



CHENEY-ARMSTRONG POST # 5 NH

Wayne E. Thomas, Commander

Robert A. Benoit, Chaplain

Bernard F. Wynn, Children & Youth Officer

John H. Franklin, Sr. Vice Commander³⁹

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,

August 6th, 2017

August 6th, 2017: Post meeting at 2pm at the Peterborough Community Center on 25 Elm Street.

September 3rd, 2017: Post and Auxiliary Potluck Picnic at noon at MacDowell Dam rain or shine.

Please let us know if you can come to the picnic. We need a head count. 😊 **563-8376**

December 3rd, 2017: Christmas Potluck Dinner at noon at the Monadnock Center on Grove Street.



In memory: Stuart Fairbanks Clark, of Frankestown, age 92 died on July 4th 2017. Stuart served during WWII as a Marine in the South Pacific. He as an airplane mechanic. He was a member of the American Legion for 23 years. A donation from the Post was given to Frankestown Volunteer Fire Department.

Alexander Bass, 75, died of complications from pneumonia at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston on Monday July 10, 2017. He was a real New Hampshire Yankee and a decorated war hero, a proud head of a large family dating back to the original settlement of Peterborough, a dedicated husband and father, a successful businessman, and a consummate outdoorsman. He was tough, strong, loyal, fearless, patriotic, hard-working, practical, skeptical, thrifty, and impervious to bad weather. Eldest son of former New Hampshire Congressman Perkins Bass and Katharine Jackson Bass, Alex was born on February 28, 1942 in Boston. Shortly after Alex's birth his father left for China to serve as an intelligence officer with Gen. Clare Chennault of the Flying Tigers. Alex's grandfather, Robert P. Bass, had been governor of New Hampshire, and Alex's brother Charlie would go on to be elected to the same seat in Congress that Perkins Bass had held.

Alex attended Dublin School and St. Albans School in Washington, DC where his Yankee stubbornness got him in continual trouble with school officials. His high jinks and unwillingness to suffer fools (including teachers) gladly caused him to be frequently confined to campus – put “on bounds” as St. Albans called it. One year Alex was on bounds the whole winter and built himself a small sailboat in the school's basement. Alex graduated in 1963 from Dartmouth College. He enlisted in the Navy and went to Officer Candidate School in Newport, RI. After serving as a Junior Lieutenant on a destroyer,

he was given the command of a Swift Boat (PCF 68) in Vietnam's Mekong Delta. On the first day of 1967, Alex and his crew intercepted an 80-foot North Vietnamese armored ship that was attempting to deliver arms and ammunition to the Viet Cong. The fighting lasted all night. Alex finally sunk the North Vietnamese ship and received a Bronze Star with valor.

After leaving the Navy in 1968, Alex attended Columbia University Business School, receiving his MBA in one-and-a half years despite the ongoing campus student riots (and despite Alex's ongoing cantankerous confrontations with the rioters).

In 1969 he married Gwendolyn Brooks of Darien CT. At first the family settled in Cos Cob CT, where Alex founded a business and worked for the next ten years. In 1982 Alex and his brother Charlie bought High Standard Incorporated, a maker of architectural exterior cladding based in Dublin. Alex ran the company with brio and zest for 33 years. He was proud of High Standard's products, and he was the kind of salesman who could have sold elevators to the residents of a trailer park. After High Standard's sale to Nudo Products Inc. in 2013, he retained a management role until his death.

Alex's skills as a hunter and fisherman were legendary. He was perpetual "high rod" on the famous salmon rivers of New Brunswick, Canada. He did all his bird hunting with a beautifully wrought .410 shotgun, the smallest of shotgun gauges, a gift from his groomsmen. Alex rarely missed, with cast or blast, and what he pulled up or brought down, he cooked brilliantly.

In 2010 Alex's pulmonary health began to degenerate. In 2013 he received a double lung transplant. It was, in fact, a testament to his strength and fitness. At 71, Alex was the oldest man to ever undergo a lung transplant. And it might be said that this was the second time he'd put his life on the line for his country.

Fifty years ago, after his service as a Swift Boat skipper, Alex was given command of a sea-going tug in the South Pacific. Unbeknownst to Alex or his sailors the tug was involved in a top secret and still not fully declassified Navy program called Project SHAD. The purpose of Project SHAD ("Shipboard Hazard And Defense") was to test the U.S. Navy's surface ships for vulnerability to chemical and biological warfare.

There is evidence that the supposedly innocuous chemical and biological agents used in SHAD actually had deleterious health effects on the Project's unwitting experimental subjects – in particular on pulmonary health. The Department of Defense denies any connection between SHAD and subsequent illness or mortality. But the VA provides full health benefits for ex-servicemen who were exposed to Project SHAD tests.

Alex was the first to laugh off this incongruity between words and deeds. "I don't care what the government admits to," he said, "as long as they admit me to the hospital." Indeed Alex was able to laugh off nearly all of the arduous medical treatments and grueling side effects he endured. "Better than the known alternative!" he'd say.

Alex is survived by his two sons, Matthew and Marshall; his wife of 48 years Gwendolyn; his grandchildren, his four siblings, other family members and his bird dog Missy.

In 2014, he received the Cheney-Armstrong Post Cane at Memorial Day. A donation from the Post was given in Alex's name to the Atlantic Salmon Foundation, Saint Andrews, New Brunswick, Canada 513358.

Sick Call: John McKenna of Dublin; **Arthur Pendleton** and **Raymond Lee** of Temple; **Ralph Tibbetts** of Rindge;

New Members: Owen F. Mueller of Peterborough served in the Army during the War on Terrorism. His wife Christine joined the Auxiliary. **Bruce H. McCall** of Peterborough served in the Air Force during Vietnam. **Kenneth L. Cox** of Dublin served in the Air Force during Vietnam. He was a pilot for Air Force One. **Victor M. Voglino** of Temple served in the Air Force during the Persian Gulf.

Post Membership: so far 115 have paid their 2018 dues plus 8 PUFLs which equals 123 total; if everyone paid we would have 180 total. If you are having trouble paying your dues and wish to remain in the Post please let us know. If you wish to pay your dues online go to www.legion.org/renew and your dues will be sent to us from the State. Our goal is still 205 members by the Legion's 100th Birthday. Please help us find new members. Doing membership is very time consuming and we would like to finish up as soon as possible. So far 20 women have paid their \$20 dues to Unit 5. Thank you ☺

Thank you for donations to the Post: **Jerry Allen, Dick Dunning, Francis McKenna, Russell Armstrong, Bernard Gale, Norman Petts, Doug Whiton, John McKenna, Laura Elcoate, Phil Prairie** and **Jim Murray** donated to the Scholarship Fund and **Clifford Jarest** gave to the General Fund. *Thank you ☺ this helps the Post stay in the black and helps us reach out to more students. We always take donations.*

Dear Members of the American Legion,

I would like to sincerely thank you for your generous gift of two hundred fifty dollars. You have already done so much for me, and the fact that you would choose to do even more means a great deal. Thank you again! Sincerely Zac (Boys' State 2016)

Dear Post 5,

I want to thank each and every one of you for giving me the opportunity to participate in Granite Girls State. I have already made wonderful friendships. I also ran for "Party Resolutions Committee" and I was elected! ☺ Mrs. West, who was married to a Past Department Commander, taught me so much during the program and she was such a kind woman. I hope to share my experiences from Girls' State with you. From Natasha Kipka (Girls' State 2017)

Peterborough Rotary gave out two \$2500 scholarships to seniors. Michelle Jarest, of Temple, (Girls' State 2016) was one of the recipients. Michelle will be attending the U. of Utah Honors College to study political science. At ConVal, she was a member of the jazz band, concert band, marching band; serving as a trumpet co-section leader. She was a member of the select choir and girls' A Capella. She served as treasurer and vice president of the ConVal Interact Club through which she coordinated End 68 Hours of Hunger, Operation Santa, Pancake Breakfast, roadside clean up, and attended a volunteer service trip to Nicaragua this spring. She was a member of the National Honor Society and the Spanish Club. She represented ConVal at several leadership seminars: Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership Conference, NH Girls' state and the Presidency and the Press Conference through which she was invited to attend the Presidential Inauguration in January.

Andy Benoit and family were pleased with our selection of him as the Post cane recipient at the Peterborough Memorial Day.

We received a card from the Abbott Family thanking the Post for doing the honors for Francis' committal.

Dear American Legion Cheney-Armstrong Post 5,

June 1st, 2017

On behalf of the entire ConVal Band, thank you for your generous donation of \$250 to our program. These funds are accepted with great appreciation and will be used for principled causes.

Please know that marching with you on Memorial Day is our pleasure. I am thankful the students receive the opportunity to be a part of the services. It is an important part of their education as a student and their duty as an American citizen to experience this culture.

Once again, thank you for your generous donation and I hope you have a great summer!

Sincerely, James Wickham ConVal high School Band

Dear Wayne,

19 June 2017

For years I have enjoyed getting your legion updates. It has been a way to stay in touch with the hometown. Just this last letter brought to mind family members from the old school days. I believe George Eastman went to the Methodist Church when I was in Youth Group there. I met Andy Benoit this year with my former neighbor and dear friend Bonnie.

You and the rest have done a great service keeping the veterans organized and active. John Franklin's Dad and my Dad were good friends. I remember Henry Emery from Derby's and when he came into Mert Dyer's soda fountain. If some of these memories are not exact blame it on age!

Last year I finished a memoir of my year in Vietnam piloting C-123 Providers. (The Fairchild C-123 Provider is a twin-engine military transport aircraft produced by the US American manufacturer Fairchild Aircraft, developed by Chase Aircraft.) 50 years have passed since then! Your copy is my way of saying "thanks" for your efforts keeping the military heritage alive in the region. The "Toadstool" has a few copies to sell. I published it privately, 200 copies, so it is what I call a truly limited first edition.

Sincerely, Jim Murray, Col USAF (ret)

(Jim grew up in Peterborough and graduated from UNH in 1965 and entered the Air Force ROTC program. He is a command pilot with over 3400 flying hours. He retired as a Colonel. At the age of 55, "God called him into jail and prison ministry" where he has served during the past 16 years.)

Dear Post 5,

Dublin Consolidated Elementary School students were very appreciative of the American Flags and pins donated to them in honor of Flag Day! They learned about Flag Day and shared that with their parents. Thank you!

Wayne and Dee visited **Richard Alan Day Jr** twice in Leonardtown MD during the month of July. Dick asked us to return a couple of signs that belonged in Peterborough that had been hanging in one of his barns. One of the signs is "The Tavern". Dick still has a complete machine shop for rebuilding gas engines and has one of the first fords purchased in Peterborough. Two of his classmates are **Clifford Jarest** and **Gordon Kemp** along with two old friends Muffy Ames and Bertha Harris.

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

August 24-31 National Convention in Reno, Nevada

Full moon Monday August 7th

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

There were 10 Veterans and 2 Auxiliary members at the June meeting. The Post gave \$250 to the ES Riders out of Manchester and the Auxiliary gave \$25. They receive no federal funding and are all volunteers. They give scooters, wheelchairs and Segway's to Veterans. A scooter is \$1200.

Thank you to the Veterans who helped retire flags on Flag Day. We retired over 1500 flags. Thank you **Gary Babcock, David Barisano, Andy Benoit, David Clow, Henry Emery, Arthur Hixson, Dick Loudon, Gordon Stone, and Wayne Thomas.** We apologize for not putting a reminder in the June letter. It was sent to the newspaper and they did not print it but it was on the Peterborough website.

On June 21st, Wayne presented the American Legion Award to a girl and boy during the South Meadow School eighth grade graduation. The students exemplify outstanding qualities in the areas of citizenship, cooperativeness, reliability, leadership and attitude, personal and social growth. Both students live in Peterborough: Brigham Boice and Annabella Schwabe.

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.

The Ledger-Transcript July 13, 2017 "The Way We Were" had a July 6th, 1978 photo of the Post 5 American Legion Baseball Team on their way to Glens Falls and Hudson Falls NY and coming back to resume District Play in Concord NH. Pictured were Head Coach **Dick Dunning**, Assistant Coaches: Steve Smith and Rob Paquette. Players: Todd Wheeler, Rich Guidotti, Kent Richard, Brian Whittemore, Mike McTeague, Steve Gagnon, Dave Laughlin, John Berg, Steve Pelkey, Craig LaPoint, Keith Johnson, Greg Blake, Jay LaRoche, Craig Whitney, Bill Dean, and Keith LaPoint.

Coast Guard Base Boston to Host "An Evening of CG Retirees' Sea Stories and Scuttlebutt"
Some CG retirees are meeting 04 August 2017 at Base Boston's All Hands Club for "An Evening of CG Retirees' Sea Stories and Scuttlebutt". We invite you to drop by and renew old acquaintances. Tell some stories and spin some yarns. What better way to spend Coast Guard Day than spending time with some old-timers. We welcome you to the first of many, 04 August 2017, 1300 until 1600. Send your contact information to SK1 Bob Pawlowski, USCGR (ret); cg.pawlowski@comcast.net or (617)529-2657.

Charles Michael Province, U.S. Army, wrote this poem: (which we have printed before)

It is the Soldier, not the minister	Who has given us freedom of religion.
It is the Soldier, not the reporter	Who has given us freedom of the press.
It is the Soldier, not the poet	Who has given us freedom of speech.
It is the Soldier, not the campus organizer	Who has given us freedom to protest.
It is the Soldier, not the lawyer	Who has given us the right to a fair trial.
It is the Soldier, not the politician	Who has given us the right to vote.
It is the Soldier who salutes the flag,	Who serves beneath the flag,
And whose coffin is draped by the flag,	Who allows the protester to burn the flag.

Respectfully Submitted,

Wayne E. Thomas, 16 Lower Jaffrey Road, Dublin NH 03444
603-563-8376-Home 603-759-3134- Cell wayneanddeethomas@gmail.com

- [Fairchild C-123 Provider "Thunder Pig" takeoff. - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e84ZLDo948U)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=e84ZLDo948U

Sep 18, 2011 · This Fairchild **C-123** named "Thunder Pig", owned by the Air Heritage Museum, has visited Geauga County at least twice.