



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

FLYING INFORMATION—NEWS FROM THE POST—SPRING 2025

VETERANS AFFAIRS SERVICE OFFICER IS POST 18 MEMBER

We're proud to announce that Post 18 member **Donald Pfeiffer** is a qualified **SERVICE OFFICER** for the Department of Rhode Island American Legion and the VA! Don can help members with determining eligibility and applying for VA benefits including retrieving copies of your DD-214, your service and medical records to start the process. VA disability determinations may increase your income.

We're fortunate that VA healthcare here in Rhode Island is rated very high. Let the VA help take care of your physical, therapy, psychological, prescription, hearing, vision, dental and other needs. If determined to be service-connected, there is no fee. Otherwise, a co-pay may be required.

Per the Director of the Providence VA, all veterans are eligible for a VA ID card. If you are found to have service-connected conditions, you may be able to access the military Base. Transportation services for appointments (wellness, surgical, therapy, etc.) are available through the VA. Ask Don about ANCESTRY.COM for free!!! Don is in the American Legion office on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 AM to 2 PM. You can call the office anytime and leave a message. He looks forward to hearing from us.

DONALD PFEIFFER

Phone: 401.223.3667 (office)

E-Mail: donald.pfeiffer@va.gov

**380 Westminster St.
Providence, RI 02903**



SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

Competition was fierce for Post 18's annual Portsmouth High School Scholarships this year chaired by Past Commander Francis "Cisco" Gutierrez. Ten students completed the application process and were tasked with composing an essay profiling a celebrity's (athlete, author, musician, artist, actor, politician, etc.) military service, detailing their role and its impact on their subsequent civilian achievements or passions. Awards Night was 2 JUNE 2025.

Submissions were run through Artificial Intelligence (AI) software to determine how much of the applicant's essay was original.

Winners: First Place—Jack Loper (\$750; University of RI; actor Adam Driver); Second Place (tie)—Brynn Santucci (\$250; University of South Florida; author Tim O'Brien) and Keira Daly (\$250; Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University; director Mel Brooks).



Congratulations and thank you to the Scholarship Committee for reviewing the entries!



SAKONNET BRIDGE RENAMED IN HONOR OF SSGT CHRISTOPHER POTTS (11 JUNE 2025)



Photo credit: Carolyn
Evans Carbery

RI Governor Dan McKee signed a Bill renaming the Sakonnet Bridge connecting Portsmouth & Tiverton in honor of Staff Sergeant Christopher Potts (KIA Iraq 2004). "The bridge connects more than two shores," RI National Guard BG Chevalier said. "It connects the past to the present, and the present to the future." The RI Patriot Guard Riders (www.patriotguard.org) stood a flag line for the ceremony.



REFLAGGING OF GRAVES IN PORTSMOUTH, RI (17 MAY 2025)

Our annual reflagging efforts are conducted the weekend before the Memorial Day weekend. This year, our plea for volunteers listed in the Portsmouth Patch was answered by Melinda with the **MILITARY SPOUSES OF NEWPORT (MSON)**!



885 veterans graves were flagged at St. Mary's, Trinity, Portsmouth Burial Ground, Friends Meeting House, Union, St. Paul's Cemeteries. We're grateful to **Carolyn Evans Carbery** for taking the ferry out to Prudence Island to ensure veterans interred there are properly honored and remembered when she is able to do so.



MEMORIAL DAY-THEMED WORD FIND PUZZLE

American Legion Post 18 and VFW Post 5390 co-hosted the annual Memorial Day ceremony which was well attended by members and the community (see PG 5). The VFW Hall is a hub of activity for patriotic and family events in Portsmouth, and where Post 18 meets and stores our gear. Post 18 recently pledged to assist the VFW in meeting their goal of becoming fire code compliant so that the hall remains a veteran strong-hold in Portsmouth for generations to come. Please support activities such as karaoke, Trivia Night, Soup Night and other fundraisers. www.VFWPOST5390.com

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

WORD LIST

**MEMORIAL
DAY**

CEREMONY

**GUEST
SPEAKER**

FLAGS

HONOR

RESPECT

MEMORY

VETERAN

GRAVES

WREATH

POW

MIA

MOMENT

SILENCE

REMEMBER

HERO

TAPS

NATIONAL

ANTHEM

BUGLE

PLEDGE

STATUE

MARKER

MONUMENTS

SALUTE

BAGPIPES

PRAY

BENEDICTION

SCOUTS

REFRESHMENTS

MILITARY APPRECIATION NIGHT

WEDNESDAY, 16 JULY 2025



Emily Oakes, Director of Gameday Operations, invites current and former military members to attend free and be recognized at the pregame ceremony at Cardine's Field. To confirm you or your group's participation, contact Emily at **401.626.7793** or

emilyoakes.newportgulls@gmail.com.



VALENTINE-THEMED BINGO @ RI VETERANS HOME (15 FEBRUARY 2025)



We had a **LOVELY** time entertaining fellow veterans at our Valentine-themed BINGO! **Unit 2** also "in the house!" Join us in August for our Pirate-themed BINGO (see PG 6).



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

MARTIN "MARTY" LYNCH, 92, of

Middletown, RI, joined Post Everlasting on 22 MAY 2025. A long-time member and supporter of Post 18, Marty proudly served in the US Navy during the Korean War.

On Saturday, **9 AUGUST 2025 @ 11 AM @** Connors Funeral Home (55 W. Main Rd., Portsmouth) a memorial service will be held to honor his memory.



MEMBERSHIP CORNER

If you know someone who is eligible, please let us know or direct him or her to our web site where a membership form can be downloaded. Dues are \$38 per year.

New members receive a Post 18 ballcap (modeled here by Sr. Chief Tony Cercena).

Membership applications are also available at the SSGT Christopher Potts Canteen inside VFW Post 5390. Located at 822 Anthony Road, Common Fence Point, Portsmouth, this veteran-friendly hall is where Post 18 conducts meetings, ceremonies and fundraisers. Member prospects are welcome to attend a meeting or function to "try us on for size!" See CALENDAR section for meeting and other important dates.



www.ALPost18RI.homestead.com

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY—26 MAY 2025—PORTSMOUTH, RI

Master of Ceremonies: LCDR Vic Schaefer, USN,
Sr. Vice CDR, VFW Post 5390

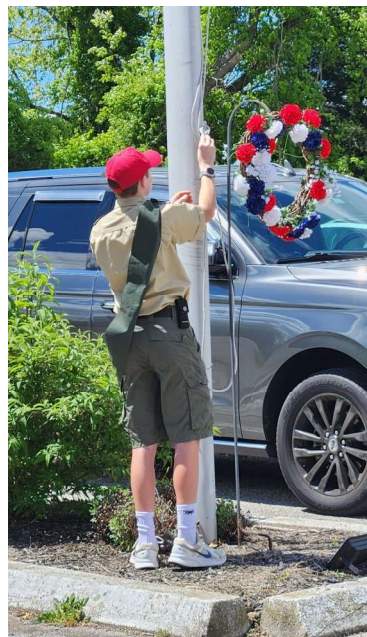
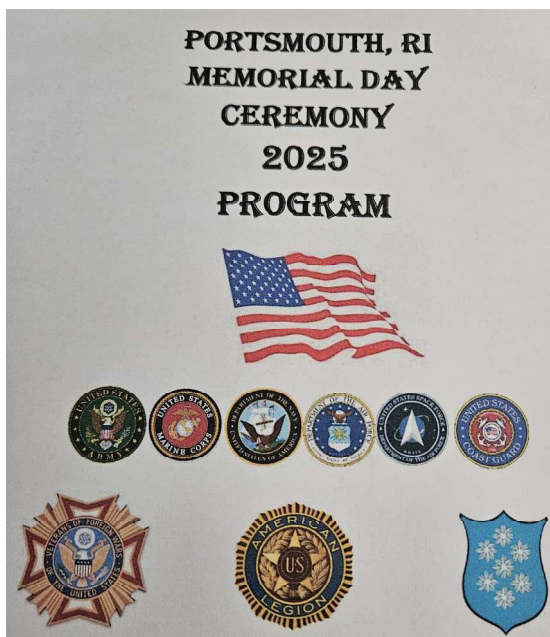
Guest Speaker: CDR Richard Norton, USN (Ret.),
Ph.D.

Colors, Pledge of Allegiance, Outdoor Raising of
Flag: Scouts of America

National Anthem: Carly Johnston



Invocation &
Benediction: Dave
Duggan, American
Legion Post 18
TAPS: David Breton
Refreshments:
Auxiliary to VFW Post
5390



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING MEETINGS / EVENTS

REMINDER: WE ARE "DARK" (NO MEETINGS) IN JULY AND AUGUST.

SATURDAY, 23 AUGUST 2025 @ 2 PM—PIRATE-THEMED BINGO @ RI VETERANS HOME—All hands on deck! Calling all pirates and swashbucklers

for BINGO at the RI Veterans Home (480 Metacom Ave., Bristol, RI). Volunteers needed to help residents play their cards, socialize and award prizes. Dress up and entertain our fellow veterans. Hope to see you there, matey!



TUESDAY, 2 SEPTEMBER 2025 @ 6:30 PM—Regular meeting of American Legion Post 18 @ VFW Hall (822 Anthony Rd., Common Fence Point, Portsmouth, RI).

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

TATTERED FLAGS RETIRED

Prior to our May meeting, a work-party gathered to inspect, sort, count and bag flags collected from our Tattered Flag Collection Station at Portsmouth Free Public Library. Emptied weekly, it seems that all of Aquidneck



Island is utilizing the drop box! While picking up our order of **885** flags for Portsmouth graves in preparation for Memorial Day (see PG 2), we dropped off **797** flags at the RI Veterans Memorial Cemetery for proper disposal. Thank you, volunteers!



AMERICAN LEGION POST 18 2024-2025

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

adjpost18ri@gmail.com

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:

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