



Greetings Post #9 comrade and veteran

January 2, 2026

Here is the latest Newsletter containing information from your post officers. First, our next General Membership meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 16th starting at 1800 hours upstairs in the Derry Memorial VFW Post #1617 function hall located at 18 Railroad Avenue.

Secondly our Post is doing ok with membership renewals. Currently Post #9 has 108 paid up members out of our 100% goal of reaching 120 that we have in the post. That equals 90% and thank you for having us reach this goal.

As a reminder and in compliance with NH state law, you must now have your American Legion 2026 card on you to be served in any American Legion canteen. Additionally, as of January 1st, as an American Legion, Post 9, member, you are now eligible to patronize the VFW Post 1617 canteen.

FY2026 Post #9 officers:

Commander: Dan Stowers
1st Vice Commander: Kevin Gurley
2nd Vice Commander: Vacant
Adjutant: Jim Cote
Finance Officer: Jim Ash
Chaplain: Charlie Andriolo
Judge Advocate: John Jett
Historian: Kevin Gurley
Service Officer: Vacant
Sergeant-At-Arms: Bill Manning

FY2027 Post #9 officers:

Officer nominations for next fiscal year will open during the February General Membership meeting with final nominations and elections to be held in March.

Derry War Memorial Update:

If you were a resident of Derry at the time of your enlistment in the Armed Services, you are eligible to have your name engraved on the McGregor Park monument associated with your service campaign. If you, or a veteran you know, qualifies and are not listed on a town monument, please contact me for more information on the current effort underway to update Derry veteran honorees.

Jim Cote, Adjutant, Post 9

FROM THE COMMANDER:

New Year's Resolutions

I am honored to serve as the Post Commander, even if only taking over for the past commander on a temporary basis till elections are completed and new officers take their positions. I would like to take the time to let you know what my New Year's Resolutions are regarding my service toward the Legion, Honor Guard and our Activities. I resolve to stay more informed on upcoming events. I work full time and travel a lot with kids and grandkids in different parts of the country, but I need to do a better job of tracking dates and events. My second resolution is about communication. I resolve to take the time to read emails and text messages completely and not respond, especially when it's a group message, until I have all of the facts and can completely convey my thoughts. Abraham Lincoln

once said, "I had to write you a long message because I didn't have the time to write a short one". If you think about it, that saying still holds true today. There are a lot of things going on between the Legion and VFW, including changes that some want and others do not want. Both organizations are like families to most of us, as they should be. The building itself is a home away from home. When you are dealing with family and home matters, people have strong opinions. We need to be respectful of everyone's opinions and experiences and keep business discussions upstairs where they belong. I need to make sure I am not saying something untrue, half true or out of line, simply because I didn't take the time to fully listen to what was being said, think about my response and convey my response accurately. I don't want a single member to feel I am dismissing their thoughts or concerns or feel offended to the point they leave our organization.

We have a lot of great events going on this year, as we celebrate our Nation's 250th Anniversary. I look forward to working with everyone to make these events as successful as possible and with the honor and dignity those that came before us deserve. Derry will always be my hometown, and you all will always be my family.

Dan Stowers, Commander, Post 9

FROM THE FINANCE OFFICER:

Forest Hill Cemetery Veteran Graves Project Published on Legiontown.org:

December marked the conclusion of the first phase of the Forest Hill Cemetery Veteran Graves Project. has been published on Legiontown.org! For an update, on the project, visit <https://www.legiontown.org/> as well as the Post 9 website at <https://americanlegionpost9nh.org/>

Boston Prep Post 9 Water Stop:

On January 25th, 2026, the American Legion, Post 9 will host a water stop at 2 Nelson Farm Road in East Derry in support of the 30th Annual Boston Prep Run. This run provides winter opportunity for runners to prepare for upcoming events. This is a moderately challenging 5 and 16-mile course that is ideally scheduled for runners training for upcoming events including the Boston Marathon. Both races will start and finish at the West Running Brook Middle School in Derry. Post members will meet at 0900 on the morning of the event at Nelson Farm Road to set up. To participate, send an email to americanlegion9@yahoo.com. For more information on the event, visit [Boston Prep | Greater Derry Track](#)

American Legion, Post 9 Website:

As always, for updates on all Post 9 activities such as the Forest Hill Project, Annual Ruck March, Rail Trail Memorial Benches, Derry Veteran Monuments Update, Events Calendar, and much, much more, you are invited to visit the post website at <https://americanlegionpost9nh.org/> as well as our American Legion Post #9 – Derry NH Facebook page located at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/439742395173>

James Ash, Finance Officer, Post 9

FROM THE HONOR GUARD:

Our Honor Guard has been very busy for the last few months. There has been way too many close brothers/friends that have passed on to the Supreme Commander. We have lost Michael McCarthy, Paul Chapman, Ken Perkins, William Higgins, Steve Willis, Richard Dunning, Robert McLaughlin, Rich Kibildis and Bruce Alger in recent months.

I want to welcome aboard two new members to the oldest continuous Honor Guard in New Hampshire: Brian Selling and Dale Earle. They will certainly be a fine fit for years to come.

Let us all hopefully stay healthy and pray for our chaplain Charles Andriolo as is going through a long-term struggle with his health. Please continue to check up on him and his beautiful wife.

Kevin Gurley, Post 9 Honor Guard Captain