

PROUD WINNER OF POST EXCELLENCE AWARD



AMERICAN LEGION POST 18

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NEWS FROM THE POST ~ Flying InFormation ~ WINTER 2022

It's almost time for us to hold elections for our annual slate of officers. In addition, some positions are appointed by the newly elected Commander. Nominations will be open at the April meeting; voting will be conducted at the May meeting. New slate of officers will be installed in June or as soon as it is practical.

The current and former slate of officers are ready to help you successfully serve Post 18. If you have a skill or talent that would be useful to our Post and the community we serve, please let us know.



WE WANT YOU!

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

(some members serve the Post in multiple positions)

COMMANDER
SENIOR VICE COMMANDER
JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER
FINANCE OFFICER
ADJUTANT *
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS
CHAPLAIN
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR *
AMERICANISM CHAIR
CHILDREN & YOUTH CHAIR
NATIONAL SECURITY CHAIR
VETERANS AFFAIRS &
REHABILITATION CHAIR

* These two positions require computer literacy.

COMMANDER'S BRIEFING

I woke up today...a gift from our Creator. As I age, small accomplishments have become more challenging. It is after each success I find myself increasingly grateful. The motto of Rhode Island—HOPE—is an essential character virtue.

I hope that our readers accept my best wishes as you continue your work with the veteran and military population. Our Post is thankful for your participation in our activities. Learn about American Legion programs that provide assistance to veterans and their families. One of these is Children & Youth. Each year our Post awards scholarships to graduating seniors. Children are our future; I hope they have the opportunities we had.

The last couple of years have presented new challenges. An unknown phenomenon such as we have never experienced in our lifetime. The confusion of the virus has created fear in many. It has interrupted our ordinary veteran service activities. I encourage everyone to continue faithfully with compassion and empathy. Fear is a natural response that hope can alleviate. To all who have lost someone, I am sorry for your loss.

The American Legion will continue to provide help to veterans and their families. Members vow to defend the US Constitution and support law and order. We encourage a one-hundred percent Americanism. Integrity, compassion and rule of law help create and sustain an America where our hopes and dreams can come true.

As spring approaches we will strive to schedule events and participate in customary Post activities. Please check out our website for updates and the upcoming calendar. Remember to check in on friends and family. One call may make a big difference in another's life. Thank you for reading. I hope to see many of you in the coming weeks.



RADM Shoshana Chatfield was our keynote speaker on Veterans Day

Francis "Cisco" Gutierrez, Commander
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CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

COVID and variants continue to hinder our ability to meet with some of our members. Recently, I was informed of several family members who tested positive after attending the funeral of one of our own. Our enemy is not on a battlefield, nor on the seas or in the skies, but is biological, a much different warfare than we are used to, and it appears that all people of all nations, races and faiths are being affected by some variant of the biological warfare. We don't know who the enemy is or where he lives. Although precautions are always necessary, we must still find ways to support our local veteran community. Please help with a phone call, text or email to a fellow veteran during these difficult times and let me know of any needs.

We are attempting to run a BINGO event at the RI Veteran's Home next month, as health concerns allow.

We lost our senior member, QMCM Carl Petersen on January 4th, a veteran of WWII, Korea and Vietnam. He did make it home for the holidays as promised by his loving family. I will miss the visits and his first-hand accounts of surviving Exercise Tiger, the Normandy landings on Omaha Beach and the battles in the Pacific which gained victories for the Allies in WWII. He was also tied up alongside the USS Missouri while the Armistice with Japan was signed. He and his peers gave so much and asked for so little. May he be an inspiration to us all!

Several years ago, a movie was released showing a few "old geezers" being called back into service to fix a needed computer which the new generation had little knowledge of. The movie was called "Space Cowboys". Only these retired USAF veterans had the experience to save the world from a nuclear disaster because they served during the Cold War. The newer generations did not. Sound familiar? Many of us "older" veterans believe we have so much to offer our younger generation, but they will not listen. I'm sure our elders during the World Wars must have thought the same thing. How quickly we become our parents!

Now, more than ever, is it important to promote US nationalism in the present political atmosphere of partisan politics, which divide rather than unite us as individual states under one God. I believe that we (at least in the media view) have lost the "One God" as our head and the media continues to promote diversity over unity. The power of Law and authority is no longer recognized by self-serving individuals who are not God-fearing Americans with a consciousness to discern between right and wrong. In fact right and wrong is no longer an absolute, but rather an individual concept with no loyalty to the national leadership. Morality is being replaced with individual rights bordering upon anarchy. If you look up the definitions of Unity (oneness) and Diversity (difference), you will see that these are opposing concepts. Even the King of Kings and Lord of Lords teaches us in the bible that "a kingdom divided against itself will fall" (Matt 12:25; Mark 3:24; Luke 11:17).

How can we survive as the "United States" if we have lost our reference point? Has this government experiment failed the test of time? Perhaps so. Time will surely tell. The poignant question now is, as Americans, do we want to let it fail? Please don't misunderstand, we need to be united in our love of our country, but can still maintain whatever our unique cultural backgrounds may be. This country as a "melting pot" appears to melt un-cohesively! There are already measures in place to protect against racial and gender discrimination and we have to rely on the adherence of those laws which, by the way, were written on our Constitution in 1776. But, when we cease to be united under one leadership, we are an easy target for countless world enemies against our democratic republic. God help us!

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

WELCOME ABOARD

Please help welcome these new members/transfers into Post 18:

THOMAS FOX—US Navy

JEFFREY HAWES—US Air Force

RAYMOND LOPES—US Army

Newbies—pick up your complimentary Post 18 ballcap at an upcoming meeting. All others, ballcaps are in and reasonably priced. Wear it proudly while volunteering in the community in which we live, learn, work, play and pray!

POST EVERLASTING



We are sad to report that the following Post 18 members have joined Post Everlasting since we last published our newsletter:

NORMAN PATENAUE—US Army; WWII. Norm spent his last few years in Maine where he remained active with a local HAM radio club.

CARL PETERSEN—US Navy, see Page 5

ALPHONSE LEVADA—US Marine Corps; Korean War (stationed in Okinawa, Japan). He was an avid golfer and very active in several community organizations.

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

WINTER OLYMPICS THEMED WORD FIND PUZZLE

The Olympic competitions have been a great distraction from our own "snow and ice" here in New England. The talented athletes and sportsmanship give hope that we can co-exist in a diverse world peacefully with respect for other cultures.

WORD LIST

A	D	B	S	E	T	E	L	H	T	A	R	C	T	A	S
S	F	R	G	H	F	J	K	D	E	P	S	S	K	V	
T	B	I	A	T	H	L	O	N	T	G	O	U	E	B	I
R	L	M	R	O	N	P	A	N	Q	H	D	L	L	C	L
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G	I	R	Q	S	K	T	A	K	I	H	O	U	L	Y	B
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- | | |
|------------|--------|
| WINTER | LUGE |
| OLYMPICS | GOLD |
| BEIJING | SILVER |
| ATHLETES | BRONZE |
| VILLAGE | USA |
| SKIING | SNOW |
| BOBSLEIGH | ICE |
| HOCKEY | SPEED |
| ALPINE | JUDGE |
| FIGURE | WIN |
| SKATING | POLE |
| CEREMONY | BLADE |
| COMMITTEE | RAIL |
| CURLING | RELAY |
| NORDIC | JUMP |
| SKELETON | SPORTS |
| BIATHLON | TEAM |
| SNOWBOARD | FLAG |
| HALF PIPE | HOST |
| SPECTATORS | MEDAL |
| STADIUM | FLAME |
| FREESTYLE | TORCH |

ALA PRESIDENT'S VISITATION

On 18 DEC 2021, Post 18 CDR and DEPT OF RI Historian Francis Gutierrez and his wife Linda—member of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 2—socialized with **ALA National President Kathy Daudistel** at a Department-hosted Christmas party.



ANNUAL TEA

Military Women Across the Nation (MWAN) is hosting a tea at the RI Veterans Home (480 Metacom Ave., Bristol, RI) on **Thursday, 24 March 2022 at 2 PM.**



Women veterans (all branches, all eras) and active duty women are invited to the event recognizing **Women's History Month.** Enjoy coffee, tea and refreshments while telling your stories or listening to the stories of other women who proudly served in the military.

Masks must be worn and proof of vaccination is required to attend.

VETERANS DAY 2021



On 11 NOV 2021, our annual Veterans Day ceremony was held at Portsmouth Town Hall. Our focus for the ceremony was the contribution of women veterans. We honored **Rose Sherburne Clancy** (in the photo at right, she is on the left)—the 1st female enlistee for World War I from Rhode Island. Rose was also the first female commander of an American Legion Post (Post 44 in Providence), recruiting other women veterans to join our ranks. The Clancy family has a legacy of patriotic men and women who served or are serving our beloved Country.



Our keynote speaker was **RADM Shoshana Chatfield**, President of the prestigious Naval War College. Highly decorated, Admiral Chatfield earned her "wings of gold" in 1989 and subsequently served in Helicopter Combat Support Squadrons and Helicopter Sea Combat assignments. She delivered an impassioned message of accomplishments made by female service members relating that the pavers laid by Rose Clancy made her own road to success possible.

RI's **Lieutenant Governor Sabina Matos** spoke about her experience as a minority and a woman running for public office and serving her community. She presented a Gubernatorial Proclamation to the Clancy family.

Boy Scouts Troop 82 presented and retired the Colors. The **Portsmouth High School Vocal Ensemble** delivered a heart-felt acapella rendition of the National Anthem. **Chaplain Dave Duggan** delivered the invocation, and **CDR Richard Ashmore** performed TAPS. **Carolyn Evans-Carbery** laid the wreath made by Carol at **Carlone's Florist** in Portsmouth. After the ceremony, local veterans were invited to march in a short parade organized by our friends at **Thriving Tree Coffee House**. The **Portsmouth High School Band** performed much to the delight of attendees. Post 18 appreciates Thriving Tree Coffee House which hosts our monthly meetings. We encourage everyone to support this establishment where you'll find great food and hospitality in a wonderful atmosphere. Visit Thriving Tree Coffee House on Facebook.



HONORING QMCM CARL PETERSEN, USN (Ret.) by Dave Duggan

In the few years I've had the privilege of knowing Carl, I've enjoyed spending time with him during our visits and while taking him to his medical appointments. I learned so much about the history of this country first hand from a friend who actually lived it.



QMCM Carl Petersen, USN (Ret.)
American Hero
End of Watch: 4 JAN 2022

From Exercise Tiger to the D-Day Normandy landing at the Red Zone on Omaha Beach, Carl was able to relate to me firsthand what my history books taught me. I had never even heard of Exercise Tiger prior to his telling me. This classified D-Day rehearsal operation at Slapton Sands in England was the covert training prelude to the D-Day landing in Normandy. The Allies actually lost over 900 lives by being torpedoed by German S Boats.

It was amazing to talk and reach out and touch someone who was both present during the D-Day invasion leading to the defeat of Germany, as well as being tied up alongside the USS MISSOURI in Tokyo Bay (most likely standing his position on the bridge) while GEN Douglas MacArthur and Emperor Hirohito of Japan were signing the unconditional surrender armistice agreement for the defeat of Japan thus ending World War II.

I greatly valued his friendship and felt honored that he was willing to share his experiences. Because of the sacrifice and bravery of men and women like Carl and his generation, we continue to enjoy our freedom in this country and the world. He was truly one of the Greatest Generation and will be sadly missed by us all.

BUTTS HILL FORT RESTORATION

The 2nd phase of clean up took place in the fall and an upcoming spring clean up is planned. Post 18 donated \$100 towards the restoration efforts and manpower. The walls of the historic, Revolutionary War fort are now visible from within the battlements. To learn more, contact Seth Chiaro at seth.chiaro@gmail.com or on Facebook (Butts Hill Fort Restoration.)



CLEMENTS' MARKET HONORED

On 13 DEC 2021, Post 18's Chaplain—along with other members of the Portsmouth Veterans Honor Roll Committee—presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Clements' Market. Clements' donated funds collected from receipts during the year to the Honor Roll maintenance fund.

Below L to R: Dave Duggan, Mike (store manager), Carolyn Evans-Carbery and Wally Coelho.



Congratulations are in order for our very own **Stephen Doherty** who was recently elected to serve CT and RI on the VFW Auxiliary's National Council of Administration.

Stephen retired in 2018 after 20 years of service in the US Navy and 20 years of government service.



All Veterans Service Organizations in Rhode Island are cordially invited to join the VFW Department of RI at the Warwick Mall for a 3 day weekend at the community booth. Mission: Generate support for the Governor's budget item eliminating RI state tax on military pensions.

FRI, 11 MARCH; 11 AM—8 PM
SAT, 12 MARCH ; 10 AM—8 PM
SUN, 13 MARCH; 11 AM—6 PM

For more info, please contact Tiger Patrick at 401.677.9374 or SVC@VFWRI.ORG.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

TUESDAY, 1 MARCH 2022 @ 6 PM—Regular meeting of Post 18 at Thriving Tree Coffee House (706 Park Ave., Island Park, Portsmouth, RI).

THURSDAY, 24 MARCH 2022 @ 2 PM—MWAN Annual Tea (details on PG 3)

TUESDAY, 5 APRIL 2022 @ 6 PM—Regular meeting of Post 18 at Thriving Tree Coffee House (706 Park Ave., Island Park, Portsmouth, RI). First round of nominations for officers.



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

BETWEEN FREE AND FREEDOM a poem by Debbi Hayward

So many miles between free and freedom
Between peace and make love, not war
We were the voice of a generation
Need to hear those voices once more

We thought we could do so much better
We were the ones who could change the world
He ain't heavy, he's my brother
Imagine and turn, turn, turn

Did we forget where we were going?
Change our minds or just fall asleep?
What's going on? We can work it out
While my guitar gently weeps

So many miles between free and freedom
Between peace and make love, not war
We were the voice of a generation
Need to hear those voices once more

For what it's worth, let's get together
With a little help from our friends
We could give peace a chance, share the land
And glide on the peace train again

We are the world, we are everyday people
People have the power, people got to be free
Oh, people can you feel it?
Now more than ever, let it be

So many miles between free and freedom
Between peace and make love, not war
We were the voice of a generation
Need to hear those voices once more

What the world needs now, is sweet cherry wine
Let the sunshine in, and peace in our time

Too many miles between free and freedom ...

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Our Post 18 Commander was honored to attend the DEPT OF RI Commander's **Testimonial Dinner** on 8 NOV 2021.

At right, **Kasim Yarn**, Director of the RI Office of Veterans Services, presents RI Department Commander **David Singleton** with an award for Children & Youth programs.



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.**

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