Portsmouth cemeteries and from our tattered flag collection box at the Portsmouth Free Public Library.

ABOVE: Post 18 CDR "Cisco" Gutierrez with Post 18 Jr. Vice CDR Tony Cercena. BELOW: Post 104 CDR Dave McCarthy at podium.



NATIONAL COMMANDER'S RI VISITATION



James W. "Bill" Oxford attended a "meet & greet" at Post & Unit 2 on 25 APR 2021.

I was honored

to present Post 18's **Children & Youth** donation to him.



POST 18 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

On 7 JUN 2021, Post 18 Jr. Vice CDR Tony Cercena presented scholarships to two deserving Portsmouth High School seniors. Zachary Rousseau will be attending Roger Williams University in Bristol, RI majoring in Cybersecurity and Networking. Emma Adkins will be a Health Science/Premed student at Northeastern University in Boston, MA in the fall. Congratulations!