



CHENEY-ARMSTRONG POST # 5 NH

Wayne E. Thomas, Commander

Robert A. Benoit, Chaplain

Bernard F. Wynn, Children & Youth Officer

John Franklin, Historian and Liaison for US Naval Sea Cadets
Henry Emery, Jr. Vice Commander and Committee Chairman of Veteran Affairs

John H. Franklin, Sr. Vice Commander

Cles V. Staples, Service Officer

Alan J. Zeller, Sergeant-at-Arms

Dear Post 5 Members,

December 4th, 2016 & January 1st, 2017

December 4th, 2016: Christmas Pot luck at noon in Bass Hall in the Monadnock Center on Grove Street. *Please let us know if you are coming or not coming to the Christmas Dinner.* The Post is providing turkey, dressing, cranberry sauce and mashed potatoes. 563-8376 **Christmas Dinner:** So far 64 have signed up. Wayne and Jane Bowman are cooking the turkeys. **January 1st, 2017:** Meeting is canceled. **Happy New Year!!!!!!!** **February 5th, 2017:** Post meeting at the Peterborough Community Center on Grove Street at 2pm.



In Memory: **Albert E. Roy**, age 91, of Peterborough, died on November 28th, 2016. Al served in the Army during WWII in the Pacific Theatre and was involved with the Occupation of Japan. Al Roy was a member of the Post for 61 years and owner of Roy's market for 49 years. Pearl Jean LaFleur, age 79, of Peterborough, died on November 8th, 2016 after a long illness. She grew up in Dublin and was married to Lee LaFleur for 58 years. Lee died in September 2016. The Post gave \$25 in her name to Home Healthcare, Hospice & Community Services in Keene.

Sick Call: **Alvie Carpenter** of Peterborough, **Benson Walen** of Rindge, and Jocklyn Armstrong Carter of Cape Elizabeth, ME.

New Members: **Gerald E. Durgin**, of Peterborough, served in the Army during Vietnam, Lebanon, and Gulf War. **James A. Thibodeau**, of Peterborough, served in the Marines during Vietnam and retired from the Army. We currently have 184 members in the Post and 33 Auxiliary members.

Thank you: *Dear members of Cheney-Armstrong Post #5, Thank you for your generous gift of \$25 in memory of Carol E. Leighton on October 22, 2016. Your support is so important to the daily care of each and every animal seeking shelter at the Monadnock Humane Society and to the programs that enrich the lives of the people and animals living in our community.*

We thank you for your donation and ask that you please accept our sincere appreciation. We hope that

you will visit to see how donations like yours make a difference in the lives of the animals and the people they uplift. May your kindness be returned to you many times over.

Sincerely, Carol Laughner Director of Development Monadnock Humane Society "The best shelter is... a compassionate community."

Dear Post 5 members,

November 22, 2016

Thank you for your recent gift to Hospice at HCS in memory of Pearl J. LaFleur. We will let the family know of your kindness. I am sure your thoughtful gesture will be deeply treasured.

Hospice is a holistic approach to end of life care, focusing on quality of life and offering physical, spiritual and emotional comfort. We consider it a privilege to accompany our patients and their loved ones on their hospice journey. They touch our lives as much as we touch theirs. Your generous gift will support our care for those who are uninsured or underinsured.

Your gift is appreciated. Again, thank you.

Sincerely, Cathy j. Sorenson, CEO

Dear Commander Thomas and the Members of the Cheney-Armstrong Post #5, November 20th, 2016 On behalf of the New Durham Food Pantry and our Board of Directors, I wanted to take this opportunity to "Thank You" for the generous donation of funds you have made to the Lucinda Erwin Family through the New Durham Food Pantry.

As you are aware, the Erwin Family lost their home last month to a devastating fire, and are in the process of rebuilding their lives within our community.

The New Durham Food Pantry is very pleased to be able to serve as an intermediary of assistance to this New Durham family in their time of need. The efforts of your organization to be a part of this assistance undertaking is very sincerely appreciated.

We have passed your donation on directly to the Erwin Family. We are confident you will be hearing from them directly, but none-the-less, we wanted to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank you for your efforts.

Your recent donation of \$100.00 to the Erwin Family is far more than a charitable donation. It provides priceless warmth, fellowship and goodwill to members of our community at a time of need.

Again, a very sincere "Thank You" for your continued support!!

Sincerely, William G. Herman, CPM Treasurer

Thank you for your generous donation of \$200.00 to the Peterborough Human Services Fund. (Peterborough Food Pantry) With your support, we provide food and assistance to hungry residents from 13 local area towns. We are an all-volunteer, non-profit organization. Over 95% of all donations are directly applied locally to serve needy families. Your support enables us to achieve our mission and we sincerely appreciate your kindness. John Kaufhold, Board Member

The Post donated \$200 out of poppy money to the Peterborough Food Pantry to help for the holidays. In 2016, we collected \$2,915.03 for the Poppy Fund. \$2777.03 was during the collection week-end and the \$138.00 were donations at other times. To date we have spent \$2133.75, leaving us with a balance of \$781.28. This includes the donations to the SMS Food Pantry and Peterborough Food Pantry.

November meeting: There were 14 Post members present and 2 Auxiliary present.

Thank you to Jeff Allen for his donation to the Scholarship Fund. Thank you to Jean and Howard Eaves of Jaffrey for their generous donation to the Scholarship Fund in **Ray Eaves** memory. \$100 has been added to the Scholarship Fund.

Veterans' Day 2016: Our thanks to the Reverend Jamie Hamilton of All Saints. There were 75 in church with donuts and coffee inside the old Parish House after the Service. Thanks to **Alan Zeller** and **Dick Loudon** who ushered, **Dick Loudon, John Franklin, Andy Benoit** and Philip Huckins who read scripture and **Wayne Thomas** who read roll call of the deceased Veterans in the area. See the list below. The United States Naval Sea Cadets Monadnock Squadron provided the Color Guard in the Church and acted as Side Boys at the entrance of the church.

ROLL CALL 2016

I HAVE BEEN ASKED TO READ THE NAMES OF THE LOCAL VETERANS WHO DIED OVER THE LAST YEAR. I APOLOGIZE IF I DO NOT MENTION YOUR LOVED ONE BECAUSE THERE WAS NO WAY TO COME UP WITH A COMPLETE LIST. **RICHARD E. AMIDON**

ARMY	WWII	GLENN B. HERTZLER	ARMY	WWII	EOPAULDO P. TURINI
AIR FORCE	WWII & KOREA	PETER J. CLEMM	ARMY	WWII	JOE CLARK
NAVY	WWII	NORMAN E. MARION	NAVY	WWII	ROBERT W. TONSBURG
ARMY	KOREA	TOM NEFF	ARMY	ROBERT B. HARRIS	ARMY
WWII	CHARLES W. STEVENS	ARMY	BERLIN CRISIS	ROBERT C. LARSON	AIR
FORCE	KOREA	PAUL V. BACON JR.	NAVY	WWII	HENRY J. CIBOROWSKI
NAVY	EDWARD R. HAMPSON	NAVY	WWII	JEFFRIE R. BOUTWELL	
ARMY	WWII	DICK W. MAYER	ARMY-AIR CORP	WWII	DUKE DAVIS
ARMY	WWII	JOHN D. MASTERS	NAVY	WWII	LARRY MAYER
ARMY	KOREA	GLENN H. HIPPLE	MARINE CORPS	KOREA	JAMES A. LAJOIE
ARMY	VIETNAM	THOMAS ARMSTRONG JR.	NAVY	KOREA	WILLIAM E. PERRY JR.
NAVY	VIETNAM	PETE MERZI	ARMY		
KOREA	ROBERT E. HACKER	NAVY	KOREA	DICK METIVIER	AIR
FORCE	VIETNAM	JOHN J. BUCKER JR.	AIR FORCE	VIETNAM	RUSSELL H. BLAKE
NAVY	KOREA	ALBERT ARMSTRONG	NAVY	WWII	CORY KILVERT JR.
AIR FORCE	KOREA	LAWRENCE C. ROSS	ARMY	VIETNAM	ROBERT A. FISCHER
ARMY-AIR CORP	WWII	ROBERT S. FELLOWS	ARMY		
WWII	DAVID R. ELDER	NAVY	WWII	COSIMO J. CULOTTA	ARMY
WWII	JOSEPH C. PETRONE	ARMY	WWII	MARTY DEDO	NAVY
WWII	PHILIP J. WOODBURY JR.	MARINE CORPS	WWII	CHARLES M. TURNER	
ARMY	KOREA	RAYMOND C. DICKIE	NAVY	WWII	WILLIAM J. CHEVALIER
NAVY	KOREA	ALEE A. LAFLEUR	ARMY		
KOREA	RAY D. EAVES	ARMY-AIR CORPS	WWII	WILLIAM J. SEVERN	
NAVY-SUBMARINER	KOREA	AG. JARVIS COFFIN JR.	MARINE CORPS	KOREA	

FOR YOUR LOVED ONES WHO I HAVE NOT MENTIONED AND FOR ALL THE VETERANS WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US WE WILL NOW HAVE A MOMENT OF SILENCE. THANK YOU.

Thank you to the color guard for the Veterans' Day Parade which was held outside. It was 50 degrees and very windy. **Dick Loudon** and **Alan Zeller** carried the flags, **Brian Barden**, **Gary Babcock**, **Arthur Hixson** and Sarah Loudon carried the guns and fired. After an impromptu tutorial, Sarah did a great job for never firing a weapon before, particularly a 1903 Springfield. Post Chaplain **Andy Benoit** did the Invocation and Benediction, thank you. The Brownies, third graders, from Troop 12300 raised the flag. The order of the Parade was Veterans, South Meadow School Band, Sea Cadets, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and Interact Club, thank you. The Auxiliary table at the Church and downtown were hosted by Joy and David Boothby. The Auxiliary made \$149. 40. Unfortunately, the Town had checked the sound system and it worked perfectly before the parade but you could not hear anything clearly during the program. The sound system is not consistent. The town needs a better system. A lot of work goes into these parades.

We would like to thank the Town employees for cleaning up in front to the Memorial Gates and for setting up the chairs and tables. They do a great job.

Our thanks to our Guest Speaker, **Joseph Ierna**, of Peterborough. Joseph served in the United States Air Force from 1950-1954 during the Korean Conflict and separated as a Staff Sargent. In 1953, he was a personal bodyguard to Chief Justice Earl Warren who represented President Eisenhower at the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. Joseph also accompanied Chief Justice Warren to the Cambridge American Cemetery and Memorial in England. Four Veterans' remains found in this cemetery are:

- Vincent F. Harrington- who was a US Representative and US Army Air Corps officer
- Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr.- John F. Kennedy's older brother who was lost at sea
- Glenn Miller- a jazz bandleader and trombonist who was lost at sea
- Leon Vance-US Army Air Force pilot and Medal of Honor recipient who was lost at sea

Joseph lives in Peterborough with his wife Johanna. On August 25th they celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. They have two children and three grandchildren.

VETERAN'S DAY SPEECH

My name is Joe Ierna, former Air Force Staff/Sgt. and a resident of Peterborough. I received a call from Barbara Miller, Select Board Member and she asked if I would be interested in being today's speaker. I said I would be honored. Barbara asked that I meet with Wayne and Dee Thomas, Wayne being the Commander of the American Legion Post in Peterborough. When we met they gave me a packet which included a Cheney- Armstrong Post 5 monthly newsletter with a story written by Post member, Dick Loudon. The story is about a 1976 airplane crash that involved two locations in England. RAF Mildenhall, my former airbase and Peterborough, England where I spent much free time as a young single airman. The plane involved in the crash was a C141 which departed from New Jersey on a training mission to RAF Mildenhall. Just before landing they were caught in a massive

thunderstorm and crashed in Peterborough, England. All lives were lost. There is a monument there today honoring those that perished in Peterborough, England. It seems very strange to me that here I am today giving this speech in Peterborough, New Hampshire.

Today we are honoring and remembering all veterans from all wars. Those who served in the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard and Merchant Marines. We honor those both living, some of whom are with us today, and those who are no longer with us. I reflect on this often when I visit a military cemetery thinking of those killed in action – about who they were, what they might have become, the families they might have had and the joy they will never know of a glorious sunset or seeing a snow-covered tree.

Some of you may have read a book that speaks to many veterans. That book is “The Greatest Generation” by Tom Brokaw. These are real stories about men and women growing up in the Great Depression who served in the Second World War. These men and women were a diverse group, from all walks of life, officers and enlisted men from every corner of this country, all shapes and sizes who fought for their country. They took the world as they found it and made the best of it.

My brother was part of this “Great Generation” serving under General Patton. My brother’s tank was called “The Grove Street Express” (he lived on Grove St. at the time in Hartford, Ct.) He served from D-Day on through the war including the “Battle of the Bulge” and was wounded twice. Again, there is some irony in that we are standing here together on Grove St. in Peterborough, NH honoring all veterans.

There is an American Cemetery in Cambridge England on land donated by Cambridge University. It is the only American Cemetery in England. There are 3800 American dead buried there, mostly Army Air Corps. There is also a wall 472 feet long by a reflecting pool leading to a chapel on which the names of another 5,125 military whose bodies were never found. Many were lost in the North Atlantic and the English Channel. I was there the day Chief Justice Earl Warren, representing President Eisenhower during the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, also came to Cambridge to dedicate this cemetery. I was his escort and bodyguard. Towards the end of the ceremony a Sopwith Camel airplane from WW1 flew over and dropped 8925 rose petals, one for each grave and one for each name on the wall.

We are not dedicating a cemetery here today but we do want to remember and honor all who have served our country not only in our world wars but those who have served and continue to serve today in “military actions. We should never forget that there are men and women serving and dying in battle today.

I close my remarks today to honor veterans with a poem that haunts me because those that died are speaking to us. “In Flanders Fields” by John McCrae who wrote this poem shortly after the burial of his dearest friend 101 years ago.

This is a letter written to two Selectmen and the Town Administrator after Veterans’ Day.

Dear Rodney,

November 11th, 2016

We missed you on Veterans' Day. We lucked out, it was windy and 50 degrees downtown. First we had the Remembrance Service at All Saints with 75 present. The Reverend Jamie Hamilton had an interesting sermon and the last Roll Call reminded everyone why we were there. Forty-five names of local veterans were read. After coffee and donuts inside the Old Parish House, the Veterans, SMS Band, Monadnock Sea Cadets, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Interact Club mustered at Veterans' Way.

The Town Employees who set up had done a wonderful job. (David, Marty and Tim). They had cleaned up the gates on Thursday and on Friday were down there early to make sure everything was the way we needed it.

We are writing this information to you because we want you to know how much work went into this. But we know you do. We are writing this to you because you are a Selectman. All the work that went into the Parade Downtown was wasted because the SOUND SYSTEM which had been tested before we got there and worked perfectly decided to not to work. This sound system has been complained about for years and we don't have an answer for it just that a lot of work went into Veterans' Day and once again the sound system was inconsistent.

Dee and I are not here on days that the Selectmen meet nor do we expect to be able to catch you. But we are speaking up for the 500 plus people who were downtown participating on what was a three day holiday weekend for most. Something has to be done. You can test the system and it will be perfect but the next time it won't. It needs to be tested outside more than once. The Town employees will tell you it is inconsistent.

We went on to the Scott-Farrar observation and the Activities person brought out this little portable sound system which worked perfectly. We are not suggesting that system because it may have been too small for the downtown and town house. But we are saying it is time to fix this problem.

Sincerely,

Wayne and Dee Thomas

Hi Wayne and Dee,

I received your letter and I am writing this email to respond.

I know, first hand, how much work goes into the wonderful patriotic events you both organize.

Of course you need a sound system that consistently works.

I spoke with Rodney Bartlett this morning.

We agreed that at your next event, we will not only have a tech support person set up the sound system.

But also have him/her return just before the formal presentation. He/she will be there to assist you in case there are any problems with sound during the program.

This will also give us an opportunity to learn what is causing the inconsistencies.

And if we have to, we will either budget or prepare a warrant article to purchase a new sound system.

But let's take it one step at a time.

I am sorry for the inconvenience you experienced on Veterans' Day.

Warmly, Barbara Miller

Sea Cadet report: Monadnock Squadron has signed up three new recruits over the past two months, bringing our strength to 19 cadets; we have six officers and two auxiliary officers. Two cadets recently

were promoted to second class petty officer. On drill Saturday, Nov. 19, the squadron car-pooled to Concord and received a special tour of the emergency systems management facility there. We got to see several work spaces, including the media room — from whence the governor speaks during emergency situations — and the operations center. The latter was especially interesting: it is where television feeds from all the state highway cameras terminate, and where a continuous status update is available statewide. Unfortunately, because new equipment is being installed, we weren't able to get a look at the 911 call center. Our upcoming Sunday drill (Dec. 18) will include the annual Christmas party, which includes a Yankee swap for those who wish to participate. A new requirement for adult leaders has been implemented: an online course on child safety, which must be completed by March 2017 for current officers. Regards, John Franklin

To protect you and your family members from falling prey to scammers, always consider the following:

- Don't pay for a service that is free. There is no cost for forms or to apply for veterans benefits, and you can get free assistance from trained veterans service officers across the United States. Check the VA's accreditation of a person or group.
- Ask an advisor what the impact of purchasing his product will be on your eligibility for other benefits such as Medicaid.
- Take time to consider your options before signing a contract.
- Don't be pressured into accepting an advisor's advice. If an advisor pressures you, or offers vague or evasive answers to your questions, take those as indicators you should not trust them with your money or paperwork.
- Get everything you've discussed in writing.
- Don't believe a promise or guarantee offered by an advisor claiming they can secure Aid and Attendance benefits. There are no guarantees.
- Dishonest businesses target the military community through advertising, discounted merchandise, and services and financing. In many cases, service members become aware they've been sold grossly overpriced jewelry, household goods, and electronics only after making these purchases.
- Additionally, some businesses engage in abusive collection practices, like constantly contacting the service members' superiors, which causes some to lose security clearances and face other backlash. Some of these businesses have sued to collect on its loans in only a few limited jurisdictions despite the service member's location, deployment status or residence.
- These unlawful business practices are circulated through misrepresentations and omissions in advertising.
- Comparison-shop costs of both merchandise and financing.
- Get referrals and recommendations from friends, family members, and online sources.
- Contact the Better Business Bureau to see whether the business is accredited and whether there are any complaints against the company.
- Read any financing materials very closely and ask questions.
- Disreputable charities capitalize on the selfless nature of the military community by soliciting them for donations to benefit specific groups of veterans. But some of these entities have either

misrepresented themselves as well-known or respected charities, or they have misrepresented who will receive the benefit of these donations or how much of the donation they will receive.

- Ask for and read literature about a charity before you make a donation.
- Find out how much of your donation helps people and program services, as opposed to fundraising and administrative expenses.
- Do not feel pressured to contribute on the spot.
- If you decide to contribute, pay by check. Make the check out to the charity, not to a company or the individual collecting the donations.
- Veterans who have questions or believe they are victims of these scams may call the Attorney General's Office of Military and Veterans Affairs at 717-783-1944 or email pavets@attorneygeneral.gov.

Honor Flight New England

Antrim-Bennington Lions will be hosting Joe Bryon Honor Flight New England: Their mission: "Transport American's veterans to Washington D.C. to visit those memorials dedicated to honoring their service and sacrifices." Honor Flight transports our veteran heroes to Washington, D.C., to visit and reflect at their memorials AT NO COST TO THE VETERAN. Top priority is currently given to the WWII Veterans, along with those other veterans who may be terminally ill. Come here Joe Byron tell us about this wonderful organization and their incredible work. When: Tuesday, December 6th at 6:30 PM

Where: Antrim Presbyterian Church/

76 Main Street/Antrim, NH Everyone is invited ☺

Honor Flight was first started to take WWII Veterans to D.C. for a day, they are now starting to take Korean War Veterans. Each veteran is accompanied by a volunteer under the age of 60. So far three Post 5 WWII veterans have gone on the Honor Flight. They are Donald Carle, Richard Freeman and Arthur Pendleton who all have said that this changed their lives.

December:

4th- Post 5 Christmas Dinner at Monadnock Cultural Center in Bass Hall on Grove Street in Peterboro

7th- National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

7th- 1941- Japan attacks Pearl Harbor

8th- 1941- United States declares War on Japan

11th- 1941- Germany and Italy declare War on the United States

13th- 1636- National Guard established

16th- 1944- Battle of the Bulge

17th- Wright Brothers Day

21st- 1620- Mayflower lands at Plymouth Rock

21st- Start of the winter solstice

24th- Hanukkah begins at sundown

25th- Christmas Day

26th- Kwanza begins

31st- 1946- Official end of WWII

31st- New Year's Eve

Respectfully Submitted,

Wayne E. Thomas,

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"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter" MLK

Leonard Cohen

<http://www.macleans.ca/culture/arts/leonard-cohen-recites-in-flanders-fields/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U3OGSGM0HOI#t=7.792833>