



### CHENEY-ARMSTRONG POST # 5 NH

Wayne E. Thomas, Commander

Robert A. Benoit, Chaplain

Bernard F. Wynn, Children & Youth Officer

John H. Franklin, Sr. Vice Commander<sup>39</sup>

Cles V. Staples, Service Officer

Alan J. Zeller, Sergeant-at-Arms

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

Dear Post 5 Members,

June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017, July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017

**June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017:** Post meeting at 2 pm at the Peterborough Community Center on 25 Elm Street.

**July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017:** **The Post meeting is canceled.**

**July 4<sup>th</sup>,** Enjoy the Monadnock Center for History and Culture (Peterborough Historical) Observance at 10:00 am. There will be a reading of the Declaration of Independence, Sea Cadets will raise the flag.

**September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017:** Post and Auxiliary Potluck Picnic at noon at MacDowell Dam rain or shine.

**December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017:** Christmas Potluck Dinner



**In memory:** Auxiliary member Karen Emery, 61, of Peterborough died on May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

**Sick Call:** John McKenna of Dublin; Raymond Lee of Temple; David Geoffrey and John Franklin of Peterborough; Will Elcoate, of Dublin, had a knee replacement.

**New members:** Raymond A. Simard, of Dublin, Army, Korea; Duane R. Bishop JR, of Peterborough, Army, Lebanon/ Grenada; Lewis I. Hansen, of Dublin, Navy, Vietnam;

**We have received 2018 cards for membership.** Please think about paying your dues to make life easier for the Commander. Dues are still \$35 and the Post gets a little over \$7.00 if you are an email. This is what the Post operates on. *We always will be happy to take donations ☺* If everyone paid their dues we will have 175 members. Our goal is 205; one more than the all-time high. Please help us find Veterans who would like to join the Post.

**Congratulations to Charles Seigel** on his retirement as an OBGYN. Chuck is retiring at the end of June after 44 years delivering babies at Monadnock Hospital.

Congratulations to **Alan Oshana** of Guilford, Connecticut for his newest Grandchild Sydney.

**Tim Allen**'s son Danny is graduating from ConVal in June and entering the Army at Fort Benning in Georgia in August. He hopes to be a Ranger/Airborne. His daughter Kristen is currently serving in the Air Force and is stationed in South Korea.

**Thank you;** *Thank you Cheney-Armstrong Post 5 for your generous donation of twenty-five dollars to Sacred Heart Children's Service Group in memory of Pauline Kissell. God Bless!*  
*Julie Cusson, Parish Administrator, Sacred Heart Church, Manchester NH*

**Dear Friends of the American Legion Cheney-Armstrong Post 5,** *May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017*  
*On behalf of the veterans of the Veteran Victory Farm, I would like to acknowledge The American Legion, Cheney-Armstrong Post 5 for their most generous donation of \$200.00 in support of the Veteran Victory Ride Poker Run. Your contribution makes it possible for us to fulfill our mission to provide support and services to veterans and their families. The proceeds of the Poker Run will benefit a much needed driveway improvement project at The Veteran Victory Farm.*

*The Veteran Homestead, Inc. is a nonprofit organization. The VH mission is to provide medical, psychological and spiritual care to veterans who are diagnosed with a terminal illness, are elderly and/or disabled or otherwise in need. We provide these services without regard to race, religion or sexual orientation. All of our programs are drug and alcohol free and every effort is made to help those seeking abstinence.*

*Again, thank you for your generous gift!*

*Sincerely, Cindy Correll*

*Development Director Veteran Homestead, Inc.*

**Thank you to Dick Hammond** of Yarmouth Port, MA, and **Patricia Lee** of Temple who gave money to the poppy fund. Pat gave in memory of her Father James Kirby, a Veteran of WWI who served in France. Thank you **Richard Freeman** and **Andy Benoit** for your generous donations to the poppy fund.

**Thank you Andy Benoit** for firing and conducting the Service for **Lennie Myhaver**, thank you **Brian Barden**, **Gary Babcock** and **Wayne Thomas** for firing. A quote from Lennie's committal was "Oh! I have Slipped the Surly Bonds of Earth, And Danced the Skies on Laughter-Silvered Wings"

Thank you to **Andy** for doing the prayer, **Gary**, **Brian**, **Dick Loudon** and **Wayne** for firing at **Frances Abbott's** committal.

**At the May** meeting the Post voted on giving \$200.00 out of the Poppy Fund to the Victory Farm in Fitzwilliam. The District Commander Paul Comeau swore in the slate of officers. Dick gave him a check for \$100.00 to cover the Post District Assessment. Dick also gave *Michelle Jarest* and *Zach Beymer* each a \$250.00 scholarship from the Post. The Post and guests listened to Michelle and Zach talk about their 2016 experience at Boys' and Girls' State and then met *Natasha Kipka* and *Alex McCall* the 2017 candidates. All four kids were outstanding and very throughout with their information. There were 14 Veterans, 3 Auxiliary, 3 parents, 1 District Commander and 4 ConVal students. *Genna Weidner* of Dublin 2015 Girls State got accepted to the Oxford Summer program in England, and received 2 scholarships that will cover all expenses! Studying history, right along with the spirit of Girl's State and all your help.

**Wayne and Dee** went to the NH State Department Convention in Lincoln NH May 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>. Their job was to register the Delegates representing the different Posts. While we were there we were reminded

that Peterborough was the first small town Post in the state. Congratulations to David A. Meaney Sr. for being elected the 2018 Department Commander. David worked for the state as its Adjutant for years. Dave is from Post 34 in Plaistow. On June 1<sup>st</sup>, **Wayne** attended the District II meeting in New Ipswich.

**New brick:** Francis P. Moran, Sgt, Army. He served during WWII and is Genna Weidner (Girls State-2015) Grandfather. The family placed the prettiest flower on the brick for Memorial Day.

**We were asked** how many WWII Veterans are in Peterborough. The Post currently has 21

**On April 6<sup>th</sup>, 1917**, the U.S. joined its allies- Britain, France, and Russia to fight in WWI. Under the command of Major General John J. Pershing, more than two million soldiers fought on battlefields in France. Many Americans were not in favor of the U.S. entering the war and wanted to remain neutral.

**Memorial Day** went well this year. Rain had been predicted but Peterborough and Dublin both got their parades in before the rain. At the end of Dublin's parade there were big drops of rain. Hancock's was inside. The ConVal band marched and played. Soloist Mark Briggs of Peterborough sang the Star Spangled Banner in Peterborough and the Boy Scouts raised the flag. All the drivers showed up, thank you. The weather was iffy and people do not realize that the decision is not made until the early morning of the Peterborough Parade **BY THE TOWN**. Our thanks to **Dick Loudon, John Franklin**, and Tim Carter who read the 97 Peterborough names who died in a conflict. Our thanks to the drivers, Claudia Cleary, **Ron Bowman**, Stephen Hobbs, **Bill McDuff, Phil Blanchard**, Barry Sutcliffe, Mark Cournoyer, and Bill Sweet. Veterans, who march in Peterborough please think about participating in Dublin and Hancock in 2018.

The Auxiliary Bake sale during Memorial Day made \$230.25. A special thanks to Joy and David Boothby and their daughter Kathleen Sistare for running the Bake Sale. Thank you to the members who brought baked goods.

**This is the speech Peterborough Selectwoman Barbara Miller gave at Memorial Day:**

Good morning. It is a privilege and honor to speak with you today.

This year, 2017, is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United States' entry into World War One. The First World War spanned four years, from 1914 – 1918. We joined our allies on April 6, 1917. From air-to-air missiles to submarines, from tanks to chemical weapons, virtually all the weaponry that is used by today's armies have their origins in the First World War. The result of these was mass killing on a scale never seen before in human history, killing 10 million soldiers and mutilating over 21 million more. 204,000 Americans returned home wounded and 116,516 died in combat. Those who bore mental scars for the remainder of their lives are uncounted.

World War I affected everyone, including the residents here in Peterborough. Our population in 1917 was only 2,300 people and 113 of us (5%), mostly young farmers, were sent to battle.

Technology 100 years ago was meager. There was no internet, no email and limited phone service at that time. The only way these 113 Peterborough soldiers had to communicate with their families and friends was in handwritten letters, which they sent home to their families. Historians tell us that residents gathered daily at the local Tavern in Peterborough, where Peoples United Bank is currently located. They would share the content of these letters and discuss the sufferings, hardships and progress

of war.

In one letter, a soldier wrote, "I am glad that you are safe at home. You cannot hear the cannon, you do not face bullets, and you will not thrash under the gas. You cannot understand what is happening "over here." And no man can tell you. It is too big and too terrible."

Today we turn to 24-hour news channels to catch up on current events. At best, in 1917, Peterborough residents received patchy information about the war. They huddled around their radios – those few who could afford to own one. They relied on newspapers, telegraphs and paid their 10 cents admission to our local movie theater, the Gem to watch newsreels about the war. The Peterborough Community Theater in 1917 was called the Gem.

Parents and siblings anxiously awaited the end of the war and the return of those they love. Others met at the Tavern for comfort, grieving the life of a loved one who paid the ultimate sacrifice!

World War One ended in 1918 and after peace was restored, various groups in Peterborough, including but not limited to the American Legion, Women's Auxiliary, boys and girls scouts wanted to build a war memorial "for the boys." They needed \$10K, which was a lot of money then... equivalent to \$176,000 today.

More than 821 people donated and raised \$7,593. Mary Cheney Schofield donated the last \$2,500 in honor of her son William who serve as an aviator in the army and died in a training accident in Italy. With funding secured, the groups built this ornamental gateway, here in front of us, to cover the entrance to the park and to commemorate those from Peterborough who served and died in WWI. If you are facing the gate, to the left are two bronze tablets, one containing the names of the 113 men from Peterborough. An inscription by President Eliot of Harvard University is etched on the second tablet.

He wrote:

To the Patriot Solders of Peterborough

Who answered the call of their country in WWI?

They bore the hardships and took the risks of camp, trench and battle and

Served gallantly wherever stationed

Their names are inscribed with gratitude and love upon this enduring memorial

That future generations may be inspired

By their high example.

The dedication of this Peterborough War Memorial took place on Nov. 11, 1923. The clouds, and cold weather (probably much like today) did not keep residents and dignitaries from attending the dedication service.

There is a national monument in Washington to remember and honor American veterans of every major war of the 20th century, except the veterans of World War I.

In January 2013, President Obama signed a law, effectively creating the United States World War One Centennial Commission, tasked with overseeing the design and construction of a National World War One Memorial. The memorial will be located in Pershing Park and is entitled "Weight of Sacrifice." It will be open to the public on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War 1, Veteran's Day, Nov. 11, 2018. This memorial will be 137 feet long. Each cubic foot of the memorial represents an American soldier lost in the war; 116,516 cubic feet.

My Uncle is one of the oldest living World War II Veterans. He is with me today. He taught me that a soldier's greatest fear is not dying. A soldier's greatest fear is dying and not being remembered. A mother whose son died in combat told me that a parent's greatest fear is that their child will be

forgotten. Memorial Day was born out of our desire to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice. We pray that no hero will ever have to die for us again. That no mother will ever weep for the loss of her child. And that the war memorial in Washington will be the last war memorial we will ever have to build.

Millions of Americans, who you don't know, agreed to risk their lives going through war for you. Many of them came back home in a flag-covered box, some never came back at all. What kind of person can love you so much that he/she would die for you without ever having met you? That person is a veteran.

Whenever you see a veteran, shake their hand or maybe give them a hug. If you can't think of anything to say, that's OK. They'll understand the message: Veterans, we love you.

**Peterborough's Memorial Day guest speaker** was Peterborough resident John MacLean. John served in the United States Coast Guard during Vietnam, enlisting in 1966 following graduation from high school. John served in the 14<sup>th</sup> Coast Guard District, the Pacific and the 9th Coast Guard District, The Great Lakes. He was honorably discharged in 1970 having attained the rank of second class petty officer. John has had a 47 year career in local government working his way up from public works to city management. Of those years, 40 were spent as a city manager, retiring from Keene after 20 years of service. John holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Western Michigan University. He has four sons, three beautiful daughter-in laws and six awesome grandchildren. He resides with his life-partner and fiancée Gail in Peterborough, NH.

John MacLean's speech

Today is not a day for politics, and not a day for philosophic debate. It is not a day to voice our opinion relative to the art of war, or its necessity, nor the consequences of diplomacy gone awry. Neither is it a day for unrequited drama, but rather... it is a day set aside for remembrance of those who did not come home to cheers, music playing, flags flying, tears of welcome or even the exact opposite, jeers and sneers by those who disapproved of their actions. Rather, today is the day we pause to remember those who in the oft quoted words "paid the supreme sacrifice with their lives" so that we might live in safety. And who were these people who left it all on the field; they were people just like us. They wanted to live, they smiled in photographs, went swimming, played tricks on their friends, cried, laughed, and tried like us to enjoy each day of their life. They believed in the future, dreamed of possibilities, and were once real as they walked among us.

So let me share with you the story of two young men who grew up within an hour of each other. One in Summerville, the other in Worcester. Both graduated from high school, had moms, and siblings who loved them. Both knew the joy of a warm summer day, and had their favorite TV shows. Both prayed to their maker, and respected their elders. Both dreamed of a future where they could be successful in life. And in the mid 1960's, one went into the Marine Corps, while the other went into the Coast Guard. Neither knew the other one, never having met. Yet they shared the same proud name. One would marry and have children, the other would not. One would see his grandchildren and the other would not. One would attend college on the GI Bill, the other would not. One would have a career and be recognized for his achievements, the other would not. One would be here today to remember the other and those who are like him...men and women that we never can thank enough for their personal sacrifice.

Truly let us not forget that on this day, the one we call Memorial Day, we stand here as brothers and sisters witness to their sacrifice with our heads bowed and a prayer for forgiveness on our lips.... forgiveness for the fact that we came home and they did not.

Thank you my dear name-sake and all the others for your service to our Country. May God grant that we who have gathered here today are deserving of such gifts. And in a moment of silence let us commit that for as long as we shall live, we will not forget you.

God Bless.

**On Memorial Day each year Cheney-Armstrong Post 5** presents a cane made especially for a local veteran who is very involved in his community and is actively supportive of our veterans. This year we would like to recognize the Post's Chaplain Andy Benoit who has been a member of the American Legion for 40 years. Andy served as a Private 1<sup>st</sup> Class in the Army during Korea. He went to Boot Camp at Fort Dix and then on to Fort Carson in Colorado. He was assigned to Camp Hale where the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division trained and he became a cook for the Engineers. In 1960 Andy went to Logan College of Chiropractic in St. Louis, Missouri and joined the chiropractic American Legion Post on campus there. Eventually he settled in Hancock with his wife Teresa and practiced for 36 years as a Chiropractor in Peterborough. Andy and Terry were married for 58 years and had four children. After Terry's death Andy married Bonnie Christian and between them they have 6 children and 11 grandchildren.

Andy currently serves on the Hancock Memorial Day and Old Home Day Committees. He is a past president of the Peterborough Rotary, a member of the Knights of Columbus, and the Old Crocks group. He is very active in Divine Mercy Parish and serves as a Eucharistic Minister. Carter Hunt, a member of ConVal's band, is Andy's Grandson and I would like him to come forward please. Andy would you please come forward.

Thank you Andy for your service to your country and for your service to our community.



*These are my grandparents, shortly after their wedding in 1942. My Mom's Dad, Lt John "Jock" P. Armstrong, was a casualty of WWII. He survived the attack on Pearl Harbor, swimming to shore after his ship, the USS West Virginia, was torpedoed. He survived action in the Pacific while stationed on the USS South Dakota. He married his captain's daughter (my Grandma), so he was presumably something of a charmer. At the age of 26, on Nov 1, 1943, he died during pilot training, about 3 months before his only child, my Mom, (Jocklyn) was born. Happy Memorial Day, Grampa. Jonathan Armstrong* Jocklyn Armstrong Carter was buried in Upper Pine Hill Cemetery on June 3<sup>rd</sup> next to the Father she never knew. **John P. Armstrong** was the first of 14 who did not return from Peterborough during WWII.

**Cadets from the Monadnock Squadron** participated in several parades this Memorial Day season. We began in New Ipswich on Sunday, May 21, and then participated in Peterborough and Dublin on Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup>. We have one more parade in Temple on Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup> to round out the season. In June the Squadron will meet for the final drill of this season before cadets head off to summer trainings. To date, we have two cadets scheduled for Recruit Training, four are scheduled to staff recruit training, and cadets are also scheduled for other summer trainings such as Field Operations. We have four League Cadets eligible for League Orientation. We'll graduate one senior this year, PO2 Devin Harling, who will attend trade school in the fall and Chief Petty Officer Austin LaFreniere who enlisted in the Air Force.

**In Flanders Fields  
John McCrae**

**In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our 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, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.**



