



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

FLYING INFORMATION—NEWS FROM THE POST—SUMMER 2026



After a relative reached out letting us know a grave was missed during our annual reflagging efforts, CDR Duggan honored the fellow veteran and sent a photo to the family.

COMMANDER'S BRIEFING

Post 18 continues to collect tattered flags weekly from the box outside the Portsmouth Free Public Library. See photo on PG 3. We also continue to serve our local veterans and our community.

Recently, I accompanied the Past Commander of VFW Post 5390 to visit fellow veterans at the RI Veterans Home in Bristol. We joined several veterans for lunch. We were able to visit with a gentleman who said he has no family or friends to visit him. What an honor for me to be there and be his friend!

Even though we have been "dark" (held no meetings) over the summer, know that we continue to serve our Community, State and Nation!

Dave Duggan
Commander/Finance Officer/Past CDR

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

Past CDR Francis "Cisco" Gutierrez was proud to present Post 18's annual scholarships to deserving students at Portsmouth High School on 1 JUN 2026. This year's essay topic: "With the addition of Space Force to the U.S. Armed Forces, what potential threats do you think that branch of service may encounter as they endeavor to keep the United States—and potentially, the world—safe?"

Camden Bannister was awarded first place. He will be studying Mechanical Engineering at the University of South Carolina. Second place winner **Nikola Krajacich** will study Media & Communications at Johnson & Wales University. The students were also presented with Space Force challenge coins! Post 18 needs to consider increasing the scholarship awards to keep up with higher education costs. Thank you to members who helped rank the entries and select winners.

BOYS STATE/BOYS NATION



The Boys State candidate that Post 18 sponsored—**Mark Schoen-Cruz**—was selected to participate in Boys Nation. He reports: "I am grateful beyond words to American Legion Post 18 for sponsoring my journey through Boys State and Boys Nation. I had such an amazing time in D.C. From the lifelong friendships to the incredible leaders I met, this experience was truly the week of a lifetime. Seeing the talent and drive at Boys Nation give me so much hope for the future of American politics. Thank you again, Post 18!"



BLOOD DONATION-THEMED WORD FIND PUZZLE

The RI Blood Center reports there is a critical need as supply is typically depleted in the summer months with increased need and less donations with people on the go / traveling. Please support this life-saving resource by donating blood if you are eligible. It takes less than an hour. The closest blood center on Aquidneck Island is located at 688 Aquidneck Avenue, Middletown, RI. Please call **401.453.8383** to schedule your donation.



WORD LIST

BLOOD
MOBILE
DONATION
CENTER
PLATELETS
PLASMA
WHOLE
TYPE
IRON
AMERICAN
RED
CROSS
NEEDLE
CRISIS
HEMOGLOBIN
LEVEL
ELIGIBILITY
SCREENING
DONOR
RECIPIENT
INFUSION
STERILE
BANDAGE
HYDRATE
TRAVEL
HEALTH
RELAX
TEMPERATURE
PULSE
BANK
ARM
SAFE

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

PORTSMOUTH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The PHS recently hosted the America Revolution Experience Traveling Exhibit sponsored by the American Battlefield Trust and Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). Please visit these two important sites:

www.battlefields.org
battleofrhodeisland.org

VA MOVE® PROGRAM

MOVE® (Managing Overweight and Weight Loss for Veterans) is a national initiative by the Department of Veterans Affairs aimed at helping veterans manage their weight and improve overall health. The program emphasizes long-term habit formation rather than short-term diets and focuses on three key areas: healthy eating, regular physical activity and behavior change strategies.

www.move.va.gov



MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

Portsmouth High School senior **Ethan Bowley** played "TAPS" at the annual Memorial Day Ceremony co-hosted by American Legion Post 18 and VFW Post 5390 on 25 MAY 2026. Photo credit: Jim McGaw/*Portsmouth Times*

REFLAGGING GRAVES

On 15 MAY 2026, volunteers assembled to reflag nearly 900 veterans graves at various Portsmouth cemeteries.

In conjunction with picking up our new grave flags from the RI Veterans Memorial Cemetery, volunteers inspected, counted and bagged 1,556 tattered flags from our storage area to drop off for proper disposal! Only a few of



those were grave flags. Most of the flags were dropped off by the community including the impressive holiday flag above! Our Post 18 CDR and a VFW member regularly empty the tattered flag collection box at the Portsmouth Free Public Library!



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

On 28 AUG 2026, the remains of **1st Lt. Frankin H. McKinney**, KIA, were repatriated and buried next to family members in Wakefield, RI. A WWII pilot serving with the 35th Photographic Reconnaissance Squadron, 1st Lt. McKinney went missing over Thailand and Burma piloting an F-5 on 5 NOV 1944. Post 18 members/Past CDRs Christine Hayward and "Cisco" Gutierrez and Unit 2 member Linda Gutierrez attended the solemn ceremony. Post 18 member Neil Carbery helped transport the flags for RI PGR State Captain Carolyn Evans Carbery.



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**

He recently shared this site: **<https://soldierforlife.army.mil>**. The **ARMY ECHOES** newsletter is a great resource for retired soldiers, surviving spouses and families.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING MEETINGS / EVENTS

MONDAY, 5 OCTOBER 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.

WEDNESDAY, 11 NOVEMBER 2026 @ 9:30 AM—Brief meeting of American Legion Post 18 @ VFW Hall (822 Anthony Rd., Common Fence Point, Portsmouth, RI). **Note: Our November meeting is typically held on Veterans Day just before the annual Veterans Day celebration instead of on the first Monday.**

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

AMERICAN LEGION POST 18 2026-2027 SLATE OF OFFICERS/CHAIRS

CDR & FINANCE OFFICER:

Dave Duggan, Past CDR

SR VICE CDR: LTC Audrey MacLeod
Pfeiffer

JR VICE CDR: Theresa Mattos

ADJUTANT/WEBMISTRESS & EDITOR:

Christine Hayward, Past CDR

SGT-AT-ARMS: Peter Roberts

CHAPLAIN: William McCollum

MEMBERSHIP CO-CHAIRS:

Theresa Matos and
Christine Hayward, Past CDR

**We appreciate those who contributed
photos and articles to this edition of
Flying InFormation.**

**CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE:
AUDREY MACLEOD PFEIFFER, DON
PFEIFFER, LINDA GUTIERREZ,
JIM MCGAW, THERESA MATTOS,
DAVE DUGGAN &
CHRISTINE HAYWARD**

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

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

It's membership renewal time again! To date, 53% of our members have already renewed for 2027. Your dues help keep our Post strong and support our fellow veterans, their families and our community.

Haven't renewed yet? Renew using the form mailed to you by National or renew on-line (please make sure you indicate Post 18-Portsmouth, RI). 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 need to properly welcome aboard these new or transferring members:

**RONALD CHASE, USA
SCOTT FOBERG, USMC
JAMES HULL, USN
THERESA MATTOS, USAF**

Know anyone who has served or is currently serving honorably in the U.S. Armed Forces? Refer a fellow veteran to join our ranks. See the JOIN tab on our Post 18 web site below for a membership application. Help us grow our Post! We welcome new and transferring eligible members. Visit the calendar section (above) and on our website (below). Attend a meeting or event and "try us on for size!"

www.ALPost18RI.homestead.com

**Theresa Mattos
Co-Membership Chair**