



Memorial Day

AMERICAN LEGION POST 18

PO Box 307, Portsmouth, RI 02871

www.ALPost18RI.homestead.com

VFW POST 5390

822 Anthony Rd., Portsmouth, RI 02871

www.vfwri.com

VFW AUXILIARY 5390

www.facebook.com/VFWAUX5390/

BOY SCOUT TROOP # 82

Troop meets at Portsmouth United Methodist Church

(2732 E. Main Rd., Portsmouth) on Wednesdays

@ 6:30 PM. Scoutmaster: Scott Durant

E: troop82.portsmouth@gmail.com

CARLONE'S FLORIST (wreath)

401.683.0304

16 Dexter St., Portsmouth, RI 02871

<https://carlonesflorist.com>



**Monday, 30 May 2022
@ 9 AM @ Legion Park
Portsmouth, RI**



SFC William "Bill" McCollum, US Army (Ret.)

We are honored to have VFW Post 5390 and American Legion Post 18 member Bill McCollum as our guest speaker today. Bill enlisted in 1968 and served multiple tours in Vietnam (1969, 1970 & 1971). Highly decorated (Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Combat Infantry Badge and others), he served with the 173rd Airborne.



As a highly trained combat infantryman, squad leader and Drill Sergeant, Bill taught other warriors to survive in hostile environments during his combined 27 year active and reserve career.

In Flanders Fields

In Flanders Fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses row on row,
That mark out place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders Fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep,
through poppies grow
In Flanders Fields.



8 DEC 1915
John McCrae



After World War I, the poppy flourished in Europe. Scientists attributed the growth to soils in France and Belgium becoming enriched with lime from the rubble left by the war. From the dirt and mud grew a beautiful red poppy. The red poppy came to symbolize the blood shed during battle following the publication of the wartime poem at left written by LtCol John McCrae, MD, who served on the front lines. In 1920, the poppy became the official flower of The American Legion to memorialize the soldiers who fought and died in war.

Welcome: Francis "Cisco" Gutierrez,
Commander, American Legion Post 18;
Historian, DEPT of RI

Presentation of Colors: Boy Scout Troop
82—Portsmouth

Pledge of Allegiance: All

National Anthem: Feel free to sing
along!

Invocation: Dave Duggan, Finance
Officer/former Chaplain, American Legion
Post 18

Guest Speaker: SFC William "Bill"
McCollum, US Army (Ret.)

Wreath Laying: Carolyn Evans-Carbery,
Project Blue Star Coordinator; Portsmouth
Veterans Honor Roll Committee

Benediction: Dave Duggan