



**ADJUTANT'S
NEWSLETTER**
OFFICE PHONE 856-8951
EMAIL:
ADJUTANTNH@LEGIONNH.ORG



THE DEPARTMENT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE THE AMERICAN LEGION

TO MY LEGION FAMILY:



I would like to apologize for the tardiness of my newsletter this month. Between National Convention and the recent visit of our newly elected National Commander I was not able to get an opportunity to put on out at the beginning of the month.

Where did the summer go? Fall is upon us and as much as we hate it the colder weather as well. But that is not slowing down what we must do as a Department to maintain our membership roles as well as recruiting new members into The American Legion.

As I write this our newly elected National Commander Denise Rohan has just finished up a 4 day visit with this department. I want to thank everyone that came out to see our National Commander. She received a warm welcome from all and enjoyed meeting the members of this department.

I also want to thank those delegates that went to National Convention in Reno, Nevada. The Department of New Hampshire was represented very well and although it was a long trip for all of us, it was also rewarding to see the first female National Commander come into office at a time when the legion is recognizing those that started this great organization and where we have been as a veteran organization and where we are going in service to those that have served us. It was an honor to have National Commander Rohan and her Aid Michael Rohan visit our great state and this department. We were the first of a long journey for our National Commander and I am glad we sent her on that journey knowing that the Department of New Hampshire is well and eager to follow the traditions and legacy of The American Legion.

American Legion Elects Its First Female National Commander

New national commander: 'Are you ready?' Standing at the podium after being the first woman elected as American Legion national commander, Denise Rohan had one question for the delegates to the Legion's national convention in Reno, Nev.: "Are you ready?"

The Wisconsin resident challenged Legionnaires to work together to continue the organization's 98 years of service to the nation, and its veterans, military and their families.

"Are you ready to continue to join forces as part of the nation's largest veteran service organization's family?" Rohan asked. "Are you ready to Purple Up and show the nation that we are a family that not just takes care of our own members, we stand ready to take care of our active-duty military and their families, we take care of our veterans and their families and, in reality, when you look at our four pillars and all of our programs, are you ready to continue to take care of our entire nation's families?"

Rohan said her theme this year will be “Family First,” and that the theme is based on The American Legion’s motto of “For God and Country.”

“I believe we were put here, where you are today, and in the positions you hold currently for the greater good,” Rohan said. “We are not here to judge one another. We are here to nurture and take care of one another. Families grow through love and support for one another. As an American Legion family – we need to treat each other in that same spirit – like part of our larger extended family.”

Taking a cue from the U.S. armed forces, Rohan chose the color purple for her membership shirts. “I chose purple for this year’s membership shirts to show that we are joining forces as an American Legion family,” she said. “Just like all branches of the military started working together and joined forces, they purpled up over the last several years, it is time for The American Legion family to also purple up as we all work together for the common good.”

A 33-year Legionnaire and current member of Post 385 in Verona, Wis., and U.S. Army veteran, Rohan has served as post and department commander. But when her husband, Mike, was first approached about joining The American Legion and Denise identified herself as an eligible veteran, she said she was informed ‘Women join the Auxiliary.’

“That post that denied me membership 37 years ago, they have a picture of me on the wall with a sign that reads ‘She could have been a member of our Post. Remember, women are veterans too!’” Rohan said. “It is a great reminder that since the birth of The American Legion back in 1919, our leadership knew that a veteran was a veteran regardless of race, religion or gender. Women could vote for national commander before they could vote for the president of the United States. I know that women have been and continue to be in leadership positions in this organization.”

Rohan urged delegates to keep up the support for military families as service members continue to be deployed across the world. “The American Legion family will stand tall next to our heroes and their families,” she said. “There are National Guard and reserve families living in your home towns who are feeling alone and afraid. Please continue to step up and make connections with those families. And, whenever possible, make that connection before the family member is deployed.

“Get to those Yellow Ribbon events that are happening prior to deployment. Get to know the Family Readiness Group leader for your units and let the families know what we do, who we are and what assistance we can offer on a daily basis.”

Rohan shared the story of being at a Veterans Day event in a community a few years ago. The main speaker, a Gold Star father, shared the story about his son who had been killed in Afghanistan. During his speech a girl in the choir began crying and was escorted to the back of the room.

“When the program was over, the mother, who I had never met, sought me out in the crowd,” Rohan said. “She wanted to say thank you to The American Legion on behalf of her family. You see, one of the times that her husband had been deployed there was a fire in her home, and they also had a broken water heater. The local American Legion stepped up, helped her apply for Temporary Financial Assistance and then came to her home and helped make repairs.

“The mom said she is confident that had it not been for The American Legion’s Temporary Financial Assistance program and the Legionnaires who helped repair their home, her husband may not have returned home safely. With things being taken care of at home, she knew that she did not need to trouble her husband with those issues. He could concentrate on his mission and could have one less worry on the battlefield, thanks to The American Legion family. Because that’s what we do and that’s who we are.”

Rohan said that along with Temporary Financial Assistance, she also will ask Legion family members to provide financial support to the Legion’s service officers program. “We witnessed history here yesterday as President Trump signing The Veterans Appeals Modernization Act of 2017 here on our stage,” she said. “This will help claims and appeals get processed faster, but we need trained service officers to assist in getting claims properly submitted. The faster we can get veterans the benefits they earned, the faster they can go on to lead happy, productive lives. It doesn’t just help the veteran; it helps the entire family.”

Rohan also said it’s time for Legion posts to start inviting the community in to show all the great work they

are doing. She said hosting a Veterans Day meal is a perfect opportunity to do so.

“Make sure to include current and expired members, members of your holding post, Blue Star and Gold Star mothers, student veterans, military recruiters, members of the National Guard and reserve along with their families, veterans in local care facilities or hospitals and their families,” Rohan said. “Let’s light up social media with the world’s largest Veterans Day celebration this nation has ever seen. Let’s feed the entire community, because putting on great community meals is another great part of who we are and what we do.

“To make a difference in someone's life, you don't have to be brilliant, rich, beautiful or perfect. You just have to care enough to be there.”

Rohan was employed with the University of Wisconsin Madison as the assistant bursar of student loans until her retirement in 2012. She managed the University of Wisconsin Madison, University of Wisconsin Green Bay and University of Wisconsin Colleges’ \$120 million loan portfolio made up of approximately 200 different federal, institutional and state programs in compliance with all laws, regulations and policy.

Elected as national vice commanders were Bobby Bryant of the Department of Oklahoma, Larry Marcouillier of the Department of Delaware, Paula Stephenson of the Department of Utah, William Flanagan of the Department of Illinois and Byron Callies of the Department of South Dakota.

Appointed to the remaining national offices were National Historian Richard Dubay of Michigan; National Chaplain Robert Vick of Florida and National Sergeant-at-Arms Roy Helms.

By: Steve B. Brooks, 2017, Are You Ready

Department Service Office

I know that many have been asking as to when the department was going to reopen the Department Service Office. As many of you know the Department Service Office has been closed and vacant since the untimely death of Pauline Kissell who had been filling in all Service Officer duties since the previous Service Officer was out on a medical issue.

It has been difficult to say the least to find qualified personnel who would be able to fill the shoes left by the previous staff and who would be willing to take on the challenges of aiding our veterans in seeking their benefits and compensation as well as other services.

With that being said the department did hire two individuals that we feel will make a great addition to the Department Service Office. I would like to introduce:

Curtis Lenz, Department Service Officer
Michael Hartt, Assistant Service Officer

Both still need to go through training and certification for becoming a Service Officer, but both are eager to get started helping our veterans, especially those that have been waiting very patiently to have their cases worked on.

I would also like to put a big shout out to Hans Michalke from the Department of Utah, who has been coming to our department to assist us in keeping up with some of those veteran cases as well as assist veterans in filling out paperwork in a effort to get them into the system and headed in the right direction in getting the compensation they deserve.

In the interim the Service Office will be manned Monday thru Friday, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm until such time where both Curtis and Michael will be able to fully handle cases and enter claims. Starting October 1 we will be going to a full time schedule as the both of them get raining and certified, but in the mean time can start assisting veterans with some services as the process goes along.

If you see Curt or Mike please give them a big Department of New Hampshire welcome.

383.77 Substitute for driving skills tests for drivers with military CMV experience.

At the discretion of a State, the driving skills test as specified in §383.113 may be waived for a CMV driver with military CMV experience who is currently licensed at the time of his/her application for a CDL, and substituted with an applicant's driving record in combination with certain driving experience. The State shall impose conditions and limitations to restrict the applicants from whom a State may accept alternative requirements for the skills test described in §383.113. Such conditions must require at least the following:

(a) An applicant must certify that, during the two-year period immediately prior to applying for a CDL, he/she:

(1) Has not had more than one license (except for a military license);

(2) Has not had any license suspended, revoked, or cancelled;

(3) Has not had any convictions for any type of motor vehicle for the disqualifying offenses contained in §383.51(b);

(4) Has not had more than one conviction for any type of motor vehicle for serious traffic violations contained in §383.51(c); and

(5) Has not had any conviction for a violation of military, State or local law relating to motor vehicle traffic control (other than a parking violation) arising in connection with any traffic accident, and has no record of an accident in which he/she was at fault; and

(b) An applicant must provide evidence and certify that he/she:

(1) Is regularly employed or was regularly employed within the last year in a military position requiring operation of a CMV;

(2) Was exempted from the CDL requirements in §383.3(c); and

(3) Was operating a vehicle representative of the CMV the driver applicant operates or expects to operate, for at least the 2 years immediately preceding discharge from the military.

[76 FR 26887, May 9, 2011, as amended at 81 FR 68347, Oct. 4, 2016; 81 FR 70646, Oct. 13, 2016]

And the link to the program is https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/retrieveECFR?gp=1&ty=HTML&h=L&mc=true&=PART&n=pt49.5.383#se49.5.383_177

Brief Notes:

Spirit of the Eagle POW/MIA 24 Hour Vigil: September 16-17, 2017, 11am-11am, NH VETERANS HOME, 139 Winter Street, Tilton NH 603-345-6774.

Annual EX-POW/MIA Vigil: The annual POW ceremony, hosted by the Department of New Hampshire VFW, will be held at the New Hampshire Veterans Cemetery in Boscawen, NH on 16 September at 1000. All are invited to attend. This event takes place every year. It's our opportunity to honor those who were taken prisoner by our enemies during combat operations. If you can attend please do. It is a great ceremony.

The ceremony will be held in the Chapel. For more information, please contact the Cemetery office during normal business hours (M-F, 8AM-4PM) at 603-796-2026.

Watch for the Fallen Heroes Moving Wall appearing at: Tilton VA Home- September 18th, 2017

Honor Flight- Since its inception in 2009 they have HONORED 1669 Veterans from New England at no cost to them. They are now taking Korean Veterans.

A program of Easterseals

VETERANS COUNT

Supporting Our Military and Their Families

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

www.vetscoun.org/nh
 555 Auburn Street, Manchester, NH 03103 | 603.623.8863



 @VeteransCount

September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

February 2: Veterans Count Annual Muster
 March 22: 3rd Annual "Make 12 Hour Count" Radio Thon
 April 2: Veterans Movie: An American Solo
 April 25: Beyond the Boots Fashion Show
 May 27: Barnes & Noble Bookfair
 June 3: Envy Sportsplex Battle of the Branches
 June 10: 11th Annual Peter Makris Memorial Run
 June 17: Renaissance Firearms Range Day
 June 24: 5th Annual Seacoast Salute Our Soldiers Dinner
 June 25: Neil's Ride
 July 4: 5th Annual Seacoast Pack and Boots 5K Road Race
 July 13-16: NH Motor Speedway
 July 14: Swim with a Mission
 July 17: 3rd Annual Lakes Region Golf Tournament
 August 12: Wolfeboro Pirates Cove 5K Fun Run & Walk
 August 15: 11th Annual Veterans Count Golf Tournament
 August 19: Barnes & Noble Bookfair
 August 26: Londonderry Blues Festival
 September 2: Cruising Manchester
 September 8-10: Hampton Beach Seafood Festival
 September 10: Portsmouth Hospital Car Show
 September 10: 3rd Annual Nashua Salute Our Soldiers Walk & Fun Run
 September 16: Hollis Old Home Days
 September 21-24: NH Motor Speedway
 September 23: Jeepin' for Vets
 September 30: 2nd Annual Lakes Region Red, White & Brew
 October 16-17: Seacoast Speaker Series featuring Fahim Fazli
 October 17: 10th Annual Manchester Salute Our Soldiers Breakfast
 November 4: 6th Annual Nashua Salute Our Soldiers Gala
 November 11-12: Penmen for Patriots 5K & Manchester City Marathon
 December 7: Manchester Chapter Eagle Parade Auction
 December: Wreaths Across America

All Chapters | Lakes Region | Manchester | Nashua | Seacoast

Please note that all event dates are subject to change.

WORLD PREMIERE of

Justice For All

FREE Film Screening and Panel Discussion

Our veterans deserve and need our support. *Justice for All* is New Hampshire's 1st film about how our Courts work with military veterans to meet their unique circumstances and needs through a "Veterans Track". A "Veterans Track" is a special docket charged with hearing cases that involve veterans or service members, particularly those diagnosed with service-related illnesses. *Come hear why this is a critical issue for New Hampshire!*

SEPTEMBER 19, 2017

5:30 - 7:30PM*

Red River Theatres

11 S. Main St., Concord, NH

* 5:00pm Registration

Presented in Partnership by the
NH Justice Involved Veterans Task Force
& Vetflix

Program Schedule

Welcome Address by Major General William Reddel, Adjutant General, NH National Guard

World Premiere of *Justice For All*, a Vetflix Production

Distinguished Panel including The Honorable James Leary, Justice of 9th Circuit Court; Diane Levesque, VA Court Liaison; Trooper Seth Gahr, NH State Police; and Rob and Erin Kirby, a Veteran Family.

- A unique opportunity to better understand the challenges our veterans are facing -

~ Limited Seating ~ please pre-register at <https://nhjusticeforall.eventbrite.com>



Sponsored by the law firm of Nixon, Vogelmann, Barry, Slawsky & Simoneau

Supported by the NH Department of Health and Human Services



**VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
CHAPTER 41**

is bringing



SOUTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE UNIVERSITY

2500 N. River Rd, Hooksett, NH

OCTOBER 4 - 8, 2017



Many volunteers are needed for 24/7 coverage.

To schedule or volunteer, please contact Sandy or Dianne (603) 497-2102 or sandyw@goffstownlibrary.com or dianneh@goffstownlibrary.com

For more information, contact Ray Goulet (603) 669-8432



Please Post