



### 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,

November 6th, 2016

**November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016:** Monthly Post meeting- **Daylight Savings Time Begins**- fall back, spring ahead)*Please park and enter from the Front door of the building from now on.*

**November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016:** November 11th, Veterans' Day, is on a Friday. At 9 am there will be a Remembrance Service at All Saints Church, 51 Concord Street with The Reverend Jamie Hamilton. After the Service there will be coffee and donuts on the lawn hosted by the Post 5 Auxiliary or if it rains in the Old Parish House. The parade will muster at 10:30 am at Veterans' Way next to Bellows-Nicholas on Main Street and step off at 10:40 am and march up to the Memorial Gates where the program will take place. If it rains it will be in the Peterborough Town House on Grove Street at 10:45 am. The speaker will be Joseph Ierna, a Korean War veteran who served in the Air Force. The South Meadow School Band under the direction of Ed Lowy will be providing the music. The Cheney-Armstrong Post 5 Auxiliary will be having a bake sale opposite the gates. Everyone is welcome. Veterans do not need to come in uniform. Just come. If there are any questions please call Wayne or Dee Thomas at 563-8376. *November 11<sup>th</sup>, at 12:30* Scott-Farrar will be having a flag raising and speaker. Light refreshments will be served after. All Veterans and families in the area are invited.

**December 4<sup>th</sup>, 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 and mashed potatoes. 563-8376 **January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017:** Meeting is canceled. **Happy New Year!!!!!!**



**In Memory: Raymond D. Eaves**, of Hancock, died on October 6, 2016. He was 96 and a member of the Post for 27 years. Ray entered the Army Air Corps during WWII in 1942. He trained in Tuskegee AL. He served with the 677<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron as a Staff Sergeant participating in the Air Offensive in Japan and throughout the Asiatic Pacific Theater. One memorable Christmas Eve was

spent in a foxhole on a Japanese beach. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Cheney-Armstrong Post # 5, PO Box 172, Peterborough NH 03458-0172. The Post fired at his service in Jaffrey. Thank you to **Gary Babcock, Andy Benoit**, who also said a prayer, **Arthur Hixson, Wayne Thomas** and **Henry Emery** who presented the flag and medallion.

**Bernie Woods'** wife Carol Leighton, of Peterborough, died on October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at the age of 73. They were married for 28 years.

**Sick call: Ralph Tibbetts** of Rindge, **Al Roy** and **Bob Weathers** of Peterborough, Pearl LaFleur of Peterborough,

**New Members: Joseph O. Ierna**, of Peterborough, served in the Air Force during Korea. **John A. MacLean**, of Peterborough, served in the Coast Guard during Vietnam.

**The Post** currently has 176 paid members for 2017 as of November 4<sup>th</sup>. Our goal is 195 and there are still some members who have not paid their dues. If you haven't gotten your dues paid yet, please consider doing so as soon as practical for you. If your dues amount, \$35.00 presents a problem for your finances, please let us know and we'll see if there is a way we can help. You can also go to the American Legion website, [legion.org](http://legion.org), and renew using your credit card. Membership is the LIFE BLOOD of all organizations!

The Auxiliary bills are out. The Auxiliary pays \$20 for dues and the State and District take \$16 of it. So far 30 Auxiliary have paid their dues.

**Members on the move:** The Reverend Monsignor **Gerald R. Belanger** has moved to St. Charles Borremo Church in Meredith NH.

**\*\*\*Please note:** there are three events happening on Veterans' Day. 9- Remembrance Service, 10:30 Parade musters, 12:30- flag raising at Scott-Farrar. Bake sale goodies are needed for the Auxiliary Table opposite the gates. Just drop it off. Thank you.

**Thank you** for your donations to the Scholarship Fund: **John Franklin**, Vera Elder and Karen Baird. **Alan Zeller** made up the difference for what the Post spent for the fall picnic at MacDowell Dam.

**Thank you** for donations given in **Lee LaFleur** and **Ray Eaves** name which will be put into the Scholarship account. James and Pauline Somero of Ashburnham MA and **Donald Pierce** wrote: Lee and I were friends from the fifth grade, through technical school, from which we both entered the Armed Forces. Though separated by miles we remained in touch and often visited each other. I have lost my best Friend and my heart goes out to Pearl. Sincerely, **Donald**; Donations in **Ray Eaves'** name are from Ann and **Joseph Lessard**, Ray's family Marion and Herb Robinson of Jaffrey, Alan Merwin of Millerton NY, Betty Nutting of West Suffield CT, and Leigh and Eugenie Andrews of Matlacha FL. \$405 went into the Scholarship Fund. Thank you. Betty wrote- *To the members of the Cheney-Armstrong American Legion Post #5, A heartfelt thanks for your many kindnesses to Ray Eaves*

*throughout all the years. He spoke fondly of you many times. In appreciation, Cousin Betty Eaves Nutting*

**Monadnock Squadron** had the honor of participating in the "welcome home" funeral services for Edwin Hopkins on Oct. 15 in Swanzey and Keene. Hopkins, a 19-year-old fireman third class from Swanzey, was killed on board USS Oklahoma during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941. He was the first casualty from Swanzey in World War II; it is for him and the first Keene fatality in that conflict that Dillant-Hopkins Airport was named. Our squadron provided the official navy color guard (the navy, in its infinite wisdom, provided everything but a color guard). Chief LaRoche, as the senior cadet present among representatives from all the New Hampshire units, was in charge of the formation. The Sea Cadet contingent was placed on the tarmac, immediately aft of the C-130 that carried the body of Hopkins. In addition, Sea Cadets provided six sideboys and LTJG Franklin, XO of Monadnock Squadron, wielded his boatswain's pipe to "pipe the side" as the casket was brought into the terminal building. After a lengthy funeral service at the airport, the cadets and officers again formed up to provide an honor contingent as the body was brought out and placed in a hearse in preparation for transportation to a Keene cemetery for burial, alongside Hopkins's parents. In addition, the Sea Cadets were given a special tour of the C-130 aircraft from the Connecticut Air National Guard that brought the body to Keene. Otherwise, the drill weekend included the semiannual physical readiness test. We also enrolled a new League Cadet. Respectfully submitted, John Franklin

**The Post donated \$100** out of the poppy money for this family. A service family in New Durham recently had a fire tragedy....Their home burned totally, losing all their possessions along with family pets -two dogs and a cat. While they are insured, it takes a while for the insurance to settle up, and meanwhile some of the family had only the clothes they were wearing. The youngest child is 11. The husband is a USAF veteran who retired through the NH Air National Guard and the wife is also an Air Force veteran currently serving in the NH Air National Guard. She was overseas (not deployed) at the time of the fire. Obviously, this family of veterans need some help getting replacement clothes, necessities, etc. until the insurance finally comes through. The New Durham Food Pantry is acting as the lead charity to assist them. Any donations can be sent to The New Durham Food Pantry, P.O. Box 156, New Durham, NH 03855. Checks should be made out to "The New Durham Food Pantry". Please memo checks for "The Phillip and Lucinda Erwin Family". Please attach a note to any checks stating it is for the Phillip and Lucinda Erwin Family. Thank you, Bill Firth, Dist7Cmdr

**The Post donated \$50** to the South Meadow Middle School Food Pantry out of the poppy fund. Ed Lowy, the Middle School Band Director, does a drive at this time of the year if you wish to drop off canned goods or money. At the moment the pantry is almost empty and holidays are just around the corner. The Middle School Band marches and plays every Veterans' Day for us.

*Dear Commander,*

*October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016*

*On behalf of The American Legion Charities, thank you for your generous gift to support my National Commander's Charity Project. Your donation of \$100.00 received on September 23, 2016, will benefit the Temporary Financial Assistance and Department Service Officers training programs.*

*Temporary Financial Assistance grants ensure that the basic needs, including shelter, utilities, food and clothing expenses, of minor children of eligible veterans are maintained when all other resource*

*are exhausted. Department Service Officer training is offered twice per year to ensure our service officers are well-equipped to assist our comrades filing claims with the Veterans Administration. Your generosity supports these worthy endeavors of assisting veterans and their children and is greatly appreciated.*

*Thank you again for your donation. Should you have any questions related to your donation activity please feel free to contact our Customer Service Department.*

*For God & Country, Charles E. Schmidt*

*National Commander*

**November 10<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>:** 25% off for Veterans at Job Lot.

**The American Legion and Veterans Inaugural Committee** are proud to announce that Drew Carey will be the emcee for the Veterans Inaugural Ball — a Salute to Heroes. The ball will be held on January 20, 2017, at the Renaissance Hotel in Washington, D.C. This historical event was started in 1953 at the request of President Dwight Eisenhower. The former general envisioned the ball as a way for the newly sworn in commander-in-chief to pay tribute to Medal of Honor recipients.

Carey is a veteran, comedian, actor, author and current host of the popular CBS game show “The Price is Right.” He spent six years in the United States Marine Corps Reserves and is a tireless supporter of the military, veterans, service members and their families.

The Veterans Inaugural Ball is hosted by The American Legion. The American Legion organizes the event with other members of the Veterans Inaugural Committee, including Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S., Paralyzed Veterans of America, Vietnam Veterans of America, AMVETS, The Congressional Medal of Honor Society, Reserve Officers Association, Blinded Veterans Association, Jewish War Veterans of the USA, American Ex-Prisoners of War, Marine Corps League, The Retired Enlisted Association and Non Commissioned Officers Association. The night’s entertainment will also include performances from The American Bombshells, Janine Stange and renowned band, Free Spirit. Individuals who wish to attend can do so by purchasing tickets at [www.legion.org/veteransball](http://www.legion.org/veteransball). Each ticket, while supplies last, include reception, dinner, dessert, cash bar and entertainment. Information on sponsorships, premium packages and table purchases are also available by emailing [info@salutetoheroesball.org](mailto:info@salutetoheroesball.org).

Sincerely,

Charlie Schmidt

National Commander

### **News of Interest to Veterans: HB 430 Signed into Law**

Thanks to the efforts of our Post member and State Representative Jim Belanger, House Bill (HB) 430, allowing towns and cities to adopt a property tax credit which extends the current veterans’ property tax credit to all honorably discharged veterans, was signed into law on 2 September 2016.

By allowing communities to extend the current Veterans’ property tax credit to all honorably discharged Veterans who have served no less than 90 days, House Bill 430 builds on our efforts to ensure that all of our veterans and their families can live independently and contribute to our economic and civic life after their service.

It is now up to each Town to vote on whether to grant this exemption and for how much.

**When baseball greets Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig** went on tour in baseball-crazy Japan in 1934, some fans wondered why a third-string catcher named Moe Berg was included. Although he played with five major-league teams from 1923 to 1939, he was a very mediocre ball player. But Moe was

regarded as the brainiest ballplayer of all time. In fact Casey Stengel once said: "That is the strangest man ever to play baseball". When all the baseball stars went to Japan, Moe Berg went with them, and many people wondered why he went with "the team." The answer was simple: Moe Berg was a United States spy, working undercover with the Office of Strategic Services (predecessor of today's CIA). Moe spoke 15 languages - including Japanese, and he had two loves: baseball and spying. In Tokyo, garbed in a kimono, Berg took flowers to the daughter of an American diplomat being treated in St. Luke's Hospital - the tallest building in the Japanese capital. He never delivered the flowers. The ball-player ascended to the hospital roof and filmed key features: the harbor, military installations, railway yards, etc. Eight years later, General Jimmy Doolittle studied Berg's films in planning his spectacular raid on Tokyo. His father disapproved and never once watched his son play baseball.

In Barringer High School, Moe learned Latin, Greek and French. Moe read at least 10 newspapers everyday. He graduated magna cum laude from Princeton - having added Spanish, Italian, German, and Sanskrit to his linguistic quiver. During further studies at the Sorbonne, in Paris, and Columbia Law School, he picked up Japanese, Chinese, Korean, Indian, Arabic, Portuguese and Hungarian - 15 languages in all, plus some regional dialects. While playing baseball for Princeton University, Moe Berg would describe plays in Latin or Sanskrit. During World War II, Moe was parachuted into Yugoslavia to assess the value to the war effort of the two groups of partisans there. He reported back that Marshal Tito's forces were widely supported by the people, and Winston Churchill ordered all-out support for the Yugoslav underground fighter, rather than Mihajlovic's Serbians. The parachute jump at age 41 undoubtedly was a challenge, but there was more to come in that same year. Berg penetrated German-held Norway, met with members of the underground, and located a secret heavy-water plant - part of the Nazis' effort to build an atomic bomb. His information guided the Royal Air Force in a bombing raid to destroy that plant. There still remained the question of how far had the Nazis progressed in the race to build the first Atomic bomb. If the Nazis were successful, they would win the war. Berg (under the code name "Remus") was sent to Switzerland to hear leading German physicist Werner Heisenberg, a Nobel Laureate, lecture and determine if the Nazis were close to building an A-bomb. Moe managed to slip past the SS guards at the auditorium, posing as a Swiss graduate student. The spy carried in his pocket a pistol and a cyanide pill. If the German indicated the Nazis were close to building a weapon, Berg was to shoot him - and then swallow the cyanide pill. Moe, sitting in the front row, determined that the Germans were nowhere near their goal, so he complimented Heisenberg on his speech, and walked him back to his hotel. Moe Berg's report was distributed to Britain's Prime Minister Winston Churchill, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, and key figures in the team developing the Atomic Bomb. Roosevelt responded: "Give my regards to the catcher." Most of Germany's leading physicists had been Jewish, and had fled the Nazis mainly to Britain and the United States. After the war, Moe Berg was awarded the Medal of Freedom - America's highest honor for a civilian in wartime. But Berg refused to accept it because he couldn't tell people about his exploits. After his death, his sister accepted the Medal. It now hangs in the Baseball Hall of Fame, in Cooperstown. Moe Berg's baseball card is the only card on display at the CIA Headquarters in Washington, DC.

*\*\*\*October 6<sup>th</sup>, 1973: Yom Kippur war in Middle East began (the year was incorrect in the October letter)*

Coca-Cola was originally green. The percentage of North America that is wilderness: 38%.  
The first novel ever written on a typewriter, Tom Sawyer. The San Francisco Cable cars are the  
only mobile National Monuments. In the 1400's a law was set forth in England that a man was  
allowed to beat his wife with a stick no thicker than his thumb.. Hence we have 'the rule of thumb'  
If the statue in the park of a person on a horse has both front legs in the air, the person died in battle. If  
the horse has one front leg in the air, the person died because of wounds received in battle. If the horse  
has all four legs on the ground, the person died of natural causes.

Old age is golden, I've heard it said. But scare can believe it when I go to bed.  
Put my ears in a drawer, my teeth in a cup. My eyes on a table 'til time to get up.  
When sleep fills my eyes, I say to myself; is there anything else I should put on the shelf?  
I'm fully aware that my youth has been spent. That my get up and go has got up and went.  
But I really don't mind, when I think with a grin, of all the grand places my get up has been.  
Anonymous

**November:**

- 6<sup>th</sup>- Daylight Savings Time Ends
- 8<sup>th</sup>- Election Day 10<sup>th</sup>- U.S. Marine Corps Birthday (1775)
- 11<sup>th</sup>- Veterans' Day, WWI ends 1918
- 19<sup>th</sup>- Lincoln delivers Gettysburg Address 1863
- 24<sup>th</sup>- Thanksgiving Day
- 29<sup>th</sup>- First Army-Navy Football Game 1890

*Respectfully Submitted,*

**Wayne E. Thomas,**

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