



CHENEY-ARMSTRONG POST # 5 NH

Wayne E. Thomas, Commander

G. Jarvis Coffin, Adjutant

Robert A. Benoit, Chaplain

Bernard F. Wynn, Children & Youth Officer

John H. Franklin, Sr. Vice Commander

Richard L. Loudon, Finance Officer

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,

April 3rd, 2016

May 1st, 2016 Post meeting: *Installation of Post Officers. Meet the Boys' and Girls' State Candidates.*

May 21st, 2016: Armed Forces Day- Poppy Day please let us know if you can give out Poppies. Two of the places we are going to give out Poppies on Friday and Saturday. The Poppy Fund is at \$75.00.

May 30th, Memorial Day

June 5th, 2016: Post meeting at 2pm in the Peterborough Community Center.

June 14th, 2016: *Flag Day on a Tuesday, join us in Depot Square retiring flags at 10:00 am.*

July 3rd, 2016: **Post Meeting is canceled. July 4th weekend.** Enjoy the Peterborough Historical Observance on July 4th.

September 4th, 2016: Post Pot Luck Picnic at MacDowell Dam at noon rain or shine.



In Memory: Joseph Carlton Petrone, 93, of Dublin, died on March 24th in Naples, FL. Joseph was a 71 year member of the American Legion. He grew up on an Iowa farm, was a Lieutenant in Patton's 3rd Army in the Battle of the Bulge, a White House Military Aide under Eisenhower, a Military Attaché in Paris, and Ambassador to the European Office of the U.N. in Geneva under Reagan - and a treasured husband of 58 years to Augusta Henderson Petrone.

He graduated from West Point in 1944 (after three years with no vacations, due to the war). He joined General Patton's army after the Normandy Landings (later he helped organize the 3-day ceremonies for the 25th Anniversary - attended by the likes of Gen. Omar Bradley and French President General deGaulle, and thousands of veterans).

“He served in post-war assignments in Puerto Rico (pre-tourism), Chicago (he called it a "soldiers' town"), Iran ("the Shah was just a poor king, with oil \$1 a barrel"), in D.C. as Aide to the Quartermaster General and as a White House Aide), and the British Staff College in Camberley, England.”

He was assigned to Ft. Hood, TX, where he deployed with the Third Corps to Ft. Benning, GA in preparations for "invasion" of Cuba during the Missile Crisis. From Ft. Hood, Joseph was assigned to the Defense Supply Agency in Alexandria, VA and then to Seoul, Korea as the Sub-Area Petroleum

Officer.

In 1967 Joseph was named Assistant Military Attaché to France. He retired from the Army in June of 1970. During their six civilian years in Paris, he presided over Memorial Day Ceremonies at the WWI Aisne-Marne cemetery in Seringes et Nesles - one of 13 U.S. military cemeteries in Europe.

Former Finance Officer Lawrence C. Ross, 79, of Dublin, died on March 21st. He graduated from West Point and served tours in Germany, Vietnam and South Korea. He was married to his sweetheart Nancy for 56 years.

New Address: **Bill Severn**, a submariner during Korea, has moved to the NH Tilton Veterans Home.

Membership: The Post has reached 100% with 190 members. Our goal is to reach the Post's all time high of 204 by the 100th American Legion Anniversary in March 2019. The Auxiliary has 46 members. Thank you all for your help.

Dear Friends: *On behalf of the entire NH Food Bank staff, I would like to thank you for your gift of \$25.00, to the NH Food Bank. Your gift was received on 3/7/2016.*

Your gift in memory of Eileen Varnum is greatly appreciated. This gift will help in the fight against hunger in the Granite State.

Please know that the family of Eileen Varnum will be informed of your thoughtful donation. Thank you again for your generosity.

Warmly, Mel Gosselin Executive Director



Vietnam Vets Gather at Memorial Wall to Mark War's '50th Anniversary'



Defense Secretary Ash Carter, right, and Veterans Affairs Secretary Bob McDonald lay a wreath at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., March 29, 2016. (Photo by Tim D. Godbee/U.S. Navy)

Our thanks to members who have made contributions: Patricia Lee of Temple gave money to the poppy fund in her Father's memory. His name was James Kirby, who was in WWI and wounded in France; **Russ Armstrong** donated money to the poppy fund in his Father's name. Albert Armstrong served in WWII in the Navy on the USS Mt McKinley and is currently living in the NH Veterans Home in Tilton. Thank you both. Thank you to **Jeff Allen** and **Andy Benoit** for their contributions to the Scholarship and General Funds. The Post and Auxiliary is happy to accept any contributions.

March meeting: There were 22 members at the meeting. Poppies were discussed. So far volunteers to give out poppies are: Cles Staples and Henry Campbell: Carr's Store; Henry Emery and Arthur Hixson: Shaw's; Leon St. Cyr and Bernie Wynn: Nonie's; Sheldon Specter: The Big Apple; Joseph Brennan and Dick Loudon: to be determined; Wayne and Dee: Delay's Harvest in Greenfield.

Wayne asked the Post to purchase a flag, pole and topper for the Department for the MIA/POW Vigil. The Post purchased one and so did Carl and Kathy Plourde of Temple. Thank you. We are offering to host the Vigil in 2018. When Wayne explained the Vigil and need for flags there were a lot of questions he could not answer. Since the meeting Wayne and Dee rewrote for the Vigil Committee their letter of appeal which is below:

To the Legion Family,

March 19, 2016

The POW/MIA Committee is looking to purchase a set of 13 Service flags and a flag stand for the Department. We have been borrowing the Set of Service flags from Post 13 in Greenville. These flags are to be used during the Spirit of the Eagle 24 hour Vigil held each year. The third Friday of September is the National POW/MIA Recognition Day. The Department holds its Vigil the weekend after the third Friday in September.

The Department has held its Vigil for almost twenty years at the Tilton Veterans Home. Individual Posts have requested to host it so the Committee is entertaining requests to have a Post host the Vigil on the even years and Tilton will continue to have the Vigil on the odd years. So far Sweeney Post 2 hosted it and this year Epping Post 51 hopes to host it.

The Committee wishes to raise funds for a complete set of 13 flags for the Department. They will be displayed at the Department when not in use. Besides the Vigil examples of when the flags will be used are at Convention, Mid-winter Conference and Bike Week in Loudon. (The reason for using them at Bike week is because this is when the Membership Committee sets up to recruit new members.)

If your Post, Unit, Squadron or Riders wish to contribute all or part it would be greatly appreciated. The cost of one complete flag set is \$115.00 X 13 which includes flag, pole and topper. The Committee will put a small plaque on the individual flag pole stating who donated it. (First come, first serve!)

Flags to be purchased: U.S., POW/MIA, NH, Legion, Auxiliary, Sons, Riders, Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marine.

*In addition to the Flag Sets to be purchased a **Custom Stand** needs to be built to travel with the flags or be stationary at Department. The cost of this is about \$400. Another expense is the need of four flag cases to transport the Flag Sets at a cost of \$219 each. (\$876 total for boxes) Donations in any amount will be used for this purpose.*

Please send your donations to: The American Legion

Department of NH

121 South Fruit Street

Concord NH 03301

memo: (POW/MIA Flag Set)

Sincerely,

POW/MIA Committee

*Thank you for your service! **“We Will Never Forget!”***

(Revised 3/19/2016)

8th Grade Student Oscar Bernier from Hancock represented District 2 at the Middle School Oratorical at St. Anslem’s in March. Oscar is a student in Great Brook School and on the lower level represented Post 50 in Antrim. He came in 7th.

The Monadnock Squadron had the distinct privilege of getting a tour of a guided missile destroyer, USS McFaul DDG74, while it was in South Boston recently. Fourteen cadets and eight adults took a bus trip for our March 19 drill to Black Falcon Pier and got a guided visit of the vessel. While on the tour, and by special request of yours truly, I and my two chiefs met with Command Master Chief Sarah Gomez, who answered the cadets' questions and additionally took us into the chief's mess. It was one of my best days in the program and I'm looking forward to a future opportunity for our cadets to tour other visiting ships. Squadron strength remains at about 23 cadets, including seven females. However, we will be losing about a third of our strength in June when area high schools graduate their seniors. With that in mind, the CO and I emphasized that unless the current members put forth a significant recruiting effort, they will have no one to lead as they advance to higher rank. Respectfully submitted, LTJG John Franklin, Executive Officer.

The NH National Guard teamed up with the Attorney General’s Office warning people to be cautious about giving to charities that purport to help Veterans. If you have any questions or concerns, contact the charitable trusts unit at 271-3591 or by email at: charitable-trusts2@doj.nh.gov Or visit its website: doj.nh.gov/charitable-trusts.

Here is some information that is going around or needs to be explained about the difference between VA and DOD Disability Ratings.

The Department of Defense (DOD) has admitted to under-rating Veterans who were discharged between Sept. 1th, 2001 thru Dec. 31st, 2009. Any Veteran that was medically discharged in this time frame and was given a disability percentage of less than 20% is eligible to apply to the Physical Disability Board of Review (PDBR).

Please review this link for information: <http://www.health.mil/Military-Health-Topics/Conditions-and-Treatments/Physical-Disability/Physical-Disability-Board-of-Review/PDBR-FAQs>

This link defines who is eligible and other FAQs. This is separate from VA claims and will not affect a Veterans VA benefits. Veterans cannot complete this process electronically, because of the need for original signatures.

What are the Major Differences between DOD and VA Disability Benefits? Here are some important differences between DOD disability benefits and VA disability benefits. Understanding these differences may help you sort out the benefits puzzle.

- DOD permanent disability ratings do not change after they have been made, while VA disability ratings can change over time. Thus, if the DOD rates your injury at 30 percent and places you on the Permanent Disability Ratings List (PDRL) that rating will remain at 30 percent for the rest of your life. Conversely, if the VA rates that same injury at 30 percent, ten years down the road they may decide to change your rating to 20 percent or less should they believe your condition has improved?
- DOD disability compensation is calculated based upon your service time, rank (basic pay rate), and disability rating. VA disability ratings are based entirely upon the severity of the injury.
- DOD disability ratings are given only for conditions occurring from the injury a service member is claiming, while the VA will take your entire medical condition as a whole into consideration in making a rating decision. Thus, if a service member has several injuries, but only one of those injuries brings him before the PEB for a DOD disability determination, only that injury will be considered in determining his percentage of disability. However, if the VA was to examine the very same individual, they would take into account all of that person's injuries in making their total disability rating.
- If your disability rating is between 30 -50%, you will be eligible for healthcare with military disability retirement benefits, but may have a lower priority for VA healthcare benefits. (You need 50% or higher disability ratings to get the highest priority for VA healthcare.)
- Between now and 2014, a military retiree who qualifies for VA disability benefits will lose a portion of his retired pay based on complicated rules. (Beginning in 2014, assuming the law does not change between now and then, you will be allowed to collect the full amount of both benefits, if you qualify for both.)
- If you are a low-ranking service member, you might get less from the military retirement disability than from the VA because the military benefit is based in part on rank.
- Again, each agency has its own rating system. So you can receive a different rating from the VA than you did from the DOD. But it is unlikely that you would get a lower rating from the VA than one you got from the DOD. Social Security uses yet another set of standards; you must be found totally disabled to qualify there.

Which system is faster?

Several factors play a role in how long the process will take, including such things as:

- the nature of the injury,
- the amount and quality of evidence to support your claim,
- the backlog of cases that the VA or DOD is dealing with, and
- the number of times your claim is denied or appealed.

In 2006, the VA reported that it took an average of 196 days to get a first decision. But this process can stretch out several years if your claim is denied and appealed numerous times.

The initial DOD process is often even longer than the VA process because service members are usually placed on the Temporary Disability Rating List (TDRL) first. You can remain on that list for up to five years before a final determination is made.

So, the VA may be a faster way to get a disability rating. But also keep in mind that, if you are ultimately successful, the DOD or VA will pay you back pay from the time you incurred the injury, or left the service, respectively. Generally speaking, we don't advise you to pick a program based on how long you think it will take. Instead, start with the benefit that you think fits your situation the best. You may want to ignore this advice only if your primary criteria is getting benefits flowing as soon as possible.

April Dates:

1st- April Fool's Day

7th- The Yamato, a 72,000-ton Japanese battleship, sunk off Okinawa in 1945

9th- National Former Prisoner-of-War Recognition Day

14th- President Reagan ordered airstrikes against terrorists targets in Libya, 1986

15th-Income Tax Deadline

15th- Navy EC-121 shot down by North Korean MIGs, Sea of Japan, 1969

17th- Bay of Pigs landing in Cuba, 1961

18th- Patriots' Day

18th- Doolittle Raid over Tokyo (1942)

19th- Confederate Signal Corps established, 1862

22th- General MacArthur based on COMINT reports, attacked Hollandia, New Guinea, deep behind enemy lines, 1944

22nd- Earth Day

22nd- Passover Begins at Sunset

24th- Attempt to rescue U.S. hostages in Iran failed, 1980

29th- Arbor Day

30th- Passover Ends

Respectfully Submitted,

Wayne E. Thomas

16 Lower Jaffrey Road, Dublin NH 03444

603-563-8376 cell- 603-759-3134

wayneanddeethomas@gmail.com