Dear Post 5 Members,

December 3rd, 2017- January 7th, 2018

MERRY CHRISTMAS, HAPPY NEW YEAR, not to exclude anyone- HAPPY HOLIDAYS

December 3rd, 2017: Christmas Potluck Dinner at noon at the Monadnock Center on Grove Street. The Post is supplying the turkeys cooked by Wayne and Jane and Ron Bowman. We are also supplying mashed potatoes, dressing, squash and gravy. PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU CAN OR CAN NOT ATTEND 😊 563-8376 OR 603-759-3134. Thank you. It is not too late to let us know. 😊

January 7th, 2018: Post meeting at 2 pm at the Peterborough Community Center, Elm Street

May 19th, 2018: Armed Forces Day- Poppies will be given out. We need volunteers.

June 14th, 2018: Flag Day, flags will be retired at 10:00 am at the gazebo in back of Peterborough Diner

In memory: Norman I. Petts, of Port St. Lucie, FL died suddenly on October 30th, at the age of 86. Norman served during Korea from 1948-1952 in the Navy. He left behind his wife Carol, four children and twelve grandchildren. He had been a member of the Post for 55 years. His wife Carol is going to move to Washington State to live with their son. The Post contributed $25.00 to the Scholarship Fund.

Kerry Close of Peterborough lost her Mother Donna Ellis, age 73, on November 18th, 2017.

Sick call: David Geoffrey and John Jordan of Peterboro, Willy Oja and John McKenna of Dublin.

James Marden just let us know that he has moved to Bowdon GA. He was a long time employee of EMS in Peterborough and has retired.

Three members have not paid their dues and they each have been contacted. Please let us know if you don’t wish to be a member. Please. Dues are $35.00, payable to Post 5 NH, PO Box 172, Peterborough NH 03458. Thank you. We currently have 184-2018 members at 96.84% towards our goal of 190.
There were 13 Post members and 3 Auxiliary members at the Post meeting. $100.00 was voted to give to the Blue Star Mothers for wreaths to be placed on the NH Veterans Cemetery in Boscawen NH. Giving money to the State Auxiliary president’s project was tabled because no one understood what the project was. Auxiliary member Teresa Householder volunteered to look into it and explain better what the purpose of the project is. She will bring the information back to the next meeting.

**WREATH LAYING NH STATE VETERANS CEMETERY BOSCAWEN, NH:** The event is sponsored by Blue Star Mothers of New Hampshire https://www.facebook.com/events/350511912066017/ On December 16, 2017 – Starting at 10:30am, we will be laying 1,800 wreaths at the NH Veterans Cemetery in Sections 5, 6, 43 and 44 plus one at each Columbarium, Section markers and the flag poles. (Approx. 1,800 wreaths) this year. Wreath pick-up: January 13th at 10:00 am. For more information on laying the wreaths or how to make a donation visit our website: http://www.bluestarmothersofnh.org/WreathsBoscawen.html Soldier's Helpers once again will be providing morning refreshments and a light lunch following the wreath laying. The Vet Center will be joining us again this year.

**Dear Post 5 Members,**

On behalf of the Blue Star Mothers of New Hampshire I would like to thank you for your generous gift. Your commitment to helping the Wreaths for Boscawen at the NH Veterans Cemetery is sincerely appreciated. With your help we were able to purchase 1800 wreaths for Sections 5, 6, 43 and Section 44, Columbarium A, B, C, D and H. Section Markers 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 43 and 44. Please join us for the laying of the wreaths on December 16, 2017 at 10:30 am. You may view photos of the day, along with past years on our website: www.bluestarmothersofnh.org. On January 13, 2018 we will be returning to the New Hampshire Veterans Cemetery to help pick up the wreaths.

*If you can visit this wonderful place of honor for our veterans and see how beautiful the wreaths look. Thank you again for your generous support of our efforts to the Wreaths for Boscawen.*

**Best Wishes,**

Karen Thurston, President

Blue Star Mothers of New Hampshire

**Sea Cadets** signed up another recruit at the November drill, making our strength now 16 cadets, 14 of which are Sea Cadets. All cadets passed the mandatory physical readiness test, and several earned the fitness ribbon by meeting the national standard. There was an article about our program in the recent issue of "Parent Express," published on 29 November and inserted in that date's Keene Sentinel. It was authored by yours truly. The December drill will include participation on Saturday, Dec. 16 in "Wreaths Across America" at the Boscawen veterans' cemetery. The Dec. 17th drill will include our annual Christmas party. Respectfully submitted, John Franklin

**Breaking news!** Chief LaRoche has received a nomination from Congresswoman Kuster for the Naval Academy. ☺☺☺

**Thank you** Carol Bader for your generous donation to the Scholarship Fund.

Thank you [Richard Freeman](mailto:richard.freeman@domain.com) for your generous donation towards the new printer. We are almost half
way there thanks to donations. But the printer is still limping along and we will continue to use it to the end. Thank you Bryant Crocker for your generous donation to the Scholarship Fund.

Thank you Bernie Woods for your generous donation to the Scholarship fund in memory of your wife Carol who died in October of 2016.

Thank you Karen and Dick Loudon for reaching out to four of our veterans and delivering turkey and all the trimmings. The turkeys were supplied by the Peterborough Food Pantry.

Dear Mr. Loudon, 11/14/17
Thank you for the generous donation on behalf of the Cheney-Armstrong Post 5, American Legion, to our Altar Guild at All Saints’ Church. It was my pleasure to represent both the American Legion and Altar Guild! Again, thanks to Post 5! Sally Steere for the Altar Guild

Auxiliary Bake Sale on Veterans’ Day. Thank you to Joy and David Boothby for setting up the coffee and donuts at All Saints Church. Thank you Theresa and Jeff Householder, Ruthanne Crowley and Jennifer Rousseau for manning the Bake Sale in the Town House. We had lots of homemade baked goodie donated. Thank you. The Bake Sale made $131.00 plus $16.50 in donations= $147.50 total.

A homily for Veteran’s Day (This was the speech given by Philip Huckins a veteran from Keene who is on the Vestry at All Saints) This is what he said at the Remembrance Service at All Saints Church.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

Good morning and welcome. We are so blessed to be together. I want to tell you about a recent experience I had skydiving. I have been several times, but this most recent jump presented a unique moment I that wanted to share with you today. Any of us can experience the thrill of skydiving by scheduling what is called a tandem jump. If you want the phone number for Sky Dive New England see me after.

In a tandem jump I don’t get my own parachute, rather I am harnessed securely to the front of a highly experienced tandem instructor and at 14,000 feet he, in this case a man from Australia named Ollie, leans out of the open airplane door and we tumble out of the airplane achieving freefall speeds of upwards of 120 miles an hour.

When we reach 6,000 feet above the ground, in ordinary circumstances, Ollie pulls the rip cord and then steers us safely to the drop zone. My jobs on these excursions are: not knocking Ollie unconscious by throwing my head back when we exit, obeying the laws of gravity, not getting in the way, and not making any sudden movements.

Except that was not the case this time. At about 10,000 feet above the ground Ollie asked me if I wanted to pull the rip cord, which, in the sardonic humor of skydivers, is called “saving your own life.”

I froze. I stopped breathing. And a thought came immediately to mind. “Isn’t there anyone up here more qualified?”
Ollie pointed to the altimeter on his wrist and calmly waved the hand signal for time to pull the rip cord, and so I reached back, found the handle and gently pulled. I looked up and there was a full canopy above me and I started breathing again.

We gently, slowly, took turns to the right and to the left, in one direction looking at the splendor of the Atlantic Ocean, in the other the majesty of the White Mountains. Neither had ever looked so beautiful. A few minutes later we landed smoothly and safely.

When Jamie asked me if I wanted to offer this Veteran’s Day Homily I had exactly the same reaction as I had when Ollie asked me to save our lives. I froze. My face flushed. My heart raced. I stopped breathing. And I said quietly to myself, “Isn’t there anyone here more qualified?” Out loud I said thank you for the opportunity, but no.

And yet, I pulled the ripcord for Ollie, and here I am speaking with you now.

How? What changed my mind?

I can tell you, it was faith. Faith. What Hebrews 11:1 calls “the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

At 6,000 feet above the ground I was overcome by a sudden feeling of warmth, a soothing feeling like we get when we take a nap on a summer afternoon. In that warmth came a sense that I was being called to do what Ollie was asking me to do. A similar feeling came over me after my initial rejection of Jamie’s offer.

It didn’t matter if I was the perfect choice; I was the right choice. I felt safe. I felt that I would be given whatever was needed to offer you what was in my head and in my heart. I came to realize I was qualified, and that at that moment I was the right person for the job. Faith.

We are all men and women of faith, even if we do not recognize that we are. When we enlisted we engaged in an act of faith, of trust. We felt “the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

One day you were sitting at the dining room table with your family, and the next thing you knew, you were swept away from kith and kin and sent to basic training. It is likely that nothing was familiar there. Smells. Sounds. Tastes. Sights. Terminology. Ugly uniforms. Awful food. Lightning fast haircuts. People yelling ALL THE TIME. If your experience was like mine, your head was spinning. How did we make it through?

Faith.

Life in the military is filled with uncertainty, but it is crucial that we have faith in the men and women who lead us. We all remember the oath of enlistment. The second half of which reads “I will bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. So help me God.”
We never met those people. We had to trust them, to have faith in them. Our lives were in their hands. We had to have faith in the training and the integrity and honor of the officers we served. We had to have faith in the equipment we were issued to protect ourselves and our comrades, despite the fact that that equipment was made by the lowest bidder, as I was often reminded by the supply sergeant.

We had to have faith in the orders we had been given, even when they made no sense, especially when they made no sense.

You and I are people of faith.

I am not sure if our faith in God brought us to serve, or if our service brought us to God.

But I do know that it is not a coincidence that this group of veterans meets every year in this church. I am confident that you could meet in any number of places, yet you are drawn to this place. A church.

Let’s look at how the church and military are similar from a structural perspective. Both are rich in tradition, history, ritual, and ceremony. Both have manuals, and titles. I could go on, but in looking for an example of the relationship between the two, we need not look much further than the fact I am standing at the pulpit in uniform. By the way, I am certain that many of you are wondering how this uniform fits more than forty years after it was issued. Which reminds me of another way the church and the military are similar. Miracles.

If we look at a few passages from scripture we see that the relationship runs deeper than rites and traditions.

How did you get here? What voice did you hear that told you to join the service? I am certain that there were any number of external factors, but in the end it was you who answered the call, much like the Bible describes in Isaiah 6:8, when Isaiah says, “I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!” Each of us, like Isaiah, heard the call and said, Here am I; send me.

It was our faith that allowed us answer the call.

How do we answer the call? How do we trust what we cannot see, and cannot know?

God.

We have never seen God, but we trust that God is watching over us. We often find ourselves in situations and circumstances that we do not understand. But in each case, we have faith that our God will issue us all the gear we need to see us through any troubling time.

For me, one of the most comforting phrases in the liturgy, one that I long to hear each week, is “live without fear.” In the military we live without fear because we have faith that those around us will protect us, as fiercely as they would protect themselves. Our comrades know that we will protect them. We have faith that those who follow after us will answer the call to protect us.
This is a living example of what we read in the book of Matthew, chapter 22.

“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, ‘you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

The military is “thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself” dressed in camouflage.

And in the times when we have lost comrades in arms, it is our faith in God that eases the sting of their death.

Live without fear. Have faith in the knowledge that serving your country is serving your neighbor and that serving your neighbor is serving God.

Amen

**DECEASED VETERANS NOVEMBER 2016- NOVEMBER 2017**

Names read in All Saints Church for Remembrance Service

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Branch</th>
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<td>GARDNER B. SABINE</td>
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<td>RALPH D. POWELL</td>
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<td>RUSSELL H. BLAKE</td>
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<td>ALLAN J. FOX</td>
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<td>DAVID NYLE THERRIEN</td>
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<td>MICHAEL GAVITT</td>
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<td>THOMAS B. GREENMAN</td>
<td>ARMY-AIRCOPS</td>
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<td>NAVY</td>
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<td>FREDERICK A. STEELE</td>
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<td>PAUL A. BURNHAM</td>
<td>ARMY</td>
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GERALD GELINAS                      ARMY                      VIETNAM  
C. JEROME UNDERWOOD                ARMY                      KOREA  
RAYMOND OVIDE PEPIN                 NAVY                      VIETNAM  
WILLIAM B. FRANCHI                  ARMY                      WWII  
WARREN D. OWLER, Jr.               NAVY                      WWII  
THOMAS PETER FALLON                COAST GUARD                VIETNAM  
JOHN MAPLESDEN PERCIVAL            NAVY                      WWII  
JOHN E. CARLSON                    NAVY                      WWII  
BEN OWENS                          ARMY & NAVY                SERVED ON THE USS CONSTITUTION  
ROBERT G. BERNIER                  AIR FORCE                  VIETNAM  
DENNIS R. MULLEN                   ARMY                      COLD WAR  
CHARLES BURGER MARVIN              AIR FORCE                  VIETNAM  
FRANCIS FARRINGTON GROSE           ARMY                      KOREA  
A. LAWRIE BARR                     ARMY                      VIETNAM  

**POST 5**  
ALBERT E. ROY                      ARMY                      WWII  
VICTOR G. HYMAN                    COAST GUARD                VIETNAM  
H. BENSON WALEN                    NAVY                      VIETNAM  
LEONARD P. MYHAVER                 AIR FORCE                  KOREA/VIETNAM  
FRANCIS W. ABBOTT                  ARMY                      WWII  
RICHARD PAULIK SR.                 ARMY                      KOREA  
STUART FAIRBANKS CLARK             MARINE CORPS               WWII  
ALEXANDER BASS                     NAVY                      VIETNAM  
CHESTER C. SOULE, JR.              ARMY                      WWII  
NORMAN I. PETTS                    NAVY                      KOREA  

**VETERANS DAY**  
**11 NOVEMBER 2017**  
**PETERBOROUGH TOWN HOUSE**  
Speaker: Jefferson K. Allen, Navy Veteran of Peterborough  
Here we are assembled at a time close to the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. 99 years ago today, that was the time designated for the armistice finally ending the hostilities of the Great War. One year later, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed
November 11th as the first commemoration of Armistice Day stating: “To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country’s service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of nations...” (History of Veterans Day).

In 1938, Congress made, “… the 11th day of November in each year a legal holiday – a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as ‘Armistice Day’ (History of Veterans Day). November 11th was originally intended to honor the veterans of what we now call WWI, but in 1954, Congress made the change from Armistice Day to Veterans Day. For much of the 1970s, Veterans Day was celebrated on a date different from November 11th as part of the attempt to bring about more three day weekends. Due to the significance of the November 11th date, by 1978, Veterans Day was again being celebrated on November 11th.

In 1917, 100 years ago, America declared war and entered into the Great War. At the time, American troops numbered only 190,000 and these were widely spread around the country. The assembly and transport of troops began slowly, and by the end of October 1917 there were still less than 90,000 troops in the American Expeditionary force.

To keep a perspective on what was happening 100 years ago, the Battle of Passchendaele ended on November 6th, 100 years and 5 days ago, bringing to a close the third Battle of Ypres with no significant gains amid casualties of around 500,000.

Our country ramped up quickly, and by the end of the war there were 4 million serving in the armed forces with almost half of those actually in France serving in combat situations. In June and July, 1918 alone, America sent 584,000 troops to France. Germany could not muster nearly enough soldiers to keep pace with the incoming American troops.

There are many names etched into the collective minds of America: Meuse – Argonne, Saint Mihiel, Belleau Wood, Verdun...

We have had dissenting opinions about war, the need for war, the military industrial complex... In my generation, many returning veterans were spat upon and derided. Just this past August, at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, a posting FROM A PROFESSOR was placed in the “Social Justice Collective Newsletter” which although disagreed with by the Chancellor who stated that the posting was not only illegal but wrong. Nevertheless, the posting was printed and stated:

“A four year, traditional university is supposed to be a place of learning, of understanding, of safety and security. However, there is an element among us who may be frustrating those goals: Veterans.

UCCS is known for its number of veterans who are full and part time students. But these veterans of much of the school prides themselves on may be hurting the university.
First off, many veterans openly mock the ideas of diversity and safe spaces for vulnerable members of society. This is directly in contradiction to the mission of UCCS.*** (skipping some of the posting)

Finally, veterans usually are associated with extremists’ right wing groups such as the tea party and the NRA. In order to provide a safe place for all students, extremists’ right wing groups must be suppressed on campus. This would include their followers: veterans.

This is not to say that veterans should not be allowed an education. Veterans should be allowed to attend trade schools, or maybe community college. But, in order to protect our academic institutions we must ban veterans from four year universities.

An article in the May 2, 1833 edition of The Virginia Free Press and Farmers’ Repository says:

“Someone has justly remarked, that ‘eternal vigilance is the price of liberty.’ Let the sentinels on the watch-tower sleep not, and slumber not.”

Eternal Vigilance is the price of liberty. Let the sentinels on the watch tower sleep not, and slumber not. Who are those attentive sentinels – VETERANS!!!

To those who seek to exclude, and who seek to end the ability to exercise our liberties, I quote Winston Churchill:

“Many forms of government have been tried, and will be tried in this world of sin and woe. No one pretends that democracy is perfect and all wise. Indeed it has been said that democracy is the worst form of government except for all the other forms that have been tried from time to time…”

I often ask classes which I teach, “What do you call those who go into harm’s way for the benefit of someone they do not even know?” After a short time, someone looks up and says, “Heroes…”

What do you call those who volunteer or answer the call to serve their country for the greater benefit of all? Heroes – Veterans

This ceremony is to quote Woodrow Wilson, “A celebration to honor America’s veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and to sacrifice for the common good.” Thank you veterans!!!

I ran across a poem by Charles Michael Province last summer, and Wayne published it in the Newsletter. It is worth repeating:

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 freedom to protest.
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.

We pay homage to, honor and thank all those who have served.

God of our fathers, known of old,
Lord of our far-flung battle line,
Beneath whose awful hand we hold
Dominion over palm and pine
Lord God of hosts, be with us yet. Kipling

Be with us yet.
May God bless America and may God bless our VETERANS!!!

Respectfully submitted, Wayne E. Thomas, 603-563-8376, wayneanddeethomas@gmail.com