



### CHENEY-ARMSTRONG POST # 5 NH

Wayne E. Thomas, Commander/ Adjutant

John H. Franklin, Sr. Vice Commander

Robert A. Benoit, Chaplain

Cles V. Staples, Service Officer

Russell A. Armstrong, Children & Youth Officer

Alan J. Zeller, Sergeant-at-Arms

Sheldon A. Spector, Judge Advocate

John Franklin, Historian and Liaison for US Naval Sea Cadets

Gary Babcock, Jr. Vice Commander and Committee Chairman of Veteran Affairs

Dear Post 5 Members,

February 4<sup>th</sup> & March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018:** Post meeting at 2 pm at the Peterborough Community Center on 25 Elm Street.

Entrance at the front of the building. **April 1<sup>st</sup>:** meeting **May 6<sup>th</sup>:** meeting **June 3<sup>rd</sup>:** meeting

May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018: Armed Forces Day- **Poppies** will be given out. **We need volunteers.** So far we have Sheldon Spector, Cles Staples, Ron Bowman, Gary Babcock, Andy Benoit, Alan Zeller, Dick Loudon, Russell Armstrong, Virginia Moore, Wayne and Dee Thomas. All Town Gas Station said NO!! again. Wayne said you let the Boy Scouts do it. But the manager still said NO! Wayne said he was sorry he bought gas there if they did not support the Veterans. We are still working on it.

May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018: Memorial Day- If you need a ride contact Wayne at 563-8376.

June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018: Flag Day, flags will be retired at 10:00 am at the gazebo in back of Peterborough Diner

**December 2<sup>nd</sup> 2018:** Post Potluck Christmas dinner at noon at the Monadnock Center for History and Culture in the Bass Hall. Dress is casual.

**Our thanks to Bernie Wynn of Peterborough** for his many years of being the Children and Youth Officer and the Judge Advocate. The slate of officers has changed dramatically due to Bernie retiring and **Henry Emery's** death. In May the new officers will be sworn in. Thank you all for your service to the Post.

**Congratulations to Richard A. Ozenich** of Peterborough who has been in the Post for 50 years.

Congratulations to **Richard K. Wheeler** of Manchester who has been in the Post for 60 years.

**Wayne and Dee** were involved in the high school Legion Oratorical which was held on February 24<sup>th</sup>. Alex McCall represented the Post at the competition. Alex was the Post's Boy State representative last year and is a senior at ConVal. He has been accepted at UMass Amherst and UNH and hopes to go to Northeastern and study Mechanical Engineering. He did very well with his speech but competed against a student from Nashua who had come in second in the State last year. The Post gave Alex \$100



**In memory:**



**John J. McKenna**, 93, passed away December 21, 2017 after a period of declining health. John was born on Long Island, NY.

He was industrious at an early age. John picked violets and made nosegays which he sold from his wagon on the sidewalk. One of the highlights of his life was when his hero, Babe Ruth, stepped out of a limo and bought two bouquets.

At the beginning of WWII his father purchased a home in Dublin and moved the family to New Hampshire. John attended Peterborough High School, but decided to enlist in the Navy. He "borrowed" his deceased older brother's birth certificate and hitchhiked to Gardner, MA to enlist. He landed in Casablanca at the age of 17. He served off the coast of North Africa as a crash boat mechanic. John graduated from Peterborough High School after coming home from Africa. Shortly after John returned from the Navy, he met "the girl next door," Alice Fairfield. They were married in August of 1949. During this time, he worked for Burt Willard who owned one of the first well drilling machines in the area. Burt retired and John bought his own drilling rig. Together with Alice they started McKenna Well Drilling, which they operated for 50 years. They were married for 68 years.

John served as a Dublin selectman for many years. His first election ended in a tie vote. The rules dictated the tie should be broken by a coin toss or cutting a deck of cards. Both men agreed on cutting a deck of cards with aces low. John's opponent Glen Hipple cut the Ace of Hearts and John cut the King of Hearts winning the selectman's seat.

John was also a director of the Peterborough Savings Bank until his retirement from the board in 1994. He was a lifelong member of the Knights of Columbus, The Veterans of Foreign Wars, and a member of The American Legion Cheney-Armstrong Post 5 in Peterborough for 65 years. The Post donated \$25 in John's name to the Dublin Fire Company.

*The Dublin Fire Company and Rescue Squad wish to thank you for your gift in memory of John McKenna.*

*Dear Cheney-Armstrong Post 5,*

*Your kind expression of sympathy is deeply appreciated and gratefully acknowledged. Thank you for your generous donation to the Dublin Fire and Rescue in memory of John McKenna. We appreciate your kindness and thoughts. The McKenna family.*

Captain **Ray Pierce**, USN (Ret.) of Rivermead and formerly of Hancock, died on December 22, 2017 at Rivermead. He was born in Springfield, VT on September 15, 1929, the son of Warren Hatch Pierce and Ruth Edson Pierce. He was a graduate of Hancock High School, where in his class he was the smartest male, best-looking male, and the best male athlete. He was also the only boy in his class of three. He attended Dartmouth College on a NROTC Scholarship, receiving his BA in 1952. He received his BS degree in mechanical engineering and a MS degree in management from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, CA. Ray was a career officer in the United States Navy, rising to the rank of Captain during his 34 year career. Upon commissioning, his first assignment was aboard the USS O'Hare (DD889). After eight years at sea on four different ships, he changed his designator to Naval Engineer and spent the remainder of his career in the design and overhaul of ships. He served 14

months creating the ship and craft repair and overhaul facility in Danang during the Viet Nam War. In the ensuing years, he held positions at the Department of Defense and Naval Sea Systems Command in Washington, DC. In 1975 he became Commanding Officer of the Ship Repair Facility, Guam. Upon returning to the U.S. mainland in 1977, he became Production Officer at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard, later assuming the position of Shipyard Commander in 1978.

During his active duty, he received the following medals and awards: The Legion of Merit, The Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal with gold star in lieu of a second medal, and the Secretary of Defense Joint Service Medal and the Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon.

Following his retirement from the Navy in 1981, he served as a consultant for various ship engineering concerns. Ray and his wife, Helen Manning Pierce, returned to Hancock, the town they both considered home and where they had met as teenagers. Together, they restored the home they purchased on Main Street.

Always an active member of the local community, he was part of the committee that researched and established the town recycling center. This interest in the environment led to his appointment as Executive Director of the NH Resource Recovery Association. He served three terms as a Hancock Selectman over the course of nine years, and on a number of the town's committees. He was chairman of the Village Planning Committee, established to improve the general appearance and safety of the town's historic main street; Honorary Chairman and active member of the Hancock Improvement Association, a non-profit group dedicated to raising the funds paid to clear the Town Common of utility poles and wiring; Member and Chairman of the committee responsible for planning and constructing the Town's recycling and waste Management facility; and member of the committee that kept the Post Office in the Village by acquiring the Grange Hall. In Ray's name the Post donated \$25 to the United Services organization in Washington DC.

*The USO gratefully acknowledges your \$25.00 contribution. Your support, together with that of other loyal donors, helps us continue to provide critical services- unavailable from any other single source- to the men and women of our Armed Forces and their families.*

*For United Service Organizations*

*J.D. Crouch II*

*CEO & President*



**Henry G. Emery**, 89, a native of Peterborough, died unexpectedly on December 28, 2018 after a fall.

Henry was raised and educated in the Peterborough School System and would go on to enlist in the Army Air Corp right after graduating from high school at the age of 17. He faithfully served his country during WWII and was honorably discharged at the rank of Sargent.

He worked for many years as an appliance repairman, working for most of his career with the Derby Company and then later for many years as his own boss as "Mr. Fixit". He was married to his wife Alice for 55 years. Henry was presented with the Cheney-Armstrong Post Cane during the Memorial Day of 2015. For years Henry hand delivered Post letters to shut-ins and visited with them.

In Henry's name the Post gave \$25 to the Scholarship Fund.

Bertha Harris also gave a donation in Henry's name to the scholarship fund.

**Barbara A. Hanson**, 85, a native of Peterborough, died on January 25, 2018. Barbara received the Cheney-Armstrong Post Cane four years ago Memorial Day in memory of her brother Buddy

Blanchette who was the only Korean War casualty from Peterborough. Every Memorial Day we hang his coffin flag at the family's request.

**New Members: John O. B. Sewall**, of Peterborough, (formerly of Dublin) Vietnam, Air force; **E. Joseph LaBrie**, of Peterborough, Vietnam, Army; **Laurance J. Foley**, of Dublin, WWII, Navy, and **Virginia M. Moore**, of Peterborough, Vietnam, Air Force nurse. We currently have 192 members for 2018 but have lost 7 plus one transferred out a week after he became a member. Our goal is to beat the all-time high of 204 by the Legion's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2019. **HAPPY 99<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY LEGION!** "We are maintaining our influence with Congress, but that cannot be maintained much longer if the membership continues to drop. Much progress was made this year because of our influence. The forever GI Bill, the Whistle Blower Act, and The Modified Appeals Process Act all came about because of our influence based on our membership numbers. If the membership numbers continue to drop, then Congress is liable to turn a deaf ear to our requests for services for our veterans. **DO NOT LET THAT HAPPEN! Recruit! Renew! Retain!**" Dave Meaney, Department Commander

**Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday to Peterborough native George Nevers Eastman.** He was born February 14<sup>th</sup>, 1918, and was employed by the American Guernsey Cattle Club. He married September 18<sup>th</sup>, 1938, Bernice Fern Raney. They honeymooned on the Anniversary of the 1938 hurricane. He has been a member of the Post for 30 plus years.

**Wayne** will not be at the March meeting because it is his 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday. **John Franklin** will be conducting the meeting. Thank you John.

**Moving: Leon St Cyr** moved to Scott-Farrar; **Gary Cullinan** sold his home and is moving to MA. Talked to **Bob Moberg** who is now living on a friend's property in a trailer in Marathon FL. He is working hard at sewing canvas for boats.

**Milestone:** Patrick Groleau of Sharon has been named to the Dean's List for the fall 2017 semester at Emerson College. He is majoring in political communication. The Post sponsored him to Boys' State in 2014. Aja Procita of Peterborough is a senior at Reed College studying mathematics and physics and is currently painting a mural of female mathematicians and scientists in her physics building at the college. She went to Girls State in 2013.

**50 years ago:** Marine Lieutenant Alfred Bayard Russ of Hancock became the region's first Vietnam casualty. He was killed in action in the vicinity of Quang Tri. "He was anxious to serve his country," said his Mother.

**Sick Call: Jacob Skinner, John Jordan, and David Geoffrey** of Peterborough, **Willy Oja** of Dublin, **Raymond Lee** of Temple, and **Ralph Tibbetts** of Rindge.

*Crosby American Legion*  
*David H. McNerney Post 658*  
*P.O. Box 135*  
*Crosby, TX 77532-0135*  
*To: Cheney-Armstrong Post 5*



*Please accept our thanks and sincere gratitude for your organization's generous donation. Your assistance with this American Legion Post 658 community project allows us to continue valuable service to many more victims of Hurricane Harvey. During this time of need we have even been able to transport several truckloads of supplies to the Rockport, Beaumont and Refugio Posts for distribution in those areas. Thus far locally we have given assistance to other Harris County American Legion Posts, 475 families, served over 8000 hot meals and distributed several tons of clothing and cleaning supplies in the Crosby and Harris County area. We were even able to collect pet food and pet supplies and made our patio area a shelter for area pets and strays.*

*The Veterans of American Legion Post 658 are continuing to serve America. This project is just another way we continue to serve our country now and in time of need.*

*For God and Country, Gary Alston, Commander PO Box 135, Crosby TX 77532*

In the American Legion November 2017 magazine Gary Alston is quoted as saying, "We aren't interested in just helping our members or even veterans. We are helping everybody." Post 658 served as the town's main emergency shelter for victims of Hurricane Harvey. Alston and his family had to evacuate their home and stay at the post.

**The** Christmas dinner was a huge success with 69 in attendance. The Department Commander Dave Meaney was a guest and he drew **Arthur Hixson's** name for the raffle. Arthur kindly donated back half of his winnings. Our thanks to the special members who helped at the dinner- Judy Garabrant, Arthur Hixson, Leon St. Cyr, Sue and Paul Sturges, Jane and Ron Bowman, Carmen DuHaime, Andy Benoit, Richard Loudon, Linda and Lisa Oja, Nancy Mallory, Dee and Wayne Thomas and the Girl Scouts.

**At the January Post meeting** \$50 from Poppy money was donated to the Tilton Veterans' Home Christmas Party. There was a quorum of officers. **John Franklin** reported that he was 40 % done with the Post history for the Department.

*Dear Commander Thomas,*

*January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018*

*On behalf of the New Hampshire Veterans Home family, we offer our sincere appreciation to the devoted members of Cheney-Armstrong Post 5- American Legion for your very generous donation of \$50.00 received on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018 to help defray the cost of our Christmas Party expenses. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and helped to make the holidays memorable for residents of the Veterans Home.*

*Our mission is to provide excellent care and a very high quality of life for the veterans who choose to make this their home. Thoughtfulness by people such as you helps to make this a daily reality.*

*Thank you again for making the holidays so much brighter for our resident veterans. It is through kindness such as yours that we are able to celebrate in a way that makes each resident feel special.*

*Best wishes to all of you for a New Year filled with much happiness and joy!*

*Warmest regards,*

*Margaret D. LaBrecque*

*Commandant*

**Wayne** went to the District 2 meeting in January which was held at Post 3 in Nashua. Post 3 has been undergoing extensive renovations. Wayne and Dee represented the Post and Auxiliary at the state winter conference in Rochester on January 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Thank you Jerry Allen** of San Antonio for your generous donation to the Scholarship Fund. **Thank you all** for your generous offers when our pipes froze and flooded the house. **Wayne**

At the winter state legion meeting we learned what the Legion is interested in.

The **Department President's Project** (Auxiliary). It is money towards a product called "It's Never 2 Late". Its total price is \$17,000 and is a moveable system to be used in the dementia wing at the Tilton Veterans Home. It benefits bedridden as well as small or larger gatherings of Veterans in social groups facilitated by a rehabilitation therapist. The system is extremely versatile. It is designed to assist in stimulating the cognitive processes of Dementia and Alzheimer's patients. Its wide reminiscence is therapeutic with old TV game shows, music, and even spiritual programming! The system is built on a picture-based touch-screen interface that allows users to simply "touch" their way to engaging educational, spiritual, and personalized content that is appropriate to their own level of ability. The oldest resident at the home is 99 and the youngest is 64. There are 200 residents and 16 are women.

#### **iN2L KEY FEATURES:**

**Activities Engagement** activities adapted to each resident's unique abilities and interests. Thousands of choices for both group and one-on-one activities.

**Cognitive Stimulation** Hundreds of games, quizzes and programs designed to maintain brain function in areas of memory, attention, language, executive function and visual/spatial acuity.

**Family Connection Experiences** designed to enable and foster communication between family members and residents. Easy access to Skype, email and other tools for telling life stories.

Family portal allows for input into resident experience.

**Memory Care Engagement** content categorized to reflect differing levels of cognition, all designed to entertain, stimulate and keep residents connected.

**Games & Puzzles** Hundreds of entertaining, challenging and interactive games and puzzles, specifically designed for all levels of cognition.

**Spirituality** Access to hundreds of spiritual experiences based on personal preferences, including inspirational slide shows, karaoke-style hymns, sermons, Bible stories, devotionals, studies and devotionals. The content reaches across diverse faith groups.

**Independence** Intuitive touch screen interface enables each resident, regardless of physical or cognitive ability, to easily access diverse content and stay connected.

**Music Therapy** Hundreds of music experiences customized for user preferences. These selections are optimized by music therapists to enhance any environment and produce research-based outcomes.

**TV & Film** Movies and television programs available at a touch, designed to specifically match the eras of the 50's and 60's.

**Sports** Educational sporting content ties into nostalgic and current events and allows for resident interaction.

**Travel** Allows residents to see the world from their community. Multiple sections devoted to different countries and states are updated regularly. Trivia games, guided tours and Google Earth present thousands of opportunities for exploration and cultural engagement.

**Lifelong Learning** An endless supply of programs to encourage personal growth including visits to museums, audio books, sign language, Ted Talks and college lectures. iN2L believes there is no reason to ever stop learning!

**History & Nostalgia** Multiple ways to stay connected with historical events and nostalgic experiences. The history buffs in your community will find endless ways to explore the past.

**Physical Fitness & Fall Prevention** Multiple exercise videos — designed to improve strength and balance — populate the iN2L experience. Programs include a virtual bicycle, flight simulator, music devices, yoga, tai chi and miscellaneous other exercises.

We talked about this three meetings ago and did not understand it. This is an explanation of it.

**Veterans Heritage Learning Center:** Michael Horne, the Director for 9 years made a plea for donations to the state Veterans cemetery. It is a 1400 square foot addition on the administration building of the cemetery which will connect to Veterans, families and the public. They hope to dedicate it November 2019.

**Canine Companions:** This is the Department Junior president's project. Canine Companions is an organization that provides service dogs free of charge. The dogs are provided to veterans with disabilities.

The Auxiliary donated \$25.00 to all three projects. At the March 4<sup>th</sup> meeting our Finance Officer is going to ask the Post if they wish to donate and how much they would like to donate.

*Herewith, my monthly Sea Cadet report: Monadnock Squadron has signed up two new recruits: one in December and one in January. Our strength is now 15 cadets: 12 males and three females. In December, the Squadron's Saturday drill included going to the state veterans' cemetery in Boscawen and participating in Wreaths across America. On Sunday, we had our annual Christmas party, with an appearance by "Santa." In January, Cadet Rachel Brown was promoted to petty officer first class and will be eligible for chief petty officer in June. The squadron continued preparations for its annual inspection, which will take place Sunday, Feb, 18, starting at 1300 sharp. Legion members and significant others are cordially invited. Please park in front of South Meadow School and use the main entrance. The formation will take place in the center atrium (second left inside the entrance). Following the personnel inspection, light refreshments will be served; attendees are encouraged to use the opportunity to interact with the cadets. The scheduled work day helping N.H. Blue Star mothers remove wreaths and other decorations from graves in Boscawen has been postponed until weather and snow conditions permit. V/R, John*

*Monadnock Squadron Sea Cadets underwent their seventh annual inspection on Sunday, 18 February. Although our cadet numbers are down, the eleven in attendance got through the inspection with only a few minor gigs. As for the admin going-over, we did fairly well, and garnered an overall preliminary grade of about 3.6. The final grade won't be known for a couple more weeks, but if the score holds up, cadets and officers will earn yet another gold "E" appurtenance — our third — to attach to their "year" ribbon. In addition, one of our new cadets completed his Basic Military Requirements correspondence course, meaning that upon successful completion of recruit training, he will be advanced to E-2 and be eligible for E-3 upon completion of an additional advanced training. We continue to emphasize that we need more recruits. Respectfully submitted, LTJG John Franklin, executive officer.*

**U.S. Naval Sea Cadets is a nationwide leadership development program** for young men and women ages 10-18. The program is federally chartered and supported by the Navy and Coast Guard. Locally, Monadnock Squadron meets the third full weekend of each month at South Meadow middle school in Peterborough. Presently, membership includes 15 cadets and seven full- and part-time adults.

Sea Cadets promotes a drug-, alcohol-, and tobacco-free lifestyle. Also, cadets are required to maintain passing grades in school or as a home-schooler. Members wear modified U.S. Navy uniforms and learn military skills like marching, color guard, and close order drill. There is no military requirement for cadets once they graduate from the program, however, Sea Cadet membership provides advanced rank upon graduation from recruit training for those who do enlist in the armed forces.

Graduates from Monadnock Squadron have served or are serving in the army, navy, air force, marine corps, and army national guard. One former cadet is in the army cadre at Norwich University in Vermont, and another received a “full ride” scholarship to Worcester (Mass.) Polytechnic Institute as a member of the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps. In addition, at least one former cadet is a local police officer.

The primary focus of the Sea Cadets is on imparting leadership skills and helping cadets become self-confident and comfortable speaking in public. For example, one of the squadron’s cadets was the American Legion Oratorical Contest state champion a few years ago. Essentially, cadets run the program with guidance and assistance from adult staff. Higher ranking cadets provide day-to-day leadership and hands-on guidance for the younger and less experienced personnel. They are responsible for ensuring required training is conducted and that the program is kept interesting and relevant. Adult volunteers do not need to be military veterans, although they may wear an officer’s navy uniform if they meet appearance standards. As is usual with any adult position in a youth organization, they are subject to a background check and are required to set a good example for the youths they are mentoring.

Cadets in their first year of the program attend recruit training — also called “boot camp” — where they learn basic military skills. Once that training has been successfully completed, they can attend such schools as Petty Officer Leadership Academy, Field Operations, Culinary Arts, SCUBA Diving, SEAL training, and many others.

In addition, cadets have an opportunity to spend time overseas or stateside with cadets from units of other countries, including the United Kingdom, Netherlands, Bermuda, Australia, and others. Two of Monadnock Squadron’s cadets recently spent a fortnight in Scotland, working with their counterparts in that nation.

Most training courses take place in summer, although there are a few winter trainings conducted during the Christmas school break. Locally, cadets have been instructed in cold-weather survival, including how to build shelters and what clothing is best suited to combat winter conditions, and in CPR and First Aid, among many other skills.

Monadnock Squadron was honored to have its color guard represent the Navy when the remains of Fireman 3/C Edwin Hopkins, a Swanzey resident who was killed aboard USS Oklahoma in the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, were returned last October. Dillant-Hopkins Airport on the Swanzey-Keene line was in part named for him. Other squadron members acted as sideboys and helped “pipe the side” when the casket was brought into the airport terminal building.

Monadnock Squadron members have recently visited two Navy ships in Boston; toured the N.H. emergency services headquarters in Concord; spent a day at Vertical Dreams in Manchester learning how to climb walls and as a team-building exercise; and worked at several area air shows, where they got to meet Navy Blue Angels and Air Force Thunderbirds pilots and ground crew. In addition, cadets spent a day at the former Pease Air Force Base learning about the Air National Guard unit that refuels aircraft. Some of the cadets got to “fly” the KC-135 tanker aircraft simulator.

Each year, Monadnock Squadron cadets and officers march in at least five Memorial Day parades, as well as participating in Veterans Day activities in Peterborough.

The squadron was formed in December 2010 and commissioned in 2012, having successfully completed more than a year of existence and having passed an administration and personnel inspection. Primary sponsor is American Legion Post 5 of Peterborough, although the Jaffrey-Rindge VFW post and Amoskeag Veterans provide some funding.

Youths ages 10-18, both boys and girls, and their parents are cordially invited to visit during any drill and check out the program. Hours are 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the third Saturday of the month, and noon to 6 p.m. on the following Sunday. Park in front of South Meadow School and enter the front door. Also, the following web sites are available to anyone interested in the program:

[www.monadnocksquadron.org](http://www.monadnocksquadron.org), [www.homeport.seacadets.org](http://www.homeport.seacadets.org), and facebook/monadnocksquadron.

Questions may also be directed to the commanding officer, Jane LaRoche, at 924-7606, or the executive officer, John Franklin, at 924-3662. (this article the Keene Sentinel)

*John Franklin is a retired U.S. Navy senior chief petty officer and is executive officer of Monadnock Squadron. He lives in Peterborough.*

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**This is from a book titled, "Reflections on Pearl Harbor" by Admiral Chester Nimitz.**

Sunday, December 7th, 1941--Admiral Chester Nimitz was attending a concert in Washington, DC. He was paged and told there was a phone call for him. When he answered the phone, it was President Franklin Delano Roosevelt on the phone. He told Admiral Nimitz that he (Nimitz) would now be the Commander of the Pacific Fleet. Admiral Nimitz flew to Hawaii to assume command of the Pacific Fleet. He landed at Pearl Harbor on Christmas Eve, 1941. There was such a spirit of despair, dejection and defeat--you would have thought the Japanese had already won the war. On Christmas Day, 1941, Adm. Nimitz was given a boat tour of the destruction wrought on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese. Big sunken battleships and navy vessels cluttered the waters everywhere you looked. As the tour boat returned to dock, the young helmsman of the boat asked, "Well Admiral, what do you think after seeing all this destruction?"

Admiral Nimitz's reply shocked everyone within the sound of his voice. Admiral Nimitz said, "The Japanese made three of the biggest mistakes an attack force could ever make, or God was taking care of America. Which do you think it was?" Shocked and surprised, the young helmsman asked, "What do mean by saying the Japanese made the three biggest mistakes an attack force ever made?"

Nimitz explained:

**Mistake number one:**

The Japanese attacked on Sunday morning. Nine out of every ten crewmen of those ships were ashore on leave. If those same ships had been lured to sea and been sunk--we would have lost 38,000 men instead of 3,800.

**Mistake number two:**

When the Japanese saw all those battleships lined in a row, they got so carried away sinking those battleships, they never once bombed our dry docks opposite those ships. If they had destroyed our dry docks, we would have had to tow every one of those ships to America to be repaired. As it is now, the ships are in shallow water and can be raised. One tug can pull them over to the dry docks, and we can have them repaired and at sea by the time we could have towed them to America. And I already have crews ashore anxious to man those ships.

**Mistake number three:**

Every drop of fuel in the Pacific theater of war is in top of the ground storage tanks five miles away over that hill. One attack plane could have strafed those tanks and destroyed our fuel supply. That's why I say the Japanese made three of the biggest mistakes an attack force could make or God was taking care of America.

I've never forgotten what I read in that little book. It is still an inspiration as I reflect upon it. In jest, I might suggest that because Admiral Nimitz was a Texan, born and raised in Fredericksburg, Texas -- he was a born optimist. But any way you look at it--Admiral Nimitz was able to see a silver lining in a situation and circumstance where everyone else saw only despair and defeatism. President Roosevelt had chosen the right man for the right job. We desperately needed a leader that could see silver linings in the midst of the clouds of dejection, despair and defeat.

**VA resumes online applications for new ID cards :** WASHINGTON – Veterans can again submit online applications for new identification cards through the Department of Veterans Affairs website after the system was taken down in December following rollout problems.

The purpose of the identification cards is to help veterans prove their military history without having to carry around their DD-214 certificates, which contain sensitive information. The new IDs do not replace VA medical cards or defense retiree cards, nor do they qualify as official government-issued identification.

As of Jan. 29, the VA was processing 14,609 applications for the cards, said VA spokesman Curt Cashour. Any veteran who served in the armed forces, including in the reserves, and has an honorable or general discharge can request them.

High demand for the cards crashed a VA webpage in December, when some veterans were met with error messages or a webpage that failed to load. The VA temporarily stopped the online application process and asked veterans seeking new ID cards to leave their email addresses, stating they'd be notified when they could apply.

Now, the online application process has resumed to all veterans. Cashour said veterans are no longer being asked to leave their email addresses.

Veterans can apply at the [Vets.gov](http://Vets.gov) website and will be asked to create an online account.

Veterans who have applied will start receiving their cards in early March, Cashour said. In the meantime, approved veterans can download an image of their IDs and print them or download them to their mobile phones.

In 2015, Congress ordered the VA to create the cards to make it easier for veterans to receive certain benefits such as discounts at stores and restaurants.

1. VA.Gov
2. Scroll to bottom of page
3. Apply for Veteran ID card

**A few good reasons** to become part of the nation's largest organization of wartime veterans-

\*Strengthens the veteran voice in Washington for a more effective VA health-care system. \*Keeps the

GI Bill updated and relevant for new generations. \*Provides substantial veteran oversight of

congressional committees and agencies. The reasons may be specific to an American Legion

department such as: \*Adds to the network of like-minded Legion Family members in my state.

\*Ensures support, resources and training for American Legion department service officers who assist

others who served. \* Builds future leaders through American Legion Boys State and other youth

programs.

*Respectfully submitted, Wayne E. Thomas,*

603-563-8376, 603-759-3134

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