



### **CHENEY-ARMSTRONG POST # 5 NH**

Wayne E. Thomas, Commander

Robert A. Benoit, Chaplain

Bernard F. Wynn, Children & Youth Officer

John Franklin, Historian and Liaison for US Naval Sea Cadets  
Henry Emery, Jr. Vice Commander and Committee Chairman of Veteran Affairs

John H. Franklin, Sr. Vice Commander

Cles V. Staples, Service Officer

Alan J. Zeller, Sergeant-at-Arms

Dear Post 5 Members,

November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**FALL BACK, SPRING FORWARD- Please turn your clock back one hour ☺ on Sunday 11/5/2017**

**November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017:** Post meeting at 1400 at the Peterborough Community Center. The meetings start promptly at 2pm on 25 Elm Street. Please enter in the front of the building.

**November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017:** Veterans' Day falls on a Saturday. 9:00 am Remembrance Service at All Saints Church on 51 Concord Street. The Veterans' Day Parade musters at 10:30 am at Veterans' Way next to Bellows-Nichols in the center of Peterborough and steps off at 10:40 am and marches towards the Memorial Gates by way of Main Street. If it rains the program will start at 10:45 inside the Peterborough Town House. The South Meadow Middle School Band with band leader Ed Lowy will accompany the Veterans.

**December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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.**



**Sympathy: Richard Hammond** of Yarmouth Port, MA lost his wife Alice in July after a long illness. Dick will be moving to Concord NH in November to be near his children.

**Chester C. Soule, Jr.**, 94, of Peterborough died on September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Chet began a life of service when he became an Eagle Scout as a young man. He went on to proudly serve as a 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant in the United States Army during WWII. He was an instrumental part of the creation and deployment of the Red Ball Express.

Thank you **Andy Benoit** and **Brian Barden** for firing at his internment.

Dear Members of Cheney-Armstrong Post 5,

October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Thank you for your gift of \$25.00 in memory of our friend, Chet Soule. Your support means a great deal to the Monadnock Community Hospital's patients, staff, and community members who benefit from your generosity.

Your gift has been applied to the Unrestricted Fund here at the hospital. We will send the family an acknowledgement of your thoughtfulness.

Thank you again for your generosity!

Sincerely, LeeAnn Clark,

(Philanthropy & Community Relations, Monadnock Community Hospital)

(Thank you so much for your gift in loving memory of our friend, Chet. We miss him always.)

**Charles Seigel** of Peterborough lost his wife Susan on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017. They were married for more than fifty years and she leaves behind two sons Gregory and Brian.

**Richard Loudon** lost his younger brother Craig who lived in California last month.

**Sick call: David Geoffrey** of Peterborough, **Willy Oja** and **John McKenna** of Dublin.

**New Members: Robert A. Sardinkas**, of Dublin, served during Grenada/Lebanon; thanks **Steve Slobodnjak** for letting us know about Bob. **Sally A. Steere**, of Greenfield, served in the Army during Vietnam and joins her husband **Mike** who is already in the Post.

**Membership:** So far 182 have paid their dues. Our tentative goal for 2018 is 190 while we are waiting for National to tell us what we need. So at the moment we are at 95.78 %. **Please pay your \$35.00 dues as soon** as you can there are 5 of you left. If everyone paid their dues then we would have 187 members. We are also trying to collect the Auxiliary's \$20 dues and so far 39 have paid their dues. The Auxiliary still has 2 who have not paid their dues. Please help us find more members!

Kathleen and **Carl Plourde** of Temple have given a very generous gift toward the new printer. Thank you 😊

**Betty and Jim Pletcher** gave a generous donation in memory of **Ben Walen** for the scholarship fund.

Thank you **George Eastman** for your generous donation to the Scholarship Fund. At 99 George, who lives in Portland now, is still very active and will turn 100 in February. Thank you Alan Peschke for your generous donation towards membership.

*Dear Friends,*

August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017

*Thank you for your generous donation of \$250.00 from the Post and \$50.00 from the Auxiliary to ES Riders. Your commitment to participate in this life-changing program makes a tremendous difference in the lives of children and adults with mobility issues by helping them to reach greater levels of independence on their new Segways or scooters.*

*I'm sure all 40+ of our recipients would whole-heartedly agree that their Segways and scooters have made a tremendous difference to improve the quality of their life. What a fabulous gift!*

*I know you are well aware of the enormous impact your donation makes. In addition to the health benefits the Segways and scooters provide, the increase in self-esteem they provide is immeasurable! And with your help. We look forward to giving away many more!*

*At Easterseals, we are passionate about helping the people who need us most at all stages of life. Thank you for supporting our ES Riders. To keep up to date on all ES Riders news please visit [esriders.org](http://esriders.org). To learn more about Easterseals NH, visit our website. [www.easterseals.com/nh](http://www.easterseals.com/nh)*

*Sincerely, Larry J. Gammon President and CEO 555 Auburn Street, Manchester, NH 03101*

***Should have told you** Nellie Robinson of Peterborough and I celebrated our 61st wedding anniversary in July. She became an instant Air Force dependent and landed in Newfoundland three days after she got married. Ho ho ho. Cheers, **Dave Robinson***

**Joseph Brennan** placed a nice wedding picture in the Monadnock Ledger of himself and his lovely bride Judy. They were married 68 years ago on September 10<sup>th</sup>, 1949. Congratulations ☺

**Our thanks** to Margaret Wynn who contributed patriotic paper goods for the picnic. We wish Margaret and **Bernie Wynn** happiness in their new home at Scott-Farrar in Peterborough.

**Tim Allen**, of Peterborough, told us that his daughter Kristen, who is in the Air force, has almost finished her two year tour in Korea and does not know where she is going next. His son Danny, is just finishing Army boot camp and will go to jump school and then on to Ranger school.

**Thank you John Franklin** for conducting the October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 Post meeting. There were ten in attendance.



*Hi, Wayne - Cathie and I just returned from our pilgrimage to the Normandy beaches and cemetery. It was overwhelming to see almost 10,000 crosses all there in one place. Still, we managed to find the graves of all 6 NH soldiers buried there, and we left poppies on them all. It's a place all Americans should see.*

*Sgt. Egenutz "Jerry" Bowowski grew up on a farm in Derry and enlisted on October 14, 1940. He was an undefeated Golden Glove champion, with a wife and one daughter. He was a member of the 507<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Regiment, which was widely scattered when they were dropped behind enemy lines on D-Day and suffered massive casualties. He had two other brothers who served during WWII and survived. His brother Walter was a Ranger in the famed Fox Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Army Rangers and among the first to scale the 90 foot cliffs of Pointe du Hoc on D-Day. Pointe du Hoc was the site of unimaginable heroism on the part of rangers, who after scaling the cliffs under German fire captured the crucial cliff that overlooked both Omaha and Utah Beach. They held it for 2 ½ days before being relieved. Only 90 out of 225 Rangers survived the assault. According to Walter his brother was killed in the yard of a church. He died just one mile from where Walter was fighting.*

*Sgt. Wendell M. Arsenault grew up in Groveton NH and enlisted in June 1941. Born in 1919, he worked in the manufacture of paper and pulp and was single at the time of his death.*

PFC Ernest J. Autotte was living in Rochester when he enlisted in the Army in 1942. He served in the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment and was killed in action on June 10, just four days after D-Day. According to the 1940 census records, Autotte was living as a "lodger" with a family in Rochester so it is assumed that he was 32 and single.

PVT Leonard Borghi enlisted in Manchester on October 1, 1943 and joined the 38<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division. A 1947 Telegraph clipping said he was one of 87 WWII casualties from Nashua. At the time of his enlistment he worked as a filling station attendant and was single. He was 19 years old when he died on July 1944 in France.

PFC Frederick L. Bennett was killed during the invasion of Normandy on June 6. He left behind a wife in Coos County.

PFC Stanley Ash was a single "industry clerk" when he enlisted on March 1, 1943. He was from Merrimack County.

These six soldiers were names that Wayne and Dee had found in recent newspaper clippings to give to the Runyons to look up.

Phil Runyon, of Peterborough, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017



First Sgt. David H. McNerney, (1931-2010) Army, had already served two combat tours in 1966 when he was assigned to a company of green infantrymen at Fort Lewis, WA. "His job was to train us for Vietnam but he wasn't going with us," said Sam Ponsoll, from Danville, KY, who served with McNerney in A Company, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment. By pulling enough strings with the 4th Infantry Division brass, though, McNerney eventually received orders to accompany "his boys" into combat. March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1967, Polei Doc, Republic of Vietnam, despite being wounded after his unit was attacked, he assumed command of the unit when the company commander was killed, organized the defense and helped arrange a helicopter evacuation of the wounded. He refused his own medical evacuation and instead stayed with the company until a new commander arrived. He returned to the United States later that year. President Lyndon B. Johnson presented him with the Medal of Honor in 1968. McNerney later volunteered for a fourth tour in Vietnam before retiring from the military in 1969. McNerney returned to Texas after Vietnam and worked for U.S. Customs at the Port of Houston until his second retirement in 1995.

The American Legion Post 658 is named for McNerney in Crosby TX and currently has 379 members. The Post address is David H. McNerney American Legion Post 658, PO Box 135, Crosby TX 77532 and the Commander's name is Gary Alton. The VA has set up their Mobile VA Clinic & Pharmacy Headquarters there.

At the picnic Wayne asked the Post for a donation of \$500.00 out of the poppy fund to send to this Post so that they could have money immediately to help them with the people staying there. Dee asked the Auxiliary for \$100.00 for this purpose. The Post and Auxiliary approved this request but someone contributed \$20.00 more for the Auxiliary. **Thank you Philip Cayford** for your donation to Post 658 which will be included with the Post's donation.

**The Post** gave \$100.00 out of the poppy fund to the 2018 Department Commander's Project which is the NH Veterans' Cemetery Association.

*Dear Post 5, Thank you for my invitation to Post 5's Labor Day Picnic. I enjoyed my visit with the members. Thank you for Post 5's \$100.00 donation to the Commander's project.*

*Dave Meaney, Department Commander*

**The Post picnic** was a success even though it was 54 degrees out and the rain stopped for just about the length of the picnic. It was definitely a cold raw day but good food and good friends made it a success. Our thanks to **Arthur Hixson** for cooking the delicious pulled pork and everyone who brought their specialties. Department Commander David Meaney welcomed the group and District Commander Paul Comeau and his wife welcomed the group as well. There were 51 at the picnic. We apologize for not passing the hat and not doing the 50/50 raffle, we were prepared but forgot to do it. Next time remind us. Donations did total \$40.00. Thank you. New members introduced to the group were Owen Mueller and Joseph Leroux from Peterborough and John Rapsis from VA who is a native of NH and passed papers on a home in Hancock in September. The total expenses for the picnic were \$247.64, which were deducted from our Poppy Fund. Someone left their navy blue glasses case behind at the picnic?

Bottom line for the October Financial Report is: Checking Account Balance: \$2832.22.

**General Douglas MacArthur**, addressing a world audience via live radio after the Japanese surrender, September 2, 1945, USS Missouri, Tokyo Bay. "As I look back upon the long, tortuous trail from those grim days of Bataan and Corregidor. When an entire world lived in fear, when democracy was on the defensive everywhere, when modern civilization trembled in the balance. I thank a merciful God that he has given us the faith, the courage and the power from which to mold victory."

**On Saturday** September 9<sup>th</sup>, **Wayne** and Dee went to Post 124 in Nashua to meet the 2018 National Commander Denise Rohan from Wisconsin. As part of her campaign for national commander, Rohan visited every state except Hawaii, as well as Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico. She spoke to veterans and Legionnaires everywhere she went and listened to their specific needs, which opened her eyes to the unique and diverse needs of individual veterans, Rohan said.

**In September of 1917**, the cornerstone of All Saints' Church of Peterborough was laid. It would be several years before the church could be finished- World War I interrupted the church's construction. And so, the church, in part, became a memorial to those lost in the fighting. Including the son of Mary Cheney Schofield, who was the force behind the church's construction. William Cheney, an Army pilot, was killed in Italy during the war, and now lies entombed in All Saints Church with his Father and Mother. The GAR Hall would become the William Cheney Post 5 American Legion.

**Monadnock Squadron Sea Cadets** signed up two new members at its September drill, a Sea Cadet and a League Cadet. That brings our strength to 15 cadets; we have four officers "full-time" with another two on an ad hoc basis. The squadron is planning an open house at South Meadow School for Saturday, Oct. 21, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Legionnaires and Auxiliary members are cordially invited to attend. The event will include a demonstration by a color guard and a marching exhibition by the entire corps of cadets. Also, several cadets, present and former, will make presentations about their participation in the program. Following the formal portion, there will be a light lunch and an opportunity to speak one-on-one with cadets and officers. Posters and brochures are being distributed to

area schools. It is hoped the event will turn out new recruits to help boost our membership. Respectfully submitted, LTJG John Franklin, Executive Officer and Post 5 liaison.

Sea Cadet open house on 21 October went off without a hitch, although sparsely attended. The one youth who was present — along with his mom — signed up, bringing Monadnock Squadron strength to 15 cadets. Also the October drill weekend saw two League Cadets moved up to the Sea Cadet ranks because they turned 14 recently. The new squadron totals are two League Cadets and 13 Sea Cadets. We plan to hold more open houses, with no dates set as of yet. Also occurring at drill on Sunday was a presentation by a cadet who also belongs to the Monadnock 4-H robotics team that a couple of years ago went to the world championships in St. Louis. Also, information about Veterans Day activities was disseminated. Respectfully submitted, LTJG John Franklin, executive officer and Post liaison.  
Respectfully, John Franklin.

**Wayne** and Dee attended the District 2 Fall Conference in Greenville on Saturday October 21<sup>st</sup>. Membership, Boys and Girls State and the Oratorical were the main topics. The Posts and Auxiliaries both had quorums.

### **10:30AM - Wreaths at Boscawen sponsored by Blue Star Mothers of NH**

Sat, 12/16/2017 - 10:30am

Location: New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery

The Blue Star Mothers of New Hampshire are again sponsoring the placing of wreaths on graves in designated sections of the cemetery. Due to the large number of graves, each year only a portion of the Cemetery is identified to have wreaths placed by this program.

This year wreaths will be placed on the graves in Section 5, Section 6, Section 43, and Section 44.

For more information, go to their website <http://www.bluestarmothersofnh.org/WreathsBoscawen.html>

The Post is sending \$50.00 towards wreaths.

**The Post donated** \$100.00 from the Poppy Fund to the NH State President of the Auxiliary's project which was an electronic board geared to help people with Alzheimer's.

**On Saturday**, November 11<sup>th</sup>, Veterans' Day, the two Peterborough Dunkin Donuts will be giving out free donuts all day to Veterans. To prove you are a veteran just wear your Post hat or a hat with military information on it. You do not even need to buy coffee.

**From November** 9<sup>th</sup>- November 15<sup>th</sup> Job Lot will be giving 25% discounts to all veterans.

**ANNUAL TURKEY RAFFLE:** American Legion *Post 50 of Antrim* will be having their annual turkey raffle. The Post is located on West Street, Antrim NH. It will be Saturday November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The public is invited to attend for an evening of fun and a chance to win one of 50 turkeys and hams.

**"Dunkirk"** The 1958 award winning (and first done) movie about the Dunkirk event. The film is free and so is the pizza and soda/coffee that will be served. The film is being shown in Jaffrey at the River Street Theatre - right next door (nearly) to Red's at 6 River Street. Please spread the word - the movie will be shown at noon on Saturday, Nov. 11 and again at 6 pm. This is a small and VERY comfortable 28 seat new theatre - smallest in New England! You can go to [www.theparktheatre.org](http://www.theparktheatre.org) to see the schedule "Now Showing" for this little theater which was opened this year.

**Vehicle donation-** Owners of unused vehicles can donate them for tax breaks while benefiting American Legion programs. [www.legion.org/donate/auto](http://www.legion.org/donate/auto) or call (844) 353-4466. You will be contacted for free pickup arrangements.

**During the 3-1/2 years** of World War II that started with the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor in December 1941 and ended with the Surrender of Germany and Japan in 1945, the United States built:

22 aircraft carriers, 8 battleships, 48 cruisers, 349 destroyers, 420 destroyer escorts, 203 submarines, 34 million tons of merchant ships, 100,000 fighter aircraft, 98,000 bombers, 24,000 transport aircraft, 58,000 training aircraft, 93,000 tanks, 257,000 artillery pieces, 105,000 mortars, 3,000,000 machine guns, and 2,500,000 military trucks. We put 16.1 million men in uniform in the various armed services, invaded Africa, invaded Sicily and Italy, won the battle for the Atlantic, planned and executed D-Day, marched across the Pacific and Europe, developed the atomic bomb, and ultimately conquered Japan and Germany.

### **Cost of Being a Member of The American Legion**

Let's look at a Post that charges it members \$35.00 a year. Post 5 just happens to charge this!

1. Dues for One Year \$35.00
2. Dues for one month \$2.916666666666667
3. Dues for 1 week \$0.6730769230769232
4. Dues for 1 day \$0.0961538461538462
5. Dues for one hour \$0.0040064102564103

These numbers are close but not exact as some months have 28 days and some have 31 days.

You would have to give up approximately 11.86 Café Latte's each year at Starbucks costing \$2.95 each.

You would have to give up close to 6.6 Big Mac's each year at a cost of \$5.30 each.

Supporting your brother and sister veterans and those still serving.

Most importantly, the satisfaction of belonging to the greatest veteran's organization in the country

**Escape from WWII POW Camps** (Sep. '39 to Aug. '45) Starting in 1940, an increasing number of British & Canadian Airmen found themselves as the involuntary guests of the Third Reich, and the Crown was casting about for ways and means to facilitate their escape..

One of the most helpful aids to that end is a useful and accurate map, one showing not only where stuff was, but also showing the locations of 'safe houses' where a POW on-the-lam could go for food and shelter. Paper maps had some real drawbacks -- they make a lot of noise when you open and fold them, they wear out rapidly, and if they get wet, they turn into mush. Someone in MI-5 (similar to America's OSS) got the idea of printing escape maps on silk. It's durable, can be scrunched-up into tiny wads, and unfolded as many times as needed, and makes no noise whatsoever.

When allied airmen began to risk their lives flying missions over occupied Europe, Parker Brothers' English partner found a way to use the *Monopoly* game to come to the aid of those who were captured by the Germans. The British War Office worked with a select group of Waddington staffers to modify *Monopoly* boards for insertion in games that the Red Cross would deliver to Allied prisoners of war. These men carved out precise depressions in the unfinished game boards and, before applying their

labels, filled them with low-profile compasses, files, and maps that depicted escape routes from the prison camp where each game was to be sent. (The maps were printed on silk because silk did not rustle when opened. Waddington's had perfected this process to such an extent that virtually all British flyers climbed into their warplanes with a Waddington's map secreted in the heel of one of their boots.) Hidden among the games' play money was real currency — German, Italian, or Austrian. It is not known how many airmen escaped thanks to these *Monopoly* games.

**Free** a mobile-friendly online training program for members of The American Legion is now available free of charge. "Basic Training" is a five-part lesson housed on The American Legion Education Institute site at [www.legion.org/training](http://www.legion.org/training). Topics covered are: History & Organization, Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth. Each topic area offers ways in which American Legion Family members can advance the organization's values and services in their local communities.

**Friday, November 17, 10 a.m. 1917: Looking Back 100 Years Gallery Talk:** Explore the Monadnock Center's 1917 exhibit with a guided tour! In this talk, we will look at what life was like 100 years ago through artifacts of daily life and relics of the World War. Learn about the impact of the war on the local community and the ways people came together and "Did their bit!"  
Museum admission: \$3 (free for members)

*Respectfully Submitted,*

**Wayne E. Thomas,**

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